



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

August 31, 2018

In reply refer to: ECF-4

To: People interested in the Walla Walla Basin Spring Chinook Hatchery Program

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Walla Walla Basin Spring Chinook Hatchery Program. This letter describes BPA's decision, the project schedule, how to obtain copies of documents, and how to contact us if you have questions.

Decision: BPA has decided to fund construction and operation of a spring Chinook salmon hatchery in the Walla Walla River basin in northeast Oregon. The hatchery would be owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and would be constructed at an existing CTUIR fish facility on the South Fork Walla Walla River near Milton-Freewater in Umatilla County, Oregon. BPA considered the environmental impacts of the action, as described in the Walla Walla Basin Spring Chinook Hatchery Program final Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0495, May 2018).

The project includes construction of a hatchery for production of spring Chinook, development of a local broodstock from adult returns to the Walla Walla basin, and release of juvenile and adult spring Chinook into Walla Walla River tributaries in both Oregon and Washington. The program would augment spring Chinook populations available for harvest, aid in establishing a naturally spawning spring Chinook population in the Walla Walla River basin, and help mitigate for effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System on fish and wildlife in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries.

The ROD explains the factors that were considered in reaching the decision to fund the hatchery. In addition, BPA prepared a mitigation action plan that lists the measures that will be used to avoid or reduce environmental impacts. Hatchery construction activities are scheduled to start in August 2018.

Copies available: The ROD, mitigation action plan, and final EIS are available on BPA's website at www.bpa.gov/goto/WallaWallaHatchery. If you previously requested a copy of the documents, they are enclosed. If you would like to obtain paper copies of these documents, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520; leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address.

For more information: If you have questions about this project, you may contact me toll free at (800) 622-4519, directly at (503) 230-5564, or by email at cjhamel@bpa.gov. You may also contact, Gerald McClintock, Project Manager/Civil Engineer, at gmcclintock@bpa.gov, or (503) 230-5375.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad J. Hamel

Chad J. Hamel

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure: (if requested)

Record of Decision

Mitigation Action Plan