



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

February 3, 2015

In reply refer to: KEC-4

### **To: Parties interested in the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration at Bonners Ferry**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to implement restoration activities in the Kootenai River near the town of Bonners Ferry in Boundary County, Idaho. BPA has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed project that further describes the project, why it is needed, discusses the environmental impacts the project would create and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. This letter requests your comments on the draft EA, provides information about an upcoming public meeting, and outlines the next steps for the project.

The project would involve installing structures on the river banks and excavating areas in the river to create deeper pools of water, as well as developing and enhancing islands to be planted with native riparian vegetation. The project would improve Kootenai River habitat to benefit Kootenai White Sturgeon that are listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act and other native fish. This project would complement other restoration activities on the Kootenai River and would help mitigate for effects caused by Libby Dam located upstream in Montana.

### **Public Meetings**

We have scheduled an informal, open-house meeting to answer questions and accept comments on the project and the draft EA. For Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, please call toll free 800-622-4519

**Wednesday February 18, 2015**

**5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

Boundary County Extension Office  
6447 Kootenai Street  
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805

### **How to Comment**

Please send comments you have on the EA by **March 5, 2015**. All comments will be posted in their entirety on the project website. There are several ways that you can comment:

<b>Mail:</b>	Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKE-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97291-4428	<b>Toll-free:</b>	800-622-4519
		<b>FAX:</b>	503-230-4019
		<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="http://www.bpa.gov/comment">www.bpa.gov/comment</a>

**Schedule**

The proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Final EA	April 2015
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	May 2015
If decision to build, construction start	Summer 2015

**Next Steps**

We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period and provide responses to substantive comments in the final EA. If BPA decides to implement the proposed project, the final EA and a finding of no significant impact would likely be available in May 2015.

**For More Information**

The draft EA is available for your review and comment at [www.bpa.gov/goto/BonniersFerry](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/BonniersFerry), or if you requested a copy of the document, it is enclosed. A hard copy of the draft EA can also be found at the Boundary County Library, 6370 Kootenai Street in Bonners Ferry.

If you would like a hard copy (about 90 pages), please call our toll-free document request line at 800-622-4520. Please leave a message with the project name, your name and complete mailing address. If you have questions regarding the environmental review process, please contact me at 503-230-3796 or [dlrose@bpa.gov](mailto:dlrose@bpa.gov), or Ted Gresh, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, CRGT, Inc., at [egresh@bpa.gov](mailto:egresh@bpa.gov) or 503-230-5756. You can also reach us toll free at 800-622-4519.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Donald L. Rose*

Donald L. Rose  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

**Enclosures (if requested):**

Draft EA  
Comment Form  
Return Envelope