

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 7, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-58)

TO: Mark Shaw - KEWN-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Asotin Creek Channel, Floodplain and Riparian Restoration (2001)

Project Number: 2000-067-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis

(See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.3 Restoration of Channelized River and Stream Reaches, 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures, 1.7 Install Other Habitat Complexity Structures, 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management, 1.9 Structural Bank Protection Using Bioengineering Methods, 1.16 Spawning Habitat Enhancements, 1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancements, 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 2.2 Plant/Protect Conifers in Riparian Areas for Thermal Cover, 2.4 Provide Filter Strips to Catch Sediment and Other Pollutants, 2.14 Enhance Large Woody Debris Recruitment, 6.2 Planned Grazing System, 6.3 Control Grazing Intensity, 6.4 Pasture and Hayland Management.

Location: On George Creek, within the Asotin Creek Watershed, Asotin County, WA.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Asotin County Conservation District (ACCD).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund an instream and riparian habitat improvement project within the Asotin Creek watershed. This portion of the ongoing restoration program within the Asotin Creek watershed is comprised of the Hendrickson instream and riparian project and the George Creek instream and riparian project.

These proposed projects include improving instream and riparian habitat, reestablishing geomorphic stability and enhancing the riparian plant community, by planting riparian vegetation, fencing cattle out of the riparian area, placement of large woody debris and constructing a stream channel within the unstable George Creek. The proposal calls for the removal of up to 300 feet of existing dikes and the placement of up to 10 rock weirs and 40 J-hook veins. Instream work would also include 4,300 feet of constructed meanders and 1,000 feet of constructed oxbow lakes and sediment berms.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the Asotin County Conservation District and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Biological Assessments prepared for the purposes of complying with the Endangered Species Act and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, were submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). BPA determined, and FWS concurred, that the proposed action was not likely to adversely affect bull trout. BPA further determined that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the Snake River steelhead and Snake River spring / summer chinook, or those species' critical habitat. NMFS concurred with this determination. Further, NMFS found that the proposed project was not likely to adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat and advised BPA that no conservation recommendations were necessary.

The State Historic Preservation Office and the Nez Perce Tribe were each consulted on June 4, 2001, regarding cultural resources. The Asotin Creek In-Stream Cultural Resource Survey and NRCS Cultural Resource Management Plan will adequately address cultural resources issues. If during site investigation or practice installation cultural resources are found, NRCS policy and procedures will be followed.

Any permits required, including JARPA and Washington Shoreline Mangement Act permits, are or will be in place prior to any construction. Construction will be time-limited to periods of no instream flow. According to the directive of NMFS, if George Creek begins to flow in a manner such that listed fish could return to the construction area, all instream construction must cease.

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 substantively 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.

/s/ Richard Yarde
Richard Yarde
Environmental Project Lead

CONCUR:

/s/ James Kehoe for
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 08-07-2001

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
USFWS Concurrence Letter
NMFS Concurrence Letter

cc: (w/attachments)
Bradley Johnson
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bcc:

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Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

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