



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

June 21, 2011

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: Parties Interested in the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation's (Yakama Nation) Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Program

You are invited to review and comment on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Yakama Nation's Mid Columbia-Coho Restoration Program located in Chelan and Okanogan counties, Washington. The Yakama Nation would sponsor the reintroduction program; the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) would provide the funding if approved. The draft EIS describes the proposed fish production program and hatchery facilities, and analyzes the potential environmental effects from program operations and facility construction. Your comments on the draft EIS will help us refine the environmental analysis and decide whether to fund the program.

The restoration program is an effort to restore coho salmon to the Methow and Wenatchee basins using information and techniques developed as part of the Yakama Nation's Mid-Columbia Coho Reintroduction Feasibility Project. The Yakama Nation has also prepared a Master Plan to guide the development of the reintroduction program.

Project background

Over the next 20-25 years, the proposed program would develop a locally adapted, self-sustaining population of coho in the Mid-Columbia basin, capable of supporting harvest. Hatcheries and acclimation facilities used in the feasibility studies would continue to be used. In addition, a new small hatchery in the Wenatchee basin is proposed; and a few existing ponds or side channels would be modified and new ones constructed to serve as semi-natural rearing and acclimation areas for juvenile coho salmon.

Public Meetings

You are also invited to attend our open house public meetings on this project. The meetings will be held:

July 13, 2011 5:30 – 8 p.m.
Chelan Fire District 3 Community Center
228 Chumstick Highway
Leavenworth, WA 98826

July 14, 2011 5:30 – 8 p.m.
Methow Valley Community Center
201 South Methow Valley Highway
Twisp, WA. 98856

Meeting Agenda:

5:30-6:00 Open house
6:00-7:00 Presentation
7:00-8:00 Return to open house

Project team members will be available to take your comments on the draft EIS and answer any questions you may have.

How to comment

Comments are encouraged and will be accepted through **August 8, 2011**. Comments may be submitted online at: www.bpa.gov/comment, via mail to: Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office – DKE-7, P.O. Box 14428; or by fax to (503) 230-4019. You also may call us with your comment toll free at 1 (800) 622-4519. Please reference “Mid Columbia-Coho Restoration Program” with your comments. All your comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA’s website at www.bpa.gov/comment. Comments and responses to them will be made part of the final EIS.

Copies available

If you have received this letter, we are providing the entire draft EIS, including appendices, on CD. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the draft EIS please call BPA’s toll-free document request line at 1 (800) 622-4519. Please leave a message naming this project, giving your complete address. The draft EIS and its appendices may also be viewed at the project’s website: www.bpa.gov/go/midcolumbiacoho.

Next Steps

BPA expects to complete and publish the final EIS in December 2011 and then issue a Record of Decision in spring 2012 that will explain BPA’s decision about whether to proceed with the project.

For More Information

If you need more information or have questions, please call me directly at (503) 230-5192 or toll free at 1 (800) 282-3713 or e-mail me at sfbreden@bpa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stephanie Breeden

Stephanie Breeden
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure:
Draft EIS (CD)