

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 8, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-220)

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

Proposed Action: Protect and Restore Lolo Creek Watershed – Blonde Creek Road/Stream Crossing Upgrades

Project No: 1996-077-02

Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis

(See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 1.5 Install Grade Control Structures and Check Dams, 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, 7.4 Divert Water Around Construction of Larger Structures, 7.5 Avoid Stream Crossings Outside of Construction Windows, 7.10 Erosion Control and Revegetation at Project Completion, 7.18 Road Closure, 9.22 Construction: Erosion and Sediment Control Plans, 9.23 Construction: Erosion and Sediment Control Structures, 9.24 Construction: Inspect Erosion and Sediment Control Structures.

Location: Clearwater County, Idaho

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to fund the restoration of hydrologic connectivity and fish passage at seven road/stream crossings within the Blonde Creek tributary of the Musselshell Creek watershed with the Nez Perce Tribe. Upgrading and restoring road/stream crossings within this drainage will reduce sediment input and restore fish passage upstream.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Heidi McRoberts with the Nez Perce Tribe (April 8, 2005) 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 may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are bald eagle, gray wolf, Canada lynx, bull trout, fall chinook salmon, and steelhead. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) for the Blonde Creek Project to NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on April 18, 2005. As part of the BA, BPA determined that the proposed actions would have no effect on fall chinook salmon and may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect bald eagle, bull trout, Canada lynx, gray wolf, or steelhead. In addition, BPA determined that the proposed actions may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat for chinook and coho salmon. USFWS issued a letter of concurrence on these findings on June 8, 2005. NOAA Fisheries issued a Biological Opinion for this project on July 6, 2005.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resources survey of the Blonde Creek sites was completed by Kevin Cannell with the Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resource Program. An intensive pedestrian survey utilizing 10-meter meandering transects was conducted on each of the four project sites. All of the locations were found to have been heavily disturbed by road and

culvert construction. No cultural resources were recorded as part of this survey. Based on the survey findings, BPA determined that the project would have no affect on cultural and/or historic resources. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office concurred with these findings on July 21, 2005. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during project construction, a qualified archaeologist should be notified 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 this project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the Blonde Creek Project. Notice of the project was published in the Tac Titooquan local newspaper and described as part of the Clearwater Subbasin Plan. Discussions have also been held with the Potlatch Corporation Inc., the County, the Nez Perce Tribe, and various State and Federal agencies.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon C Stewart

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

Acting NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

DATE: August 8, 2005

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion, July 6, 2005

USFWS Letter of Concurrence, June 8, 2005

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office Letter of Concurrence, July 21, 2005

cc: (w/ attachments)

Ms. Heidi McRoberts - Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries