

From: [Smith, Jason \(Seattle\)](#)
To: [Sugarman, Shelly CIV](#); [Fischer, Steven M CIV](#); [Dunn, Brian CIV](#); [Moore, James M CIV](#)
Cc: [PaDelford, Sue S.](#); [Swanson, Kristopher](#); [Hurst, Austin](#); [Bordenave, Pierre](#); [Broadhead, Craig](#); [Keim, Matthew](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] USCG Request for Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for the BNSF Sandpoint Connector Project
Date: Friday, September 28, 2018 6:02:29 PM
Attachments: [Sandpoint Connector Project - USCG Revised Biological Assessment.pdf](#)
[2018-08-24_SJC-RevisedBA Comment-Response-Spreadsheet.docx](#)
Importance: High

Draft Email Notes:

1. I attached the BA and Comment Response Tool. If you do not feel the tool should be attached, please remove it prior to forwarding.
2. Please enter the contact that you want to have responsible for correspondence with the USCG.
3. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.
4. Have a nice weekend.

Dear Ms. Johnson-Hughes

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) proposes to permit the BNSF Sandpoint Junction Connector Project, within Lake Pend Oreille and Sand Creek starting in Spring/Summer 2019. The Biological Assessment (BA) to initiate formal consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has been discussed in a pre-BA review meeting and subsequently reviewed in draft form by USFWS staff. The USCG has been informed that the BA contains sufficient information to initiate formal consultation based on the following determinations:

As described in the enclosed BA, the proposed action will have no effect on the following ESA-listed species: Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), Canada Lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*), North American Wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*), and Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*). No concurrence or other consultation with USFWS is required for 'no effect' actions.

As described in the enclosed BA, the proposed action may affect, and is likely to adversely affect Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and Bull Trout critical habitat. Therefore, we request initiation of formal consultation under Section 7 of the ESA.

Please initiate formal consultation using the attached BA and accompanying information, if you have any questions, please contact [USCG Lead person's name and contact info] of my staff regarding this consultation request.

Sincerely,

Shelly Sugarman, Chief, USCG Permits Division

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