

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: August 20, 2003

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-119)

TO: Dorie Welch  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager – KEWU-4

**Proposed Action:** Protect and Restore the Asotin Creek Watershed – Lick Subwatershed Road Obliteration

**Project No:** 2002-054-00

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 7.18 Road Closure

**Location:** Lick Creek Subwatershed, Umatilla National Forest, Idaho

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries/Watershed Program

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to fund a project that will address sedimentation of fisheries habitat in the Asotin Creek Watershed due to upland, forest road sources. This project will reduce sediment deposition in spawning gravels and rearing areas by addressing sediment sources from forest roads on Umatilla National Forest lands within the watershed. The goal of this project is to obliterate approximately 30 miles of roads that have been identified for obliteration in the Lick Creek subwatershed within the Umatilla National Forest. The Nez Perce Tribe will partner/cost share these activities with the Umatilla National Forest, the Asotin Creek Conservation District and private landowners.

Road obliteration coordinators will use surveys to prescribe the level of road obliteration needed. Surveys will be reviewed and along with the coordinator's field knowledge of the area and its land types, will be used to define the types of problems associated with a road or system of roads. Road obliteration practices will vary depending on the history of slides and other erosion problems associated with the road, the land type the road is on, and its proximity to fish bearing streams. The types of practices associated with road obliteration include, but are not limited to, road surface decompaction or scarification, removal of culverts, outslipping or cross draining, revegetation of disturbed soils, fill removal, and slope restoration. Mitigation measures will be implemented in combination with road obliteration activities to prevent damaging levels of sediment from entering adjacent streams. This includes measures such as revegetating disturbed areas with native seed mixes, constructing rock and weir structures instream, installing removable sediment traps and erosion control mats, mulching with native materials, armoring channel banks, and installing drainage or diversion pipes.

**Analysis:** The proposed 30 miles of road obliteration along with numerous other activities were evaluated as part of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District's Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Lick Timber Sale and Fire Reintroduction Project (copy available in the official project file). The Forest Service's Final EA and FONSI meet the standards and guidelines for BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS and ROD. All proposed road obliteration activities will be carried out in accordance with the Forest Service's Final EA and FONSI.

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 2000, the Forest Service has evaluated possible effects of the proposed activities on endangered and threatened species and Essential Fish Habitat in the Lick Creek subwatershed. Appropriate coordination, conferencing, and consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service have been completed.

The Biological Evaluation for all Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Aquatic Species, occurring or suspected of occurring, within the proposed Lick Timber Sale area has identified that no species or habitat are present. The list of aquatic species reviewed were: Blue Mt. Cryptochia, Snake River Fall, Spring and Summer Chinook Salmon, Snake River Summer Steelhead, Bull Trout, and Redband Trout. Habitat for Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon, Snake River summer steelhead, and bull trout exists downstream (approximately 7 miles) of the project area in Asotin Creek but is not expected to be impacted by the proposed activities. A Biological Evaluation for terrestrial wildlife species has been completed for the Lick analysis area as well. Three federally listed species were analyzed including bald eagle, Peregrine falcon, and Gray wolf. It was found that there are no proposed threatened or endangered species populations and/or identified critical suitable habitat in the analysis area, therefore, formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service it is not necessary.

A Heritage Resource report has been completed by the Forest Service to analyze potential impacts to cultural and/or historic resources within the Lick Timber Sale area. The Washington State Historic Preservation Office has concurred with the Forest Service's finding that the proposed undertaking of the Lick Timber Sale and Fire Reintroduction Project, including the proposed road obliteration activities, would have no adverse effects on cultural and/or historic resources.

As documented in the Forest Service's Final EA and FONSI for the Lick Timber Sale and Fire Reintroduction Project, the proposed activities will be implemented in accordance with the National Forest Management Act and will meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

A scoping letter for this project was mailed to all interested individuals, organizations and agencies. The letter included maps of the area, a description of the proposed action, the need for action, and a request for comments. In April 1998 copies of the Environmental Assessment for the Lick Timber Sale and Fire Reintroduction Project were mailed to those who had expressed an interest in receiving it. Letters were also sent to approximately 130 addresses informing the recipients that the EA was completed and available for a 30-day review. A legal notice was

published May 2, 1998, in the *East Oregonian* (newspaper of record) announcing the availability of the EA for review and comment.

**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 Stewart

Shannon C. Stewart  
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 8/19/2003

cc:

Mr. Paul Kraynak, Nez Perce Tribe