



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

March 2, 2016

In reply refer to: ECF-4

To: People interested in the Wallacut River Confluence Estuary Restoration

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund habitat restoration along the Wallacut River in Pacific County, Washington. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our process and schedule, requests your comments, and identifies who to contact if you have questions.

Proposal: Under the proposal, BPA would fund Columbia Land Trust to conduct restoration actions along the Wallacut River at its confluence with the Columbia River, approximately one-and-a-half miles northeast of Ilwaco, Washington. The project area historically had tidally-influenced wetlands and tidal channels. At some point in the late 19th or early 20th century, a levee was constructed along the Wallacut River and ditches and tidegates were installed to drain the area.

Proposed restoration actions include the removal of a levee and ditches, excavation of channels, invasive plant species control, and planting of native vegetation. 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 species and wildlife species. A location map and conceptual plan of the project proposal are attached.

Environmental Review: BPA is analyzing the potential impacts of the proposal as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As part of the NEPA analysis, we are requesting public comments to help determine issues to be addressed. The schedule for the NEPA review is as follows:

Public comment period	March 2 through March 24, 2016
NEPA Analysis and Documentation	Spring 2016
If decision to build, construction start	Summer 2016

How to Comment: Please send your comments by **April 4, 2106** so they may be considered in the scope of the NEPA analysis. Comments received will be posted on the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/WallacutRiverConfluenceEstuary. 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
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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 Jesse Wilson, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, ACS Professional Staffing, at jcwilson@bpa.gov, or 503-230-4506.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald L. Rose

Donald L. Rose
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:
Public Notification Map
Conceptual Design Map
Comment Form
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