



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

March 23, 2017

In reply refer to: ECF-4

To: People interested in the Kootenai River Lower Meander Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for a river restoration project proposed by the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho along the Kootenai River in Boundary County, Idaho. The EA describes the proposed restoration project, discusses the environmental effects of the proposed actions, and lists mitigation measures that help lessen those impacts.

Proposed Actions: 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.

How to Comment: Please submit your comments by **April 24, 2017** 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:

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

The draft EA can be viewed at the project website: www.bpa.gov/goto/KootenaiMeander. If you would like to request a hard copy (about 70 pages), please call our toll-free line listed above.

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

Draft EA available for public comment	March 2017
Final EA	Spring 2017
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Summer 2017

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

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ David K. Kennedy

David Kennedy
Executive Manager

Enclosures:
Draft EA (if requested)
Comment Form
Return Envelope

becc: (w/o enclosures)
Communications – DKE-7
J. Tyler – DKE-7
J. Williams – DIR-BOISE
D. Marker – DIR-7
J. Warner – DIR-7
S. Biegel – ECP-4
R. Shull – ECF-4
T. Gresh – ECF-4
V. Watts – EWM-4
R. Guiao – LN-7
C. McClory – ECT-4

Official File – ECF (EQ-13)

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