

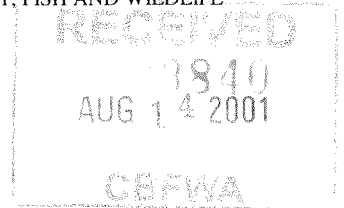


Department of Energy

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

*BPA USE
All coords/Execs*

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE



August 10, 2001

In reply refer to: KEW-4

Ms. Barb Franano
U.S. Forest Service
Ochoco National Forest
P.O. Box 490
Prineville, OR 97754

Dear Ms. Franano:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is, for the moment, deferring its decision to go forward with contracting efforts on the **Trout Creek Culvert Replacement** Project, Action Plan Proposal No. 23019, and the **Badger Creek Culvert Replacement and Road Closure** Project, Action Plan Proposal No. 23020. We are currently in the midst of a policy discussion surrounding BPA funding of fish and wildlife mitigation projects on federal land.

My purpose in writing to you is to let you know that we are placing your proposal on hold while simultaneously committing to pursuing a policy discussion with the Regional Forester to identify how our agencies can more effectively meet our respective obligations under the Endangered Species Act and the Northwest Power Act. We will immediately notify you of the outcome of these discussions so that you can plan accordingly.

Our intent is to explore with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS)--in coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Northwest Power Planning Council--criteria for possible cost sharing. Until the cost sharing criteria are developed, though, we must not circumvent or replace funding for work that the USFS is required or authorized to implement as part of its overall planning and implementation responsibilities within their jurisdiction.

Should you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (503) 230-4748.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Austin
Deputy Manager for Fish and Wildlife

cc:

Mr. Larry Cassidy, Northwest Power Planning Council
Dr. Brian Allee, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority
Ms. Linda Ulmer, U.S. Forest Service