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**Cc:** [EFSEC mi Comments](#); [energy.siting@oregon.gov](mailto:energy.siting@oregon.gov)  
**Subject:** Scoping Comment - Cascade Renewable Transmission EIS (NWP-2022-00126-2)  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 4, 2026 10:11:56 PM

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External Email

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers CRT EIS Team,

Thank you for initiating scoping for the Cascade Renewable Transmission (CRT) Environmental Impact Statement. I'm submitting this comment to help shape a rigorous, practical scope, focused on enforceable protections for the Columbia River's ecosystems, Tribal treaty resources, navigation needs, and local livelihoods.

I'm writing as a resident who lives on the river, along the intended corridor for this project. I follow regional public processes closely and help neighbors understand what decisions are being made, by whom, and how to participate effectively over time. I want to request specific studies, alternatives analysis, and mitigation/monitoring commitments so any eventual decision is grounded in a credible public record.

**REQUESTED SCOPE ITEMS (STUDIES + ENFORCEABLE CONDITIONS)**

- 1. Protect the riverbed and water quality**
  1. Test the riverbed before work starts to identify any buried contamination along the route.
  2. Monitor water cloudiness (turbidity) in real time during construction and make that data public.
  3. Require automatic stop-work rules if sediment pollution spikes or contamination is stirred up.
- 2. Protect fish and habitat**
  1. Do detailed analysis for key species like salmon and lamprey, not just general fish impacts.
  2. Require post-construction monitoring to make sure habitat actually recovers.
  3. Set clear thresholds for action; if the river doesn't recover as expected, the company must fix it.
- 3. Respect cultural resources and treaty rights**
  1. Require a binding inadvertent discovery plan so work stops immediately if cultural items or human remains are found, and Tribal protocols are followed.
  2. Ensure meaningful Tribal involvement in monitoring and decision-making, not just one-time consultation.
  3. Create a clear dispute-resolution process if Tribal governments raise concerns during or after construction.
- 4. Prevent navigation and dredging conflicts**
  1. Coordinate formally with navigation and dredging managers so the cable won't create hazards or interfere with maintaining the shipping channel.
  2. Study route adjustments that could reduce conflicts with busy navigation areas.
- 5. Make safety claims measurable and enforceable**

1. Require independent verification of company modeling on electromagnetic fields (EMF), heat, and realistic failure scenarios.
2. Tie emergency response plans to permit conditions, not just company promises, so repair timelines and response actions are enforceable.

#### ALTERNATIVES AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Please ensure the EIS evaluates reasonable alternatives in a way the public can understand, including route and method alternatives (for example, variations in shoreline transition methods such as HDD; depth/installation technique variations; and feasible corridor alternatives). Alternatives should be compared using consistent metrics (environmental impacts, treaty resource implications, navigation/dredging conflicts, constructability, reliability/resilience, and cost), with clear explanations of what is considered “reasonable” and why.

#### PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Please include commitments to plain-language public summaries of key technical findings (baseline sediment results, monitoring plans, thresholds, and adaptive management triggers), so affected communities can understand and track compliance over time.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

There is an Army Corps project currently working in front of my home to replace the rail bridge, Permit No. NWS-2021-951 (BNSF Rail Bridge Replacement, White Salmon River). The public was given no notice for this project, and barriers erected overnight that cut off fishing entry and other critical access to the river for my neighbors who make their livings and feed their families from this entry point. Our local county officials were also not given any notice or timeline for the project. I had to find any details for the project buried in Coast Guard notices and EPA docs.

Please consider more publicly posting and sharing with local governments any intended work timelines that may interfere with the public's normal access points to the river, in order to help protect Tribal treaty fishing rights, food security, and livelihoods.

Thank you for considering these scoping requests. Please include this comment in the scoping record for the CRT EIS.

Sincerely,  
Kate Bertash  
Underwood, WA