DOE F 1325.8 e Electronic Form Approved by CGIR - 01/20/95
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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: 5/3/00

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-26)

TO: Allyn Meuleman - KEWN
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Anadromous Fish Habitat Restoration in the Nichols Canyon Subwatershed

Budget No: f5234

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management, 1.12 Hardened Fords, 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 2.4 Provide Filter Strips to Catch Sediment and Other Pollutants, 3.1 Plant/Protect Vegetative/Conservation Cover, 3.2 Conservation Cropping Sequence, 3.3 Conservation Tillage, 3.4 Conservation Farming, 3.7 Critical Area Planting, 3.12 Terracing, 3.15 Filter Strip, 3.16 Grassed Waterway, 3.17 Sediment Basins, 3.18 Sediment and Water Control Basins, 3.23 Chemical Management Plans, 3.28 Alternative Pest Management Strategies, 5.13 Alternative Water Sources, 6.2 Planned Grazing System, 6.3 Control Grazing Intensity, 6.6 Water Supply: Ponds, 6.7 Water Supply: Trough, 6.9 Water Supply: Spring Development, 6.10 Access: Fencing.

Location: Nichols Canyon subwatershed of Big Canyon Creek, Lewiston and Nez Perce Counties, Idaho.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Clearwater Focus Program and the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District (NPSWC).

Description of the Proposed Action: The goal of this project is to improve steelhead trout spawning and rearing habitat which will enhance natural production in the Nichols Canyon subwatershed. Stream temperatures, sediment, low summer stream flow, and in-stream cover are habitat concerns that have been associated with agricultural land use in the subwatershed. Best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented to reduce nonpoint pollutants, repair poorly functioning riparian zones, and increase water retention in the upper portions of the subwatershed.

There will be approximately 25 ponds installed in upland areas, designed to help retain water in the upper watershed. Approximately 16 water and sediment control structures would be installed in the uplands. These structures consist of small dams positioned across narrowing sections of hillslopes in cropland areas. The dams prevent runoff from concentrating and forming gullies. A small excavated area upslope from the dam, allows water to temporarily pond behind the dam and encourages sediment to settle out in an upslope location. Water ponded in a water and sediment control structure is allowed to drain downslope through a pipeline. One sediment basin is planned for installation on a cropland site. Sediment basin construction is similar to that of water and sediment control structures. The basin will act to trap sediment from runoff. Approximately eight grassed waterways will be installed. These consist of a shallow excavated drainageway, perpendicular to slope which is planted to permanent grasses. Runoff is collected in the waterway and transported to an outlet. Grass in the waterway acts to

slow the runoff and helps to filter sediment from the water before it enters the creek. Three spring developments are planned for the project. These developments will improve the yield and collection facilities of natural spring areas. These springs will be used to provide water to livestock that might otherwise use the creek for watering needs. Three culvert erosion control structures are planned, which will act to heal erosion occurring along roadsides as a result of concentrated flow from culverts. In addition to the upland practices, there are two riparian enhancement projects planned which would occur directly adjacent to the stream. These will consist of tree plantings to provide shade and large woody debris to the creek, as well as fencing to exclude livestock from sections of the creek.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the NPSWC and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The only known threatened or endangered species present in the project area are gray wolf populations, Ute ladies' tresses, bald eagle populations, bull trout, Canada Lynx, Snake River chinook salmon and Snake River steelhead. A Biological assessment was submitted by the NPSWC to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). For USFWS listed species, a determination of "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" was concluded for the gray wolf populations, Ute ladies' tresses and bald eagle populations and a determination of "no effect" was made on bull trout and Canada Lynx. The USFWS concurred on April 6, 2000, with the NPSWC's findings. For NMFS listed species, a determination of "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" was concluded for the Snake River chinook salmon and Snake River steelhead, or their designated critical habitat. NMFS concurred with the NPSWC's findings on January 24, 2000. This concludes the requirement for informal consultation on threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act.

From the Idaho State Historical Preservation Office database (contacted on 6/99), no known historical or archeological sites are located within the areas of project installation. Sites investigated during planning inventories revealed no archeological or historical sites. The Nez Perce Tribe has also been contacted on 8/99 to determine potential occurrences of cultural resources. None were identified.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 4.1, 7.6, and 7.7, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis finds 1) that 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/ Robert W. Beraud for* DATE: *May 3, 2000*
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
USFWS Concurrence Letter
NMFS Concurrence Letter
Project Area Maps
Heritage Resources Inventory Report

cc: (w/attachments)
Deb Koziol - NPSWC
H. Nigam – DOE/EH-42
B. Beraud - KECN-4
N. Weintraub - KECN-4
L. Croff - KECP-4
P. Key - LC-7
Official File - KECN (EQ-14)

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