

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 2, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-164)

TO: Mickey Carter
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects – L-9 Irrigation Diversion Modification

Project No: 1994-017-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement – Fishways, 4.1 Irrigation Water Management, 4.2 Water Measuring Devices, 4.23 Intake and Return Diversion Screens, 4.25 Consolidation/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams

Location: Lemhi County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish passage improvement project at the L-9 diversion on the Lemhi River in Lemhi County, Idaho with the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District. The project proposes to replace the existing rock push-up irrigation diversion dam with a single rock weir that will incorporate a geotextile membrane to create a permanent diversion. The new weir will be a v-shaped vortex weir with a six-foot wide notch for fish passage. In addition, a ramp flume will be constructed in the diversion canal between the headgate and existing fish screen to provide for water measurement. The new diversion will provide better water delivery/control and improved passage for adult and juvenile resident and anadromous fish.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Al Simpson with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (July 5, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area include gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, yellow-billed cuckoo, chinook salmon, steelhead trout and bull trout. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA submitted a Biological Assessment to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on May 25, 2004. BPA determined that the proposed actions will have no effect on gray wolf, Canada lynx and yellow-billed cuckoo, and that the actions may affect but are not likely to adversely affect bull trout and bald eagle. USFWS concurred with these findings on June 28, 2004.

BPA determined that ESA consultation for Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon and Snake River steelhead, and Essential Fish Habitat consultation for chinook salmon were covered under BPA's Habitat Improvement Program Programmatic Biological Opinion with NOAA Fisheries. All applicable terms and conditions contained in the Programmatic Biological Opinion must be implemented accordingly. Project design was approved by John Johnson with NOAA Fisheries. A minor modification to the totalizing flow meter requirement was approved by Dave Mabe with NOAA Fisheries.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resource survey of the L-9 Diversion Modification project site was completed by North Wind, Inc. Pre-field research revealed one previous inventory near the project area, however the field survey identified no cultural or historic properties in the project area. Based on these findings, BPA determined that the L-9 Diversion Modification project will have no effect on cultural and/or historic resources. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office concurred with this determination on May 31, 2004. 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.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices should be followed during the implementation of the L-9 Diversion Modification project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the L-9 Diversion Modification project. The project has been reviewed by Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project (USBWP) team members and by local landowners and irrigators. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribe has attended USBWP meetings and received copies of the draft design. The project has been discussed in local newspaper articles and at USBWP meetings. In addition, draft design has been circulated for review to USFWS, NOAA Fisheries and Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning 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/ Shannon Stewart
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: August 4, 2004

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
HIP BO Authorization and Consistency Form, July 29, 2004
USFWS Letter of Concurrence, June 28, 2004
ID SHPO Letter of Concurrence, May 31, 2004

cc: (w/ attachments)
Mr. Al Simpson – U.S. Bureau of Reclamation