

Tribal Resources Fact Sheet

For the study, tribal resources refer to the fish, animals, and plants that are gathered or used by members of Native American Tribes for commercial, subsistence (food), cultural and ceremonial purposes. These resources and access to them are associated with a tribe's sovereignty, cultural traditions, values, places, and/or treaty-reserved rights. Tribes and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are currently involved in a formal consultation process. This process will be discussed in the separate federal environmental impact statement for the proposed project.

What impacts on tribal resources were studied?

Tribes use fish, plant, and animal resources in and along the Columbia River and along the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) or Union Pacific Railroad (UP) rail lines for commercial, subsistence, and ceremonial purposes. These tribes include the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and the Nez Perce Tribe. The study assesses potential impacts on tribal resources from construction, operations, and increased rail traffic along the rail lines. The study also looks at potential impacts on fish habitat from construction and increased vessel traffic on the lower Columbia River that could affect tribal resources.



Fish species such as salmon are an important tribal resource

How were the impacts on tribal resources analyzed?

The study uses available information from tribes describing cultural history, tribal practices, and resource management. Information from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) describes fisheries management, fishing methods and seasons, and fishing access sites on the Columbia River. Environmental studies from the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and information from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is also used. The study considers fish species harvested, fishing seasons, and fishing practices. The study also looks at access to established and traditional gathering and fishing sites managed by CRITFC and access to traditional fishing sites along the Columbia River.

The study uses the information to describe fish and plant resources used by tribes. It considers the proposed construction, terminal operations, and transportation by rail and vessel. Next, it identifies potential impacts on tribal resources and access to the resources. Finally, the study includes actions that can mitigate or offset the potential impacts.

How would the proposed project affect tribal resources?

Construction

Tribal resources such as plants and wildlife are not currently present in the project area. Some fish species harvested by tribes are present near the project area at certain times of the year. Noise and sediment from pile-driving for the dock construction could affect fish near the project area and would permanently remove some fish habitat. In-water construction-related activities such as dredging would also cause physical or behavioral responses in fish. A permit would be required for stormwater and runoff from construction. The permit has requirements for discharging water to the Columbia River to prevent pollutants from entering the water. With the proposed mitigation measures, the study found construction is not likely to harm fish or wildlife.

Operations

Fish species harvested by tribes are present near the project area at certain times of the year. Tribal resources such as plants and wildlife are not currently present at the upland parts of the project area. A permit would be required for stormwater and runoff from operations. The permit has requirements for discharging water to the Columbia River to prevent pollutants from entering the water. With the proposed mitigation measures, the study found operations are not likely to significantly harm fish or wildlife.

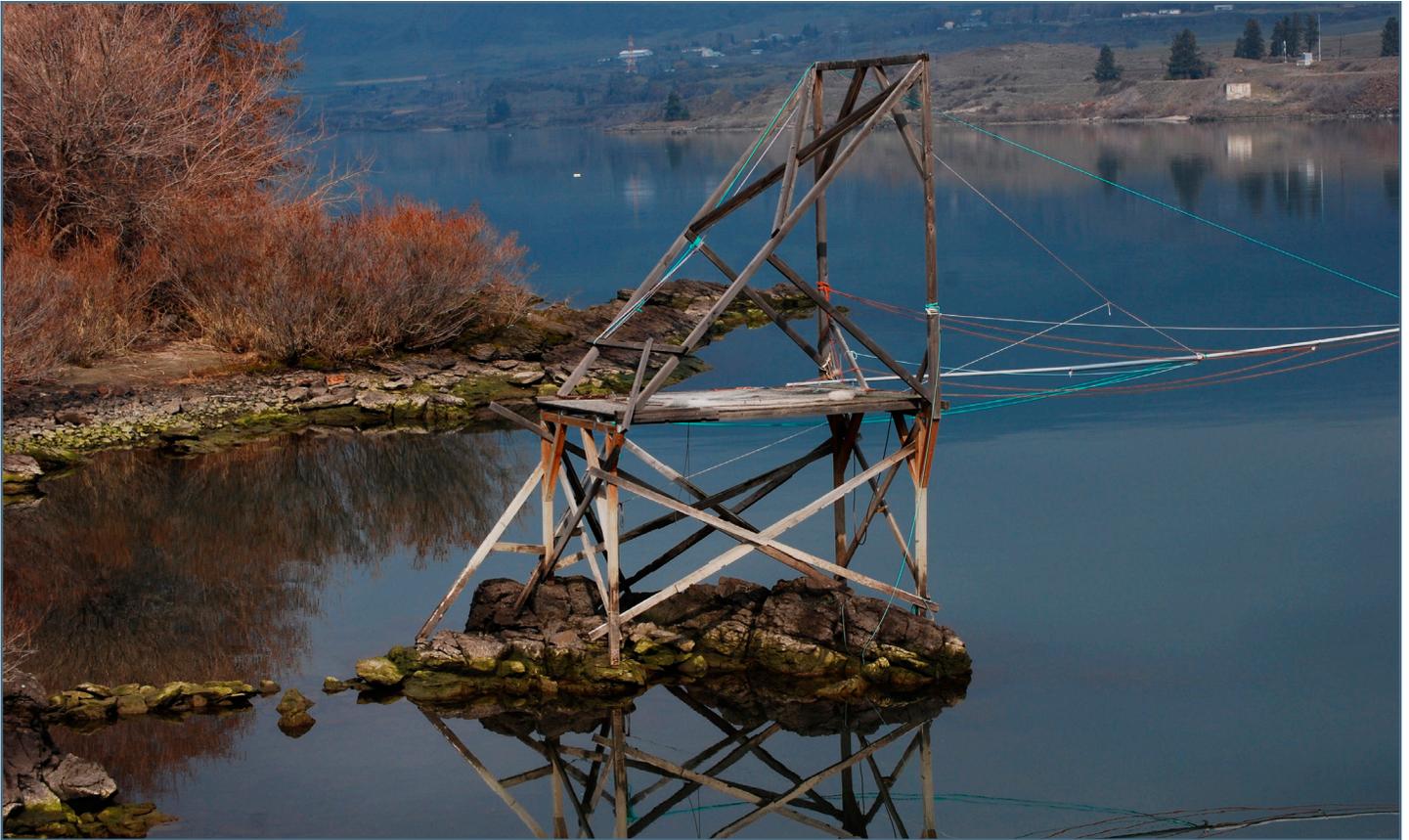
Rail Traffic

The proposed project would add eight trains per day to the BNSF main line through the Columbia River Gorge. The increased rail traffic could affect access by tribal fishers to 20 fishing sites managed by CRITFC. Most of the roads used to access the fishing sites do not have an at-grade crossing with the BNSF main line. However, where access to the sites do require an at-grade crossing with the rail line, the increased train traffic could delay access by tribal fishers. In addition, multiple unmapped fishing locations exist along the Columbia River and likely require an at-grade crossing with the rail line. The increased train traffic could delay tribal fishers' access to and from the unmapped locations.

The study looks at the potential impact of coal dust from trains on fish, wildlife, and vegetation along the rail line. The study found coal dust would be deposited along the rail line. The study found coal dust from trains is not likely to affect fish habitat or vegetation.

Vessel Traffic

The proposed project would increase vessel traffic on the lower Columbia River from Longview to the mouth of the river by 1,680 vessel transits per year (840 empty vessels and 840 loaded vessels). Vessels would operate in the navigation channel. Increased vessel traffic could affect habitat of fish harvested by tribes.



Tribes use fish, plant, and animal resources in and along the Columbia River. This photo shows a tribal fishing platform.

What can Millennium do to reduce impacts on tribal resources?

The study identifies the following mitigation measures to reduce impacts on tribal resources:

- Decrease noise impacts from pile-driving by using bubble curtains and best practices or an equivalent technology to reduce noise.
- Monitor fish and wildlife during pile-driving and dredging activities and conduct surveys near the docks for key fish species such as eulachon.
- Coordinate with CRITFC to discuss and identify mitigation measures prior to starting operations.

Are there significant and adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated?

The mitigation measures could reduce but may not eliminate potential impacts on tribal resources. Trains related to the proposed project could restrict access to tribal fishing areas in the Columbia River. Vessels related to the proposed project could affect fish habitat. A number of other factors could affect fishing opportunities, including the number of fishers, fish distribution, and the length and timing of fishing seasons. With these variables, it is difficult to precisely determine how much the increased rail and vessel operations related to the proposed project would affect tribal resources.

How can the public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement?

There are multiple ways for the public to provide comments. Comments will be accepted during the comment period from April 29 to June 13, 2016.

By Mail

Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview SEPA EIS
c/o ICF International
710 Second Avenue, Suite 550, Seattle, WA 98104

Online

At www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov

In Person

At a public hearing, orally or in writing

- **May 24, 2016**
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Cowlitz County Regional Conference Center
1900 7th Avenue
Longview, WA 98632
- **May 26, 2016**
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Spokane Convention Center
334 W Spokane Falls Boulevard
Spokane, WA 99201
- **June 2, 2016**
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
TRAC Center
6600 Burden Boulevard
Pasco, WA 99301

Where can I find more information?

Chapter 3, Section 3.5, *Tribal Resources*, of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has detailed information on current conditions, and analysis and findings related to the potential impacts of the proposed project on tribal resources. The following sections of the Draft EIS also include detailed information and analyses relevant to tribal resources: Chapter 4, Section 4.5, *Water Quality*; Section 4.6, *Vegetation*; Section 4.7, *Fish*; Section 4.8, *Wildlife*; and Chapter 5, Section 5.1, *Rail Transportation*; Section 5.4, *Vessel Transportation*; and Section 5.7, *Coal Dust*.

Additional fact sheets that discuss water quality and surface water; fish, plants, and animals; rail transportation; vessel transportation; and coal dust are also available.

Visit www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov for more information on the proposed project and the Draft EIS.