



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 1, 2014

In reply refer to: KEC-4

**To: People Interested in the Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Program –
Merry Canyon and Trinity Acclimation Sites**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund construction and operation of two acclimation ponds in Washington. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines the environmental review process, and invites you to comment on the proposal.

Proposal: BPA is proposing to fund two acclimation ponds for coho salmon as part of the Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Program, which is implemented by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. Acclimation ponds help hatchery-reared juvenile coho salmon acclimate to the natural environment and imprint on waters to which they would be expected to return as adults. The BPA's 2012 Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision¹ addressed the coho restoration program, including 24 acclimation pond sites distributed throughout the Wenatchee and Methow river basins. Because some acclimation sites proved not to be viable since the EIS, two new sites—Merry Canyon and Trinity—are being proposed.

The two acclimation sites are in the Wenatchee River basin, in Chelan County. Merry Canyon is on Chumstick Creek, and Trinity is on Phelps Creek (see Project Map).

The following actions are proposed:

- Merry Canyon: excavate a new pond into the bank of Chumstick Creek
- Trinity: build one new small pond, three above-ground rearing tanks, surface-water intake pipelines, and discharge pipelines.

BPA intends to prepare a Supplement Analysis to the 2012 EIS to evaluate the environmental impacts that may occur as a result of developing the acclimation ponds at these locations. We welcome your comments as we are preparing the analysis.

How to Comment: Please submit comments by **August 18, 2014** in one of the following ways:

Mail:	Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKE-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97291-4428	Toll-free:	800-622-4519
		FAX:	503-230-4019
		E-mail:	www.bpa.gov/comment

¹ The Final EIS and Record of Decision are available at:

http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Mid-Columbia_Coho_Restoration_Project/

For More Information: If you need more information or have any questions, please call me toll free at 1-800-622-4519. You may also reach me at 503-230-3796 or dlrose@bpa.gov. Alternatively, you may contact the BPA contract staff assigned to this project, Michelle Guay, at 503-230-3459 or mxguay@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald L. Rose

Donald L. Rose
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:
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