



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

March 2, 2016

In reply refer to: ECF-4

To: People interested in the Kerry Island Estuary Restoration

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund habitat restoration on Kerry Island in Columbia County, Oregon. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines BPA's process and schedule, requests your comments, and identifies the individuals to contact with any questions.

Proposal: Under the proposal, BPA would fund Columbia Land Trust to conduct restoration actions on Kerry Island located along Westport Slough approximately one mile east of Westport, Oregon. Kerry Island historically had tidally-influenced freshwater wetlands and tidal channels. Over 50 years ago, a levee was constructed on the property disconnecting it from the slough. The property was graded and ditched to allow for cattle grazing, so there is no longer fish access to the wetlands and tidal channels that used to run through the property and connect to Westport Slough. In addition, cattle grazing and the lack of riparian tree cover on the island contribute to degraded water quality in Westport Slough.

Proposed restoration actions include levee removal, ditch filling, and tidal channel creation to restore tidal function as well as invasive species control and native plantings to improve habitat and water quality. The restoration would improve habitat for 13 Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmon and steelhead species and ESA-listed eulachon (smelt) as well as other fish and wildlife species. A location map and conceptual plan of the project proposal are attached.

Environmental Review: BPA is analyzing the potential impacts of the proposal as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As part of the NEPA analysis, BPA is requesting public comments to help determine issues to be addressed. The schedule for the NEPA review is as follows:

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| Public comment period | March 2 through April 4, 2016 |
| NEPA Analysis and Documentation | Spring 2016 |
| If decision to build, construction start | Summer 2016 |

How to Comment: Please send your comments by **April 4, 2106** so they may be considered in the scope of the NEPA analysis. Comments received will be posted on the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/KerryIslandEstuary. There are several ways to comment:

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| Mail: Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKE-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97291-4428 | Toll-free: 800-622-4519 FAX: 503-230-4019 Online: www.bpa.gov/comment |
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For More Information: If you have any questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-3796 or email at dlrose@bpa.gov, or Jesse Wilson, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, ACS Professional Staffing, at jcwilson@bpa.gov, or 503-230-4506.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald L. Rose

Donald L. Rose
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:
Public Notification Map
Conceptual Design Map
Comment Form
Return Envelope