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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 12, 2003

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project, (DOE/EIS-0169-SA-06)

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 north of Ellensburg, WA.

Project No.: F3204

Location: Ellensburg, 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. Subsequent Supplement Analyses (SA's) have analyzed the potential impacts of research activities relating to this experimental design program (DOE/EIS-0169-SA-01, SA-02, SA-03, SA-04, SA-05). 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 the following Supplement Analyses: DOE/EIS-0169-SA-01, completed in May 1999; DOE/EIS-0169-SA-02, completed in August 1999; DOE/EIS-0169-SA-03, completed in March 2000; DOE/EIS-0169-SA-04, completed in November 2000;and DOE/EIS-0169-SA-05, completed in September 2002.

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 is located in the Upper Yakima about two miles north of Ellensburg, WA (T18N, R18E, Section 13, SW corner) and is known as the Holmes site (RM 160).

The Holmes site was once an historic side channel that now functions as the fish bypass route for the Cascade canal. It enters the mainstem Yakima River below an I-90 crossing about 1.5 road miles east of the Thorp exit. The Cascade diversion dam is located at about RM 161.3 and the side channel enters the mainstem around RM 159. Within the side channel are two ponds, most likely remains of gravel extraction adjacent to I-90 for construction of the interstate highway. The only action required to make the site suitable for coho acclimation would be to block the outlet's dam boards. Ponding fish remain within previously authorized numbers and total 118,002 consisting of 35,282 Yakima stock, 65,054 Willard stock, and 17,666 Willard stock reared as fingerlings at Prosser.

4. Analysis

Initially, project managers identified 2003 – 2004 as the target end-date to feasibility studies, and defined a complex set of objectives and strategies to meet the objectives. While study results show some success in meeting initial objectives, they also indicate that a number of questions remain to be answered before a clear determination can be made that a naturally reproducing population can be established. As a result, the Project proposes to continue feasibility studies through 2007 to help answer those questions.

The feasibility of re-establishing coho in the Yakima basin may initially rely upon the resolution of two central issues: the adaptability and survival rates of a domesticated lower Columbia River coho stock used in the reintroduction efforts, and the ecological risk to other species associated with coho reintroduction efforts.

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 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. Effects to species listed under the Endangered Species Act from use of the new Holmes site would be negligible. ESA consultation with National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries has been completed and is in concurrence with our determination. There would be no effect to species covered by USFWS beyond those already addressed in existing consultation.

5. Findings

As documented in this Supplement Analysis, the potential impacts from adding the Holmes 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 05), 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: *3/12/03*
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

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