

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 12, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-57)

TO: Allyn Meuleman - KEWU
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Idaho Fish Screening Improvement (Champion, Iron, Fourth of July, Goat Creeks)

Project No: 1994-015-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.15 Fish passage enhancement - fishways; 4.25 Consolidate/Replace irrigation diversion dams; 4.10 Water Conveyance: pipeline.

Location: Stanley, Custer County, Idaho.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund a project that will enhance in-stream habitat within the Upper Salmon River watershed through a program of irrigation system improvements. The proposed improvements include consolidation and improvement of diversions, installation of headgates to control diversion flow, installation of pipes to reduce conveyance loss of water, and installation of fish screens or infiltration pipes to exclude fish from irrigation canals. These conservation measures will enhance riparian habitat by contributing to instream flows in the project area, which includes Champion, Iron, Fourth of July and Goat Creeks.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Al Simpson of the Bureau of Reclamation, 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 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), describing the project, the best management practices to be employed during construction, and the potentially affected listed species. In response, the FWS concurred with the determination that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, bull trout, Ute Ladies' tresses, bald eagle, or Canada lynx. The FWS further concurred that the proposed project would not likely jeopardize the continued existence of gray wolf. The project will comply with the fish screen criteria for bull trout suggested by the FWS in a letter dated July 14, 1999 (attached).

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed Biological Evaluations submitted for the proposed project, and concluded that the actions would have no more than a negligible potential to adversely affect listed Snake River salmon, steelhead, or designated habitat. NMFS concurred with the determination that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Snake River sockeye salmon, spring/summer chinook salmon, steelhead, or designated critical habitat.

A cultural resources report, #SW-00-2049, was submitted to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), discussing the affects of the proposed project on Champion and Fourth of July Creeks. On December 12, 2000, SHPO concurred with the determination that the proposed project will have no affect on cultural resources within the project areas of Champion and Fourth of July Creeks. The archaeological report for Goat and Iron Creeks is pending review before SHPO. If the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office finds that the proposed project will have no affect on cultural resources in the vicinity of Goat and Iron Creeks, then the requirements of NEPA have been met. **This Supplement Analysis is contingent on the receipt of concurrence from the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office regarding cultural resources around Goat and Iron Creeks.**

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required. This Supplement Analysis covers only those activities identified in the description of the proposed action and referred to in the NEPA compliance checklist.

/s/ Richard Yarde

Richard Yarde
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 7-12-01

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
Idaho State Historical Society Concurrence Letter
National Marine Fisheries Service Concurrence Letter
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Concurrence Letter

cc: (w/ attachments)

Al Simpson, Bureau of Reclamation
Pat Marcuson, Idaho Fish and Game
Rebecca Nourse, USDA Forest Service - rnourse@fs.fed.us
Robert Bayley - NMFS Portland office

bcc: (w/o attachments)

L. Croff - KEC-4

N. Weintraub - KEC-4

P. Key - LC-7

bcc: (w/ attachments)

Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

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