

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 9, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-200)

TO: Dorie Welch
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Asotin Model Watershed Program—George Creek Meander Reconstruction and Riparian Planting Project on Hagenah Property

Project No: 1994-018-05

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See Appendix A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):

1. In-Channel Modifications and Habitat Enhancement Techniques:
 - 1.3 Restoration of Channelized River and Stream Reaches;
 - 1.7 Install other Habitat Complexity Structures;
 - 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management;
 - 1.16 Spawning Habitat Enhancements;
 - 1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancements

2. Special Vegetation Treatment Techniques, Including Techniques for Wetlands and Riparian Areas:
 - 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities;
 - 2.2 Plant/Protect Conifers in Riparian Areas for Thermal Cover;
 - 2.4 Provide Filter Strips to Catch Sediment and Other Pollutants;
 - 2.14 Enhance Large Woody Debris Recruitment

6. Agricultural Management Techniques-Grazing:
 - 6.2 Planned Grazing System;
 - 6.3 Control Grazing Intensity;
 - 6.4 Pasture Management

Location: Asotin County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Asotin County Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the continuation of the 2001 Asotin Creek Channel, Floodplain and Riparian Restoration Project. The proposed meander reconstruction project at the Hagenah property site is located below the confluence of George and Pintler Creeks (tributaries to Asotin Creek) and extends downstream for approximately one mile. The Hagenah site on George Creek in its present condition is highly unstable and susceptible to instantaneous meander realignment. Floodplain connectivity is very poor on most stream segments because it is currently paralleling the road. The proposed project includes dike removal and floodplain reconstruction, instream fish habitat, riparian tree planting and fencing to help restore the function of the floodplain.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Bradley Johnson with the Asotin County Conservation District, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

In complying with requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), a biological assessment was prepared for Asotin Creek instream habitat projects, including the George Creek Meander Reconstruction project at the Hagenah property site. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service concurred that the proposed George Creek Meander Reconstruction project is not likely to adversely affect listed species. BPA has determined that if conducted in accordance with the applicable terms and conditions identified in the ESA Section 7 Consultation Biological Opinion (BO) and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for BPA's Habitat Improvement Program (HIP BO), the George Creek Meander Reconstruction Project at the Hagenah meets the requirements of consistency and no further consultation is required.

In complying with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a Cultural Resources Inventory was conducted on the George Creek project by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), concluding that there were no cultural resources recorded in the project area, and there is low probability of encountering cultural resources. NRCS had a Programmatic Agreement with the Washington State Historic Preservation Office at the time the survey was conducted, and thus no formal concurrence letter from the SHPO was required. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, an archaeologist should be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Dawn Boorse 3-9-05

Dawn R. Boorse

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 3-9-05

cc:

Mr. Brad Johnson, Asotin County Conservation District, 720 Sixth St., Suite B, Clarkston, WA 99403