

**Supplement Analysis**  
for the  
**Walla Walla Basin Spring Chinook Hatchery Program**  
**Final Environmental Impact Statement**  
(DOE/ EIS-0495/SA-01)

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Introduction**

In May 2018, BPA completed the Walla Walla Basin Spring Chinook Hatchery Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (DOE/EIS-0495) and then issued a Record of Decision (ROD) in August 2018 documenting BPA’s decision to fund construction and operation of a spring Chinook hatchery at the existing South Fork Walla Walla Adult Holding and Spawning Facility. The Facility will be owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

This supplement analysis was prepared to determine whether the modification associated with a new staging area for construction is considered a significant new circumstance or if information relevant to environmental concerns, such that either would warrant the need for a supplemental EIS.

**Proposed Action**

Mobilization and staging associated with construction of the hatchery facilities is anticipated to start in mid-January 2020. During pre-construction planning, an additional staging area was identified in order to safely separate construction operations and associated vehicle traffic from the main hatchery entrance used by hatchery staff to support ongoing adult holding and spawning operations. The 1.25 acre parcel proposed for staging is owned by CTUIR and is located directly adjacent to the existing hatchery facility.

Most of the material and heavy equipment associated with construction of the new hatchery will be staged on the existing hatchery facility site as analyzed in the Final EIS. ‘Weather sensitive’ material (valves, meters, etc.), work trailers, light duty vehicles and a construction dumpster would be stored in the proposed additional staging area. Preparation of the additional staging area would involve activities such as grading and gravelling, including the addition of a temporary construction entrance off of South Fork Walla Walla River Road.

**Analysis**

With the staging area modifications, the effects of the Walla Walla Basin Spring Chinook Program would essentially be the same as described in the 2018 Final EIS. The Final EIS analyzed impacts of hatchery construction including a new 32,654 square foot hatchery building, 3,242 square foot workshop, replacement of hatchery staff housing, new gravel and asphalt surfacing within the hatchery facilities and a new 6,000 square foot sand filter drain field.

Ground preparation activities for the additional staging area would be consistent with and similar to the ground preparation that would be required for several project components that are listed in Section 2.2.1, *New Construction*, and the associated construction effects described in Chapter 3 of the Final EIS.

Mitigation measures included in the Final EIS and adopted in the ROD include “store, fuel and maintain vehicles and equipment in designated staging areas located a minimum of 150 feet from the river” and “establish a vehicle and equipment wash station near where pavement ends and the construction access road begins.” The same mitigation measures identified in the Final EIS would be applied to actions taken to prepare and use the additional staging site.

There are no Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed plants in the project area. Disturbance of non-native vegetation types by the project was already considered and evaluated in Section 3.6 of the Final EIS. Upon completion of construction, all equipment and gravel would be removed and the additional staging area site would be reseeded or replanted with native species, as described in Mitigation Action Plan for the Final EIS, resulting in improved vegetation compared to the current condition.

The proposed additional staging area would not impact ESA-listed fish or wildlife species. There are no ESA-listed mammals or birds in the project area. The Final EIS discusses that construction may result in an increase in erosion and runoff, but the flat topography of the site and best management practices to contain and filter runoff would minimize effects to ESA-listed fish and the South Fork Walla Walla River. Vehicles and equipment would be stored, fueled and maintained a minimum of 150 feet from the South Fork Walla Walla River, as described in the Final EIS. Through the implementation of these mitigation measures, impacts of the proposed additional staging area on fish, wildlife and plant species are consistent with those described and evaluated in the Final EIS.

Preparation of the site for staging and construction access would not impact known cultural or historic resources. The site was surveyed in 2011 as part of a past habitat restoration project and no resources were located. In addition, consultation with the CTUIR undertaken during preparation of the Final EIS prescribes that a cultural resource monitor will be on site during all ground disturbing activities associated with construction of the hatchery facilities, including the new staging area. A no effect determination associated with the expansion of the Area of Potential Effect to add the staging area was submitted to consulting parties on December 31, 2019. Verbal concurrence with this determination was received from the CTUIR on January 9, 2020.

In addition, the effects of the additional staging area would not differ from the impacts described in the Final EIS to wetlands, surface or groundwater, recreation, visual resources, water quality, geology and soils, noise, transportation, air quality and socioeconomic resources.

Because the staging area work would occur in the same vicinity and would be similar to construction effects analyzed in the Final EIS and impacts to resources would not substantially deviate from those described in the Final EIS, the modification associated with the additional staging area does not represent a substantial change in the project relevant to environmental concerns.

### **Findings**

This SA finds that the proposed actions and potential impacts related to the proposed additional staging area are similar to those analyzed in the Walla Walla Basin Spring Chinook Hatchery Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0495, May 2018). There are no substantial changes in the proposed action and no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns bearing on the proposed action or its impacts within the meaning of 10 CFR § 1021.314(c)(1) and 40 CFR §1502.9(c). Therefore, no further NEPA analysis or documentation is required.

/s/ Carolyn Sharp  
Carolyn Sharp  
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Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange  
Katey Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 9, 2020