

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 16, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-40)

TO: Lee Watts
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Protect & Restore Wildlife Habitat Coeur d'Alene Tribe – Hangman Acquisitions (2 parcels, 475 acres)

Project No: 2001-033-00

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: Benewah County, Idaho

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the acquisition of two parcels in Benewah County, Idaho with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. These parcels encompass approximately 475 acres of riparian and potential riparian habitat along Hangman Creek on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation. The goal of this project is to protect, mitigate, and enhance wildlife affected by the construction and operation of the Federal hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River. The current proposal includes only the fee title acquisition of these parcels; habitat enhancement activities will likely be carried out by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in the future following the development of a management plan(s) for the lands.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for each of these parcels was completed by Gerald Green with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe (June 23, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that are found in the vicinity of the properties proposed for acquisition include grizzly bear, bald eagle, bull trout, gray wolf, Water Howellia and Ute Ladies'-tresses. The acquisition of these two parcels will have no effect on ESA-listed species. Prior to the implementation of any BPA funded restoration or enhancement activities on the sites, ESA Section 7 Consultation will be required.

A cultural resource investigation of the two parcels was completed by Dr. Lee Sappington. As a result of Dr. Sappington's inventory one site was recorded within the boundary of lands proposed for acquisition. It was determined that the proposed acquisitions would have no adverse effect on this property however. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with this determination on June 4, 2004. In accordance with Dr. Sappington's recommendations, the SHPO will require that archaeological testing within the identified site area or along Hangman Creek take place if ground disturbing activities are planned and will require that a management plan for cultural resources be developed for these parcels.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the two parcels proposed for acquisition was completed by Fred Walasavage, Environmental Protection Specialist for BPA. The Phase I assessments did not reveal any environmental factors that would pose a significant liability for remedial action or clean-up under the Comprehensive Environmental Recovery, Compensation, and Liability Act (June 5, 2003).

Extensive public involvement has taken place as part of the proposed land acquisitions. The acquisitions received approval from the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council and Natural Resource Committee. A public notice was published in the Coeur d'Alene Press and a letter was mailed to adjacent landowners notifying them of the proposed acquisitions. In addition, a notice was posted on the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's website and an article was published in the St. Maries Gazette Record. There were very few comments received as a result of these outreach efforts. These acquisitions were also discussed at various public meetings hosted by the Tribe including meetings in Tensed and Worley, Idaho.

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.

/s/ Shannon Stewart 7-19-04

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 7-19-04

Attachments:

(2) NEPA Compliance Checklist

ID SHPO Letter of Concurrence, June 4, 2004

(2) Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Findings, June 5, 2003

cc: (w/o attachments)

Mr. Gerald Green – Coeur d'Alene Tribe