



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

May 27, 2015

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: People Interested in the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration at Bonners Ferry

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration at Bonners Ferry Project. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and has made a decision to provide funding for the project. This letter describes BPA's decision and how to obtain additional information.

Background: BPA proposes to fund the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (Tribe) to restore portions of the Kootenai River in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. The Kootenai River Habitat 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.

BPA prepared an EA to help determine the potential impacts the project would have on the natural and human environment. BPA released the draft EA for public review and comment in February 2015 and received comments from 3 entities. BPA prepared a final EA that provides responses to comments received. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA has found that the project will not cause any significant impacts, and has issued a finding of no significant impact.

Project construction is expected to occur in Summer/Fall of 2015 and 2016.

Copies Available: If you previously requested it, the final EA/FONSI is enclosed. If you did not receive a copy of the final EA/FONSI with this letter and would like one, please call our toll-free document request line: 1-800-622-4520. Leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address. It is also available on the internet at www.bpa.gov/goto/BonnersFerry.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald L. Rose

Donald L. Rose
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures (if requested):

Final EA
FONSI and Mitigation Action Plan