

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: December 20, 2000

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-13)

to: Charlie Craig - KEWN-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Malheur Wildlife Mitigation Project, Project No. 200002700

Budget No: 00033542

Wildlife Management Techniques of Actions Addressed Under this Supplement Analysis (See App A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 1.0 Fee-Title Acquisition; 2.0 Plant Propagation Techniques; 4.0 Water Development and Management; 5.0 Water Distribution Techniques; 6.0 Fire Management Techniques (prompt fire suppression and fuels management, natural fire management), 7.4 Hand Pulling; 7.5 Prescribed Burns; 7.6 Water Level Manipulation; 8.2 Control of Predators and Nuisance Animals; 9.2 Provision of Education and Recreation Opportunities; 9.4 Grazing; 9.5 Forest Management; 10.1 Transportation/access Techniques and 10.3 Road Maintenance

Location: Seven miles east of Juntura, Oregon, Malheur County

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Burns-Paiute Tribe

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the Burns-Paiute Tribe to acquire the Denny Jones Ranch in Juntura, Oregon. The acquisition would allow the Tribe to manage 6,500 acres of richly diverse property on the Malheur River. The acquisition includes deed to approximately 7 miles of the Malheur River, 350 acre-feet of senior water rights, a 36,000 acre lease from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and a 4,500 acre lease of state land. The project would benefit a diverse population of fish, wildlife and vegetation species. Management objectives for the property would include: restoring and enhancing critical habitat for fish and wildlife populations, maintaining BLM allotments, enhancing historical home range and wintering habitat for resident and migratory species, weed control, and improving water quality. The Tribe also has great interests in preserving cultural sites and re-establishing cultural use of the site, which was once part of the Malheur Reservation.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the Burns-Paiute Tribe and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

A list was received on December 2, 1999, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identifying species listed as Threatened, Endangered, Proposed Species and Species of Concern found within the project area. The transfer of ownership of the property would have no effect on these species. After acquisition, a management plan will be developed and BPA and the Tribe will complete Section 7 consultation as required by the Endangered Species Act prior to taking any actions that would affect listed species.

The Burns-Paiute Tribe conducted a literature search for historic and archaeological sites on the property on December 3, 1999. No known sites were identified. The need for further site-specific surveys will be determined when the Management Plan is completed. The Burns-Paiute Tribe will conduct site-specific surveys prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

On November 26, 1999, Fred Walasavage of BPA completed a Phase I Site Assessment and concluded that the site did not reveal any environmental factors that would pose a significant liability for remedial action or cleanup under the Comprehensive Recovery, Compensation and Liability Act.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Sections 7.6A, 7.6B, 7.6C, 7.6D, 7.7A, 7.8A, 7.8F, 10.1A, 10.2, 10.2C, 10.7, 11.1, 11.3A, and 11.3H of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds; 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Wildlife Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-2965) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Linda McKinney

Linda McKinney

Environmental Project Lead

CONCUR: /s/ Tom McKinney DATE: 12/20/2000

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc:

Daniel Gonzalez, Burns-Paiute Tribe