

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: February 9, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program Final EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-250)

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

Project Title: Idaho Fish Screening Improvement - Bohannon Creek Diversions

Project No: 1994-015-00 (LBC-03, LBC-04, LBC-05, LBC-06)

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis
(See Appendix A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 4.25 Consolidate/Replace Irrigation
Diversion Dams

Location: Private lands along Bohannon Creek; Lemhi County, ID; at four locations (T21N, R23E,
Sections 15, 22, 28)

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)

Description of the Proposed Action: This memorandum provides environmental clearance for four diversion improvements located within 2.2 miles of each other along Bohannon Creek. At each site location, the work calls for constructing and installing one instream fish passable diversion. Establishment of a tee-plate, vee design rock diversion weir in the stream channel will compliment existing fish screens and provide year round fish passage even during times of lowest flows.

The weir design is typical of those typically used by the Natural Resource Conservation Service that allows high flow energy to be dissipated by columns of water rolling into each other at the center of the stream. The weir will be installed about four to six inches above the bottom of the fish screen structure to ensure that water is directed toward the screens even at lowest flows. During high flows, the weirs will prevent scour and back cutting. Type H large rock will be the primary rock material used along associated banks on each side of the stream channel bottom. The rock will be used to cover the metal tee-plates to concentrate flows through the fish passage.

The project objective is to improve upstream and downstream fish passage, and provide unhindered fish passage to spawning and rearing habitat within the Bohannon Creek watershed. The overall goal is to provide a year-round connection of Bohannon Creek to the Lemhi River where all fish species may again use this stream. These diversion improvements will compliment new rotary drum fish screens that were installed in 2005.

The tee plate and rock placement will be supervised by an engineer to establish structure elevation, and by a biologist to ensure fish passage. The work is tentatively planned for March, 2006

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklists for each of the four proposed diversion improvements were prepared and signed by Mr. Patrick D. Murphy, IDFG Screen Program Staff Fishery Biologist in Salmon, Idaho on January 23, 2006. Information from these checklists meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that could be in the project area are the Snake River sockeye salmon (t), Snake River spring Chinook salmon (t), Snake River steelhead (t), bull trout (t), and designated steelhead Critical Habitat. The IDFG has engaged in a Section 6 Cooperative Agreement (dated January 17, 1995) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that establishes a cooperative program for IDFG to carry out conservation and recovery activities for bull trout (and other threatened and endangered species). This agreement includes the take of species consistent with this agreement, emergency provisions as necessary, recordkeeping for the conservation of listed species, notification to the FWS of any change in circumstances, and other administrative and procedural provisions. These actions comply with the provisions and limitations of this Cooperative Agreement.

The actions are also covered under an ESA Section 7 programmatic Biological Opinion from National Marine Fisheries Service (now NOAA Fisheries), dated July 2003, that addresses activities associated with fish screens and head gate control. A NOAA Fisheries concurrence letter, dated September 22, 2003, concludes that fish screen activities are not likely to adversely affect listed Snake River salmon and steelhead, designated critical habitat, or Essential Fish Habitat. The concurrence extends into the future without an end date. There are no threatened or endangered plants or animal species that would be affected by the proposed actions identified above.

Because of the proposed in-water work, the IDFG assisted BPA in initiating ESA compliance in accordance with the Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) Biological Opinion for anadromous fish. Accordingly, IDFG submitted a HIP Form 1 to BPA for these four site improvements (dated January 23, 2006) that addresses applicable terms and conditions commensurate with the proposed water diversion improvements and anticipated effects on listed fish. This includes the following: 1. fish passage designed to meet “Anadromous Salmon Passage Facility Guidelines and Criteria” including an interactive design process with NOAA Fisheries engineering staff; 2. conservation measures for general construction; 3. implementation of an Operation and Maintenance Plan; 4. a totalizing flow meter device to be installed; 5. the design of the diversions will enable irrigators to comply with state water right rules and regulations; 6. the general construction conservation measures in section 2.2.1.1. of the HIP BO will be implemented; 7. the Catalogue of Stormwater Best Management Practices for Idaho Cities and Counties to be used; 8. measures to be taken to avoid discharging machinery fluids into the creek during the construction phase; 9. clean rip-rap rock material to be deposited instream; 10. plant vegetation to accelerate the revegetation process along stream banks; 11. spill prevention and control practices to be employed during construction; and 12. work to occur during season low flows and turbidity will be controlled. We believe the net effect to the aquatic system (listed fish) in the vicinity of the project will be negligible during project construction, when compared with the anticipated long-term resource benefits.

Cultural resources work for the Bohannon Creek diversions was performed by Ms. Jeanne Pepalis, MA, under contract by the IDFG and her October report entitled, “Bohannon Creek Anadromous Fish Screening LBC-3.4.5.6; Archaeological Survey by Jeanne Pepalis, Boise, Idaho” was prepared on October 2, 2004. The Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer provided concurrence that the project sites contain no historic properties and that work can proceed with no effect on historic properties. No mitigating measures were warranted.

The projects are localized and isolated and do not affect large numbers of people. The news about the individual actions has been disseminated through the Upper Salmon Basin Model Watershed Program circulars, and local newspaper articles. The basin is sparsely populated and the salmon recovery effort is very large. Word of mouth by areas residents along with political interest and Agency cooperative efforts allows adequate exposure of the projects. The following partners have been kept informed of the development of this project: landowners/irrigators, the Salmon River Coalition, Natural Resources Conservation Service, NOAA Fisheries, USFWS, Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Salmon Basin Watershed, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, and IDFG. No written comments were received on these projects. The project conforms to a wide variety of IDFG goals including the state’s Fishery Management Plan, Bull Trout Recovery Plan, NOAA Fisheries Salmon Recovery Plan, and USFWS Bull Trout Recovery Strategy.

Findings: The fisheries improvements are generally consistent with: the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program; BPA's Watershed Management Program Final EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. The project conforms to the IDFG fish screen standards; NOAA Fisheries Salmonid Fish Passage Facility Guidelines and Criteria; the State's Fishery Management Plan, Idaho Bull Trout Recovery Plan; NOAA Fisheries Salmon Recovery Plan; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bull Trout Recovery Strategy. 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. The proponent shall comply with the terms, provisions, and conditions of the appropriate permits and authorizations. Support documentation to this environmental clearance may be located in the KEC project file.

/s/ Carl J. Keller

Carl J. Keller
Fish and Wildlife Biologist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

Date: February 13, 2006

Attachment
Environmental Provisions

cc: (w/ attachment)

Mr. Lynn D. Stratton, Screen Program Coordinator, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 1336, Salmon, ID 83467

Mr. Patrick Murphy, Staff Fishery Biologist, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 1336, Salmon, ID 83467

Attachment

ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS

Bohannon Creek Diversion Projects
(LBC-03, LBC-04, LBC-05, LBC-06)
Idaho

The following provisions apply:

- The contractor shall construct the five projects under the following ESA provisions, accordingly:
 - a. A Section 6 Cooperative Agreement for bull trout and other listed species with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dated January 17, 1995.
 - b. A Section 7 ESA programmatic Informal Consultation for anadromous fish (fish screens) with NOAA Fisheries dated July 2003.
 - c. A Habitat Improvement Plan Biological Opinion for anadromous fish (water diversion) with NOAA Fisheries dated August 1, 2003.
- An on-site inspector will monitor construction activities to ensure no releases or discharges of sediment into open water.
- Measures shall be taken to avoid unnecessary adverse effects to fish, other aquatic life, and their habitat at the project site during construction.
- Newly disturbed soil and vegetation resources will be replanted according to the IDFG recommended seeds and procedures in accordance with soil type, availability of native seeds, and soil moisture.
- The projects will be consistent and compliant with the: Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program; BPA's Watershed Management Program Final EIS (DOE/EIS-0265); NOAA Fisheries Anadromous Salmonid Passage Facility Guidelines and Criteria; State's Fishery Management Plan, NOAA Fisheries Salmon Recovery Plan, FWS Bull Trout Recovery Plan, Catalogue of Stormwater Best Management Practices for Idaho Cities and Counties, and Idaho Code specific to fish screens, control structures, and fish passage provisions.
- If there are any changes in construction activities that require relocation or change of work, or for sites that have not been previously identified as work sites, construction shall not proceed until the BPA's Environmental Lead for this project can evaluate those changes.

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