



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

May 25, 2018

In reply refer to: ECF-4

To: People Interested in the Walla Walla Basin Spring Chinook Hatchery Program

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Walla Walla spring Chinook hatchery in Umatilla County, Oregon. This letter briefly describes the proposed action, explains how to find a copy of the final EIS, and outlines next steps in the process.

Background: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund construction and operation of a spring Chinook salmon hatchery in the Walla Walla River basin in northeast Oregon. The proposed hatchery would be owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and would be constructed at an existing CTUIR fish facility on the South Fork Walla Walla River near Milton-Freewater in Umatilla County, Oregon. The proposal includes construction of a hatchery for production of spring Chinook, development of a local broodstock from adult returns to the Walla Walla basin, and release of juvenile and adult spring Chinook into Walla Walla River tributaries in both Oregon and Washington. The program would augment spring Chinook fish populations available for harvest, aid in establishing a naturally spawning spring Chinook population in the Walla Walla River basin, and help mitigate for effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System on fish and wildlife in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries.

BPA prepared an EIS to consider the impacts of the proposal. The draft EIS was released for public review and comment in October 2014. In addition to comments from two public meetings held in Dayton, Washington and Milton-Freewater, Oregon, BPA received five letters and emailed comments. The final EIS provides responses to all comments and has been revised with additional information as appropriate. BPA's decision on whether to fund the proposal will be documented and released in a Record of Decision.

Copies Available: The final EIS is available on BPA's project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/WallaWallaHatchery if you previously requested a copy of the document, it is enclosed. If you would like to obtain paper copies, please call our toll-free document request line 1-800-622-4520; leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address.

For More Information: If you need more information or have any questions, please call me at 503-230-5564, or e-mail me at cjhamel@bpa.gov, or Judy Woodward, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, MBO Partners, at jlwoodward@bpa.gov, or 503-325-8333.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:
Final EIS (if requested)