



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

October 12, 2016

In reply refer to: ECF-4

To: People interested in the Kootenai River Lower Meander Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for a river restoration project proposed by the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho along the Kootenai River in Boundary County, Idaho. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to comment on the proposal.

Proposal - BPA is proposing to fund the Tribe's Lower Meander Project. The Lower Meander Project follows earlier phases of habitat improvement actions which are designed to support efforts to recover federally-listed endangered Kootenai River white sturgeon, and address the needs of other native fish stocks in the Kootenai River. This project is located upstream of the city of Bonners Ferry between River Mile 153.5 and 155 (0.5 mile to 2 miles upstream of Kootenai River Bridge) and is designed to enhance islands and side channels and to restore streambanks. The work would include pool excavation, island construction, bank grading, revegetation, and large wood structure installation along banks and in newly created channels.

Environmental Review - To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an EA under the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and may include mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts. During this process, the agencies will work with landowners, federal, state and local agencies, interest groups, and Tribes.

How to Comment

Please submit your comments by **November 14, 2016** and reference the Kootenai River Lower Meander Project. All comments will be posted in their entirety on the project website. There are several ways to comment:

Project website:

www.bpa.gov/goto/KootenaiMeander

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

Toll-free: 800-622-4519

FAX: 503-230-4019

Online: www.bpa.gov/comment

Process and Schedule – BPA's proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

- Scoping period – October 12, 2016 to November 14, 2016
- Draft EA available for public comment winter 2016-2017
- Final EA spring 2017
- Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted) early summer 2017

For More Information - If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-3018, or by e-mail at jepeterson@bpa.gov or Ted Gresh, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, CRGT, Inc., at 503-230-5756, or by e-mail at esgresh@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jenna Peterson

Jenna Peterson
Acting Supervisor
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form
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