

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: June 19, 2002

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-84)

TO: John Baugher – KEWN-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Forrest Ranch Acquisition

**Project No:** 2001-041-00

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 2.15 Acquisition of Sensitive Riparian Resources

**Location:** Grant County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA, in conjunction with The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, proposes to acquire approximately 4,230 acres of privately-owned land in the John Day River Basin in Grant County, Oregon. This acquisition includes approximately 786 acres of land, 8.6 cfs of water rights, and 6.0 miles of river habitat on the upper Middle John Day River and 3,445 acres of land, 16.6 cfs of water rights, and 6.2 miles of river habitat on the upper mainstem John Day River. Forrest Ranch contains some of the highest value anadromous fish habitat in the John Day River Basin, particularly for spring chinook salmon. Species at risk within the basin, which reside for some part of their life history on the Forrest Ranch property, include spring chinook salmon, summer steelhead trout, bull trout, Pacific lamprey, Redband trout, and Westslope cutthroat trout. Title to the land will be transferred to The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon for fish and wildlife habitat protection and enhancement.

This Supplement Analysis covers the acquisition of the Forrest Ranch property only. Once acquisition is complete, a management plan will be developed for the property that outlines the restoration and enhancement activities to be implemented. These may include restoration of stream reaches, bank protection, vegetation management, fencing activities, irrigation water management, etc. Prior to the implementation of any restoration or enhancement activities on the site, additional NEPA analysis will be required.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Shaun Robertson, with CTWSRO, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). A management plan will be prepared for the property after it is acquired and will follow the guidelines and mitigation measures detailed in the Watershed Management Program EIS and ROD.

No plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be affected by the acquisition of the Forrest Ranch property. ESA-listed species that may be present in the project vicinity include Canada lynx, bald eagle, Mid-Columbia River steelhead, and Columbia River bull trout. ESA Section 7 consultation will be conducted by BPA and CTWSRO, as necessary, prior to the implementation of any restoration or enhancement activities on the property.

The CTWSRO completed a cultural resource literature review for the Forrest Ranch property at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Tribal Cultural Resource Department, and through the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office records. The CTWSRO literature review identified five cultural/historic sites within one mile of the Forrest Ranch property, although no sites were found within the project boundaries. These findings suggest that there is a high probability that there are historic properties within the boundaries of Forrest Ranch. BPA concluded, however, that the acquisition of the Forrest Ranch property would have no affect on cultural or historic resources. A copy of this report and findings were submitted to the Oregon SHPO for concurrence on January 8, 2002; no response was provided.

No ground disturbing activities are scheduled for the Forrest Ranch property at this time. Prior to any future construction, development, or ground disturbing activities on the site, further archaeological studies will be conducted to determine the presence of cultural and/or historic resources. In addition, a cultural plant inventory will also be conducted. The Oregon SHPO and the CTWSRO Cultural Resources Department will be notified of all findings. The management plan developed for this property will include a protection and anti-vandalism plan for cultural/historic resources and cultural plants (as necessary) developed in conjunction with the Oregon SHPO and the CTWSRO Cultural Resource Department. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during developments that might occur as part of this project, an archaeologist will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the Forrest Ranch property was completed on September 26, 2001, by Frederick Walasavage, an Environmental Specialist with BPA. Based on this assessment, it was determined that there are no significant recognized environmental concerns identified at the property that would impact the acquisition of these lands.

Public involvement associated with this project has included meetings, discussions, and site tours with adjacent landowners and other interested individuals and groups. Meetings have also taken place with the Downtown Prairie City Business Leaders Association, Prairie City City Council, the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District, the North Fork Watershed Council, Oregon Trout, and the Umatilla Tribe. Articles describing the project have been published in

various local papers and publications. Additional public involvement will be required during the development of a management plan for the Forrest Ranch property.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, 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/ Shannon C. Stewart 6-20-2002

Shannon C. Stewart  
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 6-20-2002

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Letter, September 26, 2001

cc: (w/o attachments)

Mr. Shaun W. Robertson, The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon