DOE F 1325.8 e Electronic Form Approved by CGIR - 01/20/95
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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 14, 2003

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project, Noxious Weed Control at Cle Elum and Jack Creek (DOE/EIS-0169-SA-07)

TO: David Byrnes – KEWL-4
Fish & Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Under the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP), the Cle Elum Supplementation and Research Facility (CESRF) Management Plan calls for noxious weed control at the hatchery and acclimation sites. Biological control agents are being proposed for use at the hatchery and Jack Creek acclimation sites to reduce weeds along BPA-owned property, hatchery structures, roads, and wildlife preserve lands. The Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board has targeted the management of diffuse knapweed (Centaurea diffusa) and Dalmatian toadflax (Linaria genistifolia ssp. Dalmatica) as species of concern at Cle Elum and Jack Creek.

Project No. : F3204

Location: Cle Elum Supplementation and Research Facility and Jack Creek Acclimation Site, Kittitas County, Washington.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposed Action: 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 subsequent Supplement Analyses, 01through 06. Bio-control for noxious weeds and/or unwanted vegetation was reviewed and analyzed for environmental impacts in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (USDOE/EIS-0285) and Record of Decision (ROD).

BPA proposes to control noxious weeds and/or unwanted vegetation at the CESRF and Jack Creek acclimation sites in Kittitas County, Washington, using biological control treatments. Release of selective biological control agents, extensively tested and approved by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), would take place the week of July 14, 2003.

Analysis: BPA, Yakama Nation (YN), and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), in a cooperative effort with Washington State University (WSU) Cooperative Extension Office and the Kittias County Weed Control Board, plan to control and/or eradicate noxious plants and other unwanted, weed vegetation within hatchery grounds and acclimation sites including all structures, access roads and hatchery surrounding preserve. As a part of a biological control program to eliminate spotted and diffuse knapweed and Dalmatian toadflax, minuscule weevils would be released in small numbers at the hatchery and Jack Creek site. Releases would consist of 3-4 containers of approximately 250 insects per container. The weevils are specie-specific and would prey on the target plants reducing and eventually

keeping growth in check. Positive results may occur as early as next year, however, it is more likely measureable results would be seen in the next 2-3 years.

The bio-agents to be used are weed feeders. They are very small weevils (*Laurinus minutus*), extremely hard to see, that feed on diffuse knapweed. *Laurinus* are already established on the hatchery properties. Additionally, the dalmation toadflax bioagent that would be released is *Mecinus janthinus*. The proposed releases are part of an integrated management system using the most current technology.

Noxious weeds often cause declines in native populations of plants by reducing light, water, and nutrients. These weeds grow so rampantly that they outcompete other species. These effects are not restricted to populations but can affect entire communities and ecosystems by altering environmental conditions, changing physical structures and reducing available habitat for animals. Some noxious weeds recover more easily from disturbances such as fires and change the usual composition of the native plant communities. In some cases, noxious weeds may cause a decline in biological diversity and result in species extinctions.

This project meets the standards and guidelines analyzed in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for biological control of noxious weeds.

- All activities would be carried out in accordance with Section 15, Noxious Weed Act Amendment, 1990 Farm Act.
- Selective biological control treatments would remove noxious and unwanted vegetation. Retreatment may be required.
- Water resources (streams, rivers, wetlands and well) would not be affected by this action.
- T&E Species would not be affected by this action.
- Biocontrol releases would occur on the hatchery properties under the direction of the WSU Cooperative Extension Office.
- Re-seeding /re-planting regimes would be identified as needed.
- Notification of property owners and land management agencies would be coordinated through the YKFP Policy Group. The Kittitas County Weed Control Board would be advised of releases and weed control progress.

This Supplement Analysis finds that 1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Yakima Fisheries Project EIS (DOE/EIS-0169), ROD, Supplement Analyses (SA-01 through 06), and related biological assessments and biological opinions, the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and no additional impacts would occur in connection with

these activities; 2) threatened and endangered fish and wildlife are not affected with implementation of this action, therefore, no formal consultation is required; and 3) 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 Smith 7-14-03
Patricia R. Smith – KEC-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

CONCUR: */s/ Tom McKinney* DATE: 7-14-03
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

cc:
Mr. Scott Nicolai – Yakama Nation
Mr. Mel Sampson – Yakama Nation
Mr. John Easterbrooks – Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife