



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

May 22, 2003

To: People Interested in the Grande Ronde – Imnaha Spring Chinook Hatchery Project

Your review and comments are requested on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Grande Ronde – Imnaha Spring Chinook Hatchery Project in Northeast Oregon.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is the agency responsible for this Draft EIS. Cooperating agencies are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Cooperating tribes are the Nez Perce Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

If you previously requested the Draft EIS, a paper copy is enclosed for your review. Otherwise, an Executive Summary has been provided, which may include a DC copy of the Draft EIS. If a CD is not enclosed and you would like a copy of the Draft EIS, see Copies Available below.

How to Comment: BPA and others involved in this project will be available to discuss the project and the Draft EIS, and receive any written comments during a series of open house style meetings to be held according to the following schedule.

**June 9, 4-7 pm, Blue Mountain Conference Center
404 Twelfth Street, La Grande, OR**

**June 10, 4-7 pm, Community Connection
702 NW 1st Street, Enterprise, OR**

**June 11, 6-8 pm, Imnaha Christian Fellowship
Imnaha, OR**

**June 12, 4-7 pm, BPA House
Formerly the Hayward House on Granger Road, Lostine River Road
Lostine, OR**

Comments will be accepted through July 7, 2003. Any comments are encouraged. Of particular interest are specific suggestions related to the quality of the environmental analysis in the Draft EIS, or any recommendations for making the project more environmentally friendly while still fulfilling its intended purposes. All comments and responses to them will be made part of the Final EIS, which is scheduled for completion in August 2003. BPA expects to issue a Record of Decision in September 2003 on whether to implement the project.

You may also comment by writing a letter to Communications, Bonneville Power Administration – DM-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR, 97212. Or, you may send them by e-mail to: comment@bpa.gov. Please reference the Grande Ronde – Imnaha Hatchery project in your correspondence.

Copies Available: If you would like copies of the Draft EIS, please call BPA's toll-free document request line: 1-800-622-4520. Leave a message naming this project and giving your complete mailing address and the format you would prefer—either an Executive Summary including a CD of the entire Draft EIS or a paper copy of the entire Draft EIS (there are a limited number). The Draft EIS can also be viewed at www.efw.bpa.gov under links to *environmental analysis*, Active Projects. Copies are also available for viewing at these libraries:

- Pierce Library Federal Depository, Eastern Oregon State College, La Grande, OR
- Union Public Library, Union, OR
- Wallowa County Library, Enterprise, OR

The Project: BPA proposes to fund improvements and operation and maintenance of facilities in the Grande Ronde River and Imnaha River subbasins to aid BPA's efforts to mitigate and recover anadromous fish affected by the Federal Columbia River Power System. To assist in the conservation and recovery of native Chinook salmon, this Draft EIS evaluates a Proposed Action and a No Action Alternative in detail. The Proposed Action is to update and modify two existing hatcheries and construct three new auxiliary hatchery facilities at other sites.

Considered, but eliminated from detailed study, were nearly 40 alternative sites, which were found to be unsuitable due to insufficient water quality and/or volume at critical times of the fish production cycle, distance to native spawning grounds (important for young fish 'imprinting' to native waters), or lack of space (too little land available) among other reasons.

The two proposed new sites on the Lostine River are privately owned and are in a mixed rural residential and agricultural setting. The new site on the Imnaha River (also privately owned) is in a rural agricultural/ranching setting. The new Imnaha site and the existing Imnaha Satellite Facility are within the Imnaha Wild and Scenic River corridor and the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area boundary.

For More Information: If you need more information or have any questions, please call me direct at 503-230-5885 or toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, or e-mail me at macarter@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

/s/ Mickey Carter

Mickey Carter
Environmental Project Manager

Enclosure:
Executive Summary with or without CD of Draft EIS, or, if requested, Draft EIS