

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 17, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-281)

TO: Dorie Welch - KEWU-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Project Title: Shaw Creek Passage and Sediment Improvement Project

Project No: 1992-026-01

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis
(See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.13 Culvert replacement to improve fish passage; 7.7 Reduce risk of road-related surface erosion

Location: Shaw Creek, Union County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Grand Ronde Model Watershed Foundation (GRMWF).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA, in cooperation with GRMWF proposes to fund three culvert replacements within the Grande Ronde Subbasin. The project activities include: replacing three culverts with channel spanning bridges, lifting the existing roadway, and installing rolling dips. Currently, the three culverts on Shaw Creek present fish passage barriers. The culverts are undersized, lack natural substrate and exceed gradient standards. The habitat in Shaw Creek has not been populated by anadromous fish since the late 1960's because of another impassable barrier downstream of the proposed project sites, at the intersection of Ladd Creek and Interstate 84; Oregon Department of Transportation has plans to implement the removal and replacement of that barrier structure in 2007.

Bridge construction at each location will consist of removing the old culvert, removing the road fill material and placing a bridge, or open bottom/natural channel arch pipe, within the existing footprint. Road rocking and dip construction will occur only in the existing roadbed. A lift, 18" to 30" deep of rock fill, will be placed over the old roadbed. Dip construction will be relatively shallow and will occur in previously disturbed/placed road fill.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Lyle Kuchenbecker, Grand Ronde Model Watershed, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

As per conversations with Keith Paul of the La Grande Field Office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the proposed project poses no impact to endangered species under the jurisdiction of the USFWS. There are no bull trout in the proposed project area, the nearest bald eagle nest is approximately 5 air miles away, and the project is not within lynx territory; nor are there any listed plants in the proposed project area. As per Eric Murray, NOAA Fisheries Eastern Oregon Habitat Branch, the proposed project poses no effect to listed endangered species occurring in the area, namely Snake River spring/summer run Chinook salmon and Snake River Basin steelhead.

BPA contracted with Linda Jerofke, Ph. D, of Blue Mountain Consulting—Archaeology and Public History to conduct background research, survey the proposed project site, and prepare a survey report. The Shaw Creek Cultural Survey Report was submitted to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) on July 28, 2006. BPA responded to comments received from both the SHPO and CTUIR, incorporated changes into the survey report, and resubmitted the survey report to SHPO and CTUIR on September 13, 2006. BPA received a concurrence letter from SHPO on September 19, 2006 stating that the proposed project will have no affect on any known cultural resource.

Although no further archaeological research is needed, if any cultural material is encountered during the proposed project activities, all activities surrounding the site should cease immediately and a BPA archaeologist will be contacted to evaluate the material.

The proposed project was exempt from needing an Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) permit and no groundbreaking activities will occur until the US Corp of Engineers (Corps) permit is received.

The road with the proposed activities is on private timber company land, not generally used by the public, and is occassionally used to access US Bureau of Land Management and other private lands. GRMW Board of Directors meetings, where subbasin habitat projects, including the proposed project are discussed, are open to the public and advertised on the local radio station and in the local newspaper. Also, the Corps, USFWS, NOAA, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, DSL, and Oregon Department of Forestry were tangentially involved in the planning of the proposed project as stakeholders. As the proposed project will restore fish passage with overall positive impacts, there is resounding support for the project.

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/ Kelly Mason

Kelly Mason

Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

DATE: October 19, 2006

cc:

Mr. Lyle Kuchenbecker - GRMW, 1114 J Ave, La Grande, OR 97850