

DATE: February 7, 2005

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-202)

J. DeHerrera – KEWU-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Rainwater Wildlife Area – Ongoing Operations and Maintenance Activities

**Project No:** 2000-026-00

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

2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 2.10 Biological Weed Control; 3.29 Herbicide/Pesticide Application; 6.10 Access: Fencing; 7.7 Reduce Risk of Road Related Surface Erosion; 7.8 Drainage Control and Revegetation at Project Completion; 7.13 Grade Road; 7.14 Ditch and Culvert Cleaning; 7.17 Access Management; 8.13 Stand Thinning; 8.14 Plant/Preserve Trees in Understocked Areas.

**Location:** Columbia County, Washington

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Ongoing operations and routine maintenance activities for the Rainwater Wildlife Area, including maintenance of fences, gates, signs, roads, and vegetation.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Tanya Harrison and Allen Childs of the CTUIR, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

**Endangered Species Act:** Listed species potentially located in the area include Summer steelhead, Bull trout, Northern bald eagle, Canada lynx, Gray wolf, and Ute ladies'-tresses. Tanya Harrison, biologist with the CTUIR, prepared a no effect determination for the annual maintenance activities (copy attached).

**Cultural resources:** The CTUIR Cultural Resource Protection Program (CRPP) conducted an investigation of archaeological and cultural resources on the Rainwater Wildlife Area beginning in June 1999. The investigation consisted of a file and literature search for known information, an oral history project, and field survey on approximately 1,400 acres. Several cultural properties were identified. Most of the ongoing maintenance activities will not disturb new ground and will have no effect on cultural resources, but the wildlife area managers will consult

with the CTUIR CRPP on any proposed management activities that require ground disturbance to determine the need for additional site-specific review to ensure protection of any known and/or suspected cultural resources.

**Environmental Land Audit:** Environmental Land Audits were completed for all parcels prior to purchase in 1997 and 1999. No issues were identified.

**Public involvement information:** The properties are managed under the Rainwater Wildlife Area Watershed Management Plan developed by the CTUIR, who conducted public scoping and open house public meetings on the draft plan in 2000. The ongoing maintenance activities are conducted in accordance with the Management Plan, which was finalized in 2002. Project proposals are submitted to and reviewed by the 15-member Rainwater Advisory Committee.

**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/ Nancy Weintraub

Nancy H. Weintraub

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 2-7-05

**Attachments:**

No Effect Determination memo

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. Allen Childs and Tanya Harrison, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation,  
P.O. Box 638, Pendleton, OR 97801