

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 6, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-45)

TO: Lee Watts
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Protect & Restore Wildlife Habitat Coeur d'Alene Tribe – Hangman Acquisition (1 parcel, 910 acres)

Project No: 2001-033-00

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: Benewah County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the acquisition of one parcel in Benewah County, Idaho with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. This parcel encompasses approximately 910 acres of riparian and potential riparian habitat along Hangman Creek on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation. The goal of this project 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 this parcel; habitat enhancement activities will likely be carried out by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in the future following the development of a management plan for the land.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this parcel was completed by Gerald Green with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe (June 23, 2004) 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, 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.

A cultural resource investigation of the lands proposed for acquisition was completed by Dr. Lee Sappington. As a result of Dr. Sappington's inventory two sites were recorded within the property boundaries. These sites may be eligible for the National Historic Register of Historic Places and should be treated accordingly. It was determined that the proposed acquisition will have no adverse effect on this property provided the Coeur d'Alene Tribe commits to 1) archaeological testing within the site areas or along Hangman Creek if ground disturbing activities are planned, 2) documenting and evaluating the historic buildings after acquisition, and 3) developing a management plan for cultural resources. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with these determinations on June 4, 2004.

In June 2003 a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed on the portion of the property that lies to the east of Highway 95 by Fred Walasavage, Environmental Protection Specialist for BPA. The Phase I assessment did not reveal any environmental conditions associated with the site (June 5, 2003). In May 2004 a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed on the portion of the property that lies to the west of Highway 95 by Fred Walasavage. Fred determined that there was inadequate information to fully assess the conditions of this portion of the property. Fred recommended that a site visit and interview with the landowner would need to be conducted to collect missing information and further assess site conditions (May 21, 2004).

Extensive public involvement has taken place as part of the proposed land acquisition. The acquisition received approval from the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council and Natural Resource Committee. A public notice was published in the Coeur d'Alene Press and a letter was mailed to adjacent landowners notifying them of the proposed acquisition. In addition, a notice was posted on the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's website. Comments were received as a result of these outreach efforts. A response letter was provided to those individuals who submitted written comments. This acquisition was also discussed at various public meetings hosted by the Tribe including meetings in Tensed and Worley, Idaho.

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 Stewart 10-6-04
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

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

DATE: 10-06-04

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
ID SHPO Letter of Concurrence, June 4, 2004
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Findings, June 5, 2003 and May 21, 2004

cc: (w/o attachments)
Mr. Gerald Green – Coeur d'Alene Tribe