

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 27, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-89)

TO: Peter Lofy, KEWL-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Umatilla River Basin Anadromous Fish Habitat Enhancement (Hartman Riparian Restoration) Project

Project No: 1987-100-01

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.6 Install large woody debris structures; 1.7 Install other habitat complexity structures; 1.8 Bank protection through vegetation management; 2.1 Maintain healthy riparian plant communities; 2.7 Avoid exotic species; 2.14 Enhance large woody debris recruitment; 3.1 Plant / protect vegetative / conservation cover; 6.14 Vegetation stabilization: Critical area planting; 6.15 Vegetation stabilization: Brush / weed management

Location: Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund a project with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) to improve fish habitat within the Umatilla Basin in northeastern Oregon. The proposed project site is a 950-foot reach of private property along river mile 83 of the Umatilla River. Floodplain developments combined with geologic control have limited the available space for lateral channel movement resulting in a constrained reach within the vicinity of the project as well as the reach directly above the project. Physical structures in key locations have also limited access to the floodplain for surface flow during large, channel shaping events. Land management activities have changed riparian vegetation composition and density and have resulted in a situation that promotes downcutting and bank instability.

The goal for the project is to increase bank and channel stability while providing for overbank flow and improving aquatic habitat. Specific actions include: construction of a new meander configuration; repositioning existing downed woody debris in a manner that maintains and improves aquatic habitat and improves channel stability and floodplain function; constructing channel-stabilizing features using large wood and rock at key locations to maintain and enhance channel morphology; and, shaping channel banks and constructing pointbars so that riparian vegetation can be established.

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

A Biological Assessment describing impacts to bull trout and Middle Columbia River steelhead was submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). An Essential Fish Habitat Assessment was also submitted to NMFS. On May 2, 2002, the FWS concurred with BPA's determination that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect bull trout. On July 19, 2002, NMFS responded with a Biological Opinion, including terms and conditions to avoid jeopardy, thus concluding consultation under the Endangered Species Act.

A cultural resources survey was conducted and a report submitted to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on July 18, 2002. It was determined that the proposed project would have no affect on historic properties.

CTUIR submitted a permit application for instream work to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Oregon Division of State Lands. Those permits are pending. It is the responsibility of CTUIR to ensure that permits are in place prior to performing any instream work.

CTUIR engaged in an extensive public involvement program for the proposed project. Outreach to landowners and special interest groups, including public agencies, was conducted. Workshops, tours and presentations were provided to these stakeholders, as well as area residents, students and other interested parties. Finally, information about the project was published in the tribal newspaper, "Confederated Umatilla Journal."

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.

CONCUR:

/s/ Richard Yarde 8-27-2002
Richard Yarde
Environmental Specialist

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 8-27-2002
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist

cc: (w/o attachment)
Ms. Amy Sexton, CTUIR, P.O. Box 638, Pendleton, OR 97801