

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 14, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-59)

TO: David Byrnes
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Reestablish Safe Access into Tributaries of the Yakima Subbasin, Tucker Creek Fish Passage Project

Project No: 98-034-00

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/Screening, 1.16 Spawning Habitat Enhancements, 1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancements, 1.5 Install Grade Control Structures and Check Dams.

Location: Tucker Creek, Kittitas County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund a project that will reestablish fish passage on Tucker Creek, a tributary to the Yakima River in Kittitas County, Washington. A concrete undershot/siphon crossing under Tucker Creek forms a single barrier to fish passage about 0.7 miles from the Yakima River. The Kittitas Reclamation District siphon precludes passage to all life stages of anadromous fish. Habitat above the barrier is intact, with an abundance of pools, clean spawning riffles and large woody debris. Resident salmonids are evident above the barrier. Approximately 1½ miles of anadromous fish habitat will be gained by achieving passage over the siphon structure. This project will reestablish passage in Tucker Creek by constructing a series of eight rock grade-controls downstream and within 500 feet of the siphon.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Henry Fraser with the Yakama Nation Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project 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 threatened or endangered species in the vicinity of this project include gray wolf, Canada lynx, steelhead, bull trout, Northern spotted owl, Ute ladies' tresses, and Wenatchee Mountain's checkermallow. The proposed actions are also within designated Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for coho salmon and chinook salmon. A Biological Evaluation was

submitted by BPA to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). BPA concluded that the proposed project would have no effect on gray wolf or Canada lynx and may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, bull trout, Ute ladies' tresses, Wenatchee Mountain's checkermallow and Northern spotted owl. The USFWS concurred with these findings on May 30, 2001. For Middle Columbia River steelhead and EFH a determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" was concluded and NMFS concurred with this finding on June 18, 2001.

A cultural resource survey of the project site was conducted by Corey Carmack, an archeologist with the Bureau of Reclamation. No historic or archeological resources were discovered as a result of this survey. Consultation on these findings has been conducted with the Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program and the Washington State Historic Preservation Office.

Permits obtained or in process for this project include a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Hydraulics Project Approval, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit, and a Washington Department of Ecology 401 Water Quality Certification. No construction will begin until the applicant has obtained all necessary permits.

Public involvement for the Tucker Creek project has included meetings with affected landowners to explain the project and solicit input. Meetings have also been held with the Kittitas Reclamation District and the Bureau of Reclamation.

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. The attached 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 C. Stewart
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ James Kehoe for
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 8-16-2001

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
NMFS Concurrence Letter
USFWS Concurrence Letter

cc: (w/o attachments)
Henry Fraser - Yakama Nation, Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project

bcc: (w/o attachments)

L. Croff - KEC-4

N. Weintraub - KEC-4

P. Key - LC-7

bcc: (w/ attachments)

Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

SCStewart:scs:5928:8/14/01

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