

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 13, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-215)

TO: Jan Brady
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEWR-4

Proposed Action: Idaho Model Watershed Projects for FY 05

Project No: 1994-017-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.15 Fish Passage Improvements; 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 4.2 Water Measuring Devices; 4.12 Filter Strips; 4.23 Intake and Return Diversion Screens; 4.25 Consolidate/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams; 6.1 Deferred Grazing; 6.10 Access: Fencing

Location: Sites within the Custer and Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), Custer and Lemhi Counties, Idaho.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project, Custer SWCD, and Lemhi SWCD.

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to provide funding for the ongoing Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Improvement Program implemented through the Custer and Lemhi SWCDs. Projects are proposed to improve watershed conditions, resulting in improved anadromous and native fish habitat. The projects are planned and coordinated by the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project (USBWP) in Salmon, Idaho.

A variety of activities will be implemented, described below. The individual projects are intended to improve water quality and quantity, aquatic habitat, and fish production and to reduce bank instability, sedimentation, bedload movement, and water temperatures. The purpose of instream projects will be to reduce or eliminate fish migration and passage impediments. The projects include annual monitoring to evaluate the outcomes of each undertaking.

Irrigation Diversion Replacements at L 44, HC 2, & EF 17

The diversion replacement projects involve the installation of permanent rock weir or rock and steel weirs, which require little or no annual maintenance and are designed to facilitate year-round fish passage in all stream flow conditions. These structures would replace temporary 'push-up' rock diversions, which have to be rebuilt seasonally by heavy equipment instream and often act as fish passage barriers. Associated features like new headgates, water measuring devices, in-canal fish screen upgrades, fishways, etc., may also be included. All materials come from commercial sources.

Lower Stanley Riparian Protection Fence

Fencing projects generally consist of native wood jack-and-pole construction that involves no ground, water or vegetative alteration to install. These fences rest on the soil surface; no holes are necessary; materials come from nearby commercial sources.

Analysis: Several proponents representing the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project and the SWCDs completed the environmental compliance checklists and supporting documents for these projects. All the projects meet the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) that may occur in the general vicinity of the projects were analyzed as appropriate in Biological Assessments (for USFWS ESA informal consultation and concurrence) and against the Habitat Improvement Project programmatic Biological Assessment area (for NMFS ESA compliance and consultation on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act). Formal consultation was not necessary for any ESA-listed species in the projects' vicinities.

A cultural resource review and ID SHPO concurrence was completed for each project where there will be ground disturbance. If cultural deposits are found during any phase of project implementation, then ground-disturbing work will stop until any finds are inspected and assessed by a qualified party.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during implementation of the projects. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the projects. The public was informed of the projects through 3 sets of recurrent, open public meetings (USBWP Technical Team monthly meetings, SWCD monthly meetings, Soil Conservation Commission Advisory Board quarterly meetings); informational brochures, materials, and displays in public forums (e.g. fairs and conferences); field tours, agency coordination meetings, personal conversations, and mail correspondence.

Findings: The projects are generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds: 1) That the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD; and, 2) That there are no unusual or 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/ Mickey Carter

Mickey Carter

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ James M. Kehoe for

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 13 July 2005

Attachments:

L 44, HC 2, EF 17, & Lower Stanley Riparian Protection Fence Analysis Packages

cc: (w/o attachments)

Mr. Russell Knight, USBWP, 31 Highway 93 N, # B, Salmon, ID 83467

Mr. Al Simpson, BOR, 102 South Warpath, Salmon, ID 83467

Ms. Elizabeth Olsen, LSWCD, 31 Highway 93 N, # D, Salmon, ID 83467

Ms. Karma Bragg, CSWCD, P.O. Box 305, Challis, ID 83226