

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 9, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-46)

TO: Sabrina Keen – KEWU-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Blue Creek Winter Range - Spokane Reservation (Acquisition of Gribner, Wolfrum, and Yepa Properties and 11 Tribal Allotments)

Project No: 1991-062-00

Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.1 Fee Title Acquisition and Transfer

Location: On the Spokane Indian Reservation, near Wellpinit, Stevens County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Spokane Tribe of Indians

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the purchase of 14 parcels of land within the boundaries of the Spokane Indian Reservation, totaling approximately 1,348 acres. Title to the land will pass to the Spokane Tribe of Indians. The goal of the property acquisition is to dedicate the land to the protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife affected by the construction and operation of portions of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Kelly Singer of the Spokane Tribe of Indians (STOI), and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). A comprehensive management plan that follows the guidelines and mitigation measures detailed in the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS and ROD will be prepared for the parcels after they are purchased.

No plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be affected by the acquisition of the properties. ESA listed species known to occur in the vicinity of the project include the bald eagle, gray wolf, bull trout, and Ute ladies'-tresses. Prior to the implementation of any restoration or enhancement activities on the site, an updated ESA species list will be obtained and ESA Section 7 Consultation will be conducted by BPA and the STOI as necessary.

The STOI Tribal Historic Preservation Office has been consulted regarding the project and recommended proceeding with the purchase of the parcels. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office will be involved in developing a cultural resources management plan for the acquired parcels as further management takes place. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during any management actions that might occur as part of this project, an archaeologist should immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and evaluated.

BPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Abatement completed a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of all 14 parcels. Based on these assessments, BPA concluded that there were no recognized environmental conditions associated with the sites.

Because of the unique system of property ownership on reservation lands, BPA coordinated with the STOI and the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, in order to identify and notify all people with interests in property adjacent to or in the vicinity of the three subject parcels. This letter was posted in the June 2005 edition of the Rawhide Press, the Reservation newspaper and mailed to adjacent landowners. BPA explained the goals of the property acquisition, gave information on how to obtain a map of the parcel locations, and solicited comments from the public. All comments received were supportive of the proposed acquisition and management.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Wildlife Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Wildlife 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 Wildlife Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Donald L. Rose 8-9-05

Donald L. Rose
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Kathy S. Pierce
Kathy Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 8-9-05

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/o attachments)
Kelly Singer - Spokane Tribe of Indians