

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: November 2, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-190)

TO: Charlie Craig
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Habitat Projects Lake Roosevelt Tributaries – Bridge Creek Passage/Habitat Improvements Phase II

Project No: 1990-018-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.0 In Channel Modification and Habitat Enhancement Techniques, 1.3 Restoration of Channelized River and Stream Reaches, 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures, 1.7 Install other Habitat Complexity Structures, 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management, 1.9 Structural Bank Protection using Bioengineering Methods, 1.10 Structural Bank Protection using Engineered Structures, 2.0 Special Vegetation Treatment Techniques including Techniques for Wetlands and Riparian Areas, 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 2.6 Native Seed Inventories, 2.7 Avoid Exotic Species, 2.14 Enhance Woody Debris Recruitment, 3.7 Critical Area Planting, 6.10 Access Fencing, 7.4 Divert Water Around Construction of Larger Structures, 7.9 Avoid Construction During Inclimate Weather.

Location: Ferry County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT)

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund Phase II of a fish passage and habitat improvement project with the Colville Confederated Tribes on Bridge Creek in Ferry County, Washington. This project will take place completely on Colville Confederated Tribe lands. The proposed project will include the restoration and stabilization of approximately 1,300 feet of the lower Bridge Creek stream channel. This project will reconnect Bridge Creek to the San Poil River.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Sheri Sears with the Colville Confederated Tribes (October 20, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area is bald eagle. A bald eagle nest is located approximately 1 mile north of the Bridge Creek work site. The nest however is sufficient distance from the work area to eliminate any seasonal or other restrictions. BPA determined that the project would have no effect on bald eagle. If a bald eagle(s) is spotted in the work area during project implementation, work should be temporarily halted until the eagle(s) leaves on its own will.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resource investigation of the project area was completed by Sean Hess, archaeologist with the Colville Confederated Tribes. The investigation included a literature/site record review, a pedestrian

reconnaissance survey, and excavation of shovel test pits. No prehistoric or historic archaeological deposits were discovered as a result of this investigation. Based on Mr. Hess's findings, BPA concluded that there will be no effect on prehistoric or historic resources associated with the Bridge Creek Phase II project and that no additional archaeological investigation is necessary in the project area. In the event that archaeological material is encountered during project activities, archaeologists from BPA and the Colville Confederated Tribes will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. The Colville Confederated Tribes' Tribal Historic Preservation Officer concurred with BPA's findings on November 1, 2004.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the Bridge Creek Phase II Project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable permits and approvals. The Colville Confederated Tribes will grant permits and approvals for this project since the project is located completely on Tribal lands.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Bridge Creek Phase II project. The project was described in an article published in the Tribal Tribune Newspaper. The project proponent also held a public meeting to discuss the project in Keller, Washington. Project presentations and site tours have been given to Tribal teens and the Inland Empire Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. The Summer Youth Fish and Wildlife Program was employed to help with the hand clearing of vegetation around the historic channel. Comments received from the public to date have been very favorable. The project has gone through a full integrated review by the Colville Confederated Tribes Natural Resource Department. In addition, the project proponent has consulted with Ferry County, the Natural Resource Conservation District, the Ferry County Conservation District, the Ferry County Roads Department, local landowners, Lake Roosevelt Managers, and the Lake Roosevelt Forum.

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 Stewart 11-2-04
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 11-2-04

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
CCT THPO Letter of Concurrence, November 1, 2004

cc: (w/ attachments)
Ms. Sheri Sears – Colville Confederated Tribes

bcc: (w/o attachments)

L. Croff - KEC-4

N. Weintraub - KEC-4

P. Key - LC-7

bcc: (w/ attachments)

Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

SCStewart:scs:5928:10/29/2004

W:\KEC\SAs - EQ-14\Watershed Management 0265-SA 131\Bridge Creek Phase II SA.doc