

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: October 16, 2002

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-92)

TO: Dorothy Welch, KEWU-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Asotin Creek Six-Year Direct Seed Program

**Project No:** 1999-060-00

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 3.2 Conservation Copping Sequence, 3.3 Conservation Tillage, 3.8 Delayed Seed Bed Preparation, 3.9 Grasses and Legumes in rotation, 3.26 Evaluate Field Limitations, 3.27 Equipment Calibration and Use.

**Location:** Various locations in the Asotin Creek Watershed, WA.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Asotin County Conservation District (ACCD).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to fund a no-till/direct seed farming program to reduce erosion into the Asotin Creek Watershed. Objectives include developing contracts with landowners and implementing the direct seed program, operation and maintenance of the direct seed program, and monitoring and evaluation of the direct seed program.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Bradley J. Johnson, District Manager, ACCD, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

No known threatened or endangered species are present on the upland sites where the direct seed program will be implemented. This project was identified by the ACCD and local NRCS staff to benefit Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed steelhead, spring chinook and fall chinook. A determination of No Effect on species listed or proposed under the ESA was made and submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on August 15, 2002.

The State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) was contacted on May 5, 1999 and the Nez Perce Tribe was notified of action on March 6, 1999. No known historic or cultural resources sites are listed in the SHPO's database maintained in the Asotin NRCS Field Office for the project's section, township, and range. If, during project implementation, cultural resources are found, NRCS policy and procedures will be followed (Programmatic Agreement between the NRCS and the Office of Archaeology and Historical Preservation, version dated May 11, 1995).

BPA has determined that no further historic or cultural resources consultation is necessary at this time.

Public involvement for the proposed project includes quarterly newsletters mailed to all citizens in the watershed and most of the county residents, agency representatives, and other entities. Also, tours are held throughout the year for project review; participants have been from throughout the Northwest.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management 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 Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Jason Karnezis 10-16-2002

Jason Karnezis  
Environmental Project Lead

CONCUR:

/s/ James Kehoe for  
Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 10-16-2002

**Attachments:**  
NEPA Compliance Checklist  
No Effect Determination letter

cc: (w/ attachments)  
Mr. Bradley J. Johnson, ACCD

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)

Jason Karnezis:3018:10-15-2002:pis:

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