



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

May 2, 2024

In reply refer to: EC-4

To: People Interested in Umatilla Hatchery Programs Environmental Assessment

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for BPA's proposal to continue funding for ongoing Umatilla River Spring Chinook, the Umatilla River Fall Chinook, and the Umatilla River Coho hatchery programs. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and has decided to proceed with continuing its funding. This letter describes BPA's decision, the construction schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

Background: BPA will continue funding the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), and Westland Irrigation District (WID) to implement the ongoing Umatilla River Spring Chinook, the Umatilla River Fall Chinook, and the Umatilla River Coho hatchery programs. BPA has provided funding to these programs since the Umatilla Hatchery began operations in 1991 and will continue funding within current production limits. Consistent with the requirements of the Northwest Power Act, continuing this hatchery funding will advance BPA's efforts to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the development and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

BPA prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the project would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. BPA released the draft EA for public review and comment from February 13 to March 14, 2024 and received comments from one individual, one representative from the CTUIR Fisheries Program, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The final EA provides responses to those comments and minor revisions to the EA. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA has found that the project will not cause any significant impacts and, therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Decision: BPA has decided to continue funding implementation of ongoing operations and maintenance of Umatilla River Spring Chinook, Fall Chinook, and Coho fish-production programs by CTUIR, ODFW, and WID. BPA's continued funding decision based on the final EA and FONSI includes funding for hatchery and satellite-facility equipment replacement and improvements such as the construction of a new water-chilling system at Umatilla Hatchery, which is scheduled to begin in summer 2024. If needed, BPA would complete future follow-on environmental compliance processes for site-specific evaluations of the other program elements (e.g., water supply) and satellite improvement activities described in the final EA.

Copies Available: The final EA, FONSI, and mitigation action plan are available on BPA's website at <http://www.bpa.gov/nepa/umatilla-hatchery>. If you previously requested a copy of the documents, they are enclosed. If you would like to obtain paper copies of these documents, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520; leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address.

For More Information: If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-3928, or by e-mail at jjmaslow@bpa.gov. You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-622-4519.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,



Jeff Maslow
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures (if requested):

Final EA

FONSI and Mitigation Action Plan