

United States Government

memorandum

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

DATE: July 15, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-158)

TO: Mickey Carter
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects- Twelvemile Creek Pipeline

Project No: 1994-017-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 4.1 Irrigation Water Management, 4.6 Sprinkler Irrigation, 4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline, 4.23 Intake and Return Diversion Screens, 4.25 Consolidate/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams

Location: Lemhi County, Idaho

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish passage enhancement project on Twelvemile Creek in Lemhi County, Idaho with the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District. The goal of this project is to enhance fish passage in Twelvemile Creek by eliminating barriers and increasing flows. The project goals will be accomplished by eliminating two diversions and two pumps from Twelvemile Creek by consolidating the flow into one diversion, eliminating ditch loss with pipe, and switching one irrigator from flood to sprinkler irrigation. This project will also attach the irrigators to a fish screen that will be installed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Carl Rudeen with the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District (July 13, 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 are Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead, Columbia River bull trout, Canada lynx, bald eagle, and gray wolf. BPA conducted informal ESA Section 7 consultation on the pipeline installation including the stream crossing (Biological Assessment submitted April 9, 2004). BPA determined that the proposed project would have no effect on Canada lynx, gray wolf or bald eagle and that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with these findings on May 4, 2004 and NOAA Fisheries concurred with these findings on May 12, 2004. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will handle all ESA requirements for the fish screen and control structure installation associated with this project.

Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act were handled by the Natural Resource Conservation Service in cooperation with staff from the U.S. Forest Service, Boise National Forest. The project description and site information was reviewed by a qualified archaeologist

and it was determined that the site would require an archaeological survey. An intensive-complete survey was conducted in the proposed project area and cultural resources were not identified. It was recommended that the project proceed as proposed (July 7, 2004). These findings were made in compliance with the established Programmatic Agreement between the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered as part of this project, an archaeologist should be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the Twelvemile Creek Pipeline project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals including water right modifications.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Twelvemile Creek Pipeline project. This project has been coordinated through the Upper Salmon Basin Technical Team composed of representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, Shoshone/Bannock Tribe, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. This project has been reviewed at meetings of the Upper Salmon Basin Advisory Committee, which is made up of local stakeholders including environmental and recreational groups, tribes and waterusers from the basin. In addition, partnerships on this project have been made with Idaho Department of Fish and Game Anadromous Fish Screen Shop, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Idaho Soil Conservation Commission, and Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

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
 Shannon C. Stewart
 Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney _____ DATE: 7-15-04
 Thomas C. McKinney
 NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
 NEPA Compliance Checklist
 NRCS Form A – No Cultural Resources Present, July 7, 2004
 USFWS Letter of Concurrence, May 4, 2004
 NOAA Fisheries Letter of Concurrence, May 12, 2004

cc: (w/o attachments)
 Mr. Carl Rudeen – Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District