

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: November 24, 2004

REPLY TO: KEC-4
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-197)

TO: Jan Brady
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWS-4

Proposed Action: Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects – Hayden Creek Fence Crossing

Project No: 1994-017-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.11 Remove Debris Functioning as Barriers to Fish Passage, 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement, 6.10 Access Fencing

Location: Lemhi County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the installation of a fenced stream crossing over Hayden Creek (a tributary to the Lemhi River) to enhance a riparian protection zone enclosure from livestock grazing. This structure would include up to four wood fence posts and two deadman anchors buried in the ground. The goal of this project is to enhance salmon and steelhead rearing and migration habitat by preventing livestock from entering the riparian protection zone via the river.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project (November 23, 2004) was completed by Carl Rudeen of the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project on behalf of the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District. The project and the NEPA checklist information appear to meet 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 gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, Ute ladies'tresses, Snake River chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, and Columbia River Basin bull trout. It was determined that the proposed fence crossing project would have no effect on these species. Bald eagle, gray wolf and Canada lynx are not known to occur in the immediate project vicinity. Since the site is used primarily as livestock pasture it does not lend itself to the presence of Ute ladies'tresses. ESA listed fish may be present in the project vicinity but will not be affected because the project does not involve instream work. Soil disturbance would be limited to the livestock pasture and to holes that will be used to bury anchors and h-braces for the suspended portion of the fence. Required river crossings will be made on foot.

Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act were handled by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with staff from the U.S. Forest Service (Boise National Forest), under their existing Programmatic Agreement with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). A description of the Hayden Creek Fence Crossing project and site information was reviewed by a qualified archaeologist and it was determined that an archaeological

survey was not needed. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, they would be avoided until an archaeologist is notified and allowed to inspect and assess them.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices should be followed during the implementation of the Hayden Creek Fence Crossing project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement occurred as this project was planned and coordinated through the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project Technical Team composed of representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, Shoshone Bannock Tribe, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Division of Water Resources, Idaho Office of Species Conservation, Nature Conservancy, local landowner and recreation interests, and others. In addition, the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District and Upper Salmon Basin Advisory Committee discussed this project at regularly scheduled meetings that are open to the public.

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 or extraordinary circumstances relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Mickey Carter 11-24-04

Mickey A. Carter

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 11-24-04

Attachment:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/o attachment)

Ms. Elizabeth Olson – Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District

Mr. Carl Rudeen – Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project

bcc: (w/o attachment)

L. Croff - KEC-4

N. Weintraub - KEC-4

P. Key - LC-7

bcc: (w/ attachment)

Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

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