



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
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Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

November 9, 2016

In reply refer to: ECF-4

### **To: Parties interested in the Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project**

In July 2015, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) completed an Environmental Assessment and made a decision to fund the Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project. The project will restore 193 acres of tidal wetlands at the confluence of the Wallooskee and Youngs rivers five miles southeast of the Columbia River near Astoria, Oregon. This letter provides an update on the construction schedule and describes revisions to the highway protection wall along Oregon Route (OR) 202.

Project construction began in August 2015, at which time the new tidal channel network was excavated, ditches on the property were filled, and BPA's transmission towers and access road were reinforced. Next steps include constructing the highway protection wall along OR 202 and modifying and breaching the levee. The highway protection wall is expected to be constructed in the next few months followed by levee breaching in early 2017, if weather permits, or in June 2017 to adhere to agreed-upon in-water work windows.

In coordination with the Oregon Department of Transportation, the design of the highway protection wall was revised from the originally proposed steel sheet pile wall to one using concrete. Use of concrete will help eliminate the need to relocate the overhead utilities along OR 202 and will maintain current levels of wind-wave, flood, and erosion protection of the highway. BPA recently completed a Supplement Analysis to analyze the revision to the highway protection wall, concluding that the impacts of the concrete wall are similar to, and within the range of impacts described in, the Environmental Assessment completed for the project.

If you have questions regarding the project, please contact me at 503-230-4764 or [jdgoodman@bpa.gov](mailto:jdgoodman@bpa.gov). You can also reach me toll free at 800-622-4519. The Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Supplement Analysis prepared for the project are available at the project web site: [www.bpa.gov/goto/WallooskeeYoungs](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/WallooskeeYoungs).

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Dave Goodman*

Dave Goodman  
Environmental Protection Specialist