



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

July 10, 2009

In reply refer to: KEC-4

### **To: Parties Interested in the Klickitat Hatchery Program**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on funding proposed changes to the existing salmon and steelhead hatchery program in the Klickitat subbasin in Klickitat and Yakima counties, Washington. These changes are outlined in the Klickitat Subbasin Anadromous Fishery Hatchery Plan (Master Plan) prepared by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation). This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to meetings where you can learn more and comment on the proposal.

**Proposal** – The proposed project would involve changes to the salmon and steelhead hatchery programs in the Klickitat subbasin to increase abundance of natural spawners and increase harvest opportunities for Yakama Nation tribal members and others. These changes to the program would result in modification of the Klickitat Hatchery located seven miles east of Glenwood, Washington at river mile 42.5 of the Klickitat River. The proposed changes may also involve construction of a new Wahkiacus Hatchery and Acclimation Facility located at river mile 17 on the Klickitat River in Wahkiacus, Washington and a steelhead acclimation facility at McCreedy Creek at river mile 70.

To understand the potential impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an EIS for the project. During this process, we will be working with the Yakama Nation, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as with other federal, state and local agencies, landowners, interest groups, and tribes. BPA is considering three alternatives and a no-action alternative for the proposed program changes.

**Scoping Meetings** – BPA will convene an Agency Scoping Meeting in conjunction with Public Scoping for the EIS to assess potential environmental impacts of the proposed alternatives. BPA invites your questions and ideas on what resources should be analyzed. We have scheduled the meetings for the same day and will convene at the Lyle Community Center to accept comments related to the scope of the EIS:

**Agency Scoping Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 4th, 2009**  
**2:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Public Scoping Meeting**  
**Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**6:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Lyle Community Center**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Street and State Highway**  
**Lyle, WA 98635**

We are planning for an open-house format except for a brief presentation at the start of the public meeting, so we invite you to stop in anytime between 6:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas. Based on input received during this meeting, we may schedule a second meeting.

**Other Ways to Comment** - If you cannot come to the meeting, you can still comment. Please submit comments to us by **August 31st, 2009**. You may submit comments to BPA online at: [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment), return the enclosed reply card, or fax your comments to (503) 230-3285. You also may call us with your comments toll free at (800) 622-4519. Please reference “Klickitat Hatchery Program EIS” with your comments. We will post all comments we receive on our Web site at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment).

**Process and Schedule** - Starting late this summer you may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as they conduct environmental surveys. If we require access to private property, we will contact property owners for permission through a separate mailing in the next two weeks.

The information we gather in our environmental studies will be published in a draft EIS that we expect will be available for review and comment in fall 2010. If you would like to receive a copy of the draft EIS, please indicate on the enclosed reply card whether you would like to receive it by regular or electronic mail. You can also indicate if you would like to be taken off the project mailing list by marking the box on the form. If you do not return the form, you will still receive notice when the draft EIS is available.

The environmental review process have been estimated to take about 18 months, with a decision on whether and how to proceed expected by spring 2011.

**For More Information** - To find out more about the project please go to BPA’s Web site [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/nepadocs.aspx](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/nepadocs.aspx), and click on “Project Reviews – Active,” “Klickitat Hatchery Program EIS.” If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Rosy Mazaika, toll free at (800) 282-3713, or at (503) 230-5869; or by e-mail [rxmazaika@bpa.gov](mailto:rxmazaika@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rosemary Mazaika  
Rosemary Mazaika  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:  
Project Map  
Reply Card