

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: 8/19/99

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-19)

TO: Mark Shaw
Project Manager - KEWN

Proposed Action: Yarrington Road Improvement Project and Grande Ronde River/Moses Creek Lane-Slide Improvement (99-063)

Budget No: F-5390

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 7.6 Reduce Risk of Road-Related Mass Failures, 7.7 Reduce Risk of Road-Related Surface Erosion, 7.8 Drainage Control to Minimize Erosion and Sedimentation, and 7.10 Erosion Control and Revegetation at Project Completion.

Location: Grande Ronde Basin, Union County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Union County Public Works Department (PWD).

Description of the Proposed Actions:

Yarrington Road Improvement Project

The proposed project upgrades approximately one mile of native surface road. Several segments of this road are lower than the shoulders. The road will be built up with base rock to minimize future erosion. Ditches will be constructed, appropriate culverts placed, and disturbed area re-seeded.

Existing Condition - This road segment is basically native surface with an approximate 6 percent continuous grade. The existing condition of the road demonstrates major erosion problems that have been occurring for several years. Initial surveying of the proposed project evidenced damage to the integrity of the roadway as well as impaired drainage capability. Over time, runoff from snow and rain has caused increased loss of top soil and top rock. Large quantities of sediment are transported directly into the Grande Ronde River.

This road is owned and maintained by the Union County PWD. The road receives moderate traffic year round. The road is used primarily for private landowner access and recreational traffic.

Specific Actions - Reconstruct road base where needed by placing base rock. Grid entire section of road to compact void areas in surface. Place fabric in wet areas, place culverts to capture, direct and/or divert the water to prevent further road/top soil erosion. Provide proper water dispersion at outlets of culverts to avoid concentrating flow and accelerating erosion below the road. Restructure barrow pits and seed disturbed areas. Repair slide area. Finish with top rock. Reestablish vegetation to disturbed ground to reduce potential for invasion of noxious weeds.

Moses Creek Lane-Slide Improvement

The proposed project consists of the stabilization of a slide area along approximately 100 feet of roadway and hillside adjacent to the Grande Ronde River. An engineering firm has been contacted to do a study of the slide to determine the correct action to take to alleviate the problem. The proposed action is to place concrete barriers and install a proper drainage system to correct the problem.

Existing Condition - The road cuts through the lower end of a slump area. Surface and subsurface flow is permeating under the road and surfacing on the downhill side causing the roadway and soil to slip into the Grande Ronde. This condition has created a hazard to the driving public and a definite detriment to the water quality of the Grande Ronde River with continual sluffing of the embankment.

This road is owned and maintained by the Union County PWD. This road receives moderate traffic and is the primary route to the Looking Glass Fish Hatchery. Constructing an alternate route above the slump area is not economically feasible.

Specific Actions - Consult with qualified engineers. Make vertical cut along the uphill embankment side of road and place concrete barriers. On the uphill side of the concrete barrier, place perforated plastic pipe and drain rock to collect and dispose of sub-water appropriately to eliminate erosion and sluffing. Place base rock to adequately build up the road to the current surface and top rock will be placed over entire road surface construction area. Construct small ditch on the roadside of the barrier to collect and/or dispose of surface water. Delineators will be positioned on the river side of roadway. Reestablish vegetation to reduce potential for invasion of noxious weeds and to help stabilize the lower portion of the slump area.

Analysis: The compliance checklists for these projects were completed by BPA and meets the standards and guideline for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Discussions with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists indicate the proposed activities will not affect T&E plant, fish or wildlife species. Potential federally listed species are Snake River spring chinook, summer steelhead, bull trout, peregrine falcon, and bald eagle. An Oregon state listed species is the wolverine.

The Oregon Natural Heritage Program was consulted for potential occurrence of federally listed or proposed plant or invertebrate species within the project area. No documented sites of listed or proposed *invertebrate species* occur within Union County. It is highly unlikely that any occur on this site. The only plant listed in the Grande Ronde Basin, MacFarlane's Four-O'clock,

Marabilis MacFarlanei, has not been found in Union County. This plant does not occur in the habitat type found in this project area. In addition, the proposed activities occur within the existing road right-of-way, an area already heavily disturbed.

Ground disturbing activities will occur only within the existing road right-of-way. Any historic or archeological resources that may have existed have been disturbed by prior road construction and maintenance.

There is no evidence of hazardous or toxic wastes within the project sites.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6D of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis finds 1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Eric N. Powers
Eric N. Powers
Environmental Project Lead - KECN

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 8/19/99
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklists (2)

cc:
H. Nigam – DOE/EH-42
L. Croff – KECP-4
B. Beraud – KECN-4
N. Weintraub – KECN-4
M. Shaw – KEWN-4
P. Key – LN-7
Official File – KECN (EQ-14)