

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 24, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-28)

TO: David Byrnes
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Lower Naches River Land Acquisition, Yakima River Side Channels Project

Project No: 1997-051-00

Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 2.15 Acquisition of Sensitive Riparian Resources

Location: Yakima County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and The Yakama Nation

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to purchase four parcels of private land that total approximately 125 acres located in south-central Washington along the Naches River in Yakima County. Following acquisition, title to the land will be held by The Yakama Nation. The goal of this project is to protect and enhance riparian, wetland, and upland habitats for the benefit of fish and wildlife.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Melvin Sampson with The Yakama Nation and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). A comprehensive management plan will be prepared for the Lower Naches River parcels after it is purchased and will follow the guidelines and mitigation measures detailed in the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS and ROD.

No plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be affected by the fee-title purchase of the subject properties. ESA listed species known to exist in the project area include bald eagle, bull trout, steelhead, 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 Yakama Nation as necessary.

A cultural resource review of the Lower Naches River parcels was completed by Applied Archaeological Research (AAR) in April/May 2002. AAR conducted background research on the project area and its environs, and conducted a reconnaissance level survey of the parcels. No properties of prehistoric or historic resources were identified within the Lower Naches River project area. BPA concluded that there would be no effect on prehistoric or historic resources associated with the acquisition of the Lower Naches River parcels. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during developments 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 assessed. The Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with BPA's findings on April 22 and June 24, 2002.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the Lower Naches River parcels was conducted by BPA Environmental Protection Specialist Mr. Fred Walasavage in December 2001 and May 2002. Based on his assessment, Mr. Walasavage concluded that there were no recognized environmental conditions associated with the subject properties.

Public involvement has taken place as part of this project. Public involvement was initiated in September of 2000 when mailers were sent to over 400 landowners, government entities, and interest groups in the Lower Naches region informing them of the project and soliciting landowner involvement. Following the mailer, an open house was held on October 17, 2000 to provide further explanation of the program and answer questions. In January 2002, once parcels were identified for acquisition, an additional mailing went out to adjacent landowners and interested parties describing the project and requesting comments. Comments were received and have been incorporated into the project plan. Individual meetings have also taken place with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, the Yakima County Planning Department, and affected private landowners. Public involvement will continue to occur during the development of a comprehensive management plan for the Lower Naches River parcels.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Wildlife Mitigation 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 Wildlife Mitigation Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

CONCUR:

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart 7-25-2002
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 7-25-2002
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Response Letter, April 22, 2002

Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Response Letter, June 24, 2002

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Letter, December 5, 2001

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Letter, May 16, 2002

cc: (w/o attachments)

Mr. Melvin Sampson – The Yakama Nation

Mr. Scott Nicolai – The Yakama Nation

Ms. Betsy Bloomfield – The Nature Conservancy