



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

November 16, 2015

In reply refer to: KEC-4

### **To: Parties Interested in the Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery, Yakima Basin Coho Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will be preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the effects of the Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Nation's proposed Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, invites you to a public meeting, and requests your comments on the proposal.

**Proposal** - BPA is proposing to fund the Yakama Nation's Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery project. The hatchery would be located on the Holmes Ranch property, a 50-acre parcel owned by the Yakama Nation in Kittitas County, WA. The project would include construction of hatchery and administration buildings, fish holding and spawning facilities, a water intake pump using an existing irrigation canal, three new groundwater wells, a waste treatment pond, and two residences for hatchery staff.

Hatchery operations would include incubation and rearing of up to 200,000 juvenile coho salmon for release in the Yakima basin to enhance fish populations available for harvest and to aid in establishing a naturally spawning coho salmon population.

The proposal has been recommended for funding by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and would help BPA meet responsibilities under the Northwest Power Act and the 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords Memorandum of Agreement.

**Environmental Review** - BPA will prepare an EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act to analyze the potential impacts of the proposed action and identify ways to reduce those impacts. The EIS will analyze the proposed action, the no action alternative, and additional alternatives that may be identified. During this process, BPA will work with federal, state and local agencies, tribes, landowners, and interest groups.

**Public Meetings** - We have scheduled one informal, open-house scoping meeting to answer questions and accept comments about the scope of the EIS.

**December 9, 2015  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Hal Holmes Community Center  
209 N Ruby St.,  
Ellensburg, WA 98926**

**How to Comment** - Please send your comments by **January 4, 2016** so they may be considered while we draft the EIS. All comments will be posted on the BPA comment website. There are several ways to comment:

<b>Project website:</b>	<a href="http://www.bpa.gov/goto/MelvinSampsonHatchery">www.bpa.gov/goto/MelvinSampsonHatchery</a>
<b>Mail:</b> Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKE-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97291-4428	<b>Toll-free:</b> 800-622-4519 <b>Online:</b> <a href="http://www.bpa.gov/comment">www.bpa.gov/comment</a> <b>FAX:</b> 503-230-4019

**Process and Schedule** - The proposed schedule for the EIS process is as follows:

Scoping comment period	November 18, 2015 – January 4, 2016
Draft EIS available for public comment	Fall 2016
Final EIS	Spring 2017
Record of Decision	Fall 2017

**For More Information** - If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-4764, or by e-mail at [jgoodman@bpa.gov](mailto:jgoodman@bpa.gov). You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-282-3713.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Dave Goodman*

Dave Goodman  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:  
Project Map  
Comment Form  
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