February 1, 2016

In reply refer to: ECF-4

To: People interested in the Middle Entiat River Restoration Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), will be preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the effects of the proposed Middle Entiat River Restoration Project in Chelan County, Wash. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and requests your comments.

Proposal: BPA and Reclamation are proposing to fund multiple entities to restore habitat along a four-mile section of the Entiat River. The project would help re-establish natural riverine processes and improve the floodplain function to provide spawning, rearing, and off-channel refuge habitat for native fish—salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and other resident fish—and wildlife in the Entiat River basin.

Habitat improvements would include reconnecting historic side channels and strategic placement of varying sized log jams to help direct river flows into side channels and alcoves and onto the floodplain. Placement of logs would also increase the amount of wood in the river system, increasing habitat complexity.

Environmental Review: As the lead agency, BPA will prepare an EA following the procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act and Reclamation will serve as a cooperating agency. The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and include mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts. During this process, the agencies will work with landowners, federal, state and local agencies, interest groups, and Tribes.

The proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

- Comment scoping period: February 1, 2016 to March 2, 2016
- Draft EA available for public comment: Summer 2016
- Final EA: Fall 2016
- Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted): Fall 2016
- If decision to build, construction start: Summer 2017

How to Comment: Please send your comments by March 2, 2016 and reference the Middle Entiat River Restoration Project. All comments will be posted on the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/MiddleEntiatRiverHabitat. 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
**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 Ted Gresh, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, CRGT, Inc., at *esgresh@bpa.gov*, or 503-230-5756.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald L. Rose

Donald L. Rose
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form
Return Envelope
Reply Card
becc: (w/o enclosures)
Communications – DKE-7
H. Harwood – DIR-7
D. Marker – DIR-7
J. Warner – DIR-7
T. Gresh – ECF-4
D. Rose – ECF-4
S. Mason – ECP-4
J. Leary – LN-7
R. Beaty – EWU-4
J. Connor – EWU-4

Official File – ECF (EQ-13)

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