



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

October 7, 2014

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: Parties interested in the Walla Walla Basin Spring Chinook Hatchery Program

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has completed the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Walla Walla Basin Spring Chinook Hatchery Program. This letter requests your comments on the EIS and invites you to public meetings.

BPA is proposing to fund the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's (CTUIR) proposal to construct and operate a hatchery at an existing fish facility managed by the CTUIR on the South Fork Walla Walla River near Milton-Freewater in Umatilla County, Oregon.

BPA is considering two alternatives for construction of the hatchery, as well as the No Action Alternative. Under Alternative 1, the CTUIR would build a new hatchery to incubate and rear 500,000 spring Chinook smolts for release in the Walla Walla River basin to augment populations available for harvest and help establish a naturally spawning population in the Walla Walla basin. Under Alternative 2, the hatchery would rear the same fish as Alternative 1 but would also accommodate the rearing of 810,000 spring Chinook smolts for an ongoing Umatilla basin program. This alternative would transfer production of Umatilla spring Chinook from the existing Umatilla Hatchery near Irrigon, Oregon to the proposed new Walla Walla Hatchery to help alleviate water constraints at Umatilla Hatchery.

Draft EIS

The draft EIS describes the alternatives, discusses anticipated impacts to natural and human resources, and identifies mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts.

We invite your comments on the draft EIS. If you requested a copy of the document, it is enclosed. If you are interested in receiving a hard copy (about 200 pages) or a compact disc with an electronic copy of the document, please call our toll-free document request line at 800-622-4520. Please leave a message with the project name, your name, complete mailing address and phone number.

Public Meetings

We have scheduled two informal, open-house meetings to answer questions and accept comments about the environmental impacts identified in the draft EIS:

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

6:00 to 8:00 pm

Dayton Memorial Library

111 South 3rd Street

Dayton, WA 99328

Thursday, October 30, 2014

6:00 to 8:00 pm

Milton-Freewater Community Building

109 NE 5th Street

Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

How to Comment

Please send comments you have by **November 24, 2014**. All comments will be posted in their entirety on the project website. There are several ways to comment:

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
---	---

We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period and provide responses to comments in the final EIS, which is expected to be available in early summer 2015.

For More Information

For more information, please visit the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/WallaWallaHatchery; call me at 503-230-3796; or call Judy Woodward, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, MBO Partners, at jlwoodward@bpa.gov, or 503-325-8333; or you can also reach us toll free at 800-622-4519.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald L. Rose

Donald L. Rose
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures (if requested):

Draft EIS
Comment Form
Return Envelope