

WELCOME

Uma-Birch Floodplain Reconnection Project

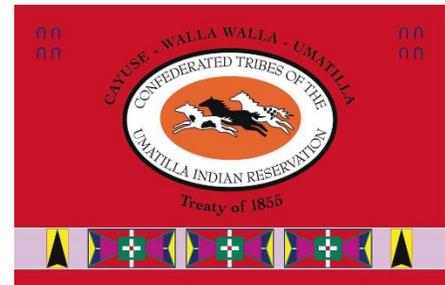
Open House Meeting

Pendleton Convention Center

October 4, 2022

5 – 7 p.m.

Bonneville
POWER ADMINISTRATION



Purpose and Need

BPA needs to respond to requests for funding from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) to improve habitat in the Umatilla River and Birch Creek to benefit Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed Middle Columbia River Steelhead (Threatened) and other fish species.

In meeting this need for action, BPA seeks to achieve the following purposes:

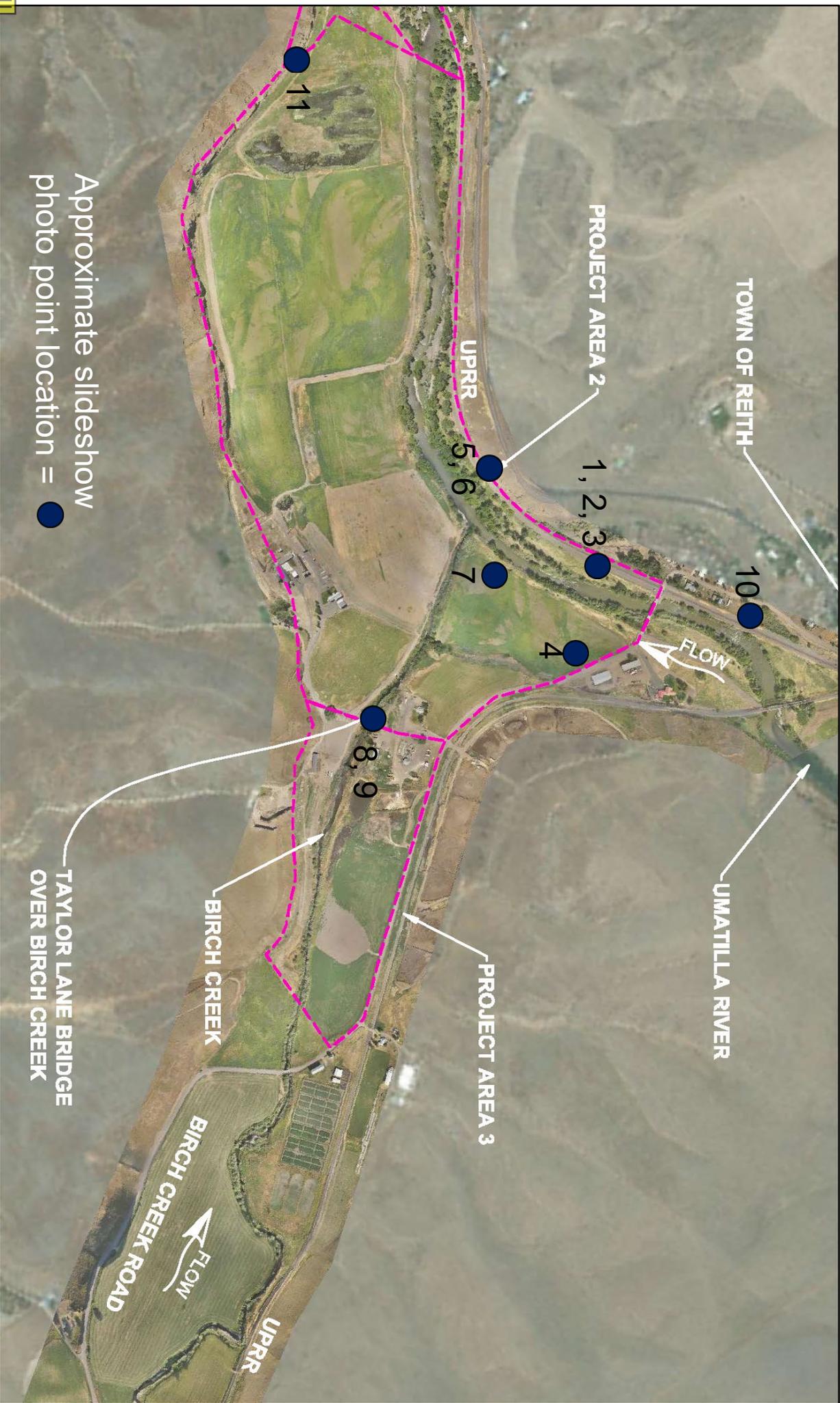
- support efforts to mitigate the effects on fish and wildlife from the Federal Columbia River Power System;
- support conservation of ESA-listed species;
- fulfill BPA's commitments to the CTUIR under the Columbia River Accords;
- minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Project Description

Proposed restoration activities:

- Partial Pendleton 2-A levee modification to reactivate the floodplain at various flows within the project area
- Main-channel realignment and restoration in both the Umatilla River and Birch Creek to improve channel process and function
- Side-channel and floodplain restoration
- Woody-structure installation to enhance in-stream structural complexity and fish habitat
- Wetland and pond creation to restore habitat and food sources for fish and wildlife species
- Riparian and upland vegetation plantings to restore native plant communities and CTUIR First Foods

Project Map



Approximate slideshow photo point location = ●

TAYLOR LANE BRIDGE OVER BIRCH CREEK



Project Area



Looking east from west end of the Uma-Birch Project



Umatilla River and old levy, looking east



Birch Creek view south from Taylor Lane Bridge



Project Area



Looking east from west end of the Uma-Birch Project



Umatilla River and old levy, looking east



Birch Creek view south from Taylor Lane Bridge

Environmental Review

What is an EA?

- BPA anticipates preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental and social impacts for this project to determine whether they are significant.
- Preparing an EA supports BPA's decision making on whether to proceed with a proposed action.
- BPA plans to conduct this level of environmental review to ensure that it fulfills National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and also to assure its compliance with other federal environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act.

What are your thoughts?

During the public-involvement process, BPA wants your feedback:

- What issues should we evaluate?
- What potential environmental impacts should we analyze?
- What alternatives should we consider?

Your comments will help BPA make better decisions on projects that could affect your community and the environment.

Environmental Review Schedule

Public comment period ends	October 19, 2022
Consider public comments	Fall 2022
Release Draft EA* for comment	Winter 2022
Address comments in the Draft EA*	Spring 2023
Release Final EA* and issue decision	Spring 2023
If decision to implement, construction would start	Summer/Fall 2023

*proposed environmental review schedule if BPA prepares an EA.

How to Comment

Call: 800-622-4519

Email: communications@bpa.gov

Write: Bonneville Power Administration
Communications- DKS-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97293-4428

Online: www.bpa.gov/comment

Please reference “*Uma-Birch*” with all communications.

Scoping Comment Period Ends: October 19, 2022

Project contacts:

Tim Ludington, BPA Project Manager, tludington@bpa.gov, 503-308-0551

Jude Love, CTUIR Project Manager, judelove@ctuir.org, 541-429-7283

Israel Duran, BPA Environmental Specialist, induran@bpa.gov, 503-230-3967

Jeff Maslow, BPA Environmental Specialist, jjmaslow@bpa.gov, 503-230-3928