

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: October 26, 2004

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Conforth Ranch (Wanaket) Wildlife Mitigation Project Management Plan and EA (DOE/EA-1016/SA-01)

TO: Joe DeHerrera – KEWU-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Continuation of the Wanaket Wildlife Area O&M and M&E

**Project No:** 1990-092-00

**Location:** Umatilla County, OR

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The CTUIR proposes to continue operations, maintenance, monitoring, and evaluation of the Wanaket Wildlife Area on the Columbia River. The goal of this project is to mitigate for wildlife habitat affected by construction of McNary Dam. The wildlife area has an approved 5-year management plan dated September 2001.

**Analysis:** The original management plan for the wildlife area was analyzed for environmental effects in the Conforth Ranch (Wanaket) Wildlife Mitigation Project EA (DOE/EA-1016, March 1995). A Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) dated November 3, 1995 was issued. The EA examined the property acquisition, irrigation, vegetation management, and long-term O& M for the area and its infrastructure (trails, ditches, roads, etc.). In 2001, the management plan was revised and updated although no change to management actions was proposed except more extensive vegetation management to recover from a wildfire that scorched a large part of the area. The associated NEPA analysis (W:\KEC\SAs - EQ-14\Wildlife Management 0246\Wanaket Wildlife Area\Memo\_NEPA review020503.doc) concluded the original FONSI was applicable to continuing O & M operations, but that follow-up was needed to obtain SHPO and Tribal concurrences on no effect findings to cultural resources (letter of no effect to SHPO dated February 6, 2003 and CTUIR THPO dated February 18, 2003) and ESA Section 7 consultations with NOAA Fisheries and USFWS. The USFWS concurred with a finding of may effect, not likely to adversely affect species under their purview (letter dated May 28, 2003, TS number 03-2917). NOAA Fisheries required formal consultation (Biological Opinion 2003/00343 dated November 10, 2003) for replacing pump water intakes with approved fish screens in Lake Wallula. NOAA criteria compliant fish screens were installed in April 2004 (Fish Screen Replacement Project Completion Report, May 2004), and are currently in operation

No new ground disturbance or additional instream work is proposed for this project in FY 05. All work will take place using existing facilities and previously approved sites and techniques. Therefore, no cultural resources, hazardous or toxic wastes, or instream work permits are involved.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, and the Conforth Ranch (Wanaket) Wildlife Mitigation Project EA (DOE/EA-1016, March 1995) and FONSI. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Wanaket Wildlife Area Management Plan that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Grande Ronde Supplementation Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Mickey A. Carter

Mickey A. Carter

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: October 27, 2004

cc: Mr. Eric Quaempts, Wildlife Biologist, CTUIR Wildlife Program, PO Box 638, Pendleton, OR 97801

bcc:

L. Croff - KEC-4

N. Weintraub – KEC-4

P. Key - LC-7

Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

*Macarter:mac:5885:10/26/04 (W:\KEC\SAs - EQ-14\Wildlife Management 0246\Wanaket Wildlife Area\FY05 SOW\SA-01-EA-1016 Wanaket Wildlife Area O&M FY 05.doc)*