



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

December 24, 2013

In reply refer to: KEC-4

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

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the restoration of a tidal marsh area in Clatsop County, Oregon. This letter briefly describes the proposal, outlines the environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to a meeting where you can learn about and comment on the proposal.

Proposal – The Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project is proposed on a 221 acre property at the confluence of the Wallooskee River and Youngs River five miles from the Columbia River near Astoria, Oregon. The proposed project would involve modifying a levee to inundate historic tidal wetlands, create a network of tidal channels within the project site, and restore native vegetation. An existing BPA transmission line and access road on the property would be modified to withstand the new tidal regime. Structures on the property—a house, barn, and out buildings—would be removed to return the upland area to its natural condition.

The project would enhance estuary rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and steelhead, as well as provide habitat for wildlife such as deer, elk, and river otter. The project would also help BPA meet its obligations under the Endangered Species Act.

Astoria Wetlands, LLC, an environmental resources company, currently owns the property and would conduct the restoration work. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe would assist in project implementation and would provide long-term stewardship to ensure permanent protection of the property.

To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an environmental assessment (EA). The EA is being prepared to fulfill BPA's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act. The Army Corps of Engineers will be a cooperating agency in the development of the EA due to their role as a permitting agency for the levee modification and wetland work.

Public Meeting - We have scheduled an open-house scoping meeting to answer questions and accept comments about the scope of the EA that will be prepared:

Tuesday, January 14, 2014
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Oregon Department of Forestry
Downstairs in the Nehalem Room
92219 Highway 202
Astoria, OR

We do not plan to give a formal presentation, so please come at any time during the meeting.

How to Comment - Please submit your comments by **January 27, 2014** and reference the Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration. All comments we receive will be available on our project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/WallooskeeYoungs. Choose the way you would like to comment:

Mail: Bonneville Power Administration	FAX:	503-230-4019
Public Affairs – DKE	On-Line:	www.bpa.gov/comment
P.O. Box 14428	Toll-free:	800-622-4519
Portland, OR 97291-4428		

Process and Schedule – BPA’s proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Draft EA available for public comment	Spring 2014
Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Summer 2014
If decision is to restore, construction begins	late Summer/Fall 2014

Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether/how you would like to receive the EA.

For More Information - If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me toll-free at 800-282-3713, directly at 503-230-4506, or by e-mail at jcwilson@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jesse Wilson

Jesse Wilson
Environmental Lead

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form
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