



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
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ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 11, 2016

In reply refer to: ECF-4

### **To: People interested in the Wallacut Confluence Estuary Restoration Project**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has completed the environmental review for the Wallacut Confluence Estuary Restoration Project in Pacific County, WA. Based on the results of that analysis, BPA has decided to fund the proposal. This letter briefly describes the project, the environmental review, and who to contact if you have questions.

Under the proposal, BPA will fund the Columbia Land Trust (CLT) to conduct restoration actions along property to the south of the Wallacut River at its confluence with the Columbia River. Proposed restoration actions include the removal of a farm levee and ditches, excavation of channels, invasive plant species control, and planting of native vegetation within the property.

To ensure consideration of potential environmental impacts of the project, BPA prepared a supplement analysis to the Columbia Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Project 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 supplement analysis for the Wallacut 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 supplement analysis, BPA sent letters in March 2016 to potentially affected landowners, federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, and interest groups that explained the project and requested comments; nineteen comments were received. Based on these comments, which primarily focused on flood risk and water movement, hydraulic modeling comparing existing site conditions to those if the proposed project were to be constructed was completed. Additionally, BPA held a public meeting in Ilwaco, WA on August 4, 2016, to discuss the project and the preliminary results of the hydraulic modeling.

Using the public input and consideration of potential environmental impacts, BPA completed the supplement analysis, confirming that the restoration actions of the Wallacut project are consistent with the Programmatic Estuary EA and that no further NEPA documentation is required. The supplement analysis and the Basis of Design Report containing the hydraulic modeling are available on our website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/WallacutRiverConfluenceEstuary](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/WallacutRiverConfluenceEstuary).

If you have any questions about the environmental review, please contact me at [jdgoodman@bpa.gov](mailto:jdgoodman@bpa.gov) or 503-230-4764. If you have any questions about the engineering, design or construction plans for the project, please contact Ian Sinks, CLT Stewardship Director, at [isinks@columbialandtrust.org](mailto:isinks@columbialandtrust.org) or 360-696-0131.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Dave Goodman*

Dave Goodman  
Environmental Protection Specialist