



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

November 20, 2015

In reply refer to: KEC-4

**To: People interested in the
Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Program – SA-6 Early Winters 3 Acclimation Ponds**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the construction and operation of two acclimation ponds in Okanogan County, Washington. This letter briefly explains the proposal, outlines the environmental review process, and invites you to comment on the proposal.

Proposal: BPA is proposing to fund the construction and operation of two acclimation ponds near Early Winters Creek in the Methow River basin, as shown in the attached vicinity map. The ponds would be used to acclimate hatchery-raised coho salmon smolts as part of the Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Program. This program is implemented by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. The 2012 Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision¹ addressed the overall coho restoration program, including the construction of 24 acclimation sites distributed throughout the Wenatchee and Methow river basins. Some of the sites identified in the EIS are no longer viable. The proposed Early Winters 3 site would replace sites that are no longer being considered.

Construction of the Early Winters 3 site would involve excavating two ponds, one measuring 105 feet by 33 feet and another measuring 90 feet by 30 feet; installing a screened surface-water intake and buried pipeline to deliver water from Early Winters Creek; installing a buried pipe and screened outlet to discharge water back into Early Winters Creek; drilling two wells for a back-up water supply; and installing a generator building and underground conduit to deliver electricity to the site.

Up to 75,000 hatchery-reared juvenile coho smolts would acclimate in the pond from March to May of each year, for eventual release into Early Winters Creek.

BPA is analyzing the potential environmental impacts of this proposal to determine if they are consistent with impacts considered in the 2012 EIS. We are requesting your comments to help identify issues to be considered.

How to Comment: Please send your comments by **December 23, 2015** so that they may be considered in the scope of the analysis. When commenting, refer to the Early Winters 3 Acclimation Ponds Project. All comments will be posted on the BPA comment website. There are several ways to comment:

Project website:

Mail: Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs – DKE-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97291-4428

www.bpa.gov/goto/MidColumbiaCoho

Toll-free: 800-622-4519

FAX: 503-230-4019

Online: www.bpa.gov/comment

¹ The Final EIS and Record of Decision are available at: www.bpa.gov/goto/MidColumbiaCoho

For More Information: If you have any questions regarding the environmental process, you may visit the project webpage listed above; contact me at 503-230-3796 or email at dlrose@bpa.gov; or Michelle Guay, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, Corsource Technology Group, at mxguay@bpa.gov, or 503-230-3459.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Rose
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:
Project Map
Comment Form
Return Envelope