



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

May 3, 2017

In reply refer to: EC-4

To: Parties Interested in the Crystal Springs Hatchery Program

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the effects of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation's (Tribes) proposed Crystal Springs Hatchery Program (Hatchery Program) in Bingham, Lemhi, and Custer counties, Idaho. BPA is the lead agency responsible for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis of the Proposed Action to fund construction and operation of the Tribes' Hatchery Program. Additionally, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Tribes are cooperating agencies for the development of this draft EIS. The draft EIS describes the proposed hatchery facilities and the fish production and release program, and discusses the environmental effects expected from facility construction and program operations. This letter requests your comments on the EIS, announces public meetings, and outlines the next steps in the process.

How to Comment: The EIS can be viewed at the project website at <http://www.bpa.gov/goto/CrystalSprings>. If you requested a hard copy, it is enclosed. If you would like to request a hard copy (about 600 pages), please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520. Please leave a message with the project name, your name, and your complete mailing address.

Please send your comments by **June 26, 2017**, and reference the Crystal Springs Hatchery Program. We will consider all comments submitted during the public comment period and provide responses to substantive comments in the final EIS. In addition, comments will be available on the project website. There are several ways to comment:

Mail: Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs – DKE-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97293-4428

Toll-free: 800-622-4519
Online: www.bpa.gov/comment
FAX: 503-230-4019

Public Meetings: We have scheduled three open-house public meetings to answer questions and accept comments on the draft EIS. Several members of the project team will be available to receive your written comments. We do not plan to give a presentation, so you may come any time during the meeting.

Monday June 5, 2017 6 to 8 P.M.	Tuesday June 6, 2017 6 to 8 P.M.	Wednesday June 7, 2017 6 to 8 P.M.
Shoshone-Bannock Hotel & Events Center I-15 Exit 80, Simplot Rd Fort Hall, Idaho 83203	US Forest Service Office 1206 S. Challis Street Salmon, Idaho 83467	US Forest Service Office 311 N. US HWY 93 Challis, Idaho 97487

Schedule: The schedule for the EIS process is as follows:

Draft EIS available for public comment	May 2017
Public Comment Period	May – June 2017
Public Meetings	June 2017
Final EIS	Winter 2018
Record of Decision	Winter 2018
If decision to rebuild, construction begins	Spring 2018

USDA Forest Service Administrative Review Process: The Crystal Springs Hatchery Program includes construction and operation of two weir facilities located on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The Forest Service decision to authorize a Special Use Permit for these facilities is subject to administrative review (objection) according to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Only individuals or organizations who submit timely and specific written comments (as defined in 36 CFR 218.2) regarding the proposed project during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection. Opportunity for public comment on a draft EIS includes the request for comments during scoping, the 40 CFR 1506.10 comment period, or other public involvement opportunities where written comments are requested by the responsible official (36 CFR 218.5(a)). Charles A. Mark, Salmon-Challis National Forest Supervisor is the responsible official for Forest Service decision whether to issue a Special Use Permit for this project.

The opportunity to comment on the draft EIS ends 45 days following the date of publication of the notice of availability (NOA) of the draft EIS in the Federal Register (36 CFR 218.25(a)(2)). The NOA will be published May 12, 2017. For this project, the responsible official does not anticipate requesting written comments through any additional public involvement opportunities except for the public meetings outlined above and during the 45-day public comment period. Comments submitted by individuals or organizations must have the evidence of timely submission as defined by 36 CFR 218.25(a)(4), and meet the following requirements outlined in 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3):

- Name and postal address (email address recommended, but not required)
- Title of the proposed project or activity
- Specific written comments as defined in 36 CFR 218.2 regarding the proposed project of activity, along with supporting reasons
- Signature or other verification of identity upon request and identification of the individual or entity that authored the comments. For comments listing multiple entities or individuals, a signature or other means of verification must be provided for the individual authorized to represent each entity and for each individual, in the case of multiple names.

A scanned signature or other means of verifying the identity of the individual or entity representative may be used for electronically submitted comments.

- Individual members of an entity must submit their own comments to establish personal eligibility; comments received on behalf of an entity are considered as those of the entity only.

For More Information: If you have questions regarding the draft EIS or the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-3018, or by e-mail at jepeterson@bpa.gov. You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-622-4519. For questions about the Forest Service objection process please contact Jeff Huntzman at 208-756-5246 or by email at jhuntzman@fs.fed.us.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jenna Peterson

Jenna Peterson

Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:

Draft EIS (if requested)

Comment Form

Return Envelope