



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

June 27, 2018

In reply refer to: EC-4

### **To: People Interested in the Bird Track Springs Fish Habitat Enhancement Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the United States Forest Service, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, (Forest Service) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Bird Track Springs Fish Habitat Enhancement Project. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and has made a decision to provide funding for this project. This letter describes BPA's decision and how to obtain additional information.

**Background:** BPA proposes to fund the Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to restore aquatic habitat on a 1.9 mile stretch of the Grande Ronde River to benefit Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed spring Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, and bull trout. Approximately 1.2 miles of the project would be implemented on National Forest System Lands, 0.1 miles on state lands, and the remaining 0.6 miles on private lands. This reach of the Grande Ronde River was disconnected from its floodplain when the Grande Ronde River Road (Highway 244) and the railroad grade were constructed.

Proposed actions include:

1. Excavation of new channel meander bends to improve aquatic and riparian habitat diversity and complexity, and increase channel-floodplain interactions.
2. Creation of secondary channels to increase the available area of juvenile salmon rearing habitat.
3. Placement of wood structures to increase habitat complexity.
4. Vegetation planting and seeding to improve streambank stability and provide protective cover for juvenile salmonids.

BPA and Forest Service prepared an EA to help determine the potential impacts the project would have on the human environment. BPA and Forest Service released the draft EA for public review and comment on 09/15/2017. Eleven comments were received from two individuals. The Forest Service prepared a final EA that responded to these comments. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA has found that the project will not cause any significant impacts and has issued a finding of no significant impact.

For more detailed information including maps and responses to comments, please visit:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=47283>

**Decision:** BPA has decided to fund the construction of the Bird Track Springs Fish Enhancement Project. Project construction is expected to occur in summer of 2018.

**Copies Available:** If you previously requested it, the final EA/FONSI is enclosed. If you did not receive a copy of the final EA/FONSI with this letter and would like one, please call our toll-free document request line: 1-800-622-4520. Leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address. It is also available on the internet at: [www.bpa.gov/goto/BirdTrackSprings](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/BirdTrackSprings).

**For More Information:** If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503.230.3493, or by e-mail at [dagambetta@bpa.gov](mailto:dagambetta@bpa.gov). You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-622-4519.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel Gambetta

Daniel Gambetta

Environmental Protection Specialist

**Enclosures (if requested):**

Final EA

FONSI