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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

Memorandum

DATE: November 22, 2002

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-99)

TO: Dorothy Welch (KEWU – 4)
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, COTR

Proposed Action: Longley Meadows Restoration Project

Project No: 199608300

Watershed Management Program (See App. A : Available Management Techniques):
1.3 Restoration of Channelized River and Stream Reaches, 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris, 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management (vegetation planting), 1.12 Hardened Stream Forde (livestock crossing), 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 2.3 Wetland Creation

Location: 8 miles west of LaGrande, Oregon; T.3S.,R.36E., Secs. 14 and 15; Union County

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

Description of the Proposed Action: The overall objective of the project is to restore as much as possible, the natural character and function of the Longley Meadows wetland complex. This project is a joint partnership among the CTUIR, Grand Rhonda Model Watershed Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and BPA. This project involves several separate components that are part of a regionwide effort to protect and restore anadromous fish habitat in the Grand Ronde Basin. The individual actions are as follows: construct a one-mile restoration channel at the lower reach of Bear Creek; divert Bear Creek into a restoration channel; reclaim an existing channelized stream reach; develop riparian conservation easements with private landowner along the Grande Ronde River, Bear Creek, and Jordan Creek and manage the properties for conservation purposes; construct riparian easement boundary fences; make instream placement of large woody debris; and plant trees and shrubs in the riparian zone. A more detailed description for each of these proposed activities is provided in the Biological Assessment for the Longley Meadow Restoration Project (Bear and Jordan Creeks) that was prepared in March 2002 by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Past land use impacts (practices) have left the project reaches well below levels that promote healthy salmonid populations and watershed health. This has included road construction,

channelization, railroad construction, livestock grazing, farming, and logging. Water quality and fish habitat are the key drivers in meeting the project objectives:

> Increase base flow depth in Bear and Jordan Creek channels, increase flooding frequency and meadow depth, and create pool/riffle sequences;
> Increase stream channel sinuosity, channel length, and geomorphic stability, and decrease channel gradient, capacity and cross sectional areas in these creeks;
> Improve instream, riparian, floodplain conditions and functions including quality riparian and meadow areas for wildlife;
> Improve/increase vegetative cover/shade to moderate water temperature;
> Improve streambed stability;
> Improve cold water fish habitat and macroinvertebrate community composition;
> Improve the surface water/ground water interaction;
> Improve the cold water fish habitat and the macroinvertebrate community composition;
> Improve anadromous fish passage and use of restored stream channel segments;

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed on August 22, 2002 by Allen Childs of the CTUIR and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The expected resource impacts from project construction would result in short-term, localized disturbances to the soils, water quality, wetland substrate, fish resources, and visual resources. Some actions could cause more severe localized impacts than others (such as sediment discharge, excavation, and exposure of substrate during instream work) but the long-term effects are expected to be positive and beneficial gains to the fishery resources. These activities are regulated through various permits and authorizations, and instream work requires a joint permit from the Oregon Division of State Lands and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Technical support to the project has been provided by the CTUIR, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Technical Review Committee, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Additionally, Best Management Practices are planned to be incorporated.

In developing the proposed Longley Meadows project, the CTUIR has engaged a stakeholder partnership among a number of interested parties including the landowner, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, CTUIR, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. In addition, the following were contacted during project planning: National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Union County Planning Department, Oregon Division of State Lands, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The following summarizes the impacts from each project component:
Bear Creek Restoration
10,000 cubic yards of soil and gravel excavated to create more desired channel conditions; shaping point bars, cutting and shaping outside meanders, create channel

thelwig, shape terraces and streambank slopes; use dumptruck to haul excavated materials; construct earthen plugs and blended terraces, fulfill wetland mitigation obligation, develop shrub/scrub wetland, channelize about 1.7 miles of streamshed; compaction of fill material

Trap and Haul Fish, Amphibians and Reptiles

Seine nets and a Smith-Root Model 12A POW electroshocker will be used to capture fish; all fish to be transported in two 6-wheeled ATV; fish will be aerated in 64-quart coolers and secured in ATV utility beds; transport other species to sections above the restoration reach

CREP

Fence and exclude livestock grazing for a 10-15 year period – localized short-term surface and vegetation disturbance.

Large Woody Debris

Place large woody debris and trees with their rootwad mostly in Jordan Creek to create adult holding and juvenile rearing pools. Equipment will be used to relocate debris and trees – some short-term noise and surface and vegetation disturbance.

Riparian Tree and Shrub Planting

Plant shrubs and trees to include about 5,000 containerized ponderosa pine, 1,000 containerized willows, dogwoods, and alder, and 1,500 live whipbundles to accelerate revegetation; native seed mixtures will be planted – localized short-term surface disturbance.

Snake River chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, bull trout and bald eagle are the potentially affected listed threatened or endangered species in the vicinity of the project. An April 11, 2002 Biological Assessment was prepared to initiate formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for this project. BPA concluded that the proposed actions may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect listed Snake River chinook, bull trout and bald eagle. BA further found that the project may adversely affect listed S.R. steelhead.

We received concurrence on our findings from the USFWS on May 24, 2002 on the bull trout and bald eagle (Attachment 1). The July 17, 2002 Biological Opinion from the NMFS identified that the project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the S.R. steelhead or S.R. chinook, or detroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat. NMFS also provided nondiscretionary prudent and reasonable measures, and terms and conditions designed to minimize associated project impacts of incidental take. Meeting these measures and conditions are stipulated with this environmental report (Attachment 2).

A cultural resources survey was conducted for the project on June 5, 2002 by the proponent's Federal representative (Alan C. Spencer, Cultural Resources Specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service). One hundred fifty (150) acres were surveyed. No cultural resources were observed in the Area of Potential Effect (APE). A previously recorded railroad grade (Mt. Emily Rail Road Grade Site) is within the project area but not

within the APE, and the grade site is planned to be avoided by the proposed undertakings. A copy of the survey is maintained in the project file with KEC.

The NRCS sent the cultural resources survey to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office on October 7, 2002, but did not request concurrence of survey findings and recommendations at that time. On November 20, 2002, BPA FAXed a memorandum to the Oregon SHPO requesting concurrence with the findings of the survey. A concurrence response was received on November 21, 2002 from the Oregon SHPO (attached to this report). Accordingly, if buried cultural resources are uncovered during project construction or project implementation, work will stop and cultural resource specialists from the CTUIR and NRCS will be contacted. The CTUIR and NRSC discovery procedures will then be followed before work continues.

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 actions will not resulting substantial changes to the Watershed Management Program relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) that there are no 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/ Carl J. Keller 11-22-2002
Carl J. Keller
Fish and Wildlife Biologist - KEC

CONCUR: */s/ Robert W. Beraud for* DATE: *11-22-2002*
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
Memorandum of Nov. 20, 2002 requesting OR DHPO concurrence of findings

cc:
Mr. Allen Childs, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, P.O. Box 638, Pendleton, OR 97801

Mr. Alan C. Spencer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 101 SW Main Street, Suite 1300, Portland, OR 97204