

# Show support for fish and water improvements at Bowman Dam

**Safety of Dams mandate provides an opportunity for evaluating the numerous, potential fish-related improvements at Bowman Dam and Prineville Reservoir**



The Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) is seeking public comment on a draft environmental assessment for safety modifications at Arthur R. Bowman Dam, located on the Crooked River about 20 miles southeast of Prineville, Oregon. The draft EA outlines the proposed actions to correct safety deficiencies at Bowman Dam. The comment period concludes Dec. 24.

The USBR must make some modifications to Bowman Dam for safety reasons. Understandably, the USBR would like to do it for the lowest cost possible, although they haven't yet developed cost estimates beyond the preliminary level.

The agency would also like to not address all the other Bowman related issues right now, but for overall cost savings and efficiency this is the time to do so. And that should be the theme of your very brief comments. Below is some information that can be use in your comments:

*The Crooked-Ochoco system is complex and the reintroduction of Chinook and ESA listed steelhead makes it*

*essential to now look at solutions to all the water/fish related opportunities and problems. The stumbling blocks are many, but there are many economic, biologic, endangered species and safety opportunities. This is the time for the USBR to professionally examine them through a feasibility evaluation, and an Environmental Impact Study.*

*Fish Passage at Bowman is essential for the reintroduction and habitat restoration of the ESA listed steelhead to be successful. Before upstream diversions and habitat damage began over a century ago the majority of steelhead spawning and rearing habitat in the Crooked River system occurred above Bowman and Ochoco dams. This critical habitat must be made available to steelhead once again. A major part of the over \$300 million being invested by the public and PGE is for Crooked River steelhead, so this points unequivocally toward passage at Bowman. This must now be examined by a comprehensive USBR feasibility evaluation.*

*Measures should also be taken to address the dissolved gas problem that occurs below the dam during high flow releases, and how much of the unallocated storage in Prineville Reservoir must be allocated to downstream flow for reintroduced steelhead and Chinook needs to be determined.*

## **TAKE ACTION**

Send comments to:

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## **FOR MORE INFO**

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Read the EA here: <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ea/oregon/bowman/draft-bowmanea.pdf>