

memorandum

DATE: November 18, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Mid-Columbia Coho Reintroduction Feasibility Project EA
(DOE/EA-1282/SA-03)

TO: L. Hermeston - KEWL-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: New acclimation sites

Project No: 1996-040-00

Location: Upper Wenatchee watershed, Chelan County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Yakama Nation

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is funding ongoing studies, research, and artificial production of coho salmon in the Wenatchee and Methow river basins. BPA analyzed environmental impacts of these activities in the Mid-Columbia Coho Reintroduction Feasibility Project Final EA, completed in April 1999 (DOE/EA-1282). Supplemental Analyses (DOE/EA-1282/SA-01 and -02) were prepared in April 2001 to analyze effects of additional activities proposed for the project, and in October 2001 for the Peshastin Incubation Facility. In March 2002 BPA categorically excluded dredging behind Dam 5 at the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery in connection with the project.

The purpose of this third Supplement Analysis is to determine if BPA needs to prepare a supplement to the 1999 Final EA for the proposed additional facilities for acclimating coho smolts. The new sites are needed because of the evolving nature of this feasibility project. Detailed information about these proposed facilities is contained in the attachment to this Supplement Analysis.

Specific facilities and activities proposed are described below.

- **Leavenworth NFH:** The project proposes use of and improvements to existing, unused Foster-Lucas ponds at Leavenworth NFH and construction of an improved water delivery system on hatchery grounds. These facilities would partially replace the acclimation pond behind Dam 5, which will not be available after 2003. A 200-foot pipeline would also be installed. Figure 3 of the attached document shows the engineering drawing of the site and specifications for the work.
- **Nason Creek subbasin:** The project proposes three new acclimation sites in the Nason Creek subbasin. These sites will help acclimate the remainder of the coho smolts that are programmed for the Wenatchee basin. These sites (shown in Figure 4 of the attached document), and the developments required, are:
 - **Coulter Creek:** Installation of an outlet pipe through a beaver dam, and seasonal installation and removal of nets across a beaver pond located on

- privately owned land, to allow acclimation and release of up to 100,000 coho smolts.
- Whitepine Beaver Pond: Seasonal installation and removal of nets across a beaver pond on U.S. Forest Service land, and clearing and graveling an overgrown logging road to provide vehicle access to a footpath, which would then allow access to the pond. From 50,000 to 100,000 smolts would be acclimated and released from this site.
 - Mahar Creek Pond: Seasonal installation and removal of nets across an existing pond on privately owned land. From 50,000 to 100,000 smolts would be acclimated and released from this site.
 - Little Wenatchee (Two Rivers): Within the previously evaluated area at an existing gravel pit (USDOE/BPA 1999a), the project proposes to use an existing discharge channel as a coho acclimation pond. Use of this channel requires:
 - an 80-foot buried pipe to circulate water from an artificial lake to the existing discharge channel (proposed acclimation channel) and back to the lake;
 - a screen across the exit culvert from the proposed acclimation channel; and
 - graveling an existing access road where needed to allow all-season access.
 - Chumstick Creek: The project proposes a direct stream release of smolts, instead of acclimation as discussed in DOE/BPA 2001b.

Analysis: Section 5 of the attachment to this Supplement Analysis details the analysis of the effects of these actions.

Findings: This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Mid-Columbia Coho Reintroduction Feasibility Project Final EA (DOE/EA-1282) and FONSI, 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/ Nancy H. Weintraub 11-18-2002

Nancy H. Weintraub
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ James Kehoe for

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 11-18-2002

cc:

Mr. T. Scribner, Yakama Nation

bcc:

L. Croff - KEC-4

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Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

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