



Department of Energy

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

June 30, 2011

In reply refer to: A-7

To: Interested Parties

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (collectively, the Action Agencies) are proposing to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians (Tribe) in Washington State. The proposed MOA is a direct outcome of the enhanced communication and cooperation among the Action Agencies and the Tribe to pursue mutual goals of protecting and recovering fish and wildlife affected by the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) and the Upper Snake Projects.

The proposed Kalispel MOA involves a ten year funding commitment by BPA. As a result, BPA is providing a 30-day period for the public to review and comment on the proposed MOA. Prior to signing the MOA, BPA would assess the comments received, and prepare a Record of Decision (ROD) for the BPA Administrator's signature. Details about commenting are provided below.

Through the proposed MOA, the Action Agencies commit to implement activities that support the protection and recovery of fish and wildlife affected by the FCRPS and the Upper Snake Projects and reinforces the Tribe's role as a mitigation partner. The proposed MOA provides for long-term funding certainty for fish and wildlife projects; supports implementation of the FCRPS Biological Opinion for salmon and steelhead issued by NOAA Fisheries Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion for bull trout; and supports BPA's trust responsibility to the Tribe. The proposed MOA commits approximately \$39.8 million through September 2021 (with the possibility of adjustments should new operational impacts to fish or wildlife be identified). If BPA enters into the MOA, funding from BPA ratepayer monies would continue and expand existing fish and wildlife projects and implement new priority projects. The proposed MOA and a fact sheet may be viewed at <http://www.salmonrecovery.gov/>.

In 2003, BPA prepared a policy level National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document - the Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan (FWIP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The FWIP EIS examined the possible environmental consequences of alternative policies to guide the implementation and funding of BPA's fish and wildlife mitigation and recovery efforts. In the FWIP Record of Decision (ROD), BPA adopted a comprehensive and consistent policy that reflects regional fish and wildlife policy guidance. The FWIP ROD also provided for tiering future fish and wildlife decisions that are consistent with the adopted policy.

Comment: Consistent with BPA's commitment to a public process before obligating substantial funds or making a tiered decision under the FWIP EIS and ROD, BPA is now seeking public comment on the proposal to enter into the MOA with the Kalispel Tribe as negotiated and is also requesting public comment on any potentially associated environmental effects. This 30-day public comment period closes at midnight on August 1, 2011. All public comments will be considered by BPA in the Kalispel MOA Record of Decision (ROD).

Comments may be submitted to BPA:

- 1) online at <http://www.bpa.gov/comment>;
- 2) via mail to Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office – DKE-7,
P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR 97293-4428;
- 3) via fax to (503) 230-4019.

If you want to receive a hard copy of the MOA ROD when available, your comment must include your complete mailing address: name, address, city, state, and zip code. All comments will be posted as received with only the author's name and affiliation on BPA's Web site at <http://www.bpa.gov/applications/publiccomments/OpenCommentListing.aspx>.

Copies: If you would like a hard copy of the proposed MOA (50 pages including attachments) or fact sheet (two pages), you may call BPA's toll-free document request line at (800) 622-4520 and leave a message with the name of the project (Kalispel MOA), your complete mailing address and phone number.

For More Information: If you have questions pertaining to the Kalispel MOA, please call Bill Maslen at (503) 230-5549 or toll free at (800) 282-3713 or email him at wcmaslen@bpa.gov. If you have questions pertaining to the NEPA analysis, please contact Mickey Carter at (503) 230-5885 or toll free at (800) 282-3713 or email him at macarter@bpa.gov.

We look forward to your comments on the proposed Kalispel MOA.

Sincerely,

/s/Stephen J. Wright

Stephen J. Wright

Administrator and Chief Executive Officer