

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 25, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-270)

TO: Sarah Branum - KEWL-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Project Title: Hood River Habitat - Tony Creek Diversion 2006

Project No: 1998-021-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.6 Install large woody debris structures; 1.8 Bank protection through vegetation management; 2.1 Maintain healthy riparian plants; 4.25 Consolidate/replace irrigation diversion dam; 7.1 Erosion control and revegetation at project completion; 7.9 Avoid construction during inclement weather; 7.4 Divert water around construction of larger structures

Location: near Dee, Hood River County, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA and CTWSRO propose to install a small diversion structure in Tony Creek in order to improve fish passage and eliminate the maintenance and regular reconstruction of a gravel push-up dam in the stream. Tony Creek is a tributary to the Middle Fork Hood River on the western edge of the Upper Hood River Valley. The proposed project is at approximately 1,440 elevation. Tony Creek is potential habitat for bull trout and Lower Columbia River steelhead, both listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The existing diversion is composed of native materials piled instream, along with two steel intake pipes placed in the stream bottom upstream of the dam. The proposed project is to remove the diversion structure and replace it with a new concrete box intake structure, which will reduce the high levels of disturbance to Tony Creek and improve fish passage conditions.

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

BPA engaged in formal Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and NOAA Fisheries for potential effects on bull trout and anadromous fish. BPA submitted a Biological Assessment of bull trout to FWS on February 14, 2006, and received a Biological Opinion on June 1, 2006. The Biological Opinion provided an Incidental Take Statement and terms and conditions for implementation of the proposed project. BPA also engaged in formal Section 7 consultation for impacts on steelhead, through a Programmatic Biological Opinion for Habitat Improvement Projects (HIP). CTWSRO submitted consultation

documents and BPA approved the HIP consultation on July 24, 2006. The HIP Biological Opinion also provides terms and conditions for implementation of the proposed project.

A BPA archaeologist did a survey for potential impacts of the proposed action to historic properties. In order to complete consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, BPA completed a historic properties survey report on November 29, 2005, and submitted the report for review and comment by the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of CTWSRO, and for concurrence of the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. On December 6, 2005, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office concurred with BPA's determination that the project will have no affect on any known cultural resources.

Because the proposed project involves instream work, CTWSRO is required to seek a removal/fill permit from the Oregon Division of State Lands (DSL) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. CTWSRO received a permit from Oregon DSL on April 13, 2006 (permit #35625-RF). On July 24, 2006, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers responded that no federal permit would be required because the proposed project is a type of irrigation system work that is exempt from permit requirements. No other federal permits are required for the proposed project.

BPA engages in public involvement regarding its activities in the Hood River Valley with the cooperation and assistance of the Hood River Watershed Group, through its regular meetings in the Hood River area. The meetings are 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. The proposed project was discussed at the Watershed Group, and is also identified in the Watershed Action Plan that the group created. No public comments were received regarding the proposed project.

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/ Richard Yarde

Richard Yarde

Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine Pierce

Katherine Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

DATE: July 26, 2006

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist

cc: (w/o attachments)

Mr. Joe McCanna, CTWSRO, 6030 Dee Hwy, Parkdale, OR 97041