



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning Branch

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-2255

JAN 26 2006

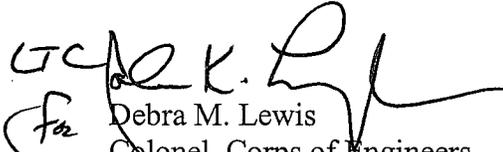
To Interested Party:

This notice provides information on the availability of the Reconnaissance Report *Columbia River Fish Mitigation System Flood Control Review*. The report presents the results of a reconnaissance level study that complies with guidance given to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in Congressional appropriations report language. The study purpose is to determine if there is a Federal interest in pursuing a more detailed feasibility analysis of modifying current system flood control operations to benefit Endangered Species Act listed species, particularly salmonids. The next step is a feasibility study which is estimated to cost \$30 million and take 6 years to complete.

The reconnaissance level study focused primarily on identifying potential alternatives to better meet Columbia River fish flow objectives while considering flood control and other multiple uses of the system. It did not include any detailed analysis or address the potential impacts of modifying the existing system on the various elements of the human and physical environment, such as hydropower, transportation, fish and wildlife, recreation, or other uses of the system. This type of impact analysis would occur in a subsequent detailed feasibility phase of the study.

You are invited to review the report and, if you desire to do so, provide the Corps with your views of support for proceeding with further study. The comment period will be 45 days from the date of this letter. Subject to the degree of regional support and other considerations, including the availability of funding, the Corps will pursue the next phase of study as outlined in the reconnaissance report. If you have questions regarding the report, please contact Mr. Evan Lewis, Environmental Coordinator at (206) 764-6922. The reconnaissance report can be downloaded under Columbia River System Flood Control Review at http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/ers/doc_table.cfm.

Sincerely,


For Debra M. Lewis
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer