

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 20, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-87)

TO: Mark Shaw
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager – KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Protect and Restore the Asotin Creek Watershed – Upper Charley Subwatershed Ecosystems Restoration Projects (road obliteration)

Project No: 2002-054-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 7.18 Road Closure

Location: Charley Creek Subwatershed, Umatilla National Forest, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries/Watershed Program

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to fund a project that will address sedimentation of fisheries habitat in the Asotin Creek Watershed due to upland, forest road sources. This project will reduce sediment deposition in spawning gravels and rearing areas by addressing sediment sources from forest roads on private lands and Umatilla National Forest lands within the watershed. The goal of this project is to obliterate 10 miles of road per year, beginning with approximately 23 miles of road that have been identified for obliteration in the Charley Creek subwatershed within the Umatilla National Forest. The Nez Perce Tribe will partner/cost share these activities with the Umatilla National Forest, the Asotin Creek Conservation District and private landowners. This Supplement Analysis covers only those 23 miles of road obliteration that will take place within the Umatilla National Forest.

Road obliteration coordinators will use surveys to prescribe the level of road obliteration needed. Surveys will be reviewed and, along with the coordinator's field knowledge of the area and its land types, will be used to define the types of problems associated with a road or system of roads. Road obliteration practices will vary depending on the history of slides and other erosion problems associated with the road, the land type the road is on, and its proximity to fish bearing streams. The types of practices associated with road obliteration include, but are not limited to, road surface decompaction or scarification, removal of culverts, outsloping or cross draining, revegetation of disturbed soils, fill removal, and slope restoration. Mitigation measures will be implemented in combination with road obliteration activities to prevent damaging levels of sediment from entering adjacent streams. This includes measures such as revegetating disturbed areas with native seed mixes, constructing rock and weir structures instream, installing

removable sediment traps and erosion control mats, mulching with native materials, armoring channel banks, and installing drainage or diversion pipes.

Analysis: The proposed 23 miles of road obliteration along with numerous other activities were evaluated as part of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District's Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the Upper Charley Subwatershed Ecosystems Restoration Projects issued in March 2002 (copy available in the official project file). The Forest Service's Final EIS meets the standards and guidelines for BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS and ROD. All proposed road obliteration activities will be carried out in accordance with the Forest Service's Final EIS and ROD.

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 2000, biological assessments have been prepared to document possible effects of the proposed activities on endangered and threatened species and Essential Fish Habitat in the Upper Charley subwatershed. Appropriate coordination, conferencing, and consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service have been completed. Species consulted on include Snake River spring/summer chinook and fall chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead, and bull trout. Letters of concurrence that meet the requirements of the ESA were received from both agencies. All mitigation measures and conditions outlined in the biological assessments will be followed during the proposed road obliteration activities.

The Washington State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been consulted concerning the proposed activities in the Upper Charley subwatershed including the proposed road obliteration activities. The Washington SHPO and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will be consulted about measures to protect significant archaeological sites from adverse effect, should any resources be identified. Appropriate steps will be taken to identify cultural and/or historic resources prior to the implementation of road obliteration activities.

As documented in the Forest Service's Final EIS and ROD, the proposed project will be implemented in accordance with the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977, and the Clean Water Act as amended in 1982.

Comments on the proposed Upper Charley subwatershed restoration projects from Federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as the general public were accepted following publication of a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register (August 1998). Comments were also solicited by sending scoping letters to interested individuals and organizations (August 1998), holding a public open-house meeting (September 1999), and listing the proposed project in several quarterly issues of the Umatilla National Forest's Schedule of Proposed Actions. A meeting to discuss the proposed project was held with the Nez Perce tribal representative on March 23, 1999.

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.

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart 8-20-2002

Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ James Kehoe for

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 8-20-2002

cc:

Mr. Emmit E. Taylor, Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries/Watershed Program