

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: March 11, 2002

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-21)

TO: David Sill  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Wheeler Peninsula Mitigation Project

**Project No:** 1992-061-05

**Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS):** 1.1 Fee-Title Acquisition and Transfer

**Location:** Boundary County, Idaho

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to purchase approximately 112 acres of land along the Kootenai River east of Trout Creek in Boundary County, Idaho. Title to the land will be held by the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. The land proposed for acquisition consists of deciduous-riparian forest, shrub scrub habitat, pastured fields, and approximately 14,200 feet of shoreline. The goal of this project is to protect and enhance riparian, wetland, and upland habitats for the benefit of wildlife by reestablishing native vegetation and encouraging the development of natural wet pockets for waterfowl.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Scott Soultz with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). A comprehensive management plan will be prepared for the property after it is purchased and will follow the guidelines and mitigation measures detailed in the Wildlife Mitigation 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 subject property. Currently, bald eagle is the only ESA listed species that occurs in the project vicinity (Idaho Conservation Data Center, 2002). Prior to the implementation of any restoration or enhancement activities on the site, an updated ESA species list will be obtained and ESA Section 7 Consultation will be conducted by BPA and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho as necessary.

A cultural resource review of the Wheeler Peninsula Property was completed by Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc. in September 2001. Northwest Archaeological Associates conducted a review of archival sources for the project area and its environs, and conducted an intensive surface examination of the property. One cultural site, a fire modified rock scatter (field number WP01-1), was identified in the southeast area of the property along the Kootenai River. Northwest Archaeological Associates concluded that this site may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and should be treated accordingly. BPA will consider these resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places until further research is conducted. BPA concluded however, that the fee-title acquisition of the subject lands will have no effect on these resources.

In accordance with Northwest Archaeological Associates recommendations, the following conditions related to cultural resources on the Wheeler Peninsula Property will be met. Prior to any future construction, development, or ground disturbing activities on the Wheeler Peninsula Property, appropriate testing will be conducted to establish the content, size, vertical extent, and integrity of the identified cultural resources. The Idaho SHPO and appropriate Tribes will be notified of all planned ground disturbing activities and any findings that result from subsequent surveys. The management plan developed for this property should include a protection and anti-vandalism plan for cultural/historic resources, developed in conjunction with the Idaho SHPO and the appropriate Tribal offices.

Northwest Archaeological Associates survey report along with BPA's determinations and conditions were submitted to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for their review and comment on January 7, 2002. The Idaho SHPO concurred with BPA's findings on February 8, 2002.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the Wheeler Peninsula Property was conducted by Cascade Earth Sciences (CES) of Spokane, Washington on September 15, 2001. Based on their assessment, CES concluded that there is no potential for environmental concerns present on or around the subject property. Fred Walasavage, an Environmental Protection Specialist with BPA, concurred with CES's findings and conclusions on January 29, 2002.

Public involvement will be required as part of the development of a comprehensive management plan for the Wheeler Peninsula Property. The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho has met with county commissioners, agricultural producers, and numerous other community groups to discuss impacts and concerns associated with wildlife mitigation activities, including the Wheeler Peninsula Property acquisition project. As a result, a Natural Resource Advisory Committee and a Wetland Conservation Strategy Group have been formed between the tribe, local governments, and community groups. These committees will provide a framework in which Tribal, Federal, State, County, private, and community groups can cooperatively participate in wetland conservation, wildlife habitat management, and natural resource planning in the Lower Kootenai watershed.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Wildlife Mitigation 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 Wildlife Mitigation Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart 3-18-2002

Shannon C. Stewart  
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

DATE: 3-19-2002

Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

Idaho SHPO Response Letter, February 8, 2002

cc: (w/o attachments)

Scott Soultis – Kootenai Tribe of Idaho