

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 14, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-187)

TO: Jay Marcotte
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program – East Branch Wilson Creek, Sorensen Properties

Project No: 2002-025-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline

Location: Kittitas County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish passage improvement project with the Kittitas County Conservation District on the east branch of Wilson Creek in Kittitas County, Washington. This project involves enhancing the delivery of irrigation water from the Ellensburg Water Company to Sorensen Properties so that the landowner will have no need to divert water from an unscreened surface water diversion on the east branch of Wilson Creek. The diversion from the creek is a barrier when checked up and is unscreened creating a hazard for fish. A series of boards are used to check up the creek. The project will include installation of 2,300 feet of pipe, a weed screen and a distribution box. The existing check boards will be removed to allow fish passage and the head gate on the gravity diversion will be permanently closed. No bank or bed excavation or other ground disturbing activity is proposed within the vicinity of the creek. No rock or other fill material will be placed within the active stream channel.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Anna Lael with the Kittitas County Conservation District (October 6, 2004) 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 steelhead trout, bull trout, bald eagle, and Ute Ladies' Tresses. The project does not involve instream work and therefore no impacts to aquatic species are expected. Bald eagle may be present in the project vicinity however noise and human disturbance associated with this project will not rise above ambient levels of the greater Ellensburg/ Lower Kittitas Valley area. There are no known populations of Ute Ladies' Tresses at the project site and no impacts to potential habitat for this species are planned. Based on this information, BPA determined that the project would have no effect on steelhead trout, bull trout, bald eagle, or Ute Ladies' Tresses. These findings were discussed with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and they concurred (October 4, 2004).

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resource investigation of the Sorensen project site was completed by Central Washington University. The

investigation included archival research and a pedestrian survey of the areas proposed for disturbance. As a result of this investigation, no prehistoric or historic resources were identified. Based on these findings, BPA determined that the proposed project would have no effect on cultural and/or historic resources. These findings were submitted to the Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation on September 7, 2004; no response was provided. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, work should be 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 the Sorensen project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable permits and approvals.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Sorensen project. This project was presented to and endorsed by the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program core committee which is a consortium of irrigation and conservation districts, tribal representatives, and local, state and federal agencies. The Kittitas County Conservation District also consulted individually with the Yakima Nation, the City of Ellensburg, and with Sorensen Properties and nearby 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 Stewart 10-14-04

Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 10-14-04

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
USFWS No Effect Concurrence

cc: (w/ attachments)

Ms. Anna Lael – Kittitas County Conservation District