



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
 WALLA WALLA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
 201 NORTH THIRD AVENUE  
 WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON 99362-1876

REPLY TO  
 ATTENTION OF

March 5, 2004

Planning, Programs, and Project (1165-2-26a)  
 Management Division

Dear Interested Party:

The Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for its proposed Avian Predation Deterrent (APD) Program to be implemented starting in Spring 2004. The EA addresses the environmental impacts for the proposed program. The document may be reviewed on the Walla Walla District webpage at [www.nww.usace.army.mil/reports/avian/default.htm](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/reports/avian/default.htm). A printed version or CD version of the document may be requested through the website or from the point of contact listed below.

The proposed program would be implemented along portions of the lower Columbia and lower Snake Rivers at and near Corps dams, in Oregon and Washington, as shown in the table below.

Dam Name	County (State)	County (State)	River Mile
Bonneville	Skamania (WA)	Multnomah (OR)	CRM* 146
The Dalles	Klickitat (WA)	Wasco (OR)	CRM 192
John Day	Klickitat (WA)	Sherman (OR)	CRM 214
McNary	Benton (WA)	Umatilla (OR)	CRM 292
Ice Harbor	Franklin (WA)	Walla Walla (WA)	SRM** 10
Lower Monumental	Franklin (WA)	Walla Walla (WA)	SRM 41.5
Little Goose	Whitman (WA)	Columbia (WA)	SRM 70
Lower Granite	Whitman (WA)	Garfield (WA)	SRM 107.5

\*CRM – Columbia River Mile    \*\*SRM – Snake River Mile

The Corps proposes to implement the APD Program as an effective means of discouraging piscivorous bird predation on juvenile salmonids at all forebay, tailrace, and bypass outfall locations and related dam operation activities at the eight Corps' dams. The objective of the program is to comply with the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative action 101 (RPA 101) of the National Marine Fisheries Service Final Biological Opinion on the Reinitiation of Consultation on Operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (2000).

The EA considers the issues and evaluates alternatives available to the APD Program that comply with RPA 101. The preferred alternative is the No-Action (No-Change) Alternative, which is the Current Program employed at the dams. This alternative

involves using a variety of tools including visual deterrents, auditory deterrents, exclusion, and shooting to deter avian predation on juvenile salmonids.

Enclosed are copies of the draft Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) and a summary of the EA. Comments received on the EA and Corps responses to those comments will be incorporated into the final FONSI, prior to signature, should no significant impacts be identified during the public review process.

The comment period on the EA will run through April 5, 2004. Comments may be submitted via several means. Comments may be faxed to the attention of Stan Heller at 509-527-7832. Comments may be submitted using the comment form on the Corps website at [www.nww.usace.army.mil/reports/avian/default.htm](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/reports/avian/default.htm). If you prefer, you may also use the website to send your comments as an electronic file attachment. Comments may also be mailed to:

Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers  
Environmental Compliance Section  
Attention: Stan Heller  
201 N. Third Avenue  
Walla Walla, Washington 99362-1876

A return mailing address must be included with your comments. Comments must be submitted or postmarked by April 5, 2004 to ensure consideration.

If you have questions, need additional information, or want a printed or CD copy of the EA, please contact Stan. Heller at 509-527-7258.

Sincerely,



Peter F. Poolman  
Chief, Environmental Compliance Section

Enclosures