



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

February 6, 2024

In reply refer to: EC-4

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Proposed Action: Phase 2 Implementation Plan (P2IP)

Environmental Project Manager: Amy Mai, EC-4, 503-230-7349, aemai@bpa.gov

Location: Coulee Dam, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Lincoln, Okanogan, Spokane, and Stevens counties, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA will be a co-lead agency with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), in implementing the Phase 2 Implementation Plan: Testing the Feasibility of Reintroduced Salmon in the Upper Columbia River Basin (P2IP). The P2IP was developed by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and Upper Columbia United Tribes (Project Proponents).

The P2IP involves activities over an approximately 20-year period to test key biological assumptions through salmon research studies, develop interim hatchery and passage facilities, establish sources of donor and brood stocks for reintroduction, and evaluate success. The Project Proponents are currently implementing juvenile survival outmigration studies.

In late 2023, the Project Proponents and the Federal government agreed to pursue a proactive, collaborative, and science-based approach to implementing the P2IP.

This agreement outlines funding and implementation commitments through 2043, including:

- Bonneville will provide certain funding for implementation of the P2IP projects for reintroducing specific non-Federally protected salmonid stocks above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams in the Upper Columbia River Basin.
- Reclamation, Corps, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Marine Fisheries Service, and BPA will continue working with Project Proponents to identify

and meet additional funding needs for P2IP activities during the 20-year implementation period.

- Project proponents may utilize existing hatchery facilities for activities related to P2IP implementation.
- The FWS will provide surplus fertilized eggs and juvenile salmon of non-listed stock from Federal hatchery facilities to support the study and testing of reintroduction.

Federal actions associated with the P2IP to be considered include:

- Funding P2IP activities throughout the project area, including research studies, interim fish passage, and fish rearing.
- Reviewing, approving, and issuing permits for actions including but not limited to data collection, installation of equipment, or facility construction on Federally-managed lands and facilities.
- Providing eggs and juvenile and adult salmon from existing hatcheries for research studies.

Class of Action to be Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): Appendix C8
Protection of cultural resources and fish and wildlife habitat

We have determined that the proposed action is within the class of actions normally requiring an environmental assessment (EA), but not necessarily requiring an environmental impact statement (EIS) (see Appendix C to Subpart D of 10 C.F.R. Part 1021). Therefore, we have determined that an EA will be prepared to assess the impacts of the proposed action. Based on the analysis in the EA, BPA will likely either prepare a finding of no significant impact and proceed with the action or will prepare an EIS if the EA analysis reveals the potential for significant environmental impacts.

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: _____