

**Ken Homolka**

---

**From:** Ken Homolka  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2013 4:55 PM  
**To:** 'daheller@aol.com'; 'ddehart@onemain.com'; 'hrectenwald2@gmail.com'; 'kambak@crestviewcable.com'; 'dawn.nilson@comcast.net'; 'Dawn.Nilson@amec.com'; 'mroad@co.morrow.or.us'; 'stuartgraymyers@gmail.com'; 'smyers@masonbruce.com'; 'wtiffany1970@gmail.com'; 'verasimonton@yahoo.com'; 'WTiffany@Geosyntec.com'; 'fwarner@bakercounty.org'; 'mbennett@bakercounty.org'; 'tkerns@bakercounty.org'; 'hmartin@bakercounty.org'; 'jyencopal@bakercounty.org'; REP Bentz; 'Audiehuber@ctuir.com'; 'carlmerkle@ctuir.org'; 'hcpc@hellscanyon.org'; 'Gary\_Miller@fws.gov'; 'dgonzalez@fs.fed.us'; 'kbonanno@fs.fed.us'; GRAINEY Mary S; DADOLY John; FONSECA Marilyn; 'ross@pn.usbr.gov'; 'pbwced@qwestoffice.net'; 'Whitney.Collins@or.nacdn.net'; Clay Penhollow (clay.penhollow@wstribes.org)  
**Subject:** ODFW seeks comment on proposal to waive fish passage at Mason Dam on the Powder River

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking public comment on a fish passage waiver request. Baker County has applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to construct a hydroelectric project at the existing Mason Dam on the Powder River near Baker City. The proposed hydroelectric project has triggered Oregon's fish passage laws.

In lieu of providing fish passage at Mason Dam, Baker County proposes to replace a culvert on Silver Creek and improve fish passage conditions at a culvert on McCully Fork, both located upstream of Phillips Reservoir.

ODFW has made an initial determination that the mitigation proposed by Baker County would provide a net benefit to native migratory fish compared to providing passage at Mason Dam for bull trout, redband trout, northern pikeminnow, and largescale, mountain and bridgeliip suckers.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission can waive the fish passage requirements if proposed mitigation would provide a net benefit to native migratory fish. The Commission will be asked to approve a waiver for this project at its Jan. 10, 2014 meeting in Salem.

In the meantime, members of the public will have until Dec. 9, 2013 to submit written comments on the proposed plan.

Members of the public can send written comments to or request additional information from Elizabeth Moats, ODFW Hydropower Coordinator, 107 20<sup>th</sup> Street, La Grande, Oregon 97850, or e-mail [Elizabeth.A.OsierMoats@state.or.us](mailto:Elizabeth.A.OsierMoats@state.or.us), or by calling (541)-962-1832. Written comments must be received by Dec. 9, 2013.

There also will be an opportunity for public comment at the Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting on Jan. 10, 2014 at ODFW headquarters in Salem.

The waiver application, ODFW's benefit analysis, and the draft waiver agreement documents can be found on the ODFW Fish Division Web site at <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/passage/>

Thank you for your interest in fish passage issues.

Ken Homolka