

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: October 3, 2000

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-43)

TO: Charles Craig - KEWN-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Walla Walla River Basin Anadromous Fish Habitat Enhancement Project (Project), which includes the Alan Hasso/Couse Creek Revegetation Project near Milton-Freewater, Oregon and the Ken Brown/Patit Creek Enhancement Project near Dayton, Washington in the Walla Walla River Basin.

**Project No:** 87-100-01

**Budget No:** F3102

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis**

**(See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 1.3 Restoration of Channelized River and Stream Reaches; 1.5 Install Grade Control Structures and Check Dams; 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures; 1.7 Install other Habitat Complexity Structures; 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management; 1.9 Structural Bank Protection using Bioengineering Methods; 1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancements; 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 2.6 Native Seed Inventories; 2.7 Avoid Exotic Species; 2.11 Hand Pulling; 3.1 Plant/Protect Vegetative/Conservation Cover; 6.1 Deferred grazing; 6.10 Access: Fencing; 6.11 Access: Trails/fords at stream crossings; 6.14 Vegetation Stabilization: Critical Area Planting; 6.15 Vegetation Stabilization: Brush/Weed Management.

**Location:** Couse Creek, Umatilla County, Oregon and Patit Creek, Columbia County, Washington (both in the Walla Walla River Basin).

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** This project will attempt to implement a combination of passive, natural recovery approaches (riparian corridor fencing) in combination with intensive native revegetation efforts and hydraulic controls (structure construction). The addition of in-stream structures in Couse and Patit Creeks would provide improved habitat and improved natural production of existing summer steelhead in the Walla Walla River Basin.

Project objectives include identifying effects of habitat enhancement efforts through pre and post-project monitoring of summer stream temperatures, turbidity, macroinvertebrate communities, fish populations, stream cross-section data, habitat surveys, restoring native plant communities and eliminating invasive noxious weeds.

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

The goals of these projects are to protect and enhance riparian ecosystems by restricting livestock, restoring native plant communities, and improving fish habitat and channel characteristics. Plant growth would provide additional bank stabilization, encourage pool development, increase insect drop for fish, aid in the reduction of water temperatures, improve bank storage, and accelerate the development of natural floodplain and channel function. Riparian improvements would provide multiple benefits for wildlife including cover, roosting, nesting and feeding areas for birds, shelter and food for mammals, and increased humidity and shade (thermal cover) for all animals. Project implementation includes seeding of native grasses and trees/shrubs at newly disturbed sites with post-project maintenance and erosion monitoring.

The only known threatened or endangered species present in the project areas are Canada lynx, bald eagle, bull trout, and Middle Columbia River steelhead. Biological assessments (BAs) were provided by BPA and the CTUIR Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries - Habitat Enhancement Project to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to conduct Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation proceedings. NMFS and USFWS concurs with BPA's finding that the proposed projects as described in the BA's, would not likely adversely affect the listed species or proposed critical habitat.

The CTUIR Cultural Resources Staff, prior to implementation of any ground-disturbing actions, would provide a report documenting the presence or absence of cultural resources within project areas to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and BPA. Contingent upon satisfactory completion of the Cultural Resources Survey and concurrence by the SHPO, these proposed actions would meet the requirements of NEPA.

**Project: Alan Hasso/Couse Creek Revegetation Project, Washington**

Proposed Action:	Impacts:
Trench and sting-in willow and red osier dogwood cuttings within the floodplain along approximately 1.5 miles of Couse Creek conservation easement, plant native grasses, shrubs and trees.	Low to no impact. Mechanized planting methods uses excavator to trench and sting-in cuttings. Native plant materials would be placed in the riparian areas during the summer in-stream work window (July 1 - October 31) when the channel is expected to be dry, otherwise mechanized equipment would only be in the channel when it is necessary to cross the stream. CTUIR fisheries biologist or technician would select crossing sites. Bull Trout occupying the Walla Walla River near Couse Creek should experience negligible effects from the revegetation work due to low flow or dry conditions on Couse Creek. All disturbed areas would be planted with native grasses to promote rapid riparian vegetative recovery.
Annual monitoring and data collection.	No impact. Photo-points, water temperatures, and salmonid utilization of the project area data would be collected for three years following project completion and reported to NMFS annually.

## Project: Ken Brown/Patit Creek Enhancement Project, Oregon

Proposed Action:	Impacts:
Construct a livestock exclusion fence. Construct 8 vortex rock weirs, 4 root wad revetments, and 4 keyed logjams within the project area. Sting-in willows, plant native grasses, shrubs and trees.	Low to minimal impacts: Although this construction takes place within critical habitat of the Middle Columbia River steelhead, construction equipment impacts would be minimized with spill prevention and remediation measures taken. All activities would occur with the summer in-stream work window (July 15 - September 30) when there is a low likelihood fish would be present due to late summer channel dewatering. Any short-term sediment loads caused by the placement of rock and logs would be minimized by working during the in-stream work window, and disturbing the soil and vegetation as little as possible. All disturbed ground would be seeded with native grass seed mixtures. Measures to minimize sediment movement also include planting, bank stabilization and wood debris placement. All potential impacts would be short-term and discountable.
Annual monitoring and data collection.	No impact. Photo-points, water temperatures, and salmonid utilization of the project area data would be collected for three years following project completion and reported to NMFS annually.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with the Section 7.6: Habitat Goal, Policies and Objectives, Section 7.7: Cooperative Habitat Protection and Improvement with Private Landowners, and Section 7.8: State, Federal and Tribal Habitat Improvements, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This 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/ Patrica Smith

Patricia R. Smith

Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR: /s/ Nancy H. Weintraub for

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 10/11/00

**Attachment:**

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc:

J. Volkman - Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

K. Nakata - DOE/EH-42

B. Beraud - KEC-4 (w/o attachments)

L. Croff - KEC-4

N. Weintraub - KEC-4

P. Key - LC-7

Official File - KEC (EQ-14)