



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

December 22, 2020

In reply refer to: EC-4

### **To: People Interested in the Columbia River Basin Tributary Habitat Restoration Programmatic Environmental Assessment**

The Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for Columbia River Basin Tributary Habitat Restoration actions. Based on the final EA, Bonneville is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and made a decision to proceed with the action. This letter describes Bonneville's decision and how to obtain additional information.

**Background:** Bonneville implements tributary fish and wildlife habitat restoration actions throughout the Columbia River Basin in the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Utah. These actions could be funded by Bonneville to mitigate for effects of the development and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) on fish and wildlife.

Bonneville prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the actions would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. Bonneville released the draft EA for public review and comment in September 2020, and received 93 comments in emails and letters from eight entities. The final EA includes responses to the multiple comments in those letters, and identifies revisions made to the EA since the draft EA was released. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, Bonneville found that the project would not cause any significant impacts and, therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

**Decision:** Bonneville decided to implement the Columbia River Basin Tributary Habitat Restoration actions as described in the EA. Funding and implementation of these restoration actions has been ongoing and is anticipated to continue into the foreseeable future.

**Copies Available:** The final EA, FONSI, and mitigation action plan are available on Bonneville's website at <http://www.bpa.gov/goto/TribProgrammatic>. 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 503-230-5564 or email at [cjhamel@bpa.gov](mailto:cjhamel@bpa.gov), or Rob Shull, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, CorSource Technology Group, at [rwshull@bpa.gov](mailto:rwshull@bpa.gov), or 503-230-3962.

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