

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: October 28, 2002

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-30)

TO: Allyn Meuleman  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Horkley Property Fee Simple Acquisition

**Project No:** 1995-057-00

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

**Location:** Jefferson County, Idaho

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to fund the acquisition of approximately 120 acres of sagebrush steppe and agricultural lands in Jefferson County, Idaho. The property proposed for acquisition lies on the west slope of the Menan Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Title to the land will be held by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The property will be managed as part of the Deer Parks Wildlife Mitigation Unit. The goal of this project is to protect and enhance wildlife habitat.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Karen Rice with BLM (October 18, 2002) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

BLM consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) about the presence of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species on the Horkley Property. BLM received concurrence from USFWS on March 21, 2002 documenting that the proposed property acquisition will not affect bald eagle, Ute ladies'-tresses, grizzly bear, gray wolf, Canada lynx, and whooping crane. Prior to the implementation of any BPA funded restoration or enhancement activities on the site, ESA Section 7 Consultation will be conducted as necessary.

BPA conducted a cultural resource literature search for the South Fork Snake River/Palisades Wildlife Mitigation Project Environmental Assessment in July 1995, which included the Horkley Property. No sites were noted for the proposed project location. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe provided input on these findings. BLM will conduct an appropriate cultural resource clearance survey prior to the implementation of any ground disturbing activities on the Horkley Property. 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.

An Initial Assessment field visit of the Horkley Property was completed on May 9, 2002 by Dan Kotansky, BLM Environmental Protection Specialist. One recognized environmental condition was identified on the subject property at that time, which involved a 4-foot diameter cylinder tank that contained diesel fuel residue. On June 28, 2002 the landowner removed the tank. Dan Kotansky confirmed the removal and determined that no additional recognized environmental conditions existed on the property. An Environmental Initial Assessment Report was issued on July 15, 2002. Fred Walasavage, Environmental Protection Specialist with BPA, concurred with BLM's findings on October 2, 2002.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the Horkley Property acquisition process. BLM and IDFG held a public open house on October 15, 2002 at the Deer Parks Wildlife Mitigation Unit headquarters in Jefferson County. Notice of the public meeting was sent to the Jefferson County Commissioners, the Jefferson County Star, the Rexburg Standard Journal, the Idaho Falls Post Register, and 28 additional media contacts. Nearby landowners were contacted about the meeting by telephone. BLM and IDFG have also consulted on separate occasions with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, USFWS, Jefferson County, and nearby landowners.

**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 10-29-2002

Shannon C. Stewart  
Environmental Specialist

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 10-29-2002

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/o attachments)

Ms. Karen Rice – U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Mr. Bob Martin – Idaho Department of Fish and Game