



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

December 28, 2015

In reply refer to: KEC-4

### **To: Parties Interested in the Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Project**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will be preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the effects of the proposed Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Project. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, invites you to a public meeting, and requests your comments on the proposal.

**Proposal** - BPA is proposing to fund the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership's proposal to restore floodplain connectivity to the Columbia River within the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) in Clark County, WA (see enclosed map). The Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project would help improve water quality and habitat to benefit steelhead and cutthroat trout, Chinook, coho, and chum salmon, and Pacific and western brook lamprey. The project would involve reconnecting Gibbons Creek to the Columbia River by breaching a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' levee; removing a diversion structure, fish ladder, elevated channel, and water control structure; replacing a state highway bridge; constructing a setback levee; enhancing approximately two miles of wetland channels; and re-establishing the site's riparian forest.

The proposal has been recommended for funding by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and would help BPA meet commitments under the Northwest Power Act to mitigate for impacts of federal dams on the Columbia River and its tributaries and meet obligations under the Endangered Species Act.

**Environmental Review** - BPA will prepare an EA under the National Environmental Policy Act to analyze the potential impacts of the project and identify ways to reduce those impacts. The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize these potential impacts. We are asking for your comments to help determine the issues that should be addressed in the EA. During this process, BPA will work with federal, state and local agencies, tribes, landowners, and interest groups. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be participating as cooperating agencies on the EA. The proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Scoping comment period	December 28, 2015- January 27, 2016
Draft EA available for public comment	August 2016
Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	January 2017
If decision to build, construction start	April 2018

**Public Meetings** - We have scheduled one informal, open-house scoping meeting to answer questions and accept comments about the scope of the EA.

**January 14, 2016**  
**6:00 – 8:00 pm**  
**Port of Camas-Washougal**  
**24 South 'A' Street**  
**Washougal, WA 98671**

**How to comment** - Please send comments by **January 27, 2016** and reference the *Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Project*. Comments will be posted in their entirety on the project website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/SteigerwaldFloodplain](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/SteigerwaldFloodplain). Choose the way you would like to comment:

<b>Mail:</b>	Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKE-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97291-4428	<b>Toll-free:</b>	800-622-4519
		<b>FAX:</b>	503-230-4019
		<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://www.bpa.gov/comment">www.bpa.gov/comment</a>

**For More Information** - If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-4764, or by e-mail at [jdgoodman@bpa.gov](mailto:jdgoodman@bpa.gov). You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-282-3713.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Dave Goodman*

Dave Goodman  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:  
Project Map  
Comment Form  
Return Envelope  
Reply Card