



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

February 13, 2020

In reply refer to: EC-4

To: People interested in the Birch Creek Floodplain Restoration Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to provide funding to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to restore a section of Birch Creek and associated floodplains near the town of Reith, in Umatilla County, Oregon to enhance fish and wildlife habitat. This letter explains the proposal, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and requests your comments.

Proposal: BPA proposes to provide funding for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to restore a section of Birch Creek and associated floodplains near the town of Reith, in Umatilla County, Oregon, to enhance fish and wildlife habitat. The project would occur between river miles 2.25 and 3.2. Proposed restoration activities would occur within about a 70-acre area and would include about one mile of main-channel realignment and restoration; improving secondary channel and floodplain interactions; installing habitat-forming in-stream structures made from large pieces of wood; wetland enhancement and creation; and riparian and upland vegetation plantings.

Environmental Review: To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an environmental assessment (EA). The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts. We are asking for your comments to help determine the issues that should be addressed in the EA. During this process, BPA will work with federal, state and local agencies, Tribes, potentially affected landowners, and other interest groups. The proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Scoping comment period	February 13 to March 14, 2020
Draft EA available for public comment	Spring 2020
Final EA	Summer 2020
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Summer 2020
If decision to build, construction start	Fall 2020

Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether or how you would like to receive the EA when it is available.

How to Comment: Please send your comments by **March 14, 2020** and reference the *Birch Creek Floodplain Restoration Project*. All comments will be available on the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/BirchCreek. There are several ways to comment:

Mail: Bonneville Power Administration
Communications – DKE-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97291-4428

Toll-free: 800-622-4519
Fax: 503-230-4019
Online: www.bpa.gov/comment

For More Information: If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-3928, or by e-mail at jjmaslow@bpa.gov. You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-622-4519.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,



Jeff Maslow
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form
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