



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

November 18, 2016

In reply refer to: ECF-4

### **To Parties interested in the Eightmile Ranch Coho Acclimation Site**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Eightmile Ranch Coho Acclimation Site. This letter provides a brief description of the proposed action and where to find a copy of the FONSI.

**Background:** Under the proposed action, BPA intends to fund the construction and operation of a coho salmon acclimation site at Eightmile Ranch, located adjacent to the Chewuch River on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, about 8 miles north of Winthrop, in Okanogan County, Washington. The Forest Service has issued a project-specific amendment to the Okanogan Forest Plan for constructing the acclimation pond within the potential scenic corridor of the Chewuch River. The amendment allows the Forest Service to issue a Special Use Permit to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation to construct and operate the acclimation site at Eightmile Ranch for a period not to exceed 20 years.

The pond would allow hatchery-raised coho salmon to acclimate in a semi-natural setting before entering the wild so that they are better prepared to survive in the natural environment. This site would replace sites on the Chewuch River that were evaluated in the Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (March 2012) and later became unavailable.

BPA and the Forest Service released a draft EA for public review and comment in December 2014, and four comments were received. The final EA was released in March 2016. The Forest Service released a separate decision notice regarding this action on October 14, 2016.

**For More Information:** The FONSI is enclosed if you previously requested a hard copy. If you did not receive a copy and would like one, please call BPA's toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520. When making a request, please provide your name, your complete mailing address, and the name of the project. The FONSI is also available at BPA's project webpage: [www.bpa.gov/goto/Eightmile](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/Eightmile) and at the Forest Service's webpage: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=41617>.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jenna Peterson*

Jenna Peterson  
Acting Supervisory, Environmental Protection Specialist

**Enclosure (if requested):**  
FONSI