

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 22, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-22)

TO: David Sill
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Perkins Lake Mitigation Project

Project No: 1992-061-05

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: Boundary County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to purchase approximately 99 acres of land located west of Perkins Lake, at the headwaters of the Curley Creek drainage in Boundary County, Idaho. Title to the land will be held by the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. The goal of this project is to protect and enhance riparian, wetland, and upland habitats for the benefit of wildlife.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Scott Soultz with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). A comprehensive management plan will be prepared for the Perkins Lake Property after it is purchased and will follow the guidelines and mitigation measures detailed in the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS and ROD.

No plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be affected by the fee-title purchase of the subject property (Idaho Conservation Data Center). 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 Kootenai Tribe of Idaho as necessary.

A cultural resource review of the Perkins Lake Property was completed by Archaeological Survey of Idaho (ASI) in May 1999. ASI conducted background research on the project area and its environs, and conducted a reconnaissance survey (30 acres) and intensive survey (70 acres) of the property. No properties of historical or archaeological interest were identified within the Perkins Lake project area. The only feature found was a recently constructed livestock feeder, which is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. A summary of ASI's inventory was sent

to the Idaho State Historical Society for their review and comment. The Idaho State Historical Society recommended that the land acquisition and wildlife mitigation activities on the Perkins Lake site proceed with no further archaeological review. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during developments 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 assessed (July 19, 1999). The Idaho State Historical Society should be notified on any such findings.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the Perkins Lake Property was conducted by Selkirk Environmental Testing, Inc. in October 1998. Selkirk Environmental Testing completed an updated Level I Environmental Site Assessment Review in October 2001. Based on their findings, Selkirk Environmental Testing concluded that there are no environmental concerns or adverse environmental conditions present on or around the subject property. Fred Walasavage, an Environmental Protection Specialist with BPA, concurred with these findings and conclusions on February 20, 2002.

Public involvement will be required as part of the development of a comprehensive management plan for the Perkins Lake Property. Affected tribes, and state fish and wildlife agencies have been notified of this project through the Albeni Falls Mitigation Working Group. In addition, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho has met with county commissioners, agricultural producers, and numerous other community groups to discuss impacts and concerns associated with wildlife mitigation activities, including the Perkins Lake Property acquisition project. As a result, a Natural Resource Advisory Committee and a Wetland Conservation Strategy Group have been formed between the tribe, local governments, and community groups. These committees will provide a framework in which Tribal, Federal, State, County, private, and community groups can cooperatively participate in wetland conservation, wildlife habitat management, and natural resource planning in the Lower Kootenai watershed.

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.

CONCUR:

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart 3-25-2002
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 3-25-2002

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
Idaho State Historical Society Response Letter, July 19, 1999

cc: (w/o attachments)
Scott Soultz – Kootenai Tribe of Idaho