

DATE: January 2, 2003

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-101)

Mark Shaw, KEWU-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Restoration of Anadromous Fish Access to Hawley Creek

**Project No:** 2001-052-00

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 4.18: Purchase / Negotiate Water Right

**Location:** Lemhi, Lemhi County, Idaho

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District, with the cooperation of the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to fund a project to enhance fish habitat on Hawley Creek, tributary to the Lemhi River in Idaho, by leasing 7 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water per year for twenty years. The water will be dedicated to instream flow through an agreement with the water right holders and all junior water users. Due partially to irrigation withdrawals, Hawley Creek is often hydrologically disconnected from the Lemhi River. The goal of the proposed project is to leave water instream, to reconnect Hawley Creek to the Lemhi River, to improve habitat and provide passage for chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, and other aquatic species.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Greg Schildwachter of the Governor's Office of Species Conservation, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

A biological assessment was prepared and submitted to NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In the assessment, BPA found that the proposed project would have beneficial effects on listed fish species, including Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, and therefore was not likely to adversely affect those species. The project would have no effect on other listed species in the vicinity of the project area, including Canada lynx, grizzly bear, gray wolf, and bald eagle. NOAA Fisheries concurred with BPA's determination on December 26, 2002, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred on December 19, 2002, concluding informal Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act.

The proposed project was presented at public meetings held by the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District and the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project. Also, all affected water right holders on Hawley Creek will be parties to the agreement to leave water instream. One issue that arose during public discussion of the project was the potential for flooding due to increased streamflow. A U.S.D.A. Forest Service hydrologist studied historic flows of the creek, and collected some measurements during site visits, and found that there would be no increase in the risk of flooding along the creek channel. No further public involvement is necessary.

**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/ Rick Yarde 1-6-2003  
Richard Yarde  
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

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

DATE: 1-6-2003

**Attachments:**

NEPA / Water Transactions Checklist

Letters of Concurrence from NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. Greg Schildwachter, Governor's Office of Species Conservation,  
P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0195

Mr. John Folsom, Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project,  
31 Highway 93 N, Ste. E, Salmon, ID 83467

Ms. Elizabeth Olson, Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District,  
201 N. Church Street, #3, Salmon, Idaho 83226