



State of Washington  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

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**DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS) AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT)**

**Name of Proposal:** DNS/Adoption 17-040: UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER SPRING CHINOOK AND STEELHEAD ACCLIMATION PROGRAM

**Description of Proposal:**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to provide funding for the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation's (Yakima Nation) Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Steelhead Acclimation Program. Under the program, the Yakama Nation would place existing hatchery-raised spring Chinook and steelhead into acclimation ponds before their release into the Methow and Wenatchee river basins in Okanogan and Chelan Counties, Washington. This proposal would include construction of a new acclimation pond, as well as the co-use of six ponds that are used for acclimation of coho salmon—four existing ponds and two ponds to be constructed in 2017—used to acclimate coho salmon.

Currently, spring Chinook and steelhead are imprinted on waters of the hatchery where they are raised, which are usually located far from natural spawning habitats. When released, their spawning instinct ultimately returns them to those hatchery waters or they stray into nearby waterbodies unsuitable for spawning. This hatchery imprinting limits the species' ability to expand throughout available habitat in their native watershed, handicapping species recovery. Acclimating fish to suitable spawning habitat in differing locations within their native watersheds would help ensure the adult fish return to those suitable habitats and thereby pioneer natural spawning throughout those watersheds.

More information is available in the attached Environmental Assessment.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Bonneville Power Administration  
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**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Seven acclimation sites in the Methow and Wenatchee River Basins in Okanogan and Chelan Counties, respectively, Washington.

**Title of document being adopted:** Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Steelhead Acclimation Program Final Environmental Assessment

**Agency that prepared document being adopted:** Bonneville Power Administration

**Date adopted document was prepared:** July 2017

**Description of document (or portion) being adopted:** The entire contents of the

Environmental Assessment.

**If the document being adopted has been challenged, please describe:** N/A

**Name of agency adopting the document:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

**The document is available to be read at:**

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - Natural Resources Building,  
1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA, Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

This document is also available for review online at:

[http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa\\_final\\_docs\\_2017.html](http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_final_docs_2017.html)

**Adoption of Existing Environmental Document:** After independent review, we have identified and adopted the referenced document as being appropriate for this proposal. The document meets our environmental review needs for the current proposal and will accompany the proposal to the decision maker.

We issued this Determination of Nonsignificance/Adoption Notice under WAC 197-11-340(2), WAC 197-11-610, and WAC 197-11-630. We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date of issue below. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on August 11, 2017.**

**Responsible Official:** Lisa Wood

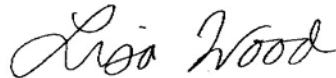
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**DATE OF ISSUE:** July 28, 2017 **SIGNATURE:**



SEPA Log Number: 17-040.dns/adpt