



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 27, 2019

In reply refer to: EC-4

To: People Interested in the Westslope Cutthroat Trout and Bull Trout Preservation in the Upper Camas Drainage Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for its decision to contribute funding to the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks' (MFWP) Westslope Cutthroat Trout and Bull Trout Preservation in the Upper Camas Drainage Project. This letter describes what BPA's decision is, the project schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

Background: MFWP plans to remove non-native fish species through the use of a fish toxicant and to reintroduce native fish species within a small area of the Camas Drainage, in partnership with Glacier National Park, as partial mitigation for the effects of Hungry Horse Dam on native fishes in the Flathead Basin. The project will establish a native fish population that is secure against the threats of non-native fish and climate-related habitat degradation.

BPA plans to contribute cost-share funding and adopt the National Park Service's (NPS) Westslope Cutthroat Trout and Bull Trout Preservation in the Upper Camas Drainage Project Environmental Assessment (EA), with minor modifications. The funding will help BPA meet its obligation to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the construction and operation of Hungry Horse Dam under the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (16 USC § 839b(h)(10)(A)).

NPS prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the project would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. NPS released their EA for public review and comment in March 2019 and received 21 comment letters and two phone calls. NPS issued a FONSI on the Proposed Action in June 2019. The FONSI included responses to 14 letters and both phone calls containing substantive comments or otherwise warranted a response or a text change to the EA. NPS determined that no revisions to the EA were necessary.

BPA adopted the NPS EA, which describes and analyzes proposed BPA-funded activities, and recirculated it, with minor text modifications, in August 2019.


Decision: Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA has found that funding the NPA's Proposed Action will not cause significant impacts and has issued a FONSI. BPA will provide funding for the project. Implementation is expected to begin late this summer and may continue into the following year to remove remaining fish.

Copies Available: The FONSI is available on BPA's website at www.bpa.gov/goto/UpperCamas. If you would like to obtain a paper copy, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520; leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address.

For More Information: If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-5928, or by e-mail at baguirre@bpa.gov. You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-622-4519.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Aguirre".

Brenda Aguirre
Environmental Protection Specialist