



## Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

March 2, 2012

In reply refer to: KEC-4

**To: Parties Interested in the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation's (Yakama Nation) Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Program**

You are invited to review the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Yakama Nation's Mid-Columbia-Coho Restoration Program located in Chelan and Okanogan counties, Washington. The Yakama Nation is the sponsor of the reintroduction program; the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) would provide the funding if approved. The final EIS describes the proposed fish production program and facilities, and analyzes the potential environmental effects from program operations and facility construction. It also responds to the comments received during the comment period on the draft EIS.

The program is an effort to restore self-sustaining coho salmon runs to the Methow and Wenatchee basins using information and techniques developed as part of the Yakama Nation's Mid-Columbia Coho Reintroduction Feasibility Project. The Yakama Nation has also prepared a Master Plan to guide the development of the program.

**Project background**

Over the next 20-25 years, the proposed program would expand the development of a locally adapted, self-sustaining population of coho in the Methow and Wenatchee basins, capable of supporting harvest. Hatcheries used in the feasibility studies would continue to be used. In addition, a new small hatchery in the Wenatchee basin; and a total of 24 acclimation ponds, seven of which would require some level of construction and several of which are already in use by the program, are proposed to serve as semi-natural rearing and acclimation areas for juvenile coho salmon.

**Copies available**

If you have received this letter, we are providing the entire final EIS, including appendices, on CD. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the final EIS please call BPA's toll-free document request line at 800-622-4519. Please leave a message naming this project, giving your complete address. The final and draft EIS and its appendices may also be viewed at the project's website:

[www.bpa.gov/go/midcolumbiacoho](http://www.bpa.gov/go/midcolumbiacoho).

**Next Steps**

BPA expects to issue a Record of Decision in summer 2012 that will explain BPA's decision about whether to proceed with the project.

**For More Information**

If you need more information or have questions, please call me directly at (503) 230-5373 or e-mail me at [nhweintraub@bpa.gov](mailto:nhweintraub@bpa.gov).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Nancy H. Weintraub, March 2, 2012*

Nancy H. Weintraub

Environmental Protection Specialist