

WEEKLY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Bonners Ferry Islands Project



In 2015 the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho will begin construction of the Bonners Ferry Islands habitat restoration project. The project will take two years to complete with construction taking place from August through November in both 2015 and 2016. The project is located in the Kootenai River within Bonners Ferry, in front of the Kootenai River Inn, upstream from the Highway 95 Bridge. The purpose of the project is to restore and enhance in-river, floodplain, and riparian habitat, as part of a multi-pronged approach to restoring self-sustaining populations of endangered Kootenai River white sturgeon, as well as burbot and other native Kootenai River fish.

The 2015 project actions include excavation of two deep pools in the river to deepen the river channel through this shallow reach, construction of two vegetated islands on top of existing gravel bars using fill from the pool excavation, bank re-grading along portions of the north river bank, construction of woody structures designed to protect the bank and establish habitat, and revegetation with native plants.

Construction Activities for the period of Sept 14 to October 4, 2015

- **Excavation of lower and upper pools to provide depth**
- **Island construction to create floodplains that will support vegetation**
- **River bank grading to improve floodplain connection**
- **Installation of large wood habitat structures**



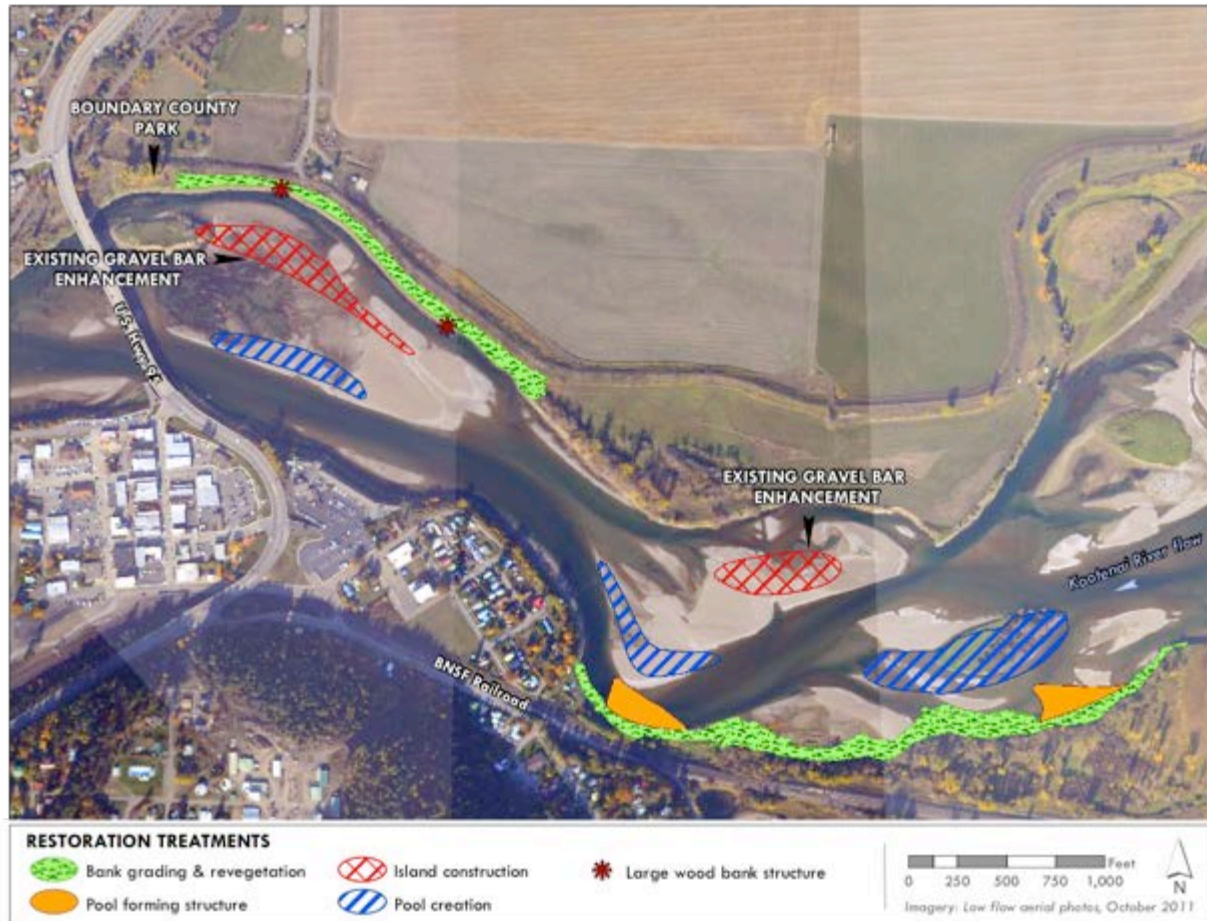
Truck traffic will continue and road closure notifications are in place for the south end of Riverside Park due to the need for public safety in the construction zone. Construction in 2015 will take place from August to beginning of November. Thank you so much for your patience during this time.

For additional information about the Bonners Ferry Islands Project or the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program visit www.restoringthekootenai.org or contact:

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Bonners Ferry Islands Project Restoration Treatments



Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program

The Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program is a multi-year program to create, restore, and enhance habitats that will support self-sustaining populations of endangered Kootenai River white sturgeon, as well as burbot and other native fish species in the Kootenai River. Each Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program project is designed to address a range of habitat factors limiting success of native fish species while working within the constraints posed by current infrastructure, Libby Dam flows and flood control targets, and current land uses. Between 2011 and 2014 the Tribe completed construction of seven restoration projects under this program. Two more projects (Bonners Ferry Islands and Straight Reach) will be completed in 2015 through 2016. Funding for the restoration program is provided by primarily by the Bonneville Power Administration through the Northwest Power and Conservation Council’s Fish and Wildlife Program.

Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program projects are identified, developed, designed and constructed through a collaborative process involving the Tribe, state and federal agencies, local government and local landowners. An ongoing monitoring program is measuring the effectiveness of each project in achieving its physical objectives. The Tribe is also coordinating with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and other entities to monitor the longer-term response of various fish species to the combined program projects.