



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

March 10, 2017

In reply refer to: ECF-4

To: Parties Interested in the Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery, Yakima Basin Coho Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery in Kittitas County, Washington. The draft EIS describes the proposed hatchery facilities and the fish production and release program, and discusses the environmental effects expected from facility construction and program operations. This letter requests your comments on the EIS, announces public meetings, and outlines the next steps in the process.

How to Comment: The EIS can be viewed at the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/MelvinSampsonHatchery. If you requested a hard copy, it is enclosed. If you would like to request a hard copy (about 250 pages), please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520. Please leave a message with the project name, your name, and complete mailing address.

Please send your comments by **May 1, 2017** and reference the Melvin Sampson Hatchery. We will consider all comments submitted during the comment period and provide responses to substantive comments in the final EIS. In addition, comments will be available on the project website. There are several ways to comment:

Mail: Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKE-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97293-4428	Toll-free: 800-622-4519 Online: www.bpa.gov/comment FAX: 503-230-4019
---	---

Public Meetings: We have scheduled one open-house public meeting to answer questions and accept comments on the draft EIS. Several members of the project team will be available to receive your written comments. We do not plan to give a presentation, so you may come any time during the meeting.

April 12, 2017
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Hal Holmes Community Center
209 N Ruby St.,
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Schedule: The schedule for the EIS process is as follows:

Draft EIS available for public comment	March 10, 2017
Final EIS	Fall 2017
Record of Decision	Winter 2017
If decision to build, construction begins	Spring 2018

For More Information: If you have questions regarding the draft EIS or the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-4764, or by e-mail at jdgoodman@bpa.gov. You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-622-4519.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dave Goodman

Dave Goodman

Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:

Draft EIS (if requested)

Comment Form

Return Envelope