



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, PORTLAND DISTRICT  
PO BOX 2946  
PORTLAND OR 97208-2946

**MAY 31 2007**

Planning, Programs and Project  
Management Division

Kemper McMaster, Director  
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2600 SE 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100  
Portland, Oregon 97266

Dear Mr. McMaster:

Enclosed for your action is the Supplemental Biological Assessment (BA) addressing continued operation and maintenance of the Willamette River Basin Flood Control Project. The supplement was prepared by the Corps of Engineers (Corps) cooperatively with the Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration to meet our joint requirements under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

This document supplements our original BA submitted to you in April 2000. The proposed action contained in the 2000 BA described the operation and maintenance of the Willamette Project prior to listing of the Upper Willamette River (UWR) spring Chinook salmon and winter steelhead Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) as threatened in 1999 [64 Federal Register (FR) 14308, March 24, 1999] by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The 2000 BA concluded that continued operation of the Willamette Project was "likely to adversely affect" those species, as well as several species listed and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), including bull trout and Oregon chub. The 2000 BA was submitted to the Services with a request for simultaneous consultation.

In January 2006, the Action Agencies' decided to prepare this supplement to the 2000 BA. The BA supplement revises the proposed action to: (1) more accurately reflect current operations of the Willamette Project in regard to actions we have undertaken to address ESA listed species; and (2) to identify new measures we are committed to undertaking in the future to provide additional ESA benefits. Key elements of the revised proposed action that will assist conservation of ESA-listed fish include:

- Changes to reservoir management implemented subsequent to the April 2000 BA, including mainstem and tributary minimum flow requirements;
- Completion of the selective withdrawal tower at Cougar Dam and actions underway to address fish passage and related issues at Cougar Dam under the Willamette Temperature Control Project;

- Habitat restoration actions undertaken on project lands through our natural resources stewardship responsibilities, as well as off site under our General Investigations and continuing authorities programs;

Update and reform of hatchery operations and facilities; and,

- Commitments to systematically evaluate the feasibility and potential implementation of major structural modifications to benefit ESA listed fish, including fish passage and handling, temperature control and hatchery facilities.

The Supplemental BA provides an update on the biological information for listed species, the environmental baseline condition, and analysis of the effects of the revised proposed action. The intent of the Supplemental BA is not to replace the 2000 BA, but to provide information on the changes influencing the consultation since the 2000 BA was completed; hence, it is not intended to be a stand alone document. Unless otherwise stated the elements of the revised proposed action supplement the proposed action described in the 2000 BA; the base operation for the Willamette Project to meet authorized purposes remains in place. Likewise, the analysis of effects of the revised proposed action described in the Supplemental BA focuses on changes from the analysis of effects described in the 2000 BA.

The revised proposed action herein represents the action agencies' best efforts to identify measures and actions that will protect listed species. However, we recognize that there may be opportunity for refinements to improve the action based on best available information. We look forward to collaborating further with the Services in that regard.

A copy of this letter is being sent to Bob Lohn, Regional Administrator, at NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Region, 7600 Sand Point Way, Northeast, Seattle, WA 98115-0070.

If you have any questions, please contact my Project Manager, Matthew Rea, at (503) 808-4732 or email at [matt.t.rea@usace.army.mil](mailto:matt.t.rea@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas E. O'Donovan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas E. O'Donovan  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander