

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: October 18, 2006

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-282)

TO: Dorie Welch - KEWB-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Project Title:** Butte Creek/Hampton Bridge Crossing

**Project No:** 1992-026-01, Contract 73447

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

**Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 1.15 Fish passage enhancement-fishways; 7.3 Minimize erosion and sedimentation during stream crossing construction; 7.5 Avoid stream crossings outside of construction windows; 7.7 Reduce risk of road-related surface erosion; 7.8 Drainage control to minimize erosion and sedimentation; 7.9 Avoid construction during inclement weather; 7.10 Erosion control and revegetation at project completion; 7.13 Grade road; 7.15 Grassed road surface management; 7.19 Water bars

**Location:** Butte Creek, Big Sheep Watershed, near Enterprise, Union County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA, in collaboration with GRMW, is proposing to fund a fish passage project, replacing a perched ford with a bridge. Installation of a bridge crossing will: provide juvenile fish passage and access to rearing habitat, reduce sedimentation and siltation at the ford site, and enhance adult passage for fish. The existing perched ford road crossing would be replaced with a pre-engineered, 53-foot railroad engineer car bridge. Butte Creek is a tributary to Little Sheep Creek in the Imnaha subbasin.

The proposed project site is near the entrance of a privately owned ranch, managed for cattle, grasslands, timber, water and wildlife. Livestock enter and exit the property on the road with the existing perched ford. Removal or replacement of the road is not practical for the landowner as it is a main access for the property, and replacement would require full bench construction in steep, rugged landscape.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Coby Menton of GRMW and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

BPA initiated Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 formal consultation with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service for Snake River Basin Steelhead and its critical habitat. BPA concluded that the proposed activity may affect, and is

likely to adversely affect Snake River Basin steelhead. NOAA concurred but found that proposed activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of Snake River Basin steelhead or its designated critical habitat.

BPA initiated ESA Section 7 informal consultation with NOAA Fisheries for Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon and its designated critical habitat. BPA found, and NOAA concurred, that the proposed actions may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect Snake River spring/summer Chinook and its designated habitat.

BPA initiated ESA Section 7 informal consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for bull trout. USFWS concurred with BPA that the proposed activities may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect bull trout and designated bull trout critical habitat. USFWS also concurred with BPA that the proposed project will have no effect on Canada lynx, bald eagle or their habitat, Spalding's catchfly, or Macfarlane's four-o'clock.

BPA archaeologist Sunshine Clark, after completing a file search and reviewing the project area and history, determined that, given the degree of disturbance caused by initial development in and around the project area and the placement of the new bridge within an existing footprint, it is unlikely that any intact cultural resources are located within the area of potential effect (APE). Ms. Clark concluded the proposed undertaking had no potential to disturb historic properties.

Appropriate permits were obtained from Oregon Department of State Lands and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. As mentioned, USFWS and NOAA were consulted with to obtain proper permits for the proposed activities. All terms and conditions outlined in the permits must be strictly adhered to. Additionally, in the unlikely chance that any historic or culturally significant material is encountered during project activities, all work will cease immediately in the vicinity of the find and a BPA archaeologist will be contacted immediately.

The proposed project was discussed at the GRMW Board of Directors meetings. The meetings are open to the public and advertised on the local radio station and in the local newspaper. Also, the Corps, USFWS, NOAA, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, DSL, and the Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee were all tangentially involved in the planning of the proposed project as stakeholders. All nearby landowners were notified about the 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/ Kelly Mason

Kelly Mason  
Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

DATE: October 19, 2006

Attachment:  
SA checklist

cc: (w/o attachment)  
Mr. Coby Menton - GRMW, 1114 J Ave, La Grande, OR 97850