

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: June 11, 2002

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-82)

TO: Joe DeHerrera  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEWU-4

**Proposed Action:** Clark Creek/Bryant Alternative Watering System

**Project No:** 1992-026-01

**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, 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 2.3 Creation of Wetlands to Provide Near Channel Habitat and Store Water for Land Use, 2.7 Avoid Exotic Species, 2.4 Provide Filter Strips to Catch Sediment and Other Pollutants, 5.13 Alternative Water Sources, 6.1 Deferred Grazing, 6.5 Water Supply: Pipeline, 6.8 Water Supply: Well, and 6.10 Access: Fencing.

**Location:** Union County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Union Soil and Water Conservation District

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to fund a project with the Union County Soil and Water Conservation District to construct three alternative watering systems for about 350 head of cattle. This project is designed to minimize direct livestock use of the stream and thereby avoid deleterious effects to the localized watershed. Implementation of this project will enhance existing water quality improvements that have been implemented on Clark Creek.

The work will include installation of the three watering systems and installation of 1,850 feet of fencing to prevent livestock damage to the wet/riparian/streamshed. The watering structures will consist of a shallow well insulated with corrugated pipe for stock water; installation of a submersible pump and small pressure tank into each casing; installation of a spring box and troughs; installation of a trench, pipe and pump; installation of six winter-proof stock tanks; and installation of a power source. No instream work is proposed for this project. Disturbed soils created by installation of the watering devices and appurtenant features will be reseeded with non-exotic plants, in accordance with an erosion control plan that is incorporated into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) plan.

The project will be maintained on a seasonal basis by the landowner until 2005. However, with increased importance of riparian areas in the watershed, there will be an incentive to maintain these improvements well beyond that date.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Sarah Hendrickson, District Manager of the Union Soil and Water Conservation District (signed by Lyle Kuchenbecker, 4/9/02), and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that may potentially occur in the general vicinity of the proposed Clark Creek/Bryant Alternative Watering System are bald eagle (T), Canada lynx (T), grey wolf (E), Howell's spectacular thelypody (T), Ute ladies' tresses (T), Snake River steelhead (T), Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (T), and Snake River fall Chinook salmon (T). The practices outlined in this project are covered in a programmatic biological opinion dated June 2, 1999 from the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on ESA issues. Accordingly, all practices listed will be installed in compliance with this BO (NRCS ltr of 6/7/02). No further consultation is necessary.

A cultural resource survey was conducted on June 15, 1999 by Mike Burton, Al Spencer, and Russ Hate, each qualified cultural resource specialists with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The project area is located on agricultural land that has been repeatedly disturbed by concentrated wintering livestock. The ground surface constitutes about 50 per cent bare ground. As a result of the survey, only one basalt flake about 20 feet from the stream bank was identified, and no cultural resources were uncovered in the project area. The project will, therefore, have no effect on cultural or historic resources, and Mr. Burton certified that proceeding with the project was acceptable (see project file). If cultural deposits are found during any phase of the proposed project, if the nature of the project changes, or if additional lands are to be included in the project area, the project will be stopped and a cultural resource specialist notified immediately.

Standard protection measures for activities in or near streams and wetlands will be followed during the implementation of the project. The project is consistent with the NRCS Resource Management System, NRCS Technical Guide for Quality Criteria, and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Action Plan. In addition, this project addresses water quality concerns consistent with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality 303d list, as well as the Department of Agriculture's Senate Bill 1010 Water Quality Management Plan.

A working partnership has been established among the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Administration, and Union Soil and Water Conservation District. Public involvement has taken place as part of the CREP program. The project will be implemented on private land in conjunction with a willing landowner. The project has been reviewed and approved by the GRMWP Technical Committee and Board of Directors. The Board's representatives include ODFW, Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Nez Perce Tribe, and local governments. Consultation has also additionally taken place between the project proponent and State Historic Preservation Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Oregon Department of Agriculture.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action

will not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart for 6-13-2002

Carl J. Keller

Fish and Wildlife Biologist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 6-13-2002

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

NRCS Letter 6/7/02

cc:

Ms. Sarah Hendrickson, Union Soil and Water Conservation District, LaGrande, OR

Mr. Mike Burton, NRCS, LaGrande, OR