



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

April 2, 2015

In reply refer to: KEC-4

**To: Those interested in the Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Steelhead Acclimation Project**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the development and use of fish rearing acclimation ponds for hatchery-raised steelhead and Chinook salmon in the Methow and Wenatchee watersheds in Okanogan and Chelan counties, Washington. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines the environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to public meetings where you can learn more and comment on the proposal.

**Proposal:** The Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Steelhead Acclimation Project would be implemented by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and would help improve acclimation and release of existing hatchery-bred juvenile steelhead and Chinook in a manner that more accurately mimics natural systems. The project would involve expanding the use of seven existing acclimation ponds and constructing one new pond in Chelan County, Washington. Construction activities would include excavation work, installation of a rock berm at the entrance of one pond, and construction of a 70-foot long access road to a pond. The ponds would raise small groups of steelhead and spring Chinook, and these fish would be distributed along rivers and streams where juvenile salmon are either not occupying the habitat or are present at low levels, with the intent of helping adults return to these areas to spawn closer to their original habitats and therefore increase survival and assist with recovery.

To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) following the procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA will describe anticipated impacts on natural and human resources, as well as mitigation measures to help avoid or minimize impacts. During this process, BPA will work with landowners, tribes, federal, state and local agencies, and interest groups.

**Public Meetings:** We have scheduled two informal, open-house scoping meetings to answer questions and accept comments about the scope of the EA that will be prepared:

**Wednesday, April 22, 2015**  
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Chelan County Fire District 3  
228 Chumstick Hwy  
Leavenworth, WA

**Thursday, April 23, 2015**  
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
The Winthrop Barn Conference Room  
51 N. Hwy 20  
Winthrop, WA 98862

**How to Comment:** Please submit comments by **May 4, 2015**. Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether and how you would like to receive the EA. All comments will be posted in their entirety on the project website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/ChinookSteelheadAcclimation](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/ChinookSteelheadAcclimation) and appear in the final EA. There are several ways that you can comment:

<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>FAX:</b>	503-230-4019
		<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://www.bpa.gov/comment">www.bpa.gov/comment</a>

**Schedule:**

The proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Draft EA available for public comment	Summer 2015
Final EA	Fall 2015
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Fall 2015
If decision to build, construction start	Summer 2016

**For More Information:**

If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-3018, or by e-mail at [jepeterson@bpa.gov](mailto:jepeterson@bpa.gov), or Amy Mai, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, ACS Professional Staffing, at 503-230-7349, or by e-mail at [aemai@bpa.gov](mailto:aemai@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jenna E. Peterson*

Jenna E. Peterson  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:  
Project Map  
Comment Form  
Return Envelope  
Reply Card