



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

July 7, 2021

In reply refer to: EC-4

To: People Interested in the 2021 Lemhi Valley River and Floodplain Restoration Projects

On June 20, 2020, the Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) notified the public of its finalized environmental assessment (EA) for the Lemhi Valley River and Floodplain Restoration Projects, which included seven mainstem and tributary river/stream restoration actions; three irrigation diversion modifications; and one culvert replacement on Idaho State Highway 28. Based on the final EA, Bonneville then issued a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and made a decision to proceed with eight of the eleven projects analyzed in that EA. Based on that same EA, Bonneville is now issuing a decision to proceed with two additional projects analyzed in that EA. This letter describes Bonneville's decision, the construction schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

Background: Bonneville will provide funding for two tributary river/stream restoration actions, the Canyon Creek Confluence Project and the Middle Eighteenmile Project.

Bonneville prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the projects would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. Bonneville released the draft EA for public review and comment in May, 2020 and received comments from three entities. The final EA provides responses to those comments and minor revisions to the EA. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, Bonneville has found that the two projects will not cause any significant impacts and, therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Decision: Bonneville has decided to fund two 2021 Lemhi Valley River and Floodplain Restoration Projects: Canyon Creek Confluence and Middle Eighteenmile. Project construction is expected to begin in summer 2021 and continue through 2022, with breaks in construction to accommodate seasonal restrictions.

Copies Available: The final EA, FONSI, and mitigation action plan are available on Bonneville's website at www.Bonneville.gov/goto/LemhiRestoration. 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 questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-5564, or by e-mail at cjhamel@Bonneville.gov, or Rob Shull, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, CorSource Technology Group, at 503-230-3962, or by e-mail at rwshull@Bonneville.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad J. Hamel

Chad J. Hamel

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures (if requested):

Final EA

FONSI

Mitigation Action Plan