



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

February 11, 2019

In reply refer to: EC-4

### **To: People Interested in the Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Project**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Project. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and made a decision to proceed with the project. This letter describes BPA's decision, the construction schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

**Background:** BPA is proposing to fund the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership's proposal to restore floodplain connectivity to the Columbia River within the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) in Clark County, WA. The project involves reconnecting Gibbons Creek to the Columbia River by breaching a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' levee; removing a diversion structure, fish ladder, elevated channel, and water control structure; replacing a state highway bridge; constructing a setback levee; enhancing approximately two miles of wetland channels; and re-establishing the site's riparian forest. The project will help improve water quality and habitat to benefit steelhead and cutthroat trout; Chinook, coho, and chum salmon; and Pacific and western brook lamprey.

BPA prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the project would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. BPA released the draft EA for public review and comment on January 26, 2018, and received comments from ten entities. The final EA provides responses to those comments and minor revisions to the EA. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA found that the project will not cause any significant impacts and, therefore, an environmental impact statement is not warranted.

**Decision:** BPA decided to construct the Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Project. Project construction is expected to begin in April 1, 2019, and continue through November 2021, with breaks in construction during seasonal restrictions.

**Copies Available:** The final EA, FONSI, and mitigation action plan are available on BPA's website at <https://www.bpa.gov/goto/SteigerwaldFloodplain>. 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.

**For More Information:** If you have any questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-3018, or by e-mail at [cjhamel@bpa.gov](mailto:cjhamel@bpa.gov), or Travis Kessler, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, Salient CRGT, at [tdkessler@bpa.gov](mailto:tdkessler@bpa.gov), or 503-230-5468.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad J. Hamel

Chad J. Hamel

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

**Enclosures (if requested):**

Final EA

FONSI and Mitigation Action Plan