U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

**United States
Coast Guard**

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13 Jul 2018

MEMORANDUM

From: Steven M. Fischer
         CGD THIRTEEN (DPW-BRG)

Reply to   CGD THIRTEEN
Attn of: (DPW-BRG)
           Steven Fischer
           (206) 220-7282

To: Marshall L. Williams
         Fish and Wildlife Biologist
         U.S Fish & Wildlife Service
         11103 E. Montgomery Dr
         Spokane, WA 99206
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Subj: BNSF SANDPOINT CONNECTOR PROJECT

1.   The BNSF Railway Company is proposing to construct new railroad bridges across Lake Pend Orielle and Sand Creek at Sandpoint, Idaho. The alignment of the new bridges will be adjacent to existing BNSF owned railroad bridges which will remain in service.

2.   The Coast Guard is the lead federal agency for purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all other environmental control laws for this project as well as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

3.   BNSF initially submitted a preliminary draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to the Coast Guard for review purposes on April 3, 2018. A draft EA was subsequently furnished to the Coast Guard on May 17, 2018. The Coast Guard responded to BNSF on June 8, 2018 with a list of items in the draft EA that require either additional information or further clarification. Once we receive the revised draft EA, we will be sending the document to expertise agencies for a 30 day review which will inform our decision as to whether the project should continue as an EA or be elevated to an EIS.

4.   Your agency is invited to participate as a cooperating agency and will be given the opportunity to review the environmental document before it is finalized. Please notify this office of your decision as to whether or not you will accept the role as a formal cooperating agency for this project within 15 days upon receipt of this memorandum.

Should you require additional information, please contact Mr. Steven Fischer at (206) 220-7282.

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