

memorandum

DATE: May 25, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-145)

TO: Sarah Branum – KEWL-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Hood River Habitat – Baldwin Creek Culvert Replacement 2004

Project No: 1998-021-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.13: Culvert removal/replacement to improve fish passage.

Location: near Parkdale, Hood River County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA and CTWSRO propose to remove a culvert acting as a fish passage barrier, and replace it with a bottomless arch style culvert. The existing culvert is located on a private farm access road on Baldwin Creek, a tributary to the East Fork Hood River. Replacing the culvert is one portion of a program of activities that will eliminate passage barriers on Baldwin Creek and open several miles of stream as fish rearing and spawning habitat.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Joe McCanna, fish biologist with CTWSRO, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Steelhead is the only species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that may be found in the vicinity and may be affected by the proposed project. Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation was completed by using, the Habitat Improvement Program Biological Opinion. The project sponsor and BPA coordinated with NOAA Fisheries passage design engineers in the preliminary design of the bottomless arch culvert. The NOAA Fisheries engineer confirmed that the design meets all current applicable standards. Documentation of this coordination is in the official project file. Among other site-specific precautions, the terms and conditions of the Biological Opinion require CTWSRO to file an Implementation Monitoring Report with BPA within 120 days of project completion.

The existing Baldwin Creek culvert is located on a private farm road. The culvert was constructed by importing fill material to build a road across the creek. Little soil disturbance

will take place as a result of the replacement project, and the soil that may be disturbed consists wholly of fill material. Therefore, no cultural resources will be affected as a result of the proposed project.

The project sponsor obtained letter permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Oregon Division of State Lands for the instream work necessary to replace the culvert. The proposed fish passage enhancement project meets the terms of a general authorization permit from the state of Oregon, and for Nationwide Permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Public involvement for habitat projects in the Hood River Valley is completed with the cooperation and assistance of the Hood River Watershed Group and its regular meetings in the Hood River area. Meetings are announced via the group's mailing list, which has a circulation of approximately 120 local landowners, entities, and public officials. The project was also advertised in the local newspaper as an agenda item at the watershed group meeting.

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/ Richard Yarde

Richard Yarde
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 5/25/2004

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers letter permit
Oregon Department of State Lands letter permit
Form 1: HIP Consistency Form

cc: (w/o attachments)

Mr. Joe McCanna, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, 6030 Dee Hwy., Parkdale, OR
97041