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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: February 18, 2005

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, Stiles & Edler FC Sites, (DOE/EIS-0169-SA-10)

TO: David Byrnes - KEW
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Yakima Fisheries Project – Fall Chinook Research Program at Stiles & Edler Ponds

Project No: YKFP 1995-063-25

Location: Yakima River Basin, Kittitas County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Co-Managed by the Yakama Indian Nation (YIN) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA, YN and WDFW are proposing to collect broodstock, incubate eggs and rear fry in hatcheries; acclimate and release smolts; and study the natural production, ecological interactions, long-term fitness, and culturing/genetics of Fall Chinook in the Yakima River basin.

Analysis: A Supplement Analysis for the Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-1 was prepared May 14, 1999 wherein the Fall Chinook and Coho Research Program was examined to determine if a supplemental EIS was needed to analyze additional research activities proposed as part of that project. The detailed Supplement Analysis identified the draft Fall Chinook Project Status Report (PSR) YN 1998b) and included figures showing project locations and tables summarizing the project activites. Since that SA was prepared, the project has developed the detailed monitoring and research program for Fall Chinook. No new facilities are proposed in conjunction with these research activities.

There are two stocks of fall chinook found in the Yakima basin, the Yakima River stock, for which approximately 70 % of the production occurs below Prosser Dam, and the Marion Drain stock which spawns in Marion Drain. At this time, the only experimental releases of in-basin fall Chinook back into the system are approximately, 330,000 from the Prosser Hatchery just below Prosser Dam and 20,000 to 50,000 from the Marion Drians. These two stocks are being managed separately. The project at Stiles would help understand if the fish returning to spawn above Prosser dam in these upper reaches are a result of natural production, or of hatchery releases. The program goal is to supplement and enhance the two existing stocks of Yakima fall Chinook, while preserving the stock characteristics and fitness of targeted stocks and keeping adverse impacts on non-target taxa within prescribed limits.

This proposal is to acclimate approximately 200,000 *mainstem* in-basin stock fall Chinook at Stiles pond from February – April. Volitional release would begin in early April. Stiles ponds are located at approximately RM 3.7 on the Naches River, which is located at RM 116.3 on the Yakima River. These ponds are entirely screened off from the Naches River as part of the Chapman Nelson irrigation canal system. To determine survival rate, approximately 2,500 within the group would be pittaged and monitored for survival to Bonneville Dam. These fish would be released along with the Prosser accelerated fish, which are released in mid-April, so they can be compared via pit tags for timing and survival studies.

The habitat above Wapato Dam, as well as the lower Naches, provides ideal spawning habitat for adult fall Chinook returning to these middle reaches of the system. Knowledge of when the fish are moving out of the system and the rates at which they survive would benefit the fall Chinook program. Acclimations at Stiles pond could potentially result in high rates of smolt out-migration survival and ultimately, an increase of naturally spawned recruits.

The second part of this proposal would be adding the Edler Pond #3 located in Union Gap, Washington as an acclimation site. Edler Pond #3 is an old highway development gravel pit resulting in a pond at least 500 feet across and 15 feet deep, fluctuating with the Yakima River. The plan is to pond approximately 200,000 *mainstem* in-basin fall Chinook broodstock during mid-March with two volitional release periods of mid-April and mid-May (75,000 to 100,000 fish). These two groups, an accelerated group and a conventional group, would be released with their like groups at Prosser. Comparisons of survival and timing of these Union gap fish to the Prosser Hatchery fish would be detected at McNary for smolts going out and adults coming back.

Biological Assessments for Bull trout and Steelhead and on-going BPA evaluations and consultations with the Services on potential effects the proposed project may have on threatened and endangered species have been completed. Fall Chinook is not a listed species at this time. No additional permits would be needed for this research and acclimation. Smolt to smolt survival would be evaluated using pit tag detectors throughout the Yakima River and Columbia River systems. Adult returns would be monitored at Prosser Dam and by spawning ground surveys.

There would be no land disturbance activities that could affect cultural resources.

Findings:
As documented in this Supplement Analysis, the potential impacts from the addition of Stiles and Edler Ponds are not substantially different from those discussed in the Yakima Fisheries Project EIS (DOE/EIS-0169), ROD, Supplement Analyses (SA-01 through SA-09), and related

biological assessments and biological opinions. 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 YFP EIS is not needed and no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Patti Smith 2-18-05
Patricia R. Smith
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney DATE*: 2-18-05*
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Documentation on file:

Bonneville Power Administration, Yakama Indian Nation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (BPA, YIN, WDFW). 1999a. Biological Assessment on Bull Trout for the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project 1999-2004. March 1999.

BPA, YIN, WDFW. 1999b. Biological Assessment on Mid-Columbia River Steelhead for the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project 1999-2004. April 1999.

National Marine Fisheries Service. 1999. Biological Opinion on Artificial Propagation in the Columbia River Basin. National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, Portland, OR.

United States Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration (USDOE/BPA). 1996. Yakima Fisheries Project Final Environmental Impact Statement. DOE/EIS-0169. Portland, OR

USDOE/BPA. 1999. Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-01. Portland, OR

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USDOE/BPA. 2000. Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-04. Portland, OR

USDOE/BPA. 2002. Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-05. Portland, OR

USDOE/BPA. 2003. Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-06. Portland, OR

USDOE/BPA. 2003. Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-07. Portland, OR

Portland, OR
USDOE/BPA 2005. Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-09. Portland, OR

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