

Department of Energy

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

April 6, 2001

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: People Interested in the Proposed Project to Conduct Research on Avian Predation on Juvenile Salmonids in the Lower Columbia River

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has completed the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Avian Predation on Juvenile Salmonids in the Lower Columbia River Research Project. Based on that assessment, BPA made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which is included in the Final EA. Comments were invited on the Preliminary EA in March 2001, and the EA was modified following a review of all comments received. A copy is enclosed.

Proposal: Piscivorous (fish eating) waterbirds are having a significant impact on the survival of juvenile salmonids in the lower Columbia River (confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers to the mouth of the Columbia River). BPA proposes to implement a research project to measure the predation, and monitor and evaluate Federal actions to reduce it. Data would be collected on diet composition, foraging distribution and range, habitat, productivity, colony size, and adult survivorship of caspian terns, glaucous-winged/western gulls, and double-crested cormorants. This project would also evaluate the effectiveness of Federal actions to relocate some of the waterbirds to where it is hoped they would consume fewer salmon. The research data would be available for development of management plans.

Additional Copies: If you would like more copies of the enclosed EA/FONSI, please call our toll-free document request line: 1-800-622-4520. Leave a message naming this project and giving your complete mailing address. You can also view it on the Internet at www.efw.bpa.gov.

For More Information: If you need more information or have any questions, please call me at toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, or e-mail me at nhweintraub@bpa.gov.

/s/Nancy H. Weintraub

Nancy H. Weintraub
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Enclosure:
EA/FONSI