



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 491  
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

FISH AND WILDLIFE

May 27, 2011

In reply refer to: KEC-4

### **To: Parties Interested in the Idaho Department of Fish and Game – Springfield Sockeye Hatchery**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is preparing a Supplement Analysis (SA) to the Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan Environmental Impact Statement (FWIP EIS, DOE/EIS-0312, April 2003) that analyzes the effects of constructing new facilities and increasing juvenile sockeye salmon production at the Springfield Hatchery in the upper Snake River subbasin in Bingham County, Idaho. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) is proposing to manage the production program; BPA is proposing to provide funding. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to a public meeting where you can learn more and comment on the proposal.

**Proposal** – The purpose of the proposed hatchery upgrade project would be to increase the hatchery's capability of rearing to up to one million sockeye salmon smolts annually. This project is part of a larger effort to restore endangered Snake River sockeye salmon to the Stanley Basin using information and techniques developed as part of the IDFG's Snake River Sockeye Salmon Captive Broodstock Program. The IDFG has prepared a Master Plan to guide the development of the production project. One of the goals of this project is to develop a locally adapted, self-sustaining population of sockeye salmon in the upper Salmon River basin over the next 20-25 years.

The SA will help BPA understand the potential impacts of the proposal. During this process, we will be working with the IDFG, as well as with other federal, state and local agencies, Tribes, landowners, and interest groups.

**Public Meetings** – As BPA initiates the process for assessing the potential environmental impacts of the project, we would like to hear from you. What questions do you have? What resources should be analyzed? Are there other alternatives that should be considered? BPA has scheduled a public scoping meeting to hear your ideas and accept comments related to the scope of the SA that will be prepared:

**Tuesday, June 14, 2011  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
1345 Barton Road  
Pocatello, ID 83204-1819**

We are planning for an open house format, except for a brief presentation at 5:00 pm, so we invite you to stop in anytime between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Several members of the project team will be available to answer questions, accept oral and written comments, and provide maps and other information about the project.

**Other Ways to Comment** - It is still possible to comment on the project even if you are unable to attend the public meeting. To learn more about the project and how to submit your comments electronically please visit [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment).

Comments can be faxed to (503) 230-4019. Please refer to “Idaho Department of Fish and Game – Springfield Sockeye Hatchery” in your comments and submit them by **July 14, 2011**. All comments will be posted on BPA’s web site at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment). If you have other questions or comments do not hesitate to call BPA toll free at (800) 622-4519.

**Process and Schedule** - Starting in the middle of this summer, you may see BPA staff or contractors in the area as they conduct environmental surveys. If we require access to private property, we will contact property owners for permission through a separate mailing in the next few weeks.

The environmental review process is anticipated to take approximately eight months, with a decision on whether and how to proceed expected by winter 2012. The analysis will also be used to produce an Environmental Assessment for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, who would need to issue a water quality permit for the operation of the proposed hatchery facility.

If you would like to receive updates about the project, please indicate on the enclosed comment form whether you would like to receive it by regular or electronic mail. If you would like to be taken off the project mailing list, please mark the box on the form. If you do not return the comment form, you will still receive notice of project updates.

**For More Information** - To find out more about the project please go to BPA’s Web site [http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/nepadocs.aspx](http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/nepadocs.aspx) and click on “Project Reviews – Active,” “Springfield Sockeye Hatchery EA.” If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Jenna Peterson; toll free at (800) 282-3713, or at (503) 230-3018; or by e-mail [jepeterson@bpa.gov](mailto:jepeterson@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jenna Peterson*

Jenna Peterson  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:  
Vicinity Map  
Comment Form  
Return Envelope

cc:

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