Supplement Analysis
for the
Federal Support for the Phase 2 Implementation Plan:
Testing Feasibility of Salmon Reintroduction in the Upper Columbia River Basin
Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment
(DOE/EA-2250/SA-1a)

P2IP 2026 Activities

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy

Introduction

In May 2025, Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville), the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Action Agencies) completed the Federal Support for the Phase 2 Implementation Plan: Testing Feasibility of Salmon Reintroduction in the Upper Columbia River Basin Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) (DOE/EA-2250). The PEA analyzed activities that test the feasibility of reintroducing non-Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmon in the Upper Columbia River Basin over the next 20 years. In May 2025, Bonneville issued a Finding of No Significant Impact based on the analysis in the PEA.

In December 2025 Bonneville completed a supplement analysis (SA) to the Phase 2 Implementation Plan (P2IP) activities proposed by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and the Spokane Tribe of Indians (P2IP Proponents) to be implemented with Bonneville funding during 2026 in accordance with the terms of the existing Funding Instrument between Bonneville and the P2IP Proponents (SA-01).

This SA (SA-01a) specifically analyzes the placement of one additional anchored submersible receiver in the Wells Dam reservoir that was not addressed in SA-01. The SA evaluates whether this additional anchored submersible receiver in the Wells Dam reservoir presents substantial new circumstances or information about the significance of the adverse effects that bear on the analysis and that were not addressed by the PEA. The findings of this SA determine whether additional analysis is needed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, and DOE's current Implementing Procedures.

Proposed Activities

One anchored submersible receiver would be installed in the Wells Dam Reservoir (NUID 436). Anchored submersible receivers are self-contained and battery powered. They are deployed using concrete anchors connected to a chain and stainless-steel cable to prevent movement of the anchor across the riverbed. The cable is connected at the surface to a large, lighted metal buoy (can buoy) with sufficient buoyancy to suspend the cable weight. Telemetry receivers are suspended from the buoy on a second cable below it in the water column. The proposed receiver installation is consistent with the activities considered in the PEA and SA-01.

Environmental Effects

The receiver installation is within the scope of the environmental effects analysis considered in the PEA and SA-01. The installation of one anchored submersible receiver in the Wells Reservoir would require a minor number of vehicles and boats to temporarily access the project area. This would result in increased air pollution emissions from gasoline-fueled, on-road vehicles and motorboats used for transportation of staff and equipment. Air quality impacts would be temporary and localized in nature, with no long-term or short-term violations of state air quality standards expected to occur.

The installation of one anchored submersible receiver in the Wells Reservoir would also result in short-term, minor turbidity associated with anchor installations. Because the installation would be completed in the manner described in the PEA, turbidity effects would be expected to be within the range of sediment generated as analyzed in Section 3.5 of the PEA ("Water Quality") and the P2IP's ESA Section 7 consultation biological opinions. Additionally, the installation of one anchored submersible receiver in the Wells Dam Reservoir would result in overall minor water quality impacts caused by increased sediment during installation.

No other resources would be impacted from the installation of the receiver.

Findings

This SA finds that the installation of the additional anchored submersible receiver in the Wells Dam Reservoir is similar to those analyzed in the Federal Support for the Phase 2 Implementation Plan Testing Feasibility of Salmon Reintroduction in the Upper Columbia River Basin Programmatic Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-2250, April 2025). There are no substantial changes in the proposed action and no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns bearing on the proposed action or its impacts within the meaning of NEPA and the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures. Therefore, no further NEPA analysis or documentation is required.

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