

memorandum

DATE: August 11, 2008

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, Raceway Construction and Outfall Modification at Prosser (DOE/EIS-0169-SA-14-11)

TO: Patricia Smith
Project Manager - KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Construct Six Raceways and Modify Outfall at Prosser Hatchery

Project No.: 1995-063-25 and 1997-013-25

Location: Prosser Hatchery, Prosser, WA

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and co-managed by the Yakama Nation (YN) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Introduction: The Yakima Fisheries Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (YFP EIS) (DOE/EIS-0169, January 1996) analyzed impacts of undertaking fishery research and mitigation activities in the Yakima River Basin. The EIS focused on the impacts of construction and operation and maintenance of anadromous fish production facilities established to conduct supplementation research for spring chinook, and the initial coho reintroduction feasibility studies. The purpose of this supplement analysis is to determine if a supplemental EIS is needed to construct new raceways and modify the outfall at Prosser Hatchery.

Description of the Proposed Action: The Yakima Fisheries Project is co-managed by the YN and the WDFW. The project consists of the collection of salmonid broodstock, incubation of eggs and rearing of fry in hatcheries, the acclimation and release of smolts, and related ecological studies in the study of natural production. The proposed actions to be analyzed under this Supplement Analysis are the construction/modifications of the experimental hatchery facilities at Prosser in support of the Yakima Basin fall and spring Chinook and coho populations.

Raceway Construction

A graveled pad area will be constructed to support six additional raceways at Prosser Hatchery. The area will be approximately 40 feet by 60 feet. This area is located south of the lower raceways. The following construction actions would occur:

- Excavate raceway sites and remove excess material
- Prepare sub-grade
- Haul and place crushed rock (to 4" depth) in pad area
- Install drain pipe to hook-up to new raceways
- Build access driveway

The additional raceways are part of the current coho program. The raceways will enable the Yakima Nation to hold coho adult broodstock in chilled water and allow different marked groups of juvenile coho to be held separately. Holding adult broodstock in chilled water increases the survival of both adult broodstock and eggs.

New acclimation sites have also been identified within the Yakima basin for coho release, and the construction of additional raceways allows the different groups of coho to be held separately.

Outfall Modifications:

The outfall modification would replace the current ecology blocks and PIT tag antenna mounts with a more stable and reliable structure and provide a place to mount the Alaskan steep pass for adult broodstock collection. The outfall work will be performed when the outfall flows from the hatchery are at their lowest for the year. The area surrounding the outfall is currently covered with weeds, and following outfall modifications willow cuttings will be planted along the outfall channel.

The outfall modifications would include digging a temporary channel to the west of the current channel. Once the temporary channel has been constructed, the ecology blocks (currently used for PIT tag antennas) and Alaska steep pass will be removed from the existing channel. Concrete will be poured into forms in the original channel for the new PIT tag antenna mounting structures, and the Alaska steep pass will be installed. Following installation the temporary trench would be re-filled, and water diverted back to the original outfall channel. The current landing/turn-around for the adult fish truck will also be improved. The above work will be conducted using a track hoe, bulldozer, and back hoe.

Analysis:

- The environmental impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of anadromous fish production facilities have been looked at in other documents. The proposed outfall modification could have been covered by a Categorical Exclusion, and there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the outfall modification that may affect the significance of its environmental effects. Construction and operation of raceways has been analyzed under the YFP EIS and SA-04. The supplementation program, including broodstock collection, acclimation, releases, and monitoring, has been evaluated in detail in the YFP EIS, SA-01, SA-02, SA-03, SA-08, SA-10, SA-11 and SA-13.
- Subsequent to the YFP EIS, BPA completed a Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan EIS (FWIP EIS) (BPA 2003) and Record of Decision. The goal of the FWIP EIS was to develop a comprehensive and consistent policy to guide the implementation and funding of BPA's fish and wildlife obligations under existing statutes and policies. In the Record of Decision, BPA adopted the Proposed Action 2002 alternative that characterized the policy direction BPA would take. This alternative focuses on enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, modifying hydroelectric power operations and structures, and reforming hatcheries to both increase populations of listed fish stocks and provide long-term harvest opportunities. The proposed construction would be consistent with the FWIP EIS and ROD, and the cumulative effects of artificial production programs in the Columbia River basin are addressed in that EIS.
- The expansion at the Prosser Hatchery would take place on BOR lands that have been previously disturbed. BPA Archaeologist Kevin G. Cannell visited the site on July 22, 2008. Due to four-foot tall weeds surface visibility was impossible during the site visit. Nearby exposures of the surface indicated that the surface consists of a thin layer of silty-sand overlying large boulders and cobbles. Mr. Cannell and Mr. Meninick of the Yakama Nation discussed the lack of ground visibility and it was felt that the best way to proceed would be to have a monitor present during all phases of ground disturbing construction. An archaeologist from the Yakama Nation will monitor all phases of ground disturbing construction. If any cultural materials are encountered during the project, work will stop until the archaeologist can determine the significance of the materials.

- If the materials are determined to be significant consultation will occur with the Washington DAHP in compliance with 36 CFR 800.13(b). Due to the lack of surface visibility coupled with the very rocky sediments BPA determined that no historic properties will be affected.
- The expansion at the Prosser Hatchery will have no effect on species listed under the Endangered Species Act. All work will occur over 200 feet from the Yakima River. No listed fish use the outfall channel at Prosser, and no in-water work will occur. Construction will occur in the dry and no sediments or other contaminants will reach the Yakima River. A no-effect memo for the project is on file.
- All construction work will occur in previously disturbed areas dominated by invasive weeds and disturbed soils. Once the outfall modification is completed the channel will be replanted with willows.
- The addition of the six raceways at the Prosser hatchery will allow adult coho broodstock to be chilled and marked groups of juvenile coho to be held separately; however, the total numbers of research fish will not exceed the level identified in previous SAs and approved by the Northwest Power Planning Council's Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

Findings: As documented in this Supplement Analysis, the potential impacts from the construction/modifications at Prosser Hatchery have been examined, reviewed and consulted upon and are not substantially different from those discussed in the Yakima Fisheries Project EIS (DOE/EIS-0169), Record of Decision, Supplement Analyses (SA-01 through SA-13). No additional impacts would occur in connection with these activities.

There are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, a supplement to the Yakima Fisheries Project EIS is not needed.

/s/ Rachel Rounds

Rachel A. Rounds

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ James M Kehoe for

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 11, 2008

cc:

Mr. Mark Johnston, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Mr. Bill Fiander, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation