



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 09, 2019

In reply refer to: EC-4

To: People Interested in the Columbian White-tailed Deer Translocation Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Columbian White-tailed Deer Translocation Project. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and has made a decision to proceed with the project. This letter describes BPA's decision, the implementation schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

Background: BPA will fund the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to translocate up to 50 Columbian white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus leucurus*) from Tenasillahee Island in the Columbia River to the Columbia Stock Ranch in Columbia County, Oregon. The project will implement recovery actions described in the Revised Columbian White-Tailed Deer Recovery Plan and meet management objectives for the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge as described in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

BPA prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the project would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. BPA released the draft EA for public review and comment on October 23, 2018, and received four comment letters. A public meeting was held on March 21, 2019, to meet with the public to discuss the comments received. No new information relevant to the decision being made was received at that meeting.

The final EA provides responses to the comments received on the draft EA and minor revisions to the EA were made accordingly. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA found that the project will not cause any significant impacts and therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Decision: BPA has decided to implement the Columbian White-tailed Deer Translocation Project. Translocations would occur from December 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020, and from December 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021.

Copies Available: The final EA, FONSI, and mitigation action plan are available on BPA's website at www.bpa.gov/goto/CWTDtranslocation. If you previously requested a copy of the documents, they are enclosed. If you would like to obtain paper copies of these documents, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520; leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address.

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, at rwhull@bpa.gov, or 503-230-3962.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,



Chad J. Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures (if requested):

Final EA
FONSI and Mitigation Action Plan