

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: November 18, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-49)

TO: Lee Watts - KEWU-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation - Gold Creek Acquisition

Project No: 1992-061-00

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

Location: Bonner County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA, in conjunction with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, proposes to fund the acquisition of 310 acres of land that fronts the Pack River at the confluence of Gold Creek in Bonner County, Idaho. This property is being acquired as part of the Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation Program, which is tasked with the acquisition and restoration of key habitats within the Pend Oreille Watershed. The goal of the program is to protect, mitigate, and enhance wildlife affected by the construction and operation of the Federal hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River. The current proposal includes only the fee title acquisition of these lands; habitat enhancement activities will likely be carried out by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in the future following the development of a management plan for the property.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this parcel was completed by Katherine Cousins with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (September 13, 2005) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that are found in the vicinity of the property proposed for acquisition include grizzly bear, Canada lynx, bald eagle, bull trout, gray wolf, Water Howellia and Ute Ladies'-tresses. The acquisition of this parcel will have no effect on ESA-listed species. Prior to the implementation of any BPA-funded restoration or enhancement activities on the site, ESA Section 7 Consultation will be required.

BPA archaeologists conducted a background literature review of the Gold Creek parcel. Results of the literature review indicate that there have been no cultural resource surveys within the proposed acquisition area and there are no known historic properties on the property. Based on these findings, BPA determined that the proposed land acquisition would have no effect on cultural and/or historic resources. These findings were forwarded to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on July 20, 2005. The Idaho SHPO responded with a request for a reconnaissance survey. BPA archaeologists will complete this survey prior to the development of a management plan for the property. All findings will be forwarded to the Idaho SHPO for review.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed on the Gold Creek property by Fred Walasavage, Environmental Protection Specialist for BPA. The Phase I assessment did not reveal any environmental factors that would pose a significant liability for remedial action or clean-up under the Comprehensive Environmental Recovery, Compensation, and Liability Act (May 4, 2005).

Public involvement has taken place as part of the proposed Gold Creek land acquisition. The acquisition was approved by the Albeni Falls Workgroup and the Bonner County Commissioners. A public notice was published in the Bonner County Daily Bee and a letter was mailed to adjacent landowners notifying them of the proposed acquisition. Comments were received and addressed as a result of these outreach efforts.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Wildlife Mitigation 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 Mitigation 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 Mitigation Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine Pierce

Katherine Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

Date: November 21, 2005

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

ID SHPO Response Letter, October 24, 2005

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Findings, May 4, 2005

cc: (w/o attachments)

Ms. Katherine Cousins - Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game