



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Northwest
Region

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File Code: 2350-4

Date: August 2, 2002

Magalie R. Salas
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Condit Project, FERC No. 2342, FSEIS

Dear Ms. Salas:

This is the Forest Service response regarding effects to the Lower White Salmon Wild and Scenic River (LWS WSR) from the Condit Hydroelectric Project as required under Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The LWS WSR begins at the confluence of the White Salmon River and Buck Creek and extends up-river to Gilmer Creek near the community of BZ Corner. This response is based on information from the Final Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement Condit Hydroelectric Project, Washington (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), FERC Project No. 2342), June 2002 (FSFEIS).

My Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 7(a) determination for the FSFEIS is unchanged from that submitted for the Draft Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement, Condit Hydroelectric Project, Washington (FERC Project No. 2342-005) (DSFEIS) on March 5, 2002. Based on evaluation of the specific alternatives presented in the FSFEIS, I have concluded that they do not propose any effects to the LWS WSR in addition to those previously considered for the Condit Hydroelectric Project in the draft, final, or draft supplemental final environmental impact statements.

I also take this opportunity to correct a statement on page 25 of the FSFEIS. My determination for this project under Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act found that the alternatives of the DSFEIS would not result in unreasonable diminishment of the designated river's scenery, recreation, fish, or wildlife, as required by the statute. The FSFEIS refers only to the finding regarding fisheries.

Finally, the FSFEIS for this project, Section 5.5, identifies relationships to laws and policies, and considers the extent to which the alternatives in the FSFEIS are consistent with these laws and policies. In this Section the FSFEIS correctly references the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act and goes on to consider the consistency of FSFEIS alternatives with this Act, based on the Forest Service responses to the DSFEIS. This Section should also have referenced the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and should also consider the consistency of FSFEIS alternatives with that Act, based on the Forest Service responses to the DSFEIS.



Magalie R. Salas

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The Forest Service has also assessed the Condit Project, as further described in the FSFEIS, relative to consistency with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act and Management Plan. That determination is made as a separate finding by the Scenic Area Manager and is provided under separate cover.

Sincerely,

/s/ Linda Goodman
LINDA GOODMAN
Acting Regional Forester

cc: Jackie Diedrich, Susan Sater, Scott Springer, Walt Dortch, Columbia Gorge NSA Manager, Jocelyn Somers Portland OGC