



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

May 10, 2019

In reply refer to: ECF-4

To: People Interested in the Lower Elochoman Wetland Restoration Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) completed the environmental review for the Lower Elochoman Wetland Restoration project, located approximately one and a half miles north of Cathlamet, Washington. Based on the results of the analysis, BPA decided to fund the proposal. This letter briefly describes the project, where to find the environmental review document, and who to contact if you have questions.

BPA will fund the Columbia Land Trust (CLT) to conduct restoration actions along the Elochoman River. The project will remove a low levee along the Elochoman River, eliminate a single section of ditch and enhance the site with 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.

To ensure consideration of potential environmental impacts of the project, BPA prepared a supplement analysis (SA) to the Columbia Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Program Environmental Assessment (Programmatic Estuary EA). The Programmatic Estuary EA analyzed the environmental impacts anticipated for restoration projects within the Columbia River Estuary, with the intent of facilitating and streamlining future site-specific project reviews.

The SA for the Lower Elochoman Wetland Restoration project helped determine whether there were substantial changes in the proposed action or significant changes or information relevant to environmental concerns from that analyzed in the Programmatic Estuary EA.

As part of the SA, BPA sent letters in March 2016 to potentially affected landowners: Federal, state and local agencies; Native American tribes; and interest groups. The letter explained the project and requested comments; nine comments were received. The comments, addressed in the SA, primarily focused on flood risk and water movement.

Using the public input and consideration of potential environmental impacts, BPA completed the SA, confirming that the restoration actions of the Lower Elochoman Wetland Restoration project are consistent with the Programmatic Estuary EA and that no further NEPA documentation is required. The supplement analysis is available on BPA's website at <https://www.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/NEPADocuments/Pages/LowerElochomanEstuary.aspx>.

If you previously requested a copy of the documents, they are enclosed. If you would like to obtain paper copies of these documents, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520; leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address.

If you have any questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-5564 or email at cjhamel@bpa.gov, or Travis Kessler, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, Salient CRGT, Inc., at 503-230-5468 or by email at tdkessler@bpa.gov.

If you have any questions about the engineering, design or construction plans please contact Jeff Malone, CLT Natural Area Manager, at JMalone@columbialandtrust.org or 360-567-1570.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad J. Hamel

Chad J. Hamel

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist