

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: January 16, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-37)

TO: Charlie Craig – KEWU-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Blue Creek Winter Range - Spokane Reservation (Acquisition of Sampson, Lantzy, Allotment #0065-C, and Allotment 154 Properties)

Project No: 1991-062-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.1 Fee Title Acquisition and Transfer

Location: On the Spokane Indian Reservation, near Wellpinit, Stevens County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Spokane Tribe of Indians

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the purchase of four parcels of land within the boundaries of the Spokane Indian Reservation, totaling approximately 860 acres. Title to the land will pass to the Spokane Tribe of Indians. The goal of the property acquisition is to dedicate the land to the protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife affected by the construction and operation of portions of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Kelly Singer of the Spokane Tribe of Indians (STOI), and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). A comprehensive management plan that follows the guidelines and mitigation measures detailed in the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS and ROD will be prepared for the parcels after they are purchased.

No plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be affected by the acquisition of the properties. ESA listed species known to occur in the vicinity of the project include the bald eagle, gray wolf, bull trout, and Ute ladies'-tresses. 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 the STOI as necessary.

The STOI Tribal Historic Preservation Office has been consulted regarding the project, and did not identify any historic properties known to occur on the parcels. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office will be involved in developing a cultural resources management plan for the

acquired parcels as further management takes place. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during any management actions that might occur as part of this project, an archaeologist should immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and evaluated.

BPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Abatement completed a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the four parcels on November 25, 2003. Based on these assessments, BPA concluded that there were no recognized environmental conditions associated with three of the sites. On the Sampson property, there were two drums containing an unknown material. There was also a partially buried drum that had been used for dip treatment of fence posts. The soil around this drum was stained. Prior to transfer of the title for this land, the owner should transfer all of the drums and their contents to a proper disposal area and excavate all visual soil contamination. Samples of the soil removed should be sent to an EPA-approved laboratory for analysis. As of this date, the landowner had commenced with this cleanup operation.

Because of the unique system of property ownership on reservation lands, BPA coordinated with the STOI and the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, in order to identify and notify all people with interests in property adjacent to or in the vicinity of the three subject parcels. A notice was sent to all such parties on November 23, 2003. BPA explained the goals of the property acquisition, provided a map of the parcel locations, and solicited comments from the public. All comments are noted in the project file. Very few comments were received, and most concerned the location and present ownership of the subject parcels. No commentor objected to the proposed acquisitions.

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/ Donald L. Rose
Donald L. Rose
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: _____

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklists (2)

Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (4)

cc: (w/ attachments)

Kelly Singer - STOI