

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 15, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-232)

TO: Jay Marcotte
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEW-4

Proposed Action: Tucannon River Model Watershed – Turner Farms Alternative Livestock Watering Project

Project No: 1994-018-06

Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 5.13 Alternative Water Source, 6.5 Pipeline, 6.7 Trough, 6.8 Well.

Location: Columbia County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Columbia County Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to fund an alternative livestock watering project in Columbia County, Washington with the Columbia Conservation District. The project will restrict livestock watering access to the Tucannon River, enhancing salmonid recovery efforts in the Tucannon Subbasin. The project site currently provides unrestricted livestock access for watering as there is not an alternative source.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Terry Bruegman with the Columbia Conservation District (August 31, 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 proposed project include bald eagle, Ute ladies'-tresses, Spalding's catchfly, bull trout, Snake River spring chinook, Snake River fall chinook, and Snake River steelhead. BPA has determined that the proposed actions will have no effect on ESA-listed species. No instream activities are proposed and therefore no impacts to aquatic species are anticipated. In addition, all work will take place in an established agriculture production field where ESA-listed species are not present.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resource survey of the Turner site (along with three other sites) was completed by Brett Lenz with Columbia Geotechnical Associates Inc. No cultural and/or historic resources were discovered on the Turner site as a result of this survey. Based on these findings, BPA determined that the proposed project would have no effect on cultural and/or historic resources. The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with these findings on August 12, 2005. These findings were also forwarded to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe for consideration. 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 occurred as part of the Turner project. The project has been discussed at public meetings, in local and area news items, in numerous site tours, and in presentations given to state and regional commodities, environmental associations and resource agencies. This project was also analyzed as part of the Tucannon Subbasin planning process. Participants on the Subbasin Planning Team include local, state, regional, and national interests. Partnerships on this project have been formed with WA Department of Ecology, WA Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, Columbia County Commissioners, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and local landowners.

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 9-15-05

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Kathy S. Pierce

Date: 9-19-05

Katherine S. Pierce

Acting NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

WA Dept of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Concurrence Letter, August 12, 2005

cc: (w/o attachments)

Mr. Terry Bruegman – Columbia Conservation District