

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: 6/13/00

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-30)

TO: John Baugher - KEWN-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Wind River Watershed Restoration: Wind River Road Decommissioning and Middle/Mining Reach of the Wind River and Dry Creek Rehabilitation

Project No: 9801900-03

Budget No: F5108

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): Wind River Road Decommissioning: 7.18 Road Closure. Middle/Mining Reach of the Wind River and Dry Creek Rehabilitation: 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures; 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 2.14 Enhance Large Woody Debris Recruitment; 8.13 Stand Thinning.

Location: Wind River Watershed in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Skamania County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service.

Description of the Proposed Action: The goal of this project is to restore riparian and in-stream habitat areas and watershed processes to promote self-sustaining populations of wild steelhead. Approximately 13 miles of roads will be decommissioned or storm-proofed in the Upper Wind River and Panther Creek sub-watersheds to reduce the risk of mass failures, road related sediment and water course interception. Thinning of over-story and under-planting of homogeneous riparian hardwood and/or coniferous stands along Dry Creek and Wind River would be done in an effort to restore native conifers and large woody debris to the Wind River and Dry Creek systems.

Analysis: The compliance checklists for this project were completed by the USDA Forest Service and meet the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The only known threatened or endangered species present in the project area are Lower Columbia River steelhead, Columbia River chum, Lower Columbia River chinook and bull trout. The proposed actions are also within designated critical habitat for Lower Columbia Steelhead. Programmatic biological assessments were submitted by the USDA Forest Service to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). For NMFS listed species, a determination of "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" was concluded and NMFS concurred with the USDA Forest Service's findings. For USFWS listed species, a determination of "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" was concluded and USFWS

concluded with the USDA Forest Service's findings. This concludes the requirement for informal consultation on threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act.

No cultural resources were identified from the USDA Forest Service/Washington State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Cultural Survey Resource Report (FSM 2361.420) on approximately 13 miles of forest roads to be decommissioned. All historic and prehistoric sites have been excluded from the Middle/Mining Reach of the Wind River and Dry Creek Rehabilitation portion of the project. Recent consultation with the Washington SHPO and Yakima Indian Nation did not indicate the need for further cultural resource surveys. Concurrence was reached through a programmatic agreement among the USDA Forest Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Washington SHPO regarding cultural resource management on National Forest in the State of Washington in 1997.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6 A, A1, A2, 7.6B, B1-B6, 7.6C, 7.6D, 7.7 & 7.7A, 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/s Tish K. Levesque
Tish K. Levesque
Environmental Project Lead - KECN

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

DATE: 6/14/00

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist for Wind River Road Decommissioning
NEPA Compliance Checklist for Middle/Mining Reach of the Wind River and Dry Creek Rehabilitation