

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: 5/14/99

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-1

TO: David Byrnes - KEWN
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Yakima Fisheries Project -- Fall Chinook and Coho Research Program

Budget No: F3204

Location: Yakima and Klickitat River Basins, 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, YIN 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 spring and fall chinook and coho salmon in the Yakima River basin. In the Klickitat basin, salmonid life history and physical habitat data would be collected.

Analysis: An Environmental Impact Statement for the Yakima Fisheries Project (YFP) was completed in 1996 (USDOE/BPA 1996) and Record of Decision (ROD). The EIS recognized that additional environmental analysis could be needed if other project facilities and activities were proposed or if environmental circumstances changed—for example, if additional species were listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The purpose of this Supplement Analysis is to determine if a supplemental EIS is needed to analyze additional research activities proposed as part of that project over the next 2-3 years.

Since the YFP EIS was prepared, the project has developed the detailed spring chinook monitoring program and research programs for fall chinook and coho. No new facilities are proposed in conjunction with these research activities. Additional fish species in the two basins have been listed as threatened under the ESA, including bull trout and Middle Columbia Steelhead. Additional fish species outside the two basins also have been listed under ESA. See the attached Supplement Analysis for detailed analysis.

Findings: As documented in this Supplement Analysis, impacts of proposed activities would be insignificant. Potential impacts to listed fish have been documented in Biological Assessments on steelhead and bull trout, and the lack of significant adverse effect to bull trout has been concurred in by USFWS. We will continue to discuss impacts to steelhead with NMFS, but

have not concluded consultation since they have not yet completed the listing process. There is no take prohibition in effect for steelhead at this time. No additional impacts would occur in connection with these activities beyond those identified in the YFP EIS or documented in related Biological Assessments, Biological Opinions, and this Supplement Analysis.

This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the impacts of the proposed actions are not substantially different from those discussed in the Yakima Fisheries Project EIS (DOE/EIS-0169) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

Patricia Smith
ECN Project Lead
Environment, Fish and Wildlife Group

CONCUR: _____
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: _____

Attachments:

Supplement Analysis
USFWS Bull Trout Biological Opinion

cc:

L. Croff - KECP-4
B. Beraud - KECN-4
N. Weintraub - KECN-4
P. Key - LN-7
Official File - KECN (EQ-15)

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