



Fact Sheet

June 2011

Kalispel Tribe and action agencies propose new Accord agreement

The Bonneville Power Administration, along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, is proposing to enter into a new 10-year Columbia Basin Fish Accord with the Kalispel Tribe. If the proposed Accord is signed, the Kalispel Tribe will join an existing group of three states and five tribes that are partners with the federal agencies under the Accords, working together to help fish and wildlife in the Columbia Basin.

The proposed Accord will provide substantial benefits for listed and non-listed fish — including bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout and mountain whitefish — in the area of Lake Pend Oreille and the Tribe's



Kalispel reservation

Reservation along the Pend Oreille River about 55 miles north of Spokane, Wash.

The proposed Accord acknowledges the Tribe's resource management expertise and its commitment to fish and wildlife and provides for the Tribe's greater participation in decisions that affect its interests. The Tribe, Corps and BPA share an interest in operations at Albeni Falls Dam and protection of the natural resources of the Pend Oreille River and its tributaries. The proposed Accord includes provisions on the operations of Albeni Falls Dam upstream of the Reservation.

BPA plans to initiate a 30-day public comment period on the proposed Accord in late June. Following an assessment of the comments, a Record of Decision would be prepared for the administrator's signature.

Specifics of the proposed Accord:

Fish and wildlife benefits

- BPA will provide funding to the Tribe to help finalize BPA's obligations for the impacts to wildlife from the construction and inundation of Albeni Falls Dam.
- BPA will provide funding to the Tribe for on-going, expanded and new fish and wildlife projects.



- The Corps will complete certain bull trout passage studies for ESA Compliance.

Albeni Falls Dam operations

- The Corps, BPA and the Tribe will collaborate on water quality modeling to determine if late summer/fall releases from Albeni Falls Dam benefit bull trout and coordinate through regional processes to implement appropriate releases.
- The Tribe agrees to support BPA's winter operations flexibility proposal at Albeni Falls Dam, subject to mutually agreeable mitigation (if needed).

Term and funding

- The term of the proposed Accord would be ten years, through Sept. 30, 2021.
- BPA has already included the funding amounts for the proposed Accord in its fiscal year 2012–13 budget: \$2.5 million capital fund for wildlife mitigation and an annual increase of approximately \$960,000 over the current base for other fish and wildlife projects.
- With annual inflation added, the total value of the BPA funding is \$36.8 million in expense funding and \$2.5 million in capital.

Other Accords commitments

- Similar to the other Accords, the parties agree that federal agencies' requirements under the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the Northwest Power Act are satisfied for 10 years.
- The Tribe agrees to support the Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion as well as the current or reinitiated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bull trout Biological Opinion, provided the Tribe is consulted and its views are considered.

- The parties have agreed to “good faith implementation” and to informal dispute resolution procedures.

BPA is pleased to add the Kalispel Tribe to the growing list of Columbia Basin tribes and states that are working together on a common goal to provide on-the-ground benefits for fish and wildlife. The proposed Accord will provide greater long-term certainty for fish and wildlife restoration funding and increased certainty for BPA's Northwest ratepayers. Most importantly, it will provide long-term benefits for the fish and wildlife in the Columbia Basin.

How to comment

BPA is providing a public comment period before entering into the agreement so that customers and stakeholders may review the commitments that BPA is proposing.

Comments will be accepted until close of business Aug. 1, 2011. Comments may be submitted online at www.bpa.gov/comment; by mail to Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office – DKE-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR 97293-4428; or faxed to (503) 230-4019. All comments will be posted in their entirety, including the author's name and nay affiliation, on BPA's Web site at www.bpa.gov/applications/publiccomments/OpenCommentListing.aspx.

For more information and to view the proposed agreement, go to www.salmonrecovery.gov.