

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 3, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-221)

to: John Baugher
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Oxbow Conservation Area – CREP Conservation Practices

Project No: 2000-015-00

Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 2.7 Avoid Exotic Species, 2.9 Mechanical Vegetation Removal, 3.1 Plant/Protect Vegetative/Conservation Cover, 5.12 Seasonal Use of Fords and Surface Waters, 6.5 Water Supply: Pipeline, 6.7 Water Supply Trough, 6.9 Water Supply: Spring Development, and 6.10 Access: Fencing.

Location: Grant County, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to fund a project that will implement conservation practices related to enrolling 103.6 acres of riparian habitat into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The project will protect and enhance an approximately 180-foot buffer on each side of the middle fork of the John Day River for 15 years. Conservation practices include establishment of 13,885 feet of riparian fencing, establishment of two spring developments and troughs, and an intensive riparian planting program.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Brian Cochran with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (June 13, 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, Canada lynx, steelhead, and bull trout. No effect on these species is expected to result from the proposed activities. The proposed activities are very low impact and no work will take place instream. Bald eagle are not found in the project vicinity during the proposed work window. Canada lynx have not been seen in the project vicinity in recent years and due to the proximity of the project to a county road corridor, lynx are not expected to be encountered. (Brian Cochran, June 2005)

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, an archaeological and ethnographic literature review of the entire Oxbow Ranch property was completed. In addition, as required by the CREP Program, the Natural Resource Conservation Service completed a cultural resource survey of the proposed CREP acreages on June 7, 2005. No significant sites were discovered as part of that survey. The survey report and findings were submitted to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon for review. In addition to the survey, protection measures will be applied through the Warm Springs Tribal Code (Chapter 490) and ongoing consultations with the Tribal Cultural Resources Department. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during project implementation, 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, federal and tribal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the Oxbow Conservation Area Project. Discussions have been held with local landowners and various local, state, federal, and tribal agencies. Partnerships on this project have been formed with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Grant Soil and Water Conservation District, the Bureau of Reclamation, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, OR Water Resource Department, OR Department of Fish and Wildlife, North Fork Watershed Council, Grant Soil and Water Conservation District Weed Coordinator, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State University Extension, Oregon Trout, and Oregon Youth Conservation Corps.

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 Stewart 8-3-05

Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Kathy Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
Acting NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 8-3-05

Attachment:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/ attachment)

Mr. Brian Cochran – Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon