

memorandum

DATE: April 7, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project, Boone Pond Acclimation Site
(DOE/EIS-0169-SA-08)

TO: David Byrnes
Project Manager - KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project – Under the Monitoring and Evaluation Program (M&E), the coho acclimation research task would be modified to include a new site located in the upper Yakima south of Cle Elum, WA.

Project No.: F3204

Location: Cle Elum, Kittitas County, Washington.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Co-Managed by the Yakama Nation (YN) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

1. Introduction

The Yakima Fisheries Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (YFP EIS) (USDOE/BPA 1996) analyzed impacts of undertaking fishery research and mitigation activities in the Yakima River Basin. The EIS focused on the impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of anadromous fish production facilities in order to conduct research designed to increase knowledge of supplementation techniques. Spring chinook were the priority species analyzed in the EIS, however, Coho feasibility studies, potential harvest benefits, and predation impacts for returning natural production of Coho salmon to the Yakima River Basin were also evaluated. Subsequent Supplement Analyses (SA's) have analyzed the potential impacts of research activities relating to this experimental design program (DOE/EIS-0169-SA-01 through SA-07). The purpose of this Supplement Analysis (SA) is to determine if a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) is needed to analyze the changes proposed in the Yakima Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP) Coho Program feasibility studies.

2. NEPA Analysis to Date

The Bonneville Power Administration is funding ongoing studies, research, and artificial production of several salmonid species in the Yakima and Klickitat river basins. BPA analyzed environmental impacts of research and supplementation projects in the Yakima basin in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) completed in 1996 (USDOE/BPA 1996), and in Supplement Analyses DOE/EIS-0169-SA-01 through SA-07.

Included in the YKFP Project is the Yakima basin's Coho program component. The Yakima Coho Project is planned in two phases; first, the "feasibility phase" and second, the "implementation phase." The goal of the Yakima Coho Project feasibility studies is to

determine the feasibility of re-establishing a self-sustaining coho population and a significant fall fishery for coho within the Yakima River Basin, while keeping adverse ecological impacts within specified limits. When warranted by the results of feasibility studies, the YKFP's Policy Group would determine whether an implementation phase should occur and, if so, whether it should consist of supplementation of naturalized populations, harvest augmentation, or some other kind of production program. This SA does not examine or review the "implementation phase" of the project. Additional NEPA will be required prior to the initiation of the implementation phase for Coho production in the Yakima Basin.

In support of the Coho feasibility studies, additional environmental documentation was prepared including a Biological Assessment on Bull Trout for the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project 1999-2004 (BPA et al. 1999a), and a Biological Assessment on Mid-Columbia River Steelhead for the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project 1999-2004 (BPA et al. 1999b). The YKFP program, including the coho component, has also been the subject of the Pacific Northwest Power Planning Council's (NPPC) recent provincial reviews and critiqued by the Independent Scientific Review Panel. The Yakima Basin Subbasin Summary prepared in 2001 also includes the YKFP coho program.

3. Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action to be analyzed under this SA is the addition of a new fixed acclimation site in the upper Yakima. Current acclimation sites include the Cle Elum Hatchery Slough (RM 183) and Easton Ponds (RM 201) in the Upper Yakima and Lost Creek Pond (RM 39) and Stiles Pond (RM 9) in the Natches. The new site, known as the Boone pond, is located in the upper Yakima just south of Cle Elum, Washington (SW S31, T 20N, R16E, RM 179.5).

The Boone site is a gravel borrow pit that was created during the construction of the I-90 Highway. Ground water, fed off the north facing slope, creates the pond and enters the mainstem Yakima River from the north side of the highway between the I-90 Cle Elum exits.

4. Analysis

The Boone pond would be developed for the purpose of increasing survival of juvenile coho smolts outmigrating from the upper Yakima River. Since 2001, adult coho returns to Roza Dam have been very depressed because of the low survival of juvenile coho. It is anticipated that increased smolt survival will result from acclimating juveniles at Boone pond relative to the previously used Easton pond site, where in the past three years, smolt survival has been extremely low. The goal of these adult returns is to establish a naturalized upper Yakima stock that will increase returns of naturally spawned adults and provide a hatchery broodstock source at Roza Dam for reintroduction and experimental purposes.

The YKFP Project EIS studied the collection of salmonid broodstock, incubation of eggs and rearing of fry in hatcheries, the acclimation and release of smolts, and related ecological studies in the study of natural production. The project is adaptively managed to allow appropriate refinements to the supplementation program and the associated monitoring and evaluation program

The outmigration survival of coho from the Boone pond acclimation site would be closely monitored. The coho monitoring and evaluation staff would perform monitoring tasks in accordance with the draft Yakima Coho Master Plan (Hubble and Woodward, 2003). The staff would install and maintain hand held PIT tag detectors at the outfall of the pond and would download outmigrant data weekly to assess timing and numbers of fish leaving the

pond. Downstream survival of these smolts would be assessed using PIT tag detection at regular monitoring facilities (Yakima basin: Roza and Chandler juvenile sites; Columbia River: McNary Dam).

No additional effects beyond those discussed in the EIS, subsequent supplement analyses or ESA consultations are expected by the proposed action. There would be no land disturbance activities that would affect historical or cultural resources.

5. Findings

As documented in this Supplement Analysis, the potential impacts from adding the Boone Pond site for coho acclimation are not substantially different from those discussed in the Yakima Fisheries Project EIS (DOE/EIS-0169), ROD, Supplement Analyses (SA-01 through SA-07), and related biological assessments and biological opinions. No additional impacts would occur in connection with these activities. There are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, a supplement to the YFP EIS is not needed.

/s/ Patricia R. Smith

Patricia R. Smith

Environmental Project Manager - KEC

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 4/13/2004

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

Documentation on file:

Bonneville Power Administration, Yakama Indian Nation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (BPA, YIN, WDFW). 1999a. Biological Assessment on Bull Trout for the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project 1999-2004. March 1999.

BPA, YIN, WDFW. 1999b. Biological Assessment on Mid-Columbia River Steelhead for the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project 1999-2004. April 1999.

National Marine Fisheries Service. 1999. Biological Opinion on Artificial Propagation in the Columbia River Basin. National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, Portland, OR.

United States Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration (USDOE/BPA). 1996. Yakima Fisheries Project Final Environmental Impact Statement. DOE/EIS-0169. Portland, OR

USDOE/BPA. 1999. Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-01. Portland, OR

USDOE/BPA. 1999. Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-02. Portland, OR

USDOE/BPA. 2000. Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-03. Portland, OR

USDOE/BPA. 2000. Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-04. Portland, OR

USDOE/BPA. 2002. Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-05. Portland, OR

USDOE/BPA. 2003. Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-06. Portland, OR

USDOE/BPA. 2003. Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, DOE/EIS-0169-SA-07. Portland, OR