



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

November 14, 2017

In reply refer to: ECF-4

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

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery in Kittitas County, Washington. 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: BPA is proposing to fund the Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Nation to construct a coho hatchery in Kittitas County, Washington. The hatchery would initially rear and release 500,000 parr and 200,000 smolts in the upper Yakima and Naches River watersheds using broodstock collected from existing facilities. The hatchery would help restore natural spawning of coho in the Yakima River basin and provide harvest opportunities. The project would 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 March 2017; we received nine comments on the draft EIS. The final EIS provides responses to those comments and has been revised with additional information in response to comments. BPA plans to make a decision whether to fund the proposal; the decision 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/MelvinSampsonHatchery. 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 toll free at 1-800-622-4519, or e-mail me at jgoodman@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dave Goodman

Dave Goodman
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:
Final EIS (if requested)