

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: November 27, 2000

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-45)

TO: Brad Miller - KEW-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Implement Fisheries Enhancement Opportunities: Coeur d'Alene Reservation

Work Order No: 00002293

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 2.2 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 2.3 Creation of Wetlands to Provide Near-Channel Habitat and Store Water for Later Use; 2.8 Construct Wetlands Treatment Systems; 3.18 Sediment and Water Control Basins, 4.21 Impoundments for Water Source; 6.6 Water Supply: Ponds; 6.9 Water Supply: Spring Development; 10.11 Provide Alternative Sport Fishing Locations.

Location: Coeur d'Alene Reservation, Idaho.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Idaho

Description of the Proposed Action: This project is part of the Coeur d'Alene resident fish program and its primary components consist of implementing habitat restoration projects, monitoring project activities, providing education and outreach to agencies and Reservation residents, and providing compensatory harvest opportunities. The project areas involve small segments of Lake, Benewah, Evans, and Indian Creek drainages.

Mission Put and Take Pond: This project involves the excavation and construction of a (150' x 150') "put and take" pond located on allotment 632, a 157.15 acre tract on the NE ¼ of Sec. 3 T43N, R5W, approximately 5 miles out of Desmet near Mission creek. Ownership of the allotment is comprised of two allottees owning 50% of the shares and the tribe owning the other 50% of the shares. Benewah County soils survey indicated that the primary soil has a favorable rating for pond and reservoir areas. Land cover consisted of grass and open meadow with one large tree. The area has open springs and standing water near the creek. The pond would have to be excavated and water would be supplied by sub-surface flow. The creek would also have potential to add water if sub-surface flow becomes a problem.

Desmet Put and Take Pond: This project involves the excavation and construction of a (150' x 150') "put and take" pond located on allotment 337 just outside of the town of Desmet. Allotment 337 is a 160-acre tract located on the NE ¼ of Sec. 22, T44N, R5W. The site is located just off of the Saltese/Desmet Road by a series of springs. Land cover in the area is primarily conifer with low brush and grass. Some wetland plants were identified in the area. Ownership is

comprised of two individual allottees with 16.7% of the shares and the tribe that owns the other 83.3% of the shares. The pond would utilize spring run off and would be allowed to evaporate later in the season.

Agency Pond: This project also involves the excavation and construction of a (150' x 150') "put and take" pond located on allotment 1082. Land cover is coniferous trees and low brush and grasses. Some trees would have to be removed in order to construct the pond so an EA. The pond would utilize side channel waters of the East Fork Mission Creek that would then be allowed to continue to flow back into the primary creek channel.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and meets 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 bald eagle and bull trout. A Biological assessment was submitted by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). A determination of "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" was made for the bald eagle and bull trout. The USFWS concurs with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's finding on the bald eagle and bull trout. This concludes the requirement for informal consultation on threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act.

In addition, a rare plant survey was conducted for Mission and DeSmet Put and Take ponds. It was determined that no plant survey was needed for the Agency pond. Results of the survey showed no federally proposed, threatened or endangered plant species were observed on either of the project sites. This concludes the requirement for informal consultation on threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act.

A cultural resource inventory was conducted by Kathryn Arneson for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The inventory revealed four areas of cultural activity, one of which was recorded as a site. Management recommendations have been made and are listed for each drainage in the attached report. Further archaeological investigation in the form of testing and monitoring have been recommended. Cultural clearance is recommended given these provisions.

All affected shareholders for each of the allotments where the ponds would be constructed were contacted. Each landowner agreed to the proposed project.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 10.2B.2, 10.2B.4, 10.8, and 10.8B.4 of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached 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/ Eric N. Powers
Eric N. Powers
Environmental Project Lead

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 11/27/00
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
USFWS Concurrence Letter
Rare Plant Survey Report
Heritage Resources Inventory Report
Site Maps

cc: (w/attachments)
Mr. Ronald L. Peters - Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Ms. Dee Bailey - Coeur d'Alene Tribe