

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 1, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-91)

TO: Tom Morse, KEWL-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Hood River Fish Habitat (Evans Creek Culvert Replacement)

Project No: 1998-021-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement

Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.13 Culvert removal/replacement to improve fish passage, 2.1 Maintain healthy riparian plant communities, 2.4 Provide filter strips to catch sediment and other pollutants, 2.6 Native seeds inventory, 2.7 Avoid exotic species, 7.2 Install hydraulic structures at low streamflows, 7.3 Minimize erosion and sedimentation during stream crossing construction, 7.5 Avoid crossings outside of construction windows, 7.7 Reduce risk of road-related surface erosion, 7.9 Avoid construction during inclement weather, 7.10 Erosion control and revegetation at project completion

Location: Parkdale, Hood River County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO) propose to remove a culvert acting as a fish passage barrier, and replace it with a bridge. The culvert is located on a private residential / farm access road on Evans Creek, a tributary to the East Fork Hood River. The culvert will be replaced with a clear-span bridge in order to eliminate the passage barrier and open several miles of stream as fish habitat.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Joe McCanna of CTWSRO fisheries program, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

A Biological Assessment and Essential Fish Habitat Assessment was sent to NOAA Fisheries. It was BPA's determination that the proposed project is likely to adversely affect species listed under the Endangered Species Act, including Lower Columbia River Steelhead, and may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat. NOAA Fisheries responded with a Biological Opinion, including Incidental Take Statement, dated September 24, 2002. BPA also determined that no species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be affected as a result of the proposed project.

A cultural resources survey was conducted in areas where ground disturbance would occur. A report was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer at the CTWSRO. Based on the findings in the survey and report, it was BPA's determination that no historic properties or archaeological resources would be affected as a result of the proposed project. The SHPO concurred with this determination on September 26, 2002.

Applications for permits to perform instream work were submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Oregon Division of State Lands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the project is exempt from regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act because the project is associated with construction or maintenance of a farm road. The Oregon Division of State Lands determined that the proposed project involved removal or fill of less than 50 cubic yards of material in waters that are not currently designated as Essential Salmon Habitat or State Scenic Waterways, and therefore no permit is required.

BPA engages in public involvement on many of its activities in the Hood River Valley with the cooperation and assistance of the Hood River Watershed Group and its regular meetings in the Hood River area. The meeting was announced via the group's mailing list, which has a circulation of approximately 120 local landowners, entities, and public officials. The meetings are also advertised in the local newspaper. Approximately 25 people attended the meeting where this project was discussed, and no issues were raised. Most people in attendance were already aware of the proposed project and had no comments.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management 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 Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

CONCUR:

/s/ Richard Yarde 10-1-2002
Richard Yarde
Environmental Specialist

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 10-1-2002
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
SHPO Concurrence Letter
Letters of Exemption from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Oregon Division of State Lands
Biological Opinion from NOAA Fisheries

cc: (w/ attachments)
Mr. Joe McCanna, CTWSRO