

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 5, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Mid-Columbia Coho Reintroduction Feasibility Project EA
(DOE/EA-1282/SA-04)

TO: L. Hermeston - KEWL-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Mahar Pond Expansion

Project No: 1996-040-00

Location: The site is in Chelan County, Washington, in the Nason Creek watershed, a mile from Highway 2 (Section 5, T26N, R16E, NW ¼ of the NE ¼).

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Yakama Nation

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is funding ongoing studies, research, and artificial production of coho salmon in the Wenatchee and Methow river basins. BPA analyzed environmental impacts of these activities in the Mid-Columbia Coho Reintroduction Feasibility Project Final EA, completed in April 1999 (DOE/EA-1282). Supplemental Analyses (DOE/EA-1282/SA-01, -02, and -03) were prepared in April 2001, October 2001, and November 2002 to analyze effects of additional activities proposed for the project. In March 2002 BPA categorically excluded dredging behind Dam 5 at the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery in connection with the project.

The purpose of this fourth Supplement Analysis is to determine if BPA needs to prepare a supplement to the 1999 Final EA for the proposed expansion of the Mahar Creek Pond, which is currently being used by the project to acclimate coho smolts. BPA proposes to fund expansion of the existing pond on a seasonal unnamed creek from its current size of 12,000 cubic feet to 36,000 cubic feet, thus allowing the acclimation and release of up to 183,000 coho smolts. As part of the expansion, the project proposes to dig a well to supplement the water supply from the seasonal creek.

The expansion of the Mahar pond is needed because of the evolving nature of this feasibility project. The project is no longer able to use one of the original acclimation sites and replacement acclimation capacity is needed. The total number of smolts acclimated and released under the project will not increase under this proposal.

Detailed information about the pond expansion proposal is contained in the attachment to this Supplement Analysis.

Analysis: Section 5 of the attachment to this Supplement Analysis details the analysis of the effects of these actions.

Findings: This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Mid-Columbia Coho Reintroduction Feasibility Project Final EA (DOE/EA-1282) and FONSI, 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/ Nancy Weintraub 8-5-03

Nancy H. Weintraub
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 8-5-03

Attachment

cc:

Mr. T. Scribner, Yakama Nation