

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: November 19, 2004

REPLY TO: KEC-4  
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-193)

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

**Proposed Action:** Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects – Philips Slough Fence

**Project No:** 1994-017-00

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 4.12 Filter Strips, 6.1 Deferred Grazing, 6.10 Access Fencing

**Location:** Custer County, Idaho

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the installation of about 7,100 feet of jack post and pole fence along a slough tributary to the Salmon River in Custer County, Idaho. The proposed fence would exclude grazing from about 12.5 acres in a corridor of riparian habitat an average of 35 feet from ordinary high water mark on each side of the slough. This corridor would also protect wetlands found along side the slough. The goal of this project is to protect anadromous fish rearing habitat, enhance water quality and allow riparian vegetation to improve so as to allow cooler water to enter the Salmon River from the slough.

**Analysis:** The NEPA compliance checklist was completed by Allen Bradbury of the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project on behalf of the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District (October 21, 2004). The project and NEPA checklist analysis appears to meet 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 are gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, Ute ladies' tresses, Snake River chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, and Columbia River Basin bull trout. It was determined that the fence and its construction would have no effect on these species. The area proposed for construction is used primarily for farming and ranching. Gray wolf and Canada lynx are not known to occur in the immediate project vicinity. Bald eagles forage in the vicinity, however work will take place in the fall to avoid any impacts to any potential nest locations (Janna Brimmer, USFWS, 7/2/04). Since the site is used primarily for farming the ground has been disturbed annually, which does not lend itself to the presence of Ute ladies' tresses. ESA listed fish may be present in the project vicinity but will not be affected because the project does not involve instream work and no ground disturbing activities are planned. In addition, all work will take place a considerable distance from streambanks.

Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act were met by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in cooperation with staff from the U.S. Forest Service (Boise National Forest), under their existing Programmatic Agreement with the Idaho State Historic

Preservation Office (SHPO). Project information and the fence site were reviewed by a qualified archaeologist. Although the jack post and pole fence installation does not involve any ground disturbing activities, a cultural resource survey was conducted due to the project's proximity to other non-connected projects that did involve ground disturbance (redesign of a combined animal feeding operation and associated fences nearby). No cultural resource sites were detected. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, the materials would be avoided until an archaeologist is notified and allowed to inspect and assess them.

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

Public involvement occurred as this project was planned and coordinated through the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project Technical Team composed of representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, Shoshone Bannock Tribe, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Division of Water Resources, Idaho Office of Species Conservation, Nature Conservancy, local landowner and recreation interests, and others. In addition, the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District and Upper Salmon Basin Advisory Committee discussed this project at regularly scheduled meetings that are open to the public.

**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 or extraordinary circumstances relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Mickey Carter 11-19-04

Mickey A. Carter

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 11-19-04

Attachment:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/o attachment)

Ms. Karma Bragg – Custer Soil and Water Conservation District

bcc: (w/o attachment)

L. Croff - KEC-4

N. Weintraub - KEC-4

P. Key - LC-7

bcc: (w/ attachment)

Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

MACarter:mac:5885:11/17/04

W:\KEC\SAs - EQ-14\Watershed Management 0265\Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Projects\199401700  
CSWCD\FY 05 Projects\Philips Fence \SA-193-EIS-0265-Philps Slough Fence.doc