

United States Government  
**memorandum**

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

**DATE:** October 4, 2006

**REPLY TO**  
**ATTN OF:** KEC-4

**SUBJECT:** Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-279)

**TO:** Cecilia Brown - KEWL-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Project Title:** McPherson Side Channel Restoration Project

**Project No:** 2005-010-00

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement**

**Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** Sections 1.8 Bank Protection Through Vegetation Management; 1.13 Culvert Removal/Replacement To Improve Fish Passage; 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement-Fishways; 1.16 Spawning Habitat Enhancements; 1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancements; 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 2.7 Avoid Exotic Species; 2.9 Mechanical Vegetation Removal; 3.37 Spill Contingency Planning; 4.25 Consolidate/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams; 7.2 Install Hydraulic Structures at Low Streamflows; 7.3 Minimize Erosion and Sedimentation During Stream Crossing Construction; 7.4 Divert Water Around Construction of Larger Structures; 7.10 Erosion Control and Revegetation at Project Completion; 8.11 Equipment Servicing; 8.22 Site Protection; 8.23 Monitor Revegetated Areas; 9.22 Construction: Erosion and Sediment Control Plans; 9.23 Construction: Erosion and Sediment Control Structures; and 9.24 Construction: Inspect Erosion and Sediment Control Structures.

**Location:** The project is located approximately 7 river miles upstream from the town of Winthrop, Washington in Okanogan County.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Chewuch Basin Council.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The decline of ESA-listed Chinook salmon and steelhead runs can be attributed to many factors that exist at McPherson side channel, such as extensive flood control riprap placed along the river bank, loss of lateral stream movement across alluvial flood plains, disconnected side channels and associated habitat, reduced off-channel rearing habitat, highly simplified channel characteristics, altered and reduced riparian habitat, instream and flood plain degradation, low flows in late summer through winter, and limited over-wintering rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. The proposed McPherson side channel restoration project is designed to restore flood plain connectivity; to increase water flow and improve flow consistency; to enhance side channel habitat and over-wintering refugia within McPherson side channel; to provide off-channel rearing habitat for juvenile fish in a low-gradient side channel environment; and to improve the functionality of existing channels and wetlands.

A rock grade-control weir will be placed across Skyline fish return flow channel to control the diversion capability into the side channel. An existing culvert diversion will be replaced with a new rock diversion structure in the right bank of Skyline fish return flow channel.

Approximately 200 feet of the side channel will be excavated and backfilled as necessary to provide adequate channel capacity and slope adjustment. A private under-sized road culvert will be replaced to improve flow capacity.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Chris Johnson, Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

**Endangered Species Act Information.** *Federally Listed or Proposed Species under U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Jurisdiction.* Bull trout, Bald eagle, Northern spotted owl, Gray wolf, Grizzly bear, Ute ladies' tresses, Canada lynx. A letter dated September 8, 2006 from USFWS concurs that the project may affect, but is unlikely to adversely affect bull trout and bald eagle. The project will have no effect on the other species. Compliance with the NOAA Habitat Improvement Biological Opinion has been completed.

**Cultural Resource Information.** The Washington State Historic Preservation Office has concurred with BPA's determination of No Historic Properties Effected for this location. Additionally the Colville and Yakama Tribes were consulted.

**Environmental Land Audit.** A Phase I Site Assessment was conducted by Mark W. Hermeston, Environmental Specialist, in September 2005. It did not reveal any environmental factors that would pose a significant liability for remedial action or cleanup under comprehensive Environmental Recovery, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

**Public involvement information.** The public involvement program has evolved over several years and has included public notices, public meetings, agency coordination meetings, radio advertisements and discussions, stories in local newspaper, and information available via various Internet web links. Project planning has been coordinated through local review groups including the Methow Restoration Council which includes representatives of Okanogan County, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife, Colville and Yakama Tribes, US Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Methow Conservancy, and local citizens at large. This project has been reviewed by Okanogan County Water Resource Board as documented in the Methow Subbasin Plan. Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation is the sponsor for this project and works with Chewuch Basin Council, which is formed by three irrigation ditch associations (Skyline, Chewuch, Fulton). The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, landowners and the Okanaogan County Commissioners have also been consulted.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management

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 Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Colleen Spiering  
Colleen Spiering  
Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Jim Kehoe DATE: October 10, 2006  
For Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachment:  
Checklist