

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 8, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-219)

TO: David Byrnes - KEWL-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Yakima Basin Side Channels Project, Upper County Community Church Property Acquisition

Project No: 1997-051-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis
(See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 2.15 Acquisition of Sensitive Riparian Resources.

Location: Yakima River Basin, Kittitas County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to purchase approximately six acres of privately-owned land in the Yakima River Basin in Kittitas County, Washington as part of the Yakima River Side Channels Project. These six acres of riparian, wetland, and floodplain habitat will be acquired through fee simple acquisition and permanently protected for the benefit of anadromous fish. The property proposed for acquisition contains habitats or potential habitats that will provide BPA with credits for partial mitigation of fishery habitat losses due to the construction of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Mel Sampson with The Yakama Nation and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). A management plan will be prepared for the property after it is purchased and will follow the guidelines and mitigation measures detailed in the Watershed Management Program EIS and ROD.

No plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be affected by the fee-title purchase of the Upper County Community Church Property. ESA-listed species that may be present in the project vicinity include bald eagle, bull trout, Canada lynx, Northern spotted owl, Ute ladies' tresses, and steelhead. ESA Section 7 consultation will be conducted by BPA and The Yakama Nation, as necessary, prior to the implementation of any restoration or enhancement activities on the property.

A cultural resource literature review and field survey of a 96-acre area that includes the Upper County Community Church Property was conducted by Applied Archaeological Research (AAR) on July 4, 2001. AAR found that there were no cultural resources in the impact area. Based on their findings and recommendations, BPA determined that there would be no effect on cultural properties associated with the proposed Upper County Community Church Property acquisition. The Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with this conclusion on August 2, 2001. In the unlikely event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, an archaeologist will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the Upper County Community Church Property was completed on April 19, 2004 by Frederick Walasavage an Environmental Specialist with BPA. Based on this assessment, it was

determined that there were no recognized environmental conditions associated with the subject property that would impact the acquisition of these lands.

Public involvement associated with this project has included written notification and solicitation of comments to interested parties, adjacent landowners, local tribes, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations. Project notifications were also published in the local newspaper. No comments were received.

Findings: The project is 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 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/ Shannon C. Stewart
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
Acting NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: August 8, 2005

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
Washington State OAHN Letter, August 2, 2001
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Letter, April 19, 2004

cc: (w/o attachment)
Scott Nicolai - Yakama Nation, YKFP