

Memorandum

Date: February 15, 2002

To: Mary Marshall and Dave Gore, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

From: John Sterling, Jones & Stokes

cc: Jim Goodwin, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Bart Prose, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Don Wagenet, Navigant Consulting, Inc.
Steve Centerwall, Jones & Stokes
Colleen Smith, Jones & Stokes

Subject: Site Assessment of the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project Area—Assessment of Wildlife Mitigation Measures

A site assessment of the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project area was conducted on January 28 and 29, 2002. The purpose of this field visit was to evaluate the sufficiency of wildlife mitigation measures proposed in Section 4.2, *Botanical, Wetland, and Wildlife Resources*, of the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report.

The impact assessment for the Five Dam Removal Alternative in Section 4.2 identifies specific impacts and describes mitigation measures associated with each impact. In addition to those impacts defined in Section 4.2, the following impact and mitigation measure are proposed for the potential disturbance of foraging bald eagles along the north and south forks of Battle Creek.

Impact: Significant—Disturbance of Foraging Bald Eagles along Battle Creek

Helicopter flights between construction sites and stockpiling/staging areas could disturb foraging bald eagles along the north and south forks of Battle Creek. Bald eagles forage primarily on fish and occur in the project area throughout the year. The bald eagle is federally listed as threatened and state-listed as endangered; therefore, this impact is considered significant. Reclamation will implement the following mitigation measure as part of the project to reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

February 15, 2002

Page 2

Mitigation Measure—Reduce Helicopter Flight Disturbance of Foraging Bald Eagles

Avoid or reduce disturbance of bald eagles from helicopter flights between the construction sites and stockpiling/staging areas by restricting these helicopter flights to paths outside of a 0.5-mile line-of-sight buffer zone from the channels of the north and south forks of Battle Creek. To minimize the duration of disturbance at the construction sites, helicopter activity will be completed in a timely manner (i.e., the minimum amount of time needed to complete the activity).