



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Portland District

PUBLIC NOTICE

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Sandy River Delta Section 536
Ecosystem Restoration Project
Multnomah County, Oregon**

CENWP-PM-E-12-09

Issue Date: December 21, 2012

Expiration Date: January 21, 2013

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District (Corps) plans to implement restoration actions under Section 536 of the Water Resources Development Act to improve habitat for juvenile salmonids (salmon and steelhead) in the Sandy River Delta, particularly those species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Forest Service and Bonneville Power Administration are cooperating federal agencies on the project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and the Portland Water Bureau would fund a portion of the work. The original Environmental Assessment (EA) by the Corps for this project was issued for 30-day public review and comment on October 27, 2011 under public notice number CENWP-PM-E-11-06 and the comment period was extended for an additional 15 days per request; the comment period ending December 23, 2011. Since then, additional project components have been identified to occur on U.S. Forest Service land, and are specified under the descriptions of alternatives in the EA.

The primary aim of this project is to restore the historic main channel of the Sandy River at the delta to provide year round fish access to this channel while eliminating stranding potential by providing continuous flow. This would be accomplished by removing a dam built in the 1930s and excavating a pilot channel within the historic main channel. Upon project completion, Sandy River water would flow year-round through the historic main channel and the present-day main channel. Rearing and refuge habitat for juvenile salmonids would be significantly improved. Native riparian forest habitat would also be restored along the historic main channel by removing invasive plants and planting natives. Construction, planned for 2013, would be conducted during the summer in-water work period when portions of the channel slated for pilot channel excavation are expected to be dry.

A draft EA has been prepared for the proposed Federal action in accord with the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act regulations [Federal Register 40 CFR 1508.9(a)]. At the end of the public comment period, the Corps will consider all comments received or post marked by the expiration date of this public notice, as well as comments received on the 2011 EA, and make a determination of significance of impacts resulting from the proposed action.

Environmental Document: The draft EA is available on the Corps website in the Announcements section at <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/environment/home.asp>.

Additional Information and Comments: Questions or comments regarding the draft EA should be directed to Mr. Steve Helm, Environmental Resources Branch, telephone (503) 808-4778, steve.r.helm@usace.army.mil, or to the address below. Comments previously submitted under public

notice CENWP-PM-E-11-06 will be considered; please do not resubmit those comments. Mailed comments on this notice must be postmarked by the above expiration date and sent to:

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District, Portland
Attn: CENWP-PM-E/Steve Helm
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

In your response, please refer to the above public notice number, title and date. Should no response be received by the above closing date, a “no comment” response will be assumed.