



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

September 18, 2024

In reply refer to: ECF-4

To: People interested in the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Floodplain Reconnection Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Floodplain Reconnection Project. The EA describes the project and why it is needed, discusses the potential environmental impacts the project would create, and lists the proposed mitigation measures that would lessen potential impacts. This letter requests your comments on the EA, announces a public meeting, and outlines the next steps for the project.

How to Comment: The EA can be viewed at the project website at www.bpa.gov/nepa/kootenai-natl-wildlife-refuge. If you requested a hard copy, it is enclosed. If you would like to request a hard copy (about 80 pages), please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520. Please leave a message with the project name, your name, and complete mailing address.

Please send your comments on the EA by October 17, 2024, and reference the KNWR Floodplain Reconnection Project. We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period and provide responses to substantive comments in the final EA. In addition, comments will be available on the project website. 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 Online: www.bpa.gov/comment
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Public Meeting: A public meeting will be held on October 1, 2024. At the public meeting there will be a presentation providing the analysis documented in the EA. Project staff will be available to answer questions and accept comments about the scope of the environmental review.

October 1, 2024
5:00 pm – 7:30 pm
County Annex/Parole Building
6566 Main Street
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

Schedule: The schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Draft EA available for public comment	September 18, 2024 – October 17, 2024
Public meeting	October 1, 2024 in Bonners Ferry, ID
Final EA	Fall/Winter 2024 (expected)
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Fall/Winter 2024 (expected)
If decision to build, construction start	Summer 2025 (expected)

For More Information: If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503 230-5756, or by e-mail at esgresh@bpa.gov. You can also reach us toll free at 1 800-622-4519.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,



Ted Gresh
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:
Draft EA (if requested)
Comment Form
Return Envelope