



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

July 28, 2017

In reply refer to: EC-4

To: People Interested in the Upper Columbia Summer Chinook and Steelhead Acclimation Program

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Upper Columbia Summer Chinook and Steelhead Acclimation Program. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and has made a decision to fund the program. This letter describes BPA's decision, the construction schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

Background: Under the program, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation would develop and use ponds to acclimate existing hatchery-bred juvenile Chinook salmon and steelhead prior to releasing them into the Methow and Wenatchee river basins in Okanogan and Chelan counties, Washington. Acclimating juvenile fish to natural spawning habitats throughout their native watersheds would help ensure their return as adults to locations where they can spawn successfully. .

BPA prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the project would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. BPA released the draft EA for public review and comment in November 2016 and received no comments. The final EA provides only minor revisions to the EA. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA has found that the project will not cause any significant impacts and, therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Decision: BPA has decided to fund Yakama Nation's proposed spring Chinook and steelhead acclimation program. Project construction is expected to begin in July, 2017.

Copies Available: The final EA, FONSI, and mitigation action plan are available on BPA's website at www.bpa.gov/goto/ChinookSteelheadAcclimation. If you previously requested a copy of the documents, they are enclosed. If you would like to obtain paper copies of these documents, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520; leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address.

For More Information: If you have any questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 360-619-6557 or email at cjhamel@bpa.gov, or Rob Shull, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, FirstTekDOS, at rwshull@bpa.gov, or 503-230-3962.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel

Supervisory Environmental Specialist

Enclosures (if requested):

Final EA

FONSI and Mitigation Action Plan