



## Department of Energy

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

September 15, 2009

In reply refer to: A-7

### To: Interested Stakeholders

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Estuary Habitat Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the State of Washington. This letter announces the availability of the ROD and provides information on how to obtain copies of the ROD.

**Decision:** BPA has decided to enter into the MOA with the State of Washington and two Federal agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) in order to provide long-term funding certainty for estuary habitat projects in the Columbia River to help strengthen populations of steelhead and salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act. The MOA is consistent with and will work in concert with the 2008 Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service for the Federal Columbia River Power System for listed salmon and steelhead. The MOA also supports BPA's implementation of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

As part of its consideration of whether to enter into this MOA, BPA has evaluated this action under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based on this evaluation BPA has decided to tier a NEPA ROD for the MOA to BPA's Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan Environmental Impact Statement (FWIP EIS) (DOE/EIS-0312, April 2003) and ROD (October 31, 2003) (FWIP ROD).

The FWIP ROD adopted a policy direction for BPA's fish and wildlife mitigation and recovery efforts. BPA has reviewed the MOA and determined that the decision to enter into the agreement and to fund the associated activities is consistent with that policy and would not result in significantly different environmental effects from those examined in the FWIP EIS. As defined in the Estuary Habitat MOA ROD, BPA will conduct additional environmental review prior to the implementation of any BPA-funded activity as appropriate.

**Copies:** For a copy of the Estuary Habitat MOA ROD, you may call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520. Please leave a message specifying the *Estuary Habitat MOA with the State of Washington ROD*, and provide your name and complete mailing address. The ROD is also available at <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/rods/>.

**For More Information:** If you have questions pertaining to the Estuary Habitat MOA, please call Bill Maslen at 503-230-5549 or toll-free at 1-800-282-3713 or e-mail him [wcmaslen@bpa.gov](mailto:wcmaslen@bpa.gov). If you have questions pertaining to the NEPA analysis in the ROD, please contact Sandra Ackley at 503-230-3824 or toll-free at 1-800-282-3713 or e-mail her at [sjackley@bpa.gov](mailto:sjackley@bpa.gov).

Sincerely,

*/s/Stephen J. Wright*

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Stephen J. Wright

Administrator and Chief Executive Officer