



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

July 15, 2022

In reply refer to: ECF-4

To: People interested in the Columbian White-Tailed Deer Land Acquisitions and Translocations Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), and Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) are proposing to implement an ongoing program of land acquisitions, habitat improvements, and translocations of Columbian white-tailed deer (CWTD) on multiple properties along the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington below Bonneville Dam. This letter explains what is being proposed, outlines the anticipated environmental review process and schedule, and requests your comments.

Proposal: BPA is proposing to fund the Service's efforts to supplement or replace the existing secure and viable subpopulation of CWTD at Tenasillahe Island, which is at risk of habitat loss by potential dike failures and sea-level rise. This would require translocating CWTD from Tenasillahe Island to locations in the Columbia River estuary suitable for the establishment of additional secure and viable subpopulations. To accomplish this, land acquisitions (through purchase or conservation easement), land management (to ensure long-term potential for CWTD recovery), and habitat improvements on acquired lands for the long-term recovery of CWTD are proposed.

Environmental Review: To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA, in cooperation with the Corps and the Service, may prepare an environmental assessment (EA) to programmatically evaluate the environmental impacts of future land acquisitions, habitat improvements, and CWTD translocations. Currently, these actions are reviewed under NEPA on an individual basis. If BPA determines that an EA should be prepared, the EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts. BPA is asking for your comments to help determine the issues that should be addressed in the environmental review. During this process, BPA will work with Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Tribes; and interest groups. The proposed schedule for the environmental review process is as follows:

Scoping comment period	July 15, 2022 thru August 15, 2022
Draft EA available for public comment (if warranted)	Fall 2022
Final EA (if warranted)	Winter 2022-2023
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Winter 2022-2023
If decision to act, actions would start	Winter 2022-2023

How to Comment: Please send your comments by August 15, 2022, and reference the *CWTD Land Acquisitions and Translocations Project*. All comments will be available on the project website at www.bpa.gov/nepa/CWTD-Programmatic. 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: <https://publiccomments.bpa.gov/OpenCommentListing.aspx>

For More Information: If you have any questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-5564 or email at cjhamel@bpa.gov, or Rob Shull, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, CorSource Technology Group, at rwshull@bpa.gov, or 503-230-3962.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad J. Hamel

Chad J. Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:
Comment Form
Return Envelope