

# memorandum

DATE: February 22, 2005

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project, Vegetation Management –  
Herbicide Spraying for Weed Control (DOE/EIS-0169-SA-12)

TO: David Byrnes  
Project Manager - KEWL-4

**Proposed Action:** Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project – Under the Operations and Maintenance Program (O&M), the vegetation management plan requires herbicide spraying for weed control in the upper Yakima River in Kittitas County, Washington.

**Project No.:** YKFP Supplementation O & M for Upper Yakima, 1997-013-25  
Work Order #47561 Task #03

**Location:** Cle Elum Supplementation and Research Facility (CESRF), Scatter Creek Properties, Upper Easton, Clark Flats and Jack Creek Acclimation Sites, Kittitas County, Washington.

**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) (USDOE/BPA 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.

The purpose of this Supplement Analysis (SA) is to determine if a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) is needed to analyze the proposed herbicide spraying for weed control at the CESRF hatchery, Scatter Creek properties, and acclimation sites.

## Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action to be analyzed under this SA is the addition of herbicide spraying for weed control under the vegetation management plan for the Cle Elum Research Facility, YKFP Scatter Creek properties, and the acclimation sites known as Easton, Clark Flats and Jack Creek.

## Analysis

The Bonneville Power Administration is funding ongoing studies, research, and artificial production of several salmonid species in the Yakima and Klickitat river basins. In the EIS, BPA analyzed the environmental impacts of construction of the project facilities, operations and maintenance, habitat improvement activities, as well as the research and supplementation projects in the Yakima basin.

The CESRF Management Plan calls for noxious weed control at the hatchery and acclimation sites. Prior attempts at weed control included not only labor-intensive mechanical removal but also biological control agents at the hatchery and Jack Creek sites. Although those activities reaped some benefit, weed progression has been too aggressive for the mechanical and bio-control activities to be totally effective. Noxious weeds often cause declines in native populations of plants by reducing light, water, and nutrients. These weeds grow so rampantly that they out compete other species. These effects are not restricted to populations but can affect entire communities and ecosystems by altering environmental conditions, changing physical structures and reducing available habitat for animals. Some noxious weeds recover more easily from disturbances such as fires and change the usual composition of the native plant communities. In some cases, noxious weeds may cause a decline in biological diversity and result in species extinctions.

The Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board has targeted the management of diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*) and Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia* ssp. *Dalmatica*) as species of concern. Therefore, to reduce the infestation and to get the noxious weeds under control along BPA-owned property, hatchery structures, roads, and wildlife preserve lands, a vegetation management plan was developed to include the use of herbicide sprays. BPA has consulted with Marc Eylar of the Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board and agrees a spraying program is the best and most efficient way to resolve this infestation problem.

BPA has consulted with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service for vegetation management, including the use of herbicides, under the Habitat Improvement Program (HIP), ESA Section 7 Consultation Biological Opinion (BO) and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat). BPA has reviewed that authorization and the proposed action meets the requirements set forth in the HIP ESA consultation. Approvals are contingent on meeting all terms and conditions agreed to under the HIP BO.

A Biological Assessment (BA) was prepared for the US. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for ESA Section 7 consultation. A letter of concurrence was received on January 24, 2005 from USFWS concurring with BPA's determination of "may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect" listed species. No critical habitat is being jeopardized.

No additional effects beyond those discussed in the EIS, subsequent supplement analyses, or ESA consultations are expected by the proposed action. There would be no land disturbance activities that would affect historical or cultural resources.

## **Findings**

As documented in this Supplement Analysis, the potential impacts from the spraying of herbicides for weed control have been examined, reviewed and consulted upon and are not substantially different from those discussed in the Yakima Fisheries Project EIS (DOE/EIS-0169), ROD, Supplement Analyses (SA-01 through SA-11), 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.

/s/ Patricia Smith 2-23-05

Patricia R. Smith  
Environmental Protection Specialist

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas McKinney DATE: 2-23-05

Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

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

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cc:

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