DOE F 1325.8 e Electronic Form Approved by CGIR - 01/20/95(VB)
(8-89)

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-98)

TO: Tom Morse, KEWL-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Hood River Habitat (Middle Fork Irrigation District, Glacier Ditch / Evans Creek) Project

Project No: 1998-021-00

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; 1.13: Culvert Removal / Replacement to Improve Fish Passage; 1.14: Reduce Scour and Deposition at Hydraulic Structures; 1.15: Fish Passage Enhancements; 1.16: Spawning Habitat Enhancements; 2.11: Hand Pulling; 4.10: Water Conveyance - Pipeline; 4.17: Limit Interwatershed Diversions and Returns; 4.24: Protect Springs; 4.25: Consolidate / Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams; 7.2: Install Hydraulic Structures at Low Stream Flows; 7.3: Minimize Erosion and Sedimentation During Stream Crossing Construction; 7.4: Divert Water Around Construction of Larger Structure; 7.5: Avoid Stream Crossings Outside of Construction Windows; 7.9 Avoid Construction During Inclement Weather; 7.10 Erosion Control and Revegetation at Project Completion; 7.15: Grassed Road Surface Management; 7.17: Access Management; 8.11: Equipment Servicing; 8.17: Seed and Species Selection; 8.20: Mulching

Location: Parkdale, Hood River County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, in cooperation with the Middle Fork Irrigation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund a project with the Confederated Tribes of the Warms Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO), with the cooperation of the Middle Fork Irrigation District (MFID). The project is located in Hood River County, Oregon, about two to four miles south of Parkdale.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve water quality and eliminate fish passage barriers on Evans Creek, a tributary to the East Fork of the Hood River. By replacing the open ditch with a buried pipeline, water will be conserved, fish passage barriers will be eliminated, and water quality will be improved by eliminating interbasin water transfers. The project has two components, the Glacier Ditch pipeline and the Hutson Ditch Extension, both described in detail below. Although these components are geographically separated, they are both integral to accomplishing the purposes of the project.

The proposed Glacier Ditch pipeline would replace the existing irrigation ditch with 12,000 feet of 24 to 48-inch buried steel or polyethylene pipe. The pipe would be placed in the existing ditch and covered to a depth of approximately 30 inches. Most of the Glacier Ditch runs through forested land. The ditch originates below a large settling pond and runs northeast for approximately ½ mile. In this area, the ditch is cut into the edge of a hill slope, and gradually trends down in elevation. The ditch then turns toward the southwest until it intersects and commingles with Evans Creek.

Around the point where Evans Creek crosses the irrigation ditch, a pond was excavated on either side of the creek channel sometime in the past. The flow from the ditch and the creek back up, filling the pond because of the concrete diversion structure. Glacier Ditch runs approximately perpendicular to Evans Creek at this intersection. The ditch exits from the southeast end of the pond, continuing northeast in a forested area for approximately another mile.

In the settling pond area, the pipeline would be placed within the road fill adjacent to the pond area. By placing the irrigation waters in a pipe, flow from the ditch and Evans Creek would no longer commingle in the pond, restoring the natural hydrology of Evans Creek. The concrete diversion and culvert located on the downstream side of the pond would be replaced with a wood-decked, steel bridge with concrete block or riprap retaining walls, designed to allow fish passage at any stage of flow up to the 500-year flood levels. The irrigation pipe would be placed below the Evans Creek channel in the area of the existing concrete diversion and culvert that will be replaced with the bridge.

Two other culverts, one located at the Evans Creek Diversion, and the other slightly upstream of Hutson Pond, would be removed to restore fish passage, and not replaced. One of these culverts is a small culvert located on a seeping spring on the upstream side of the pond. The other culvert is located upstream on Evans Creek.

The second component of the proposed project, the Hutson Ditch Extension, is geographically separated and is located to the northeast of the Glacier Ditch. The Hutson Ditch Extension would involve constructing 4,330 feet of pipeline, which will eliminate the need for an existing diversion and fish ladder at Hutson Pond. Approximately one-half of the Hutson Ditch Extension upgrades an existing pipeline by replacing a 28-inch pipe with a 48-inch pipe. The remainder of the Hutson Ditch Extension would involve burying a new section of pipeline in previously undisturbed soils in agricultural and forest settings.

The Hutson Ditch Extension would begin at an existing settling pond and diversion structure, and follow an existing right-of-way to the northeast until it meets Clear Creek Road. The pipeline would follow the road right-of-way due north for several hundred feet. Then it would turn to the east, crossing under the road and running through an orchard. Once through the orchard, the pipeline would cross West Fork Evans Creek. The pipeline would then extend several hundred feet east through a forested area, until it crosses Evans Creek. Once across Evans Creek, the pipeline will exit the forested area and enter another orchard, connecting with an existing buried pipeline.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Brian Connors of the Middle Fork Irrigation District (MFID), and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

BPA prepared and submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) to NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in August 2000. That BA covered not only the present action but also several other actions that were at one time connected geographically and temporally. However, questions that arose regarding the actions resulted in a shift of project timelines, and consequently the consultation was separated and each action later discussed in separate analyses before the services. A BA Addendum regarding this Glacier Ditch / Evans Creek project was submitted to NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in March 2002. In that Addendum, BPA determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, including steelhead, chinook salmon, bull trout, bald eagle, and northern spotted owl. BPA had made a preliminary determination regarding proposed coastal cutthroat trout, but prior to conclusion of consultation the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that that species does not qualify for listing as endangered or threatened. On May 8, 2002, NOAA Fisheries concurred with BPA's determination, and on August 15, 2002, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with BPA's determination, concluding informal Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act.

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, BPA consulted with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) at the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), to identify and mitigate for any potential adverse affects to historic or cultural resources. An archaeological survey and report were completed and sent to the THPO and the SHPO on June 28, 2002. The report also documented the Glacier Ditch as an historic property that may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The THPO did not choose to participate in consultation. After extensive consultation, the SHPO and BPA entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) identifying measures that mitigate for any potential adverse affects of the proposed project on the Glacier Ditch. The majority of the mitigation consists of documentation of the ditch's historic significance. A report, including a written history and photo-documentation of the ditch, is available for viewing at the SHPO office in Salem, the BPA official file at Portland, the MFID office in Parkdale, and the Hood River County Historical Museum in Hood River, Oregon.

A permit application for instream work was submitted to the Oregon Division of State Lands (DSL) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. On July 22, 2002, DSL responded with a letter of concurrence for the jurisdictional determination and wetland delineation. The permit application is pending before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Any instream work completed as part of the proposed project will be deferred until the proper Army Corps permit is in place.

BPA engages in public involvement on many of its activities in the Hood River Valley with the cooperation and assistance of the Hood River Watershed Group and its regular meetings in the Hood River area. Meetings are announced via the group's mailing list, which has a circulation of approximately 120 local landowners, entities, and public officials. In addition, BPA prepared

a mailing list including all record owners of land, both private and public, within the immediate vicinity of the proposed project. That list contained approximately 35 individuals and entities. BPA mailed a letter to members of the list in January 2002, briefly describing the project and inviting recipients to attend the Hood River Watershed Group Meeting in order to gather more information, ask questions and comment on the project. This meeting was also advertised in the local newspaper, the Hood River News, on January 19, 2002, and was discussed at a number of board meetings of the Middle Fork Irrigation District.

The meeting was held on January 22 near Hood River, and was attended by 34 people. Several verbal comments and one written comment were received as a result of this public outreach. The verbal comments, made during the public meeting and later via telephone contact, were generally asking for clarification on project location and specifics, which was provided. A local landowner, who for aesthetic reasons asked the MFID to consider alternatives to piping the entire ditch, submitted the written comment.

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/ Richard Yarde 11-01-2002
Richard Yarde
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: *11-1-2002*
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
Environmental Checklist
Memorandum of Agreement with the SHPO
Letter Permit from DSL
Letters of Concurrence from NOAA Fisheries and USFWS

cc: (w/ attachments)
Ms. Alexis Vaivoda, CTWSRO, 3430 West 10th, The Dalles, OR 97058
Mr. Brian Connors, MFID, 8335 Clear Creek Rd., P.O. Box 291, Parkdale, OR 97041