



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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July 26, 2011

Dear Interested Parties:

U.S. Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) have issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) titled: **KLICKITAT HATCHERY COMPLEX PROGRAM**. WDFW is co lead. BPA will receive and process all comments.

WDFW has worked with BPA to prepare this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and other relevant state laws and regulations. The draft plan together with the revised DEIS is now available for a 45 day public review.

A Public Meeting for discussion of this Plan and DEIS is being held at the following location:

Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2011
Place: Lyle Community Center
5th Street and State Highway, Lyle, WA 98635
Time: 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to review and comment on this DEIS. BPA must receive your comments within 45 days of the date of issuing this DEIS. ***This means BPA must receive your comments no later than 5pm on September 12, 2011. See Fact Sheet for details on availability and commenting to BPA.***

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) describes proposed changes to production programs for four anadromous fish species sponsored by the Yakama Nation and WDFW in the Klickitat river basin in south central Washington. BPA proposes to assist with funding the construction, operation, and maintenance of the programs to help mitigate for anadromous fish affected by the Federal Columbia River Power System dams. The Yakama Nation and WDFW want to produce harvestable numbers of spring and fall Chinook and coho salmon, and steelhead while achieving self sustaining native fish populations and minimizing the effects of introduced species. The DEIS discloses the environmental effects expected from three alternatives: the No Action Alternative, the Full Master Plan Buildout Alternative, and the Klickitat Hatchery Buildout Alternative.

Modifications to the existing Klickitat Hatchery Complex Program are proposed to better employ “state of the art” artificial propagation methods. The proposal includes construction at the existing Klickitat Hatchery, plans to develop new hatchery and acclimation facilities at Wahkiacus (approximately 26 river miles downstream of the existing hatchery), and possible construction of a steelhead acclimation facility on McCreedy Creek, which is a tributary to the Klickitat River upstream of the Klickitat Hatchery.

AREAS OF CONTROVERSY AND UNCERTAINTY

There is potential for the following impacts with increased hatchery production in a river system from hatchery fish feeding and disease treatments and alterations to existing fish populations in a river system:

1. Site specific impacts to water quality from hatchery operation,
2. Competition impacts to wild fish,
3. Interference with some wild fish passage through and above production facilities.

The above impacts may be mitigated by facility design and operation.

The DEIS discusses impacts to: air quality; water quantity and quality; climate change and need for adaptive fisheries management to respond; impacts to native stocks of fish; construction impacts to fauna and any potential Threatened and Endangered species; impacts on wetlands and floodplains; archaeological resources impacts; aesthetics impacts; impacts to recreational fishing and recreational fishing sites; and effects on public health, safety, employment and revenue.

WDFW believes this DEIS will assist decision makers to identify the key environmental issues, and options associated with this action. Based on comments received from agencies and interested parties during public review of this draft document. BPA in consultation with WDFW will prepare and distribute a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The FEIS will be released in 2012.

Sincerely,



Bob Zeigler
SEPA/NEPA Coordinator
Agency Responsible Official
Regulatory Services Division
Habitat Program