



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

February 7, 2014

In reply refer to: KEC-4

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

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to restore portions of the Kootenai River in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. This letter briefly describes the proposal, outlines the environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to a meeting where you can comment on the proposal.

**Proposal** - The Kootenai River Restoration at Bonners Ferry 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 listed Kootenai White Sturgeon and other native fish, would complement other restoration on the Kootenai River, and would help mitigate for effects caused by Libby Dam located upstream in Montana.

To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an environmental assessment (EA). The EA is being prepared to fulfill BPA's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations. The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts. During this process, BPA will work with landowners, tribes, federal, state and local agencies, and interest groups.

**Public Meeting** - We have scheduled an open-house scoping meeting to answer questions and accept comments about the scope of the EA that will be prepared:

**Wednesday, February 26, 2014**  
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Boundary County Extension Office  
6447 Kootenai Street  
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805

We do not plan to give a formal presentation, so please come at any time during the meeting. For Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, please call toll free 800-622-4519.

**How to Comment** - Please submit comments to us by **March 10, 2014** and reference the Kootenai River Restoration at Bonners Ferry. All comments we receive will be available on our project website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/BonnersFerry](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/BonnersFerry). Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether/how you would like to receive the EA. Choose the way you would like to comment:

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| <b>Mail:</b> Bonneville Power Administration<br>Public Affairs – DKE-7<br>P.O. Box 14428<br>Portland, OR 97291-4428 | <b>Toll-free:</b> 800-622-4519<br><b>FAX:</b> 503-230-4019<br><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="http://www.bpa.gov/comment">www.bpa.gov/comment</a> |
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**Process and Schedule** –BPA’s proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Draft EA available for public comment                        | Summer 2014           |
| Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted) | Fall/Winter 2014      |
| If decision to build, construction begins                    | late Summer/Fall 2015 |

**For More Information** – You may visit the project website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/BonnersFerry](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/BonnersFerry) if you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me toll-free at 800-282-3713, directly at 503-230-5756, or by e-mail at [esgresh@bpa.gov](mailto:esgresh@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Ted Gresh*

Ted Gresh  
Environmental Lead

Enclosures:  
Project Map  
Comment Form  
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