

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: December 5, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-50)

TO: Lee Watts - KEW-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation - Eaton Lake Acquisition

Project No: 1992-061-00

Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis
(See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 1.1 Fee-Title Acquisition and Transfer

Location: Bonner County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA, in conjunction with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, proposes to fund the acquisition of 80 acres of in Bonner County, Idaho. This property is being acquired as part of the Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation Program, which is tasked with the acquisition and restoration of key habitats within the Pend Oreille Watershed. The goal of the program is to protect, mitigate, and enhance wildlife affected by the construction and operation of the Federal hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River. The current proposal includes only the fee title acquisition of these lands; habitat enhancement activities will likely be carried out by the Kalispel Tribe in the future following the development of a management plan for the property.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this parcel was completed by Stacey Stovall with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians (October 1, 2005) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that are found in the vicinity of the property proposed for acquisition include grizzly bear, Canada lynx, bald eagle, bull trout, gray wolf, woodland caribou, and slender moonwort. The acquisition of this parcel will have no effect on ESA-listed species. Prior to the implementation of any BPA-funded restoration or enhancement activities on the site, ESA Section 7 Consultation will be required.

Background research and a terrestrial survey for cultural and/or historic resources was completed for the Eaton Lake property. As a result of this investigation, two historic properties were discovered within the Eaton Lake parcel including a prospect pit and a two-story cabin. These resources were determined to be not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Based on the survey findings, BPA concluded that the proposed land acquisition would have no effect on cultural and/or historic resources. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with these findings on November 22, 2005. Protection of historic resources will be incorporated into the management plan for the Eaton Lake property.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed on the Eaton Lake property by Fred Walasavage, Environmental Protection Specialist for BPA. The Phase I assessment did not reveal any environmental factors that would pose a significant liability for remedial action or clean-up under the Comprehensive Environmental Recovery, Compensation, and Liability Act (July 14, 2005).

Public involvement has taken place as part of the proposed Eaton Lake land acquisition. The acquisition was approved by the Albeni Falls Work Group. A public notice was published in the Bonner County Daily Bee and a letter was mailed to adjacent landowners notifying them of the proposed acquisition. Comments were received and addressed as a result of these outreach efforts.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Wildlife Mitigation 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 Wildlife Mitigation Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine Pierce

Katherine Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

Date: December 5, 2005

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

ID SHPO Response Letter, November 22, 2005

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Findings, July 14, 2005

cc: (w/o attachments)

Ms. Stacey Stovall - Kalispel Tribe of Indians