



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 Lower Elochoman Estuary Restoration

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund habitat restoration along the Elochoman River in Wahkiakum County, Washington. 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 along the Elochoman River, approximately one and a half miles north of Cathlamet, Washington. The restoration site historically had tidally-influenced freshwater wetlands and tidal channels. Early in the 20th century, mature Sitka spruce trees were harvested from the site and it was converted to agricultural use. Native vegetation removal, ditching, and wetland filling activities reduced the site's estuarine habitat diversity. In 2015, hydrology and fish access were restored through the removal of tidegates and installation of larger culverts under state Highway 4.

Restoration actions being proposed include the removal of a low levee along the Elochoman River, the elimination of ditches on the property, tidal channel excavation, invasive species control, and native vegetation plantings. 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:

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/LowerElochomanEstuary. There are several ways to comment:

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
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