



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

Aug. 2, 2005

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: People Interested in the Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery Program:

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a comprehensive management program for summer/fall Chinook salmon in the Okanogan subbasin and the Columbia River between the confluence of the Okanogan River and Chief Joseph Dam. This program will include construction, operation, and maintenance of a hatchery (at the base of the Chief Joseph Dam) and acclimation ponds (throughout the Okanogan River subbasin), broodstock collection, egg incubation, rearing and release. While the focus of the Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery Program (CJDHP) is on the propagation of summer/fall Chinook salmon, BPA will also consider the use of the proposed facilities to reintroduce extirpated spring Chinook salmon to their historical habitats in the Okanogan subbasin. To ensure programmatic flexibility and cost effectiveness, the CJDHP proposes to make use of a combination of new and existing fish production facilities.

Environmental Analysis

As a Federal agency, BPA must study both adverse and beneficial environmental impacts of a proposed project before it can proceed. BPA is the lead agency in preparing and issuing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation is a primary proponent and cooperating entity for the EIS and would be operating and maintaining the program and facilities if implemented. Additional cooperating agencies on the EIS may include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, and Public Utility Districts. The draft EIS is scheduled to be available for public review in spring 2006.

Public Scoping Meetings

BPA is holding two public scoping meetings and you are invited to attend. BPA and Colville Tribe representatives will be available to answer questions and receive any comments that you may have on the proposed CJDHP. The meetings will be open house format and will be held on:

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2005

5 – 8 p.m.
Okanogan PUD
Auditorium
1331 2nd Ave.
Okanogan, WA 98840

Thursday, Aug. 25, 2005

2 – 6 p.m.
Wenatchee Convention Center
Golden Delicious Room
201 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

How to Comment

The scoping comment period starts on Aug. 2 and ends Sept. 19, 2005. You can submit comments on the web at: http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/ or mail them to: Bonneville Power Administration, Communications Office - DM-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, Oregon, 97293-4428. Please reference the Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery Program with your comments. If you would like to receive a copy of the draft EIS, please return the enclosed postcard and specify if you prefer a CD or hardcopy of the document.

For More Information

If you have any questions about this program, please call our toll-free line at 1-800-622-4519, or contact me at 503-230-5885, or send me an email macarter@bpa.gov. Additional information is available at: http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/ChiefJoe. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mickey Carter Aug. 2, 2005
Mickey Carter
Environmental Project Manager

Enclosures: Postcard and Map