Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

July 11, 2018

In reply refer to: ECF-4

To: People interested in the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) has completed the environmental review for the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project, located on Sauvie Island near Sturgeon Lake in Multnomah County, Oregon. Based on the results of that analysis, Bonneville 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.

Under the proposal, Bonneville would fund Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) to improve the surface-water connection between Sturgeon Lake and the Columbia River within the existing footprint of Dairy Creek. Sturgeon Lake serves as an important rearing and feeding area for juvenile salmonids, but at present, these fish must travel a distance of 10 to 14 miles to access the lake from the Columbia River. The alterations in Dairy Creek would reduce the travel distance to less than 1 mile. Additionally, the project would increase the amount time that the direct connection is open and accessible to fish from only several times a year to almost daily, allowing fish to access the lake more frequently and benefit from the high-quality habitat there.

Restoration actions would include: deepening Dairy Creek to improve the connection between Sturgeon Lake and the Columbia River, replacing an undersized culvert with a channel-spanning bridge at Reeder Road, controlling invasive plants, and planting native vegetation. The restoration would improve habitat for 13 species of salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act.

To ensure consideration of potential environmental impacts of the project, Bonneville prepared a supplement analysis 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 streamlining future site-specific project reviews.

The supplement analysis for the Sturgeon Lake project helped determine whether there were substantial changes in the proposed action or significant changes or information relevant to environmental concerns compared to those analyzed in the Programmatic Estuary EA.

As part of the supplement analysis, Bonneville sent letters in March 2018 to potentially affected landowners; Federal, state, and local agencies; Native American tribes; and interest groups. The letter explained the project and requested comments; three comments were received. The comments primarily focused on site access, water movement, and cultural resources, and are addressed in the supplement analysis.

Using the public input and consideration of potential environmental impacts, Bonneville completed the supplement analysis, confirming that the restoration actions of the Sturgeon Lake project are consistent with the Programmatic Estuary EA and that no further NEPA

documentation is required. The supplement analysis is available on our website at *http://www.bpa.gov/goto/SturgeonLake*.

If you have any questions about the environmental review process, please contact me at 503-230-3018 or by e-mail at cjhamel@bpa.gov, or Michelle Guay, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, Cor-Source Technology Group at 503-230-3459, or by e-mail at mxguay@bpa.gov.

If you have any questions about the engineering, design or construction plans, please contact Tom Josephson, CREST Habitat Restoration Project Manager, at tjosephson@columbiaestuary.org or 503-943-5651.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad J. Hamel
Chad J. Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist