



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

January 29, 2013

In reply refer to: KEC-4

### **To: People Interested in the Lolo Creek Permanent Weir Fish Trapping Facility**

In October of 2011 the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) started the process of assessing the potential environmental impacts of the proposed replacement of the Lolo Creek weir in Lolo Creek, near the town of Weippe, in Clearwater County, Idaho. A Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) has recently been drafted and BPA invites you to comment on the proposed project. This letter contains information about the project and describes how you can comment on the proposal.

#### Background:

BPA is proposing to fund the replacement of the existing 10-year old seasonal fish weir on Lolo Creek with a permanent weir designed to operate safely over a range of different stream flows. Due to icing in the winter and high flows in the spring, the existing seasonal weir is not effective or safe to use during the time when adult steelhead are returning to Lolo Creek to spawn. The weir is used to monitor federally-listed Snake River steelhead and for the collection of spring Chinook salmon adults to support on-going hatchery programs in the watershed. After construction of the new weir, the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) will continue to operate and maintain the facility. The BLM has granted the NPT a formal 'right-of-way,' so the Tribe can cross BLM land to access the weir. For more information on the project, go to [www.bpa.gov/go/lolocreekweir](http://www.bpa.gov/go/lolocreekweir).

#### Environmental Assessment:

BPA in cooperation with the BLM, has prepared a Preliminary Environmental Assessment that describes the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and the no action alternative. The PEA also provides an assessment of the impacts to floodplains and wetlands potentially affected by the project as well as a Wild and Scenic River Analysis, pursuant to Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This letter invites you to comment on the PEA and includes information on how to submit your comments.

#### How to get involved:

BPA is accepting comments on the PEA through **March 1, 2013**. You may submit comments online at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment) and look for this project, by fax to (503) 230-3285, or by mail to:

Bonneville Power Administration  
Public Affairs Office - DKE-7  
P.O. Box 14428  
Portland, OR, 97293-4428

You may also submit your comments calling toll free (800) 622-4519. Please reference "**Lolo Creek Permanent Weir Construction Project**". BPA will post all comments on; [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment).

For more information:

The PEA is enclosed if you requested it during the scoping period. You can request a paper or electronic copy by calling our toll-free document request line: (800) 622-4520. The PEA is also available online at [www.bpa.gov/go/lolocreekweir](http://www.bpa.gov/go/lolocreekweir).

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Dan Gambetta*

Dan Gambetta  
Environmental Project Manager

Enclosures:  
Preliminary EA  
Comment Form  
Return Envelope