

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 7, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-20)

TO: Allyn Meuleman, KEWU-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Camas Prairie Acquisition, Anderson Ranch Dam Phase II

Project No: 1995-057-00

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: Camas and Elmore Counties, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to purchase approximately 1,370 acres of riparian and wetland habitat along Camas Creek near Hill City, Idaho as partial mitigation for impacts associated with the construction and operation of Anderson Ranch Dam. Title to the land will be held by IDFG. The land proposed for acquisition adjoins IDFG's existing Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh Wildlife Management Area and will be managed as part of the management area. The goal of this project is to protect and enhance riparian, wetland, and upland habitats associated with the Camas Creek and Camas Prairie systems.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Edward Bottum with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game 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 there are no ESA listed species that occur in the project vicinity (Idaho Conservation Data Center 12/28/01, Streamnet 1/3/02). The following federal species of concern were identified in the project vicinity: long-billed curlew, bugleg goldenweed, and Inland Columbia Basin redband trout. 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 IDFG, as necessary.

A cultural resource review of the Camas Prairie site was completed by Applied Archaeological Research (AAR). AAR conducted background research on the natural and cultural landscape of the project area and its environs, and conducted a reconnaissance level field survey of the property in December 2001. Three cultural resources were identified as a result of AAR's archaeological reconnaissance survey of the project lands. These resources included: a prehistoric archaeological site containing flaked stone tools, biface performs, and lithic debitage; a historic-period site marking the location of an early twentieth century homestead; and a prehistoric isolate consisting of a single large core or tool made of cryptocrystalline silicate. BPA will consider these resources eligible for the National Historic Register until further studies and surveys are conducted. BPA concluded however, that the acquisition of approximately 1,370 acres associated with this project will have no effect on these sites.

In accordance with AAR recommendations, the following conditions related to cultural resources on the Camas Prairie site will be met. Prior to any future construction, development, or ground disturbing activities on the Camas Prairie Property, a formal archaeological survey will be conducted to establish the content, size, vertical extent, and integrity of the identified cultural resources. In addition, should ground disturbing activities be planned for the wet or marshy portions of the property they will be preceded by a formal archaeological survey including subsurface probes in the areas to be disturbed. The Idaho SHPO and appropriate Tribes will be notified of all findings associated with subsequent surveys. The management plan developed for this property should include a protection and anti-vandalism plan for cultural/historic resources, as deemed necessary, developed in conjunction with the Idaho SHPO and the appropriate Tribal offices.

AAR's cultural resource study along with BPA's determinations and conditions were submitted to the Idaho Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes for their review and comment. In their response, the Idaho SHPO requested that BPA consider the resources identified on the Camas Prairie Property to be "eligible" for the National Historic Register until further studies and/or surveys could be completed. BPA agreed to include this condition and the Idaho SHPO concurred with BPA's findings on March 4, 2002. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes provided written comments concerning the study on February 19, 2002. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes were given 30 days to respond but did not provide comments.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the Camas Prairie site was conducted by Maxim Technologies, Inc in November 2001. Based on a site reconnaissance, a review of referenced records and sources, and comments made by interviewees, Maxim Technologies concluded that there are no recognized environmental conditions associated with the site (report dated November 1, 2001).

IDFG held the first public meeting associated with this project in May 1994. Since then, IDFG has used various means to inform the public and seek their input including newsletters, mailings to individuals, public meetings and open houses, field trips, and meetings with local elected officials. Most recently, on February 12, 2002, IDFG staff held an open house in Fairfield, Oregon to inform the local public about the Camas Prairie project and solicit comments. Additional public involvement will take place during the development of a comprehensive management plan for the Camas Prairie Property.

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
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 3-7-2002
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
Idaho SHPO Response Letter, March 4, 2002
Shoshone-Paiute Tribe Response Letter, February 19, 2002

cc: (w/o attachments)
Edward Bottum – Idaho Department of Fish and Game

bcc: (w/o attachments)

L. Croff - KEC-4

N. Weintraub - KEC-4

H. Adams – LC-7

P. Key - LC-7

bcc: (w/ attachments)

Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

SCStewart:scs:5928:3/6/02

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