

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 4, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-165)

TO: Mickey Carter
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects – Welp Riparian Enhancement Fence

Project No: 1994-017-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 4.12 Filter Strips, 6.1 Differed Grazing, 6.10 Access Fencing

Location: Custer County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the installation of approximately 1.5 miles of post and wire fence along Valley Creek in Stanley, Idaho. The proposed fence will meet or exceed BPA's minimum requirement of a 35-foot setback from the stream. Fence posts will be driven into the ground with a post pponder. The goal of this project is to enhance salmon and steelhead rearing and migration habitat through exclusion fencing.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Karma Bragg with the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District (July 14, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, Ute ladies'Tresses, Snake River chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, and Columbia River Basin bull trout. It was determined that the proposed fence construction project would have no effect on these species. The area proposed for construction is used primarily for farming. Bald eagle, gray wolf and Canada lynx are not known to occur in the immediate project vicinity. Since the site is used primarily for farming the ground has been disturbed annually, which does not lend itself to the presence of Ute ladies'Tresses. ESA listed fish may be present in the project vicinity but will not be affected because the project does not involve instream work; all impacts will take place a considerable distance from the streambanks.

Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act were handled by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with staff from the U.S. Forest Service (Boise National Forest), under their existing Programmatic Agreement with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). A description of the Welp Riparian Fence project and site information was reviewed by a qualified archaeologist and it was determined that an archaeological survey was needed due to the presence of known sites in the area. Bruce Blackmere with NRCS conducted an intensive-complete survey of the project site and cultural resources were not identified. Based on these findings, it

was recommended that the project proceed as planned. All survey findings were provided to the Idaho SHPO. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, an archaeologist should be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices should be followed during the implementation of the Welp Riparian Fence project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Welp Riparian Fence project. The project is located within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Appropriate consultation and negotiation with the Sawtooth National Recreation Area took place. This project was coordinated through the Upper Salmon Basin Technical Team composed of representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, Shoshone Bannock Tribe, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. In addition, the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District holds monthly meetings that are open to the public in which this project was discussed.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of 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.

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney *DATE: August 4, 2004*
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
NRCS Cultural Resource Findings, July 30, 2004

cc: (w/o attachments)
Ms. Karma Bragg – Custer Soil and Water Conservation District