



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

March 23, 2006

In reply refer to: KEC-4

Mr. Kemper M. McMaster  
State Supervisor  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
2600 SE 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100  
Portland, OR 97266

Certified Mail  
Return Receipt Requested  
7004-2510-0005-1722-7953

### **Re: Project Proposal Changes Affecting Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for the Grande Ronde - Imnaha Spring Chinook Hatchery Project, Oregon**

Dear Mr. McMaster:

The subject project, also known as the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Project or NEOH, has entered value engineering and final design stage, and several modifications to the proposed action have resulted. The modifications are essentially a reconfiguration, consolidation and downsizing of proposed facilities and functions. A supplement to the Biological Assessment (BA) which summarizes these modifications and analyzes their potential effects to ESA-listed species and critical habitat is enclosed. This project was consulted upon in 2004, and your La Grande Office Field Supervisor Gary Miller issued a Biological Opinion (BO) ([8330.03853 (04)]; file name NEOH\_BO\_LOC\_final.doc; TS number 04-2941) regarding effects to bull trout.

The supplement to the BA concludes that individual and cumulative effects of the modifications to the proposed action should not result in changes to the effect determinations for any listed species or, for bull trout, no anticipated change to the amount or extent of take previously authorized in the BO. BPA also concludes that modifications to the proposed action would not change the manner or extent of effects on any listed species or critical habitat that is not already considered in the project BA and BO. Also, there have been no new species listings or critical habitat designations that have not been previously considered and addressed.

So, BPA requests your consideration and concurrence that reinitiating of consultation is not warranted.

Gary Miller and John Stephenson of the USFWS La Grande Field Office have been sent copies of this letter and supplement to the BA since the project is in that service area.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact me at (503) 230-5885 or [macarter@bpa.gov](mailto:macarter@bpa.gov). Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Mickey Carter 3-23-06*

Mickey A. Carter – KEC-4

Environmental Protection Specialist

cc: (w/enclosure)

Mr. Gary Miller & Mr. John Stephenson, USFWS La Grande Field Office, 3502 Highway 30  
La Grande, OR 97850

Mr. Joe Krakker, USFWS, LSRCP Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 343, Boise, ID 83709

Mr. Robert Rock, Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, P.O. Box 907 / 1550 Dewey Avenue  
Baker City, Oregon 97814

Mr. Greg Haller, Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries, P.O. Box 365, Lapwai, ID 83540