



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

June 7, 2007

In reply refer to: BPA-KEC-4

### **To: People Interested in the Yakima Coho Feasibility Study Phase II**

Your review and comments are requested on an environmental analysis white paper produced by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for the Yakima Coho Feasibility Study Phase II in central Washington. The white paper describes the proposed phase II study and analyzes the environmental effects expected from implementation of the study. Public comments on the white paper will help project partners refine the environmental analysis and inform our decision.

The coho study is part of the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project, which is a BPA-funded project involving ongoing studies, research and artificial production of several salmonid species in the Yakima and Klickitat River basins. The project is co-managed by the Yakama Nation and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; the Yakama Nation proposed and is implementing the coho study. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared for the Yakima Fisheries Project in 1996, and several supplement analyses related to the EIS have been prepared as the project has evolved over the years.

### **Project background**

The Coho Reintroduction Feasibility Study is a multi-phased study to determine the feasibility of re-establishing a naturally spawning population of coho salmon in the Yakima Basin. Phase I was initiated in 1996 to determine the feasibility of developing a local coho broodstock and to study interactions of hatchery coho with other fish. Phase II of the study would assess the quality of habitat in various Yakima and Naches River tributaries for coho juvenile survival and adult spawning by placing juvenile and adult coho in a number of tributaries and monitoring their survival and reproduction. No additional hatchery production of coho or construction of new permanent facilities is proposed for this phase of the study. Local broodstock development and hatchery coho smolt acclimation currently occurring throughout the basin under Phase I of the study would continue. BPA is proposing to fund this study in partial fulfillment of its responsibilities under the Northwest Power Planning Act for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of fish and wildlife affected by the construction and operation of the federal hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River.

### **How to comment**

BPA is providing the enclosed white paper for your review and comment. Comments will be accepted through July 9, 2007. All comments are encouraged. Of particular interest are specific suggestions related to the environmental analysis in the white paper, or the identification of any impacts that were not addressed.

BPA expects to issue a Supplement Analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act based on this white paper and make a final decision in July of 2007. Your comments will be considered in this process.

Comments may be submitted online at: <http://www.bpa.gov/comment>, via e-mail to [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov), via mail to: Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - DKC-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428, or faxed to (503) 230-3285. You also may call us with your comment toll free at (800) 622-4519. All comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's Web site at [http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/public\\_affairs/Comment\\_Listings/](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/Comment_Listings/).

### **Copies available**

A copy of the white paper is enclosed for your review. If you would like additional copies of the white paper, please call BPA's toll-free document request line at (800) 622-4520. Please leave a message naming this project and giving your complete mailing address.

The white paper can also be viewed at the project Web site:

[http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Yakima\\_Fisheries/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Yakima_Fisheries/).

### **For more information**

If you need more information or have questions, please call me directly at (503) 230-5373 or toll free at (800) 282-3713 or e-mail me at [nhweintraub@bpa.gov](mailto:nhweintraub@bpa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in our work.



Nancy Weintraub  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure:

Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project Coho Reintroduction Feasibility Study – Phase II Project  
Description and Environmental Analysis White Paper