

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: August 30, 2006

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-273)

TO: Sabrina Keen - KEWU-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Project Title:** Protect and Restore Lolo Creek Watershed – Weaver Creek Crossing Upgrades

**Project No:** 1996-077-02

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis**

**(See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 1.8 Bank protection through vegetation management; 1.13 Culvert Removal/Replacement to Improve Fish Passage; 1.14 Reduce Scour and Deposition at Hydraulic Structures; 7.2 Install Hydraulic Structures at Low Streamflows; 7.3 Minimize Erosion and Sedimentation during Stream Crossing Construction; 7.5 Avoid Stream Crossings Outside of Construction Window; 7.9 Avoid Construction During Inclement Weather; 7.10 Erosion Control and Revegetation at Project Completion; and 7.18 Road Closure.

**Location:** Lolo Creek Watershed, Idaho

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Nez Perce Tribe

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to fund a fish passage improvement project with the Nez Perce Tribe on Weaver Creek located in the Lolo Creek Watershed in Idaho. This project will involve restoring hydrologic connectivity and fish passage at two separate road/stream crossings. A culvert at Site #1 will be replaced and a culvert at Site #2 will be removed. Upgrading and restoring road/stream crossings within this drainage will reduce sediment input and restore passage upstream.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Heidi McRoberts with the Nez Perce Tribe (May 4, 2006) 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 species that are known to occur in the project vicinity include gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, fall chinook salmon, and steelhead. In compliance with Section 7 of the ESA, a Biological Assessment of the project was submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and NOAA Fisheries on May 12, 2006. Based on the analysis in the Biological Assessment, BPA determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect bull trout, bald eagle, Canada lynx, gray wolf, fall Chinook salmon and steelhead. BPA also determined that the proposed actions may adversely affect essential fish habitat for chinook salmon and coho salmon. USFWS concurred with these findings on June 6, 2006. NOAA Fisheries concurred with these findings on June 23, 2006.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resource survey of the project sites was completed by Kevin Cannell with the Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resource Program on June 14, 2006.

No cultural resources were identified during the survey and the areas also appeared to have been heavily disturbed by the creation of the stream crossings. Based on these findings, BPA determined that the proposed project would have no effect on cultural and/or historic resources. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with these findings on August 17, 2006. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during developments that might occur as part of this project, the SHPO and BPA will be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the Weaver Creek Project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable permits and approvals.

Public involvement took place as part of this project. The proposed project was outlined in the local newspaper and in the Clearwater Subbasin Plan. Public meetings and personal contact also occurred. The Potlatch Corporation, Inc. is a partner on this effort.

**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  
Shannon C. Stewart  
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: August 30, 2006

Attachment:  
Compliance Checklist  
Idaho SHPO Concurrence Letter, 8/17/06  
NOAA Fisheries Concurrence Letter, 6/23/06  
USFWS Concurrence Letter, 6/6/06

cc: (w/ attachment)  
Ms. Heidi McRoberts, Nez Perce Tribe