



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

November 1, 2019

In reply refer to: EC-4

To: People Interested in the Columbia River Basin Tributary Habitat Restoration Environmental Assessment

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to implement a programmatic environmental review for tributary fish and wildlife habitat restoration actions throughout the Columbia River Basin in the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, and Utah. This letter explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule and requests your comments.

Proposal: BPA is proposing to implement a programmatic environmental review for fish and wildlife habitat restoration actions throughout the Columbia River Basin. These actions range from those such as fencing, planting, bridge construction, to instream habitat improvements and stream channel reconstruction. Together, these actions represent an overall tributary habitat restoration program funded by BPA to mitigate for effects of the development and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) on fish and wildlife.

Environmental Review: To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare this Environmental Assessment (EA) following the process of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the environmental impacts of implementing tributary fish and wildlife restoration projects across the Columbia River Basin. Currently, projects implemented are reviewed under NEPA on an individual basis. Through the development of this EA, BPA will work to understand the impacts of the tributary fish and wildlife restoration actions as a whole and plans to tier future proposals for individual projects to this EA. At this time, BPA is seeking public input to help inform and direct the analysis that will be conducted for this EA.

During this process, BPA will work with Federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, potentially affected landowners, and other interest groups. The proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Scoping comment period	November 1 through November 30, 2019
Draft EA available for public comment	February 2020
Final EA	Summer 2020
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Summer 2020
If decision to proceed, actions would start	Summer 2020

Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether or how you would like to receive the EA when it is available.

How to Comment: Please send your comments by **November 30, 2019** and reference the *Columbia River Basin Tributary Habitat Restoration EA*. All comments will be available on the project website at <http://www.bpa.gov/goto/TribProgramatic>. There are several ways to comment:

Mail: Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs – DKE-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97291-4428

Toll-free: 800-622-4519
FAX: 503-230-4019
Online: www.bpa.gov/comment

For More Information: If you have any questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-5564 or email at cjhamel@bpa.gov, or Rob Shull, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, CorSource Technology Group, at rwshull@bpa.gov, or 503-230-3962.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,



Chad J. Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:
Comment Form
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