



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

April 15, 2020

In reply refer to: EC-4

### **To: People Interested in the Longley Meadows Fish Habitat Enhancement Project.**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the United States Forest Service, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, (Forest Service) have finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Longley Meadows Fish Habitat Enhancement Project. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and has made a decision to provide funding for this project. This letter describes BPA's decision and how to obtain additional information.

Background: BPA proposes to fund the Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to restore aquatic habitat on a 1.4-mile stretch of the Grande Ronde River to benefit Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed spring Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, and bull trout. Approximately 1.0 mile of the project would be implemented on National Forest System Lands and the remaining 0.4 miles on private lands. This reach of the Grande Ronde River was disconnected from its floodplain when the Grande Ronde River Road (Highway 244) and the railroad grade were constructed.

Proposed actions include:

1. Excavation of new channel meander bends to improve aquatic and riparian habitat diversity and complexity, and increase channel-floodplain interactions.
2. Creation of secondary channels to increase the available area of juvenile salmon rearing habitat.
3. Placement of wood structures to increase habitat complexity.
4. Vegetation planting and seeding to improve streambank stability and provide protective cover for juvenile salmonids.

BPA and Forest Service prepared an EA to help determine the potential impacts the project would have on the human environment. BPA and Forest Service released the draft EA for public review and comment in August 2019. Four comments were received from two individuals. All comments were addressed. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA has found that the project would not cause any significant impacts and has issued a finding of no significant impact.

The draft EA can be viewed at the project website: [www.bpa.gov/goto/LongleyMeadows](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/LongleyMeadows).

Decision: BPA has decided to fund the construction of the Longley Meadows Fish Enhancement Project. Project construction is expected to occur in summer of 2020.

For More Information: If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503.230.3493, or by e-mail at [dagambetta@bpa.gov](mailto:dagambetta@bpa.gov). You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-622-4519.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Dan Gambetta  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Bonneville Power Administration



Bill Gamble  
La Grande District Ranger  
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest