



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
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ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

January 13, 2017

In reply refer to: ECF-4

To: People Interested in the Lostine River, Upper Grande Ronde River, and Catherine Creek Spring/Summer Chinook Production Programs

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and has made a decision to fund three hatchery programs—Catherine Creek, Lostine River, and Upper Grande Ronde River. The FONSI is based on an environmental assessment (EA) prepared by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries). This letter describes BPA's decision, the adoption of NOAA Fisheries' final EA, and how to obtain additional information.

Decision: BPA has decided to fund spring/summer Chinook hatchery programs in the Grande Ronde basin. The funding would support broodstock collection, spawning, rearing, transportation, acclimation, and/or monitoring and evaluation in support of the hatchery production of about 650,000 juvenile spring/summer Chinook in the Grande Ronde basin (Catherine Creek, Lostine River, and Upper Grande Ronde River). Entities receiving funds for these programs may include the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho (Nez Perce), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The funding supports BPA's obligations under the Pacific Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980, *16 USC § 839 et seq.* (Northwest Power Act), to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the development, operation, and management of federal hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River and its tributaries.

Environmental Review: These programs were analyzed in an EA prepared by NOAA Fisheries—a final *Environmental Assessment (EA) to Analyze Impacts of a NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Determination to Issue Section 10 Permits for the Continued Operation of Eight Hatchery Programs within the Tucannon, Grande Ronde, and Imnaha River Basins*. Under the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, BPA is adopting the NOAA Fisheries' EA (DOE/EA-2054) which describes and analyzes BPA-funded activities. Since BPA was not a Cooperating Agency in the development of the EA, BPA has recirculated the EA under *40 CFR 1506.3(b)*, is issuing a FONSI based on the EA, and has made a decision to proceed with the funding of the three hatchery programs.

Copies Available: The final EA and FONSI are available on BPA's website at www.bpa.gov/goto/NEORspringchinook. If you would like a copy mailed to you, 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.

More Information: If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me toll-free at 800-622-4519, directly at 503-230-4047, or by e-mail at kcgrange@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange

Environmental Protection Specialist