

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 31, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-97)

TO: Dorothy Welch, KEWU-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Couse and Tenmile Creeks Riparian Restoration Program

Project No: 2002-050-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 2.2 Plant/Protect Conifers in Riparian Areas for Thermal Cover, 2.4 Provide Filter Strips to Catch Sediment and Other Pollutants, 2.14 Enhance Large Woody Debris Recruitment, 6.2 Planned Grazing System, 6.3 Control Grazing Intensity, 6.4 Pasture and Hayland Management.

Location: Various locations on Couse and Tenmile creeks, WA.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Asotin County Conservation District (ACCD).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund a riparian planting project to reduce animal impacts in an effort to decrease erosion and in-stream sediment levels in Couse and Tenmile creeks. Objectives include developing contracts with landowners and securing permits, planting 3,500 native trees and shrubs, installation of riparian protection fencing, installation of offsite water facilities for livestock, and development of a monitoring and evaluation plan to address the effects of these riparian restoration projects.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed September 10, 2002, by Bradley J. Johnson, District Manager, ACCD, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

ESA listed Snake River summer steelhead and non-listed resident rainbow/redband trout are present in streams within the project areas. However, stream channels to be crossed during the work period, this fall, are dry. Therefore, BPA determined that the project will have no effect on Threatened and Endangered species normally found in these streams. An HPA permit was issued by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) October 29, 2002. All applicable terms and conditions will be followed.

No known historic or cultural resources sites are listed in the SHPO's database maintained in the Asotin Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office for the project's location. A representative of the Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Jim Schroeder, and the Nez Perce Tribe, Emmit Taylor, were notified of the proposed actions June, 2001. If, during project implementation, cultural resources are found, NRCS policy and procedures will be followed (Programmatic Agreement between the NRCS and the Office of Archaeology and Historical Preservation, version dated May 11, 1995). BPA has determined that no further historic or cultural resources consultation is necessary at this time.

Public involvement for the proposed project includes quarterly newsletters mailed to all citizens in the watershed and most of the county residents, agency representatives, and other entities. Additionally periodic public meetings are well attended and the program work relies on public involvement.

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/ Jason Karnezis 10-31-2002

Jason Karnezis
Environmental Project Lead

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 10-31-2002
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
HPA permit

cc: (w/ attachments)
Mr. Bradley J. Johnson, ACCD