



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

December 11, 2024

In reply refer to: ECF-4

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

**Proposed Action:** East Bank Netul Landing Restoration Project

**Environmental Project Manager:** Shawn Skinner, ECF-4 (503-230-3727, srskinner@bpa.gov)

**Location:** Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the National Parks Service (NPS)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to provide funding to the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) to implement the East Bank Netul Restoration Project, which is a continuation of a series of floodplain reconnection projects along the upper Lewis & Clark River in Clatsop County, Oregon. The proposed project is part of a cumulative effort to restore a mosaic of quality tidal marshplain habitat for juvenile salmonids on and adjacent to National Park Service property (Otter Point, Colewort Creek, and Netul Landing). The East Bank Netul Landing project area is composed of forested and emergent wetlands and is in a portion of large tidal floodplain that was leveed and used for dredge material placement in the late 19th through the mid-20th century.

This project would restore connectivity to 30 acres of tidal marshplain and enhance tidal wetland habitat critical to the recovery of threatened and endangered Columbia River and tributary salmonids. Restored hydrology and native vegetation would increase wetland plant diversity, improve edge habitat complexity along channel margins, and provide a variety of prey resources and foraging opportunities for salmonids. Key project components include:

- Opening 1,000 feet of historical tidal slough.
- Excavating a network of over 1,800 linear feet of new tidal channels.
- Creating a new flow-through side channel connecting at both ends to the Lewis and Clark River.
- Building a setback levee to protect adjacent properties, allowing for the reconnection of the 30-acre floodplain.

- Breaching the existing levee in multiple locations.
- Strategically lowering marshplain elevations to increase native emergent vegetation.
- Targeting invasive vegetation and installing thousands of native plantings.

**Class of Action to be Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** C8 Protection of Cultural Resources and Fish and Wildlife Habitat

We have determined that the proposed action is within the class of actions normally requiring an environmental assessment (EA), but not necessarily requiring an environmental impact statement (EIS) as listed in Subpart D of 10 C.F.R. Part 1021. Therefore, we have determined that an EA will be prepared to assess the impacts of the proposed action. On the basis of the analysis in the EA, BPA will prepare a finding of no significant impact and proceed with the action, or will prepare an EIS if the EA reveals the potential for significant environmental impacts.

Katey Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date