



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

September 29, 2011

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: People Interested in the Lolo Creek Permanent Weir Construction Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Lolo Creek Permanent Weir Construction Project. We will follow procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act. On the basis of the analysis in the Final EA, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact and may proceed with the project, or will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement if the EA reveals potential for significant environmental impacts.

Background: A weir is a fence or other structure placed across the creek to block passage for the purpose of catching and retaining fish. The project site is located on federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on Lolo Creek, near the town of Weippe, Clearwater County, Idaho (see enclosed map).

Lolo Creek has been preliminarily determined to be suitable for Congressional designation into the Wild and Scenic River system, and is considered one of the best whitewater kayaking runs in Idaho. As such, the proposed permanent weir would be designed to maintain the free-flowing nature of Lolo Creek, and the site would be developed to accommodate safe use of the site by kayakers.

Proposal: BPA is proposing to fund the replacement of an existing 10 year old seasonal fish weir with a permanent weir designed to operate safely over a range of flows. The weir will be used to monitor federally-listed Snake River steelhead and for the collection of spring Chinook salmon adults to support on-going supplementation programs in the watershed. Due to icing in the winter and high flows in the spring, the existing seasonal weir cannot be safely deployed during the typical adult steelhead migration period. After construction, the Nez Perce Tribe would operate and maintain the weir.

How to be Involved: You will be invited to comment on the Preliminary EA when it is ready. If you would like to receive a copy, please check that box on the enclosed card and **return the card by November 1, 2011**. If you would like your name taken off the project mail list, please check that box. If the card is not returned, you will be notified when the Preliminary EA is available for review.

For More Information: If you need more information or have any questions or comments at this time, please write me at the address above, call me toll free at 1-800-622-4519, or e-mail me at dagambetta@bpa.gov. Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel A. Gambetta

Daniel A. Gambetta
Environmental Project Manager

Enclosures:

Map

Reply Card

Comment Form