

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 22, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-34)

TO: Joe DeHerrera
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Asotin Creek Watershed, Washington—Schlee Acquisition

Project No: 1996-094-00

**Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis
(See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS):** 1.1 Fee-Title Acquisition and Transfer

Location: Asotin County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the acquisition of approximately 8,500 acres consisting of shrub-steppe rangeland, 1,480 acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)/cropland, 40,000 lineal feet of stream waterfront, 426 acres of main stem riparian habitat, 400 acres of wetlands, and 23.5 miles of tributary streams in Asotin County, Washington. The Schlee Property proposed for acquisition, which is divided into the Smoothing Iron and George Creek parcels, adjoins the Umatilla National Forest, the WDFW Asotin Creek Wildlife Area, and other state lands. Title to the land will be held by WDFW. The property will be managed as part of the WDFW Asotin Creek Wildlife Area. The goal of this project is to protect and enhance shrub-steppe, riparian and wetland habitats for the benefit of fish and wildlife.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Paul Ashley with WDFW (May 12, 2003) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

No plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be affected by the acquisition of the Schlee Property. ESA-listed species that may be present in the project vicinity include bull trout, summer steelhead, spring chinook salmon, bald eagle, gray wolf, and Columbia spotted frog. Prior to the implementation of any BPA funded restoration or enhancement activities on the site, ESA Section 7 Consultation will be conducted as necessary.

Scott Williams of the Washington State Historic Preservation Office conducted a cultural resource literature search for the Schlee Property project area. No known historic properties were found. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during developments that might occur as part of this acquisition project, an archaeologist should

immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the Schlee Property was completed on April 1 and 2, 2003, by Fred Walasavage, BPA Environmental Protection Specialist and John Howington, BPA Physical Scientist. A landowner interview was conducted on April 24, 2003, with Mr. Dan Schlee. It was determined through the site visit and the phone interview that the inherent risk for hazardous material or petroleum contamination at the property was very low. The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, issued on April 25, 2003, did not reveal any environmental factors that would pose a significant liability for remedial action or cleanup under the Comprehensive Environmental Recovery, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Public involvement has taken place as part of the Schlee Property acquisition process. The Nez Perce Tribe, the Asotin County Commissioners, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the USDA Forest Service were all consulted regarding the acquisition and they all support WDFW's purchase of the Schlee pProperty. Letters were sent to nearby landowners and other interested parties. Once the property is acquired by WDFW, all interested parties will be invited to participate in development of the Asotin Creek Wildlife Area Management Plan.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Wildlife Mitigation Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Wildlife Mitigation Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Kelly Mason
 Kelly Mason
 Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney
 Tom McKinney
 NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 8/25/2003

Attachments:
 NEPA Compliance Checklist
 WA SHPO No Adverse Affect Determination letter
 Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, Schlee Ranch

cc: (w/ attachments)
 Mr. Paul Ashley—WDFW