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Tom Tebb, Washington State Department of Ecology, (509) 574-3989**

## **Meeting Notes**

### **Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Workgroup**

**June 6, 2018**

**Yakima Armory, Yakima, WA**

#### **Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Overview**

Ben Floyd, White Bluffs Consulting, welcomed the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup members and other attendees. Attendees were introduced by name and affiliation. Wendy Christensen noted that Julia Long, YRBWEP Assistant Manager, would be presenting today. She also noted that Elayne Hovde has transferred from her former position at the Natural Resources Conservation Service to join the Bureau of Reclamation's YRBWEP staff. Ben called attention to an item in today's handout: the agenda for the Yakima Basin Science and Management Conference coming up next week.

The following notes summarize the YRBWEP Workgroup presentations and the public comments. For details, please see the full presentations available on the project website:

<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/2011integratedplan/index.html>.

#### **Implementation Committee Update**

Melissa Downes, Washington State Department of Ecology, Office of Columbia River, reported that Tom Tebb, Ecology, and the Implementation Committee went to Washington DC in early May. They met with Washington's Senators and Representatives and their staff, committee staff, and federal agency representatives. The House bill on the Integrated Plan, HR 4419, has passed out of committee. The companion Senate bill, SB 714, is also out of committee. If passed by both bodies, there could be a conference committee this fall to produce a single piece of legislation that could become law.

She also noted the Senate budget recommendation includes \$13 million for the Integrated Plan in Federal fiscal year 2019. The State is pleased to see this investment in the State-Federal partnership.

#### **Workgroup Discussion:**

None.

#### **Public input on this agenda item:**

None.

#### **Technical Work Updates**

Wendy Christensen, Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, introduced Julia Long and Elayne Hovde. Julia is the Assistant YRBWEP Manager and Elayne is a project manager for YRBWEP in the Columbia-Cascades Area Office who was with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) but

working in the Yakima basin. She will continue working on Basin Conservation Grants and also now work on KRD Upper Yakima System Storage.

## **1 – KDRPP and KKC Projects**

Julia Long: The *KDRPP and KKC Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement* (SDEIS) was released April 13, 2018, and public meetings were held on two dates in May. Reclamation is currently accepting comments which will be addressed in the Final EIS. The comment period ends on July 11, 2018. Reclamation hopes to issue a record of decision by the end of 2018. Reclamation and Ecology have also issued a news release reminding the public we are half-way through the 90 day comment period, sent postcards and posted posters and the USFS canvassed the Forest Service-operated campgrounds about the SDEIS comment period.

## **2 - KRD Upper Yakima System Storage**

Elayne Hovde: Reclamation, Ecology and the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) are conducting a study regarding potential storage sites in the upper Yakima system storage. \$2.5 million from the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) fund was received in FY18 for the study. The purpose of the study will be to determine suitable sites for gravity-in-gravity-out storage that can be used to “shape” flow levels in the Yakima River to improve fish habitat conditions.

## **3 – Cle Elum Pool Raise**

Teresa Hauser, Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, described progress on the Cle Elum Pool Raise project. One shoreline protection project has been completed. The Speelyi Beach Day Use Area will be the next location to undergo shoreline protection, and will be closed September 10 to early January 2019 for construction. The Wishpoosh campground is planned for shoreline protection in 2019 with other projects expected to follow. \$2.0 million from the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) fund was received in FY18 for Cle Elum Pool Raise.

## **4 – Groundwater Storage**

Teresa also mentioned the Toppenish Fan (aka Wapato Reach) on the Yakama Nation Reservation in the groundwater storage element. Three new monitoring wells will be installed in July 2018 to better understand regional ground/surface water dynamics.

## **5 – Cle Elum Fish Passage**

Richard Visser, Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, described progress constructing the fish passage facilities at Cle Elum Dam. It is a phased construction schedule, with expected completion in 2023. Reclamation expects the secant vault to be completed this summer, and to award construction of the intake, gate, and helix contract in September. In addition, the team is 2 months into construction of the downstream passage tunnel. Richard showed images of the completed secant piles, internal structural features including the walers and intake frames, and ongoing excavation of the vault. Also shown were pictures of the current tunnel work including excavation of the right embankment that when complete will be at grade with the downstream river elevation and soil and bank stabilization work. Teresa

Hauser mentioned that much of the excavation removed for tunnel construction will be reused in shoreline protection projects at Cle Elum Reservoir, specifically the perched beach at Speelyi. He described how the design will allow outmigrating fish to enter the helix across a range of reservoir pool elevations and over an extended period of time. The Federal government has provided an additional \$3.5 million in FY18 for continued construction of the project. .

### **Workgroup Discussion:**

Jeff Tayer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, is pleased to see significant progress. This is a significant project and has moved quickly and smoothly.

### **Public input on this agenda item:**

**Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance:** Chuck mentioned there is an executive summary of the KKC and KDRPP EIS, and that all members of the Workgroup should take the time to consider the project before Reclamation's record of decision.

**David Ortman, Sierra Club:** When downstream fish passage is operational, what will be the time intervals between accessibility of each fish passage tunnel in the reservoir?

- *It depends how quickly the water rises within the reservoir pool in the spring of each year. The seasonal "window" for fish outmigration generally begins around April 1 and ends sometime in June.*

### **Executive Committee Update**

Melissa Downes: Ecology's proposed budget for the 2019-2021 State biennium is due in early September, and Ecology is working to assemble it for internal review and discussion. The Office of Columbia River's current draft includes approximately \$42.2 million for the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, up from \$31.1 million in the last biennium. A significant driver of the budget increase is concentrating funding to advance construction of the Cle Elum fish passage project discussed previously.

Wendy Christensen described her trip to the World Water Forum in Brasilia, Brazil, which she attended with Reclamation's Commissioner Brenda Burman. Commissioner Burman also visited the Yakima basin in April.

### **Workgroup Discussion:**

**Mike Leita, Yakima County:** Mike suggested presenting Federal funding alongside State funding to better paint the full picture of Integrated Plan funding sources. Some efforts do not require substantial amounts in the proposed State budget, because they are receiving Federal money instead. He requests Melissa and OCR use this approach in future presentations of budget proposals or funding amounts received.

**Jeff Thomas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** Will fish passage at Clear Creek Dam be funded?

- *Melissa Downes: Yes, they do plan to request funding for this project.*

### **Public input on this agenda item:**

**Chris Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake:** Why did the market reallocation element fall from \$600,000 in the 2017-2019 budget to \$100,000 in the proposed 2019-2021 budget?

- *Melissa Downes: Federal money has been awarded for projects addressing market reallocation, so less State money is needed in the upcoming State biennium.*

### **General Public Comments:**

**Elaine Packard, Sierra Club,** submitted a letter to the Washington Department of Natural Resources regarding the Teanaway Community Forest recreation plan. She provided it for the record of this meeting.

**Chris Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake,** submitted an item regarding the Melvin R. Sampson hatchery. He is interested in a presentation on this topic.

Dave Fast, Yakama Nation, could potentially give an update on this topic in December.

### **Updates on Subcommittees and Subgroups**

#### **Water Use Subcommittee**

Anna Lael, Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD), gave a presentation about on-farm irrigation efficiency. Sound management of water quantity is a high priority for the KCCD, and the organization applies grant funds to improve water use efficiency and instream flows. Some funding for these efforts is coming through the Federal Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCCP). Anna described various projects KCCD has worked on and how various funding sources make projects possible.

Ben Floyd asked Anna to explain the benefits of this program for the producers. Some benefits include reduced water demands that translate to reduced power costs, less labor cost, and improved crop yields.

Sid Morrison, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance, asked about whether the impact of solar field installation on green farms has caused any issues. This hasn't been an issue in this context because most farmers who are doing irrigation improvements want to keep their land as is.

Richard Dills, Yakama Nation Engineering, gave a presentation about the Wapato Irrigation Project (WIP), focusing on a water conservation project in the area served by the L672 line. This section of the WIP is a good place for investment because all of the water delivered there needs to be pumped, so reduction in use provides substantial cost savings. In addition, it reduces the mixing of tailwater that originated at WIP's Yakima River diversion with natural flows in Toppenish Creek, and that change helps fish in the creek. Yakama Nation Engineering replaced leaky, aging concrete pipe with plastic pipe and installed flow meters. The Tribal Council will consider whether deliveries should be billed by volume, which would be feasible with metered deliveries. Volume-based billing provides incentives for further improvements in efficiency, as demonstrated by experiences in California. This project is estimated to save 1,000 acre feet per year. They are considering future installation of flumes at WIP

drains to measure return flows and enable accurate monitoring of total consumption of water within WIP.

Scott Revell, Roza Irrigation District, explained that there is little rill irrigation left in the Roza Irrigation District (historically it was 100 percent rill irrigation). Scott described and showed pictures of modernized irrigation methods employed in Roza such as downward pointing sprayers on field crops and drip irrigation on perennial trees and vines. He noted the high efficiency of drip irrigation for those crops where it is feasible.

### **Workgroup Discussion:**

**Seth Defoe:** After many years of work, Kennewick Irrigation District (KID) recently completed the elimination of all rill irrigation on its lands.

**Mike Leita, Yakima County:** The economics of agriculture are changing. Water conservation investments are necessary to improve year-to-year stability, rather than just constantly developing more water.

### **Public input on this agenda item:**

**Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance:** On the WIP, conservation efficiencies are leading to dried up domestic wells for rural residents. Is this effect being studied alongside the efficiencies?

- *Doug Lindley, Yakama Nation Engineering: Doug is aware of the effect, as well as the effects to habitat when irrigation-supported wetlands are reduced from efficiencies. Doug suggested the Toppenish fan groundwater study might provide insights to this effect. Chuck wants those involved to keep the private well owners in mind.*

**Steve Malloch, Western Water Futures, LLC:** How much water is saved when fields are converted from rill irrigation to drip irrigation?

- *Scott Revell: Rill irrigation has an efficiency of approximately 50 percent of the water applied. Sprinklers improve efficiency into the mid-80 percent range, and drip irrigation can be up to 90 percent efficient.*

### **Habitat Subcommittee**

Jeff Tayer described the Habitat Subcommittee's method of identifying and recommending projects for funding under the State 2019-2021 biennial budget. The Subcommittee views the Yakima River system in five parts: 1) the mouth of the Yakima river, 2) the Wapato reach, 3) the "gap-to-gap" reach between Selah and Union Gap, 4) the reach in Kittitas County just above the Yakima River Canyon, and 5) the upper basin watersheds, which include the Teanaway Community Forest. The funding request for the 2019-21 biennium includes projects in each of those categories.

Mark Cook and Karen Hodges, Kittitas County, described the Ringer Reach property acquisition project, on the Yakima River floodplain in Kittitas County just above the canyon. This project will bring 5 miles of left bank property into public ownership, and will also support retention of Twin City Foods as a significant employer in the area. The goal of this project is to reconnect the floodplains with the river and enable improved management practices. Mike Livingston, Washington Department of Fish and

Wildlife, brought up the topic of recreation in the reach, particularly the boat launch site that is being eroded. Following the acquisition, relocation of the boat ramp will be a smoother process. Paul Jewell, Kittitas County, recommended the project, as the reach touches on numerous important aspects of the Integrated Plan.

**Workgroup Discussion:**

None.

**Public input on this agenda item:**

None.

**Special Recognitions and Workgroup Roundtable**

Jeff Thomas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Paul Jewell, Kittitas County, are each leaving their current positions and will be leaving the YRBWEP Workgroup. Jeff's seat will be taken by Jim Craig, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Paul's seat is expected to be taken by a new County Commissioner who will be appointed by the other two commissioners. Members of the Workgroup expressed their thanks to Jeff and Paul for their service and described their experiences working with them. Other roundtable comments included:

**Wendy Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office:** Wendy is pleased with the coordination efforts on the Ringer Reach projects, and commends Kittitas County and their partners for this work. Wendy thanked Jeff and Paul for their leadership in Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. They have both been part of the success of the YRBWEP Work group.

**Melissa Downes, Washington Department of Ecology:** Melissa sends Tom Tebb's regards to Jeff and Paul.

**Kevin Eslinger, Kittitas Reclamation District:** Kevin sends Urban Eberhart's regards to Jeff and Paul.

**Dawn Wiedmeier, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office:** Even though members come and go, the Workgroup continues on. It is a strong institution and its longevity and resiliency is proof that it is the right thing to do.

**Jeff Thomas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** Jeff appreciates the kind words from the Workgroup.

**Paul Jewell, Kittitas County:** Paul appreciates the kind words. He encouraged the Workgroup to mentor and integrate Paul's replacement into the group, so they can be as productive in this role.

**Lisa Pelly, Trout Unlimited:** Reclamation WaterSMART contracts have not yet been distributed, but Trout Unlimited will initiate work on market reallocation in collaboration with KRD once the 2018 grant is received.

**Upcoming Meetings**

The next Workgroup meeting will be on September 20, 2018, in Toppenish, WA (9:30 a.m.).

## **Attendance**

### **Workgroup Members:**

Dale Bambrick, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Dave Brown, City of Yakima (Workgroup Alternate for Carmen Mendez)  
Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board  
Ron Cowin, Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District  
Jim Craig, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Seth Defoe, Kennewick Irrigation District  
Rick Dieker, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District  
Melissa Downes, Washington State Department of Ecology (Workgroup Alternate for Tom Tebb)  
Peter Dykstra, Plauche & Carr, LLP and Chair of Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee  
Kevin Eslinger, Kittitas Reclamation District (Workgroup Alternate for Urban Eberhart)  
David Fast, Yakama Nation – Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project  
Jaclyn Hancock, Washington State Department of Agriculture  
Paul Jewell, Kittitas County  
Mike Leita, Yakima County  
Mike Livingston, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Wendy McDermott, American Rivers  
Sid Morrison, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance  
Lisa Pelly, Washington Water Project, Trout Unlimited  
Scott Revell, Roza Irrigation District and Chair of Water Use Subcommittee  
Tom Ring, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Workgroup Alternate for Phil Rigdon)  
Jeff Tayer, WDFW and Chair of Habitat Subcommittee  
Jeff Thomas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Dawn Wiedmeier, Reclamation – Columbia-Cascades Area Office

### **Other Attendees:**

Neil Aaland, Contract Facilitator  
Lori Brady, Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District  
Alison Cable, Futurewise  
Michael Callahan, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Michelle Capp, U.S. Forest Service  
Debbie Carlson, Bonneville Power Administration  
Charlie de la Chapelle, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance  
Wendy Christensen, Reclamation – Columbia-Cascades Area Office  
Stuart Crane, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation  
Jeanne Demorest, Reclamation - Columbia-Cascades Area Office  
Karen Dera, Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office  
Richard Dills, Yakama Nation Engineering  
Nathan Draper, Selah-Moxee Irrigation District

Jack and Beneitta Eaton, Landowners  
Ben Floyd, White Bluffs Consulting  
Chuck Freeman, Kennewick Irrigation District  
Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County  
Don Gatchalian, Yakima County  
Darren Gooding, U.S. Forest Service  
Andrew Graham, HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Dan Graves, HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Teresa Hauser, Reclamation – Columbia-Cascades Area Office  
Tim Hill, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Elayne Hovde, Reclamation – Columbia-Cascades Area Office  
Joel Hubble, Kittitas Reclamation District  
Brady Kent, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation  
Lynn Khuat, U.S. Forest Service  
Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance  
Anna Lael, Kittitas County Conservation District  
Kelly Lawrence, U.S. Forest Service  
Edward Lizowski, Citizen  
Doug Lindley, Yakama Nation Engineering  
Julia Long, Reclamation – Columbia-Cascades Area Office  
Steve Malloch, Western Water Futures LLC (alternate for American Rivers)  
Chris Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake  
Jason McCormick, McCormick Water Strategies  
Jim Milton, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District (Workgroup Alternate for Rick Dieker)  
Merrit Mitchell-Wajeeth, Mid-Columbia Fisheries  
Bob Montgomery, Anchor QEA  
Bryan Myre, Yakama Reservation Irrigation District  
David Ortman, Sierra Club  
Elaine Packard, Sierra Club  
Cole Province, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Kirk Rathbun, Kennewick Irrigation District  
Joye Redfield-Wilder, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Colleen Smith, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Mandy Somerville, Reclamation – Pacific Northwest Regional Office  
Danielle Squeochs, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Richard Visser, Reclamation – Columbia-Cascades Area Office

### **Where to Find Workgroup Information**

Meeting materials, notes, presentations, and materials submitted during public comment for each Workgroup meeting will be posted on Reclamation’s project website:



(<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/2011integratedplan/index.html>). A list of information sources, many available online, is also posted on the website.

If you need help finding an information source, contact those listed at the top of page 1 of these notes or Ben Floyd at White Bluffs Consulting, (509) 539-3366 or [ben@whitebluffsconsulting.com](mailto:ben@whitebluffsconsulting.com).

## **Audience Submissions**

**Letter from the Sierra Club**  
**Re: Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Sierra Club

### Washington State Chapter

180 Nickerson Street  
Seattle, WA 98103

May 15, 2018

**To:** Washington State Department of Natural Resources:  
Douglas McClelland, [Douglas.McClelland@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Douglas.McClelland@dnr.wa.gov)

**Subject:** Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan

The Sierra Club has reviewed the Recreation Concepts maps that have recently been prepared by the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee, and which were released in a draft state at the April 2018 public meeting. We appreciate the amount of work and time that has gone into the process to develop these conceptual maps, and recognize the challenges of matching the needs and desires of the various forest users with the directive of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) to “maintain and where possible expand recreational opportunities consistent with watershed protection, for activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, camping, birding, and snowmobiling” (2013 “Yakima Basin River Resource Management” law). It is with this directive in mind that The Sierra Club would like to provide the following comments regarding the Recreation Plan as presented in these maps. These comments are intended as a reflection of these maps, and we look forward to preparing a more detailed review of the entire Recreation Plan as the process develops throughout the following months.

The Community Forest Lands were purchased by the State of Washington through the YBIP in order to protect and restore the headwater streams of the Yakima watershed. The 2013 Law states that the management plan for the Forest must include the following:

- To protect and enhance the water supply and protect the watershed;
- To maintain and where possible expand recreational opportunities consistent with watershed protection, for activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, camping, birding, and snowmobiling;

- To conserve and restore vital habitat for fish, including steelhead, spring Chinook, and bull trout, and wildlife, including deer, elk, large predators, and spotted owls;”

These directives reflect the hydrological connectivity of the Community Forest to the Yakima Basin, and the recognition that activities that take place in the Community Forest have a logical and clear connection to the conditions of the *downstream* watershed.

The draft plan makes major strides in achieving the protection of watershed and wildlife habitat values while providing for substantial recreation. The issue of concern regarding the Recreation Concepts is the impacts of motorized recreation on the Community Forest with the *upstream* portions of this crucial watershed: the National Forest lands adjacent to and directly north of the Community Forest. This land, within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, is comprised of the Teanaway Inventoried Roadless Area, the largest inventoried roadless area directly adjacent to the existing Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. The current Recreation Concepts maps allocate improvements to the three trailheads that access this Roadless Area (the West Fork, Yellow Hill, and Middle Fork Trails) to accommodate motorcycle riding, while the rest of the Community Forest is off-limits to motorcycles and ATVs. While motorbike riders have objected to this, it is irresponsible to then push these riders (and even encourage them through trailhead improvements) to access these three trails that reach into the National Forest, as they are entirely inappropriate for motorized usage of any type.

The West Fork and Middle Fork Trails run directly through the riparian zones of these rivers. Any motorized usage of these trails means that motorcycles are tearing through the riverbed, disturbing the sediment, and increasing erosion into the rivers at the riverbanks. Trying to reroute those trails in this rugged topography with easily erodible soils would have severe and unacceptable impacts. In addition, the Jolly Mountain fire that burned through the region in 2017 has undoubtedly decreased the stability of the soil, and motorized usage in these fragile riparian areas can only have a detrimental impact on the water quality and habitat for the fish intended to be protected through the YBIP. The draft plan noted the need to provide habitat free of motorized vehicles on the TCF, but that need is just as important on the national forest portion of the watershed.

The Yellow Hill trail, while not traveling through a river bottom, is surrounded now by unstable burned slopes that erode directly into these waterways. A field trip to this trail on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 2018, found that motorcycles had been using the roadway portion of the trail leading up from the trailhead, and that 1) tracks from the motorcyclists were found off-road going directly through a severely burned steep slope that had little soil stability, and 2) tracks from the motorcyclists were found “high-siding” the burned-out cut slopes on the edge of the roadway in numerous locations, leading to additional severe erosion into the ditch line of the roadway. (Photos available upon request)

Clearly, as indicated in the meeting notes of the Advisory Committee in October 2017, “disregard for signage and compliance” is the primary challenge for the DNR and WDFW officers patrolling motorized use in the Community Forest on weekends. Managing motorized usage on trails entering into the Community Forest from the National Forest will be equally, if not more, challenging.

In order to meet the objectives set forth by law through the YBIP to protect the watershed, the Advisory Committee has the opportunity and obligation to establish whether these trails should be closed to motorcycles within the TCF. Over the next few years, the National Forest is due to complete their Travel Management Plan to determine motorized/non-motorized trail usage on national forest lands. The protection of the watershed of the Community Forest, however, should not be dependent upon this National Forest process, which is long overdue. The Advisory Committee has been directed to develop a recreation plan for the Community Forest up to the borders of the property, and this would include the trail system that interconnects with neighboring lands. The draft plan suggests an evaluation of motorized use on these trails will be undertaken at some point. If the current evidence of ongoing damage is not sufficient to immediately and permanently close these trails to motorbikes in the TCF, then the evaluation process should be a Phase 2 activity. Until

such an analysis is completed, these three trails should be closed to motorized usage.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recreation Concepts developed for the new and beautiful Teanaway Community Forest. Please keep us on the mailing list and informed of future developments, and please share our concerns with the Teanaway Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Nete Olsen

National Forest Committee  
Washington State Chapter  
Sierra Club

Cc:

Larry Leach, Washington State Department of Natural Resources:  
[Larry.Leach@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Larry.Leach@dnr.wa.gov)

Mike Livingston, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife  
[Michael.Livingston@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Michael.Livingston@dfw.wa.gov)

Michelle Capp, District Ranger, Cle Elum Ranger District  
[mcapp@fs.fed.us](mailto:mcapp@fs.fed.us)

## **Submission from Friends of Bumping Lake**

efforts to reduce the risk of dam failure. During the PIE, additional risk issues were noted concerning the 70-year old main dam spillway gates. Electrical, mechanical and structural operability issues affect the reliability of controlled spillway releases. If the spillway gates do not reliably operate during an extreme flood event, the reservoir would raise and potentially result in a premature fuse plug operation. The fuse plug is designed to discharge approximately 400,000 cubic feet per second within 30 minutes. The consequences of premature discharge of an enormous volume of flood water are estimated to be above the Corps of Engineer's tolerable risk limit. The draft EIS would address the findings of the PIE and assess effectiveness of potential alternatives to further reduce risk and increase dam safety. The dam seepage repair construction contracts noted previously, have increased dam safety and were covered under previous NEPA documents.

2. *Potential Alternatives.* The draft EIS would address an array of alternatives that could reduce the risk of life loss, extensive downstream damage, functional loss of the project, and the loss of project benefits. The nature and extent of the alternatives would be determined based on the results of on-going engineering studies, public and agency input during the scoping period, and preparation of the draft EIS.

Alternatives, either individually or in combination, that have potential to affect structures or operations of the dam may include the following:

- a. Replacement of the current gate machinery with hydraulic machinery that can operate under water;
- b. Addition of equipment to the current spillway gates to keep them open if the operating machinery is underwater;
- c. Modification of the spillway gates or gate machinery to allow operation from the top of the dam;
- d. Relocation of the gate operating machinery to the road level, which would require raising or relocating Highway 96 which currently crosses over the dam;
- e. Removal of the existing fuse plug at the saddle dam and installation of spillway additions on top of the newly constructed RCC Berm to discharge flood water down the valley;
- f. Modification of the emergency operations plan in the water control manual that determines how to manage floods at Center Hill Dam; and
- g. Other alternatives as identified by on-going engineering studies, the public, and agencies.

3. *Issues To Be Addressed.* USACE is evaluating ways of raising, modifying, and/or replacing existing spillway gates and operating equipment to address spillway gate reliability for all range of possible flood events, especially large and more extreme flood events. The DSMSR and draft EIS would evaluate the Center Hill Dam Water Control Manual emergency operating procedures and potential alternative spillway options to determine if changes are warranted to minimize overall dam safety risk. The draft EIS would include, but is not limited to identification and evaluation of effects to aquatic and terrestrial habitats, cultural resources, state and federally listed species, socioeconomics, public safety, structures, hydrology and hydraulics, recreation, water supply, water quality, flood storage, hydropower production, land use, visual and aesthetic resources, and dam safety risk reduction at Center Hill Dam as a result of the proposed alternatives.

4. *Public Involvement and Scoping.* This NOI serves as the initial step to involve Federal and state agencies, Indian Tribes, local governments, and the public in an early and transparent process in accordance with NEPA requirements. The draft EIS would address impacts to the human environment due to the proposed alternatives. Concerns would be identified based on public and agency input during the scoping process and during preparation of the draft EIS. All interested parties are encouraged to submit their name and email address to the address noted above, to be placed on the project mailing list to receive fact sheets, newsletters and related public notices. All interested parties are invited to identify issues that should be addressed in the draft EIS. A scoping meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2018 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at The Buffalo Valley Community Center, 2717 Buffalo Valley School Road, Buffalo Valley, Tennessee. The purpose of the public scoping meeting is to present information to the public regarding potential alternatives that would be addressed in the draft EIS, receive public comments, and to solicit input regarding dam safety concerns, alternatives to consider, and environmental or social issues of concern to the public.

6. *Availability of the Draft EIS.* USACE intends to circulate the draft EIS in the late 2018/early 2019 time frame. USACE will announce availability of the draft EIS in the *Federal Register* and other media, and will provide interested parties an opportunity to submit

comments to be addressed in the final EIS.

Dated: April 13, 2018.

Angela E. Dunn,  
Project Planning Branch Chief, U.S. Army  
Corps of Engineers, Nashville District.

[FR Doc. 2018–08291 Filed 4–19–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720–58–P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Bonneville Power Administration

#### Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery, Yakima Basin Coho Project

**AGENCY:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Record of Decision (ROD).

**SUMMARY:** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has decided to implement the Proposed Action as described in the Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery, Yakima Basin Coho Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (DOE/EIS–0522, November 27, 2017). Under the Proposed Action, BPA will fund the construction and operation of the Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery (MRS Hatchery) in the Yakima Basin in central Washington. Operation of the MRS Hatchery will involve production of up to 700,000 coho salmon for release in the Yakima River and its subbasin, the Naches River. The hatchery will be owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation) and will be constructed on land owned by the Yakama Nation northwest of Ellensburg in Kittitas County, Washington.

**ADDRESSES:** This ROD will be available to all interested parties and affected persons and agencies. It is being sent to all stakeholders who requested a copy. Copies of the Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery, Yakima Basin Coho Project Draft and Final EISs and additional copies of this ROD are available from BPA's Public Information Center, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon 97208. Copies of these documents may also be obtained by using BPA's nationwide toll-free document request line: 1–800–622–4520, or by accessing the project website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/MelvinSampsonHatchery](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/MelvinSampsonHatchery).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dave Goodman, Bonneville Power Administration—ECF–4, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon, 97208–3621; toll-free telephone number 1–800–622–4519; fax number 503–230–5699; or email [jdgoodman@bpa.gov](mailto:jdgoodman@bpa.gov).



## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

## Background

BPA is a federal agency that markets power generated from the federal hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River and its tributaries. BPA's operations are governed by several statutes, including the Northwest Power Act. The Northwest Power Act directs BPA to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the development and operation of those federal hydroelectric facilities. To assist in accomplishing this, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) makes recommendations to BPA concerning which fish and wildlife projects to fund. The Council gives deference to project proposals developed by state and tribal fishery managers and has a three-step process for reviewing artificial propagation project (*i.e.*, hatcheries). The Yakama Nation's MRS Hatchery proposal is one of the projects recommended to BPA by the Council (Fritsch 2013) through their three-step review process, which included reviews from the Council's Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP).<sup>1</sup>

In addition, BPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation signed an agreement in 2008 with the Yakama Nation and other Tribes to work as partners to provide tangible survival benefits for salmon recovery. The 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords Memorandum of Agreement includes an agreement to fund the MRS Hatchery contingent on the favorable recommendation from the Council, completion of site-specific environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and compliance with other environmental laws.

To meet obligations under NEPA, BPA prepared an EIS in which the Washington Department of Ecology was a cooperating agency. Public scoping for the MRS Hatchery EIS was initiated with the publication of the Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register** (80 **Federal Register** [FR] 70770) on November 16, 2015. Concurrent with the publication of the Notice of Intent, BPA mailed a letter and map describing

the proposal to neighboring landowners, affected tribes, local, state, and federal government officials, and known interested parties. BPA also held a public scoping meeting in Ellensburg, Washington (19 members of the public attended) and established a website ([www.bpa.gov/goto/MelvinSampsonHatchery](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/MelvinSampsonHatchery)) with information about the project and the EIS process. The public scoping period ran from November 16, 2015 through January 4, 2016. BPA received comments from ten entities.

In March 2017, BPA issued the draft EIS for public review and comment. Notice of Availability for the draft EIS was published in the **Federal Register** (Volume 82, Number 51) on March 17, 2017. In addition, the EIS or an announcement of its availability was emailed or mailed to over 100 entities—individuals, organizations, tribes, and agencies who had previously requested it—and the EIS was posted on the project website. The comment period ran from March 10, 2017 through May 1, 2017 and an open-house public meeting was held in Ellensburg, Washington.

BPA received comments from nine entities on the draft EIS. After consideration of the comments, BPA issued the final EIS in November 2017. The final EIS responded to comments received on the draft EIS and made necessary corrections and revisions to the EIS text. As with the draft EIS, BPA distributed the final EIS to individuals, organizations, tribes, and agencies who had previously requested it, posted it on the BPA project website, and sent out letters announcing its availability to potentially interested parties. A Notice of Availability of the final EIS was published in the **Federal Register** (82 FR 55831) on November 24, 2017.

## Alternatives Considered

The final EIS considered in detail the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. The final EIS also discussed other alternatives that were considered but eliminated from detailed study. The following summarizes the alternatives that were considered in detail in the EIS.

## Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, BPA will fund the Yakama Nation for the construction and operation of the MRS Hatchery. The Proposed Action will help transition the Yakama Nation's existing coho restoration program in which broodstock are collected out-of-basin and juveniles are reared out-of-basin, to a program that will use in-basin rearing (at the MRS Hatchery) and the use of out-of-basin broodstock will

be phased out as natural-origin broodstock become available.

The Proposed Action will involve construction of a coho hatchery facility on eight acres at the former Holmes Ranch property. Facilities will include a hatchery building; adult holding and spawning ponds; a shop building; three employee houses; intake screens and a surface water pump station to provide Yakima River water via the existing New Cascade Canal diversion; stoplog supports to allow surface water to be diverted; one existing groundwater well and up to eight new wells; centralized degassing headbox for groundwater treatment and supply; site utilities, including pipes for water intake and discharge (outfall); a waste treatment pond; acclimation ponds and tanks; and site access roads.

Under the Proposed Action, the MRS Hatchery will produce and release up to 500,000 coho parr and up to 200,000 coho smolts as part of the overall coho reintroduction program. Per NMFS consultation (NWR-2011-06509; NMFS 2016a), the production of up to 200,000 smolts and 500,000 parr is authorized. Conversion to an all-smolt release (*i.e.*, 700,000 smolts) is proposed if the parr/smolt release strategy does not meet adult return objectives, or if drought conditions preclude summer parr releases. The goal of the Proposed Action is for in-basin rearing of integrated coho juveniles at the MRS Hatchery using localized broodstock, with a goal to phase out all out-of-basin production. The transition to locally-adapted broodstock will occur at ever-increasing rates as natural-origin broodstock become available.

Up to 1,000 coho adults, including natural- and hatchery-origin, will be collected at Roza Dam for broodstock for the proposed MRS Hatchery. Adults may also be collected at Prosser Dam as a backup source, and possibly in the future at the Cowiche or Wapatox Dams. The broodstock goal is to collect 1,000 fish that will be processed over a four month period.

Prior to release, smolts will be acclimated in ponds adjacent to tributaries in which they will be released to help encourage their return as adults to these locations. A number of existing ponds, including Jack Creek, Hundley, Boone, and Easton will be used to acclimate coho smolts from the MRS Hatchery. Mobile acclimation units will also be used for a small number of coho smolts in the basin. Juvenile coho propagated at the MRS Hatchery will be released into tributaries that are not currently subject to coho releases, with a goal of seeding more habitats throughout the basin.

<sup>1</sup> The Council and the ISRP reviewed the Yakama Subbasin Summer and Fall Run Chinook and Coho Salmon Hatchery Master Plan (Yakama Nation 2012a), providing feedback and recommendations to the Yakama Nation on scientific goals and methods related to the coho program. On October 1, 2013, the Council and the ISRP determined the proposed Master Plan, as related to activities for the MRS Hatchery component of the coho program, sufficiently met scientific review criteria to recommend that BPA and the Yakama Nation move to Step 2 of the Council's process.

Monitoring, research, and evaluation of the overall Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP) coho reintroduction program is ongoing and would continue under the Proposed Action. Such activities would include coho spawning surveys, snorkel surveys, juvenile collection, and juvenile abundance surveys.

Construction under the Proposed Action will comply with applicable regulatory requirements, permits, and guidance for protection of the environment and human well-being and safety, and will incorporate Best Management Practices such as erosion and dust control, waste management, weed management, fire prevention, and work-hour and noise restrictions. The Proposed Action incorporates special measures such as retaining as much native vegetation as possible, landscaping with native plants, erecting buildings reflective of local character, shielding of facility lighting, and installing water reuse and treatment systems. Instream structures will meet applicable NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fish passage design requirements, and construction will be managed to accommodate and reduce impacts on existing fish production and fish use of the affected waters.

Instream work will occur behind temporary cofferdams or other appropriate water diversions and comply with applicable regulations and permits. Solid waste management and hatchery effluent treatment and filtering systems will ensure that discharge will comply with applicable regulations and permit standards.

#### *No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative as described in the EIS, BPA would have not funded the construction and operation of the proposed MRS Hatchery. The Yakama Nation would have still expanded juvenile release and acclimation locations, but would have not converted to complete in-basin rearing. The Yakama Nation would have likely continued using a combination of artificial production and habitat improvements to meet natural production and harvest goals, including increasing coho spawning in tributaries, phasing out imported releases of coho in the Yakima Basin, and testing and monitoring new acclimation techniques.

Under the No Action Alternative, a portion of the juvenile coho released into the Yakima River as part of the overall YKFP coho reintroduction program would have continued to be reared out-of-basin. The release of out-of-basin juveniles would have expected

to result in reduced survival and adult returns and would have not met the Yakama Nation's goal of providing a self-sustaining coho run throughout its historic range.

#### **Comments Received Since Issuance of the Final EIS**

Following the issuance of the final EIS, BPA received comments from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 in accordance with EPA responsibilities to review EISs under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The comments were received in a letter dated December 21, 2017 and in follow-up conversations with EPA staff. These comments can be viewed on-line at [www.bpa.gov/goto/MelvinSampsonHatchery](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/MelvinSampsonHatchery). BPA has reviewed and considered EPA's comments in making its decision about funding the Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery Yakima Basin Coho Project.

Although NEPA does not require written responses to comments received on a final EIS, this section of the ROD summarizes and addresses the EPA comments received since issuance of the final EIS.

EPA's letter stated that the final EIS was responsive to their comments submitted on the draft EIS. EPA also further expanded on comments sent on the draft EIS and requested that BPA conduct additional quantitative analysis of water quality impacts due to hatchery effluent discharge. More specially, EPA requested that various parameters (ammonia nitrogen, dissolved oxygen, and phosphorous, total suspended solids [TSS], turbidity, and biochemical oxygen demand BOD) be considered in the effluent dilution calculations; that effluent dilution calculations be at the point of discharge into the side channel (which flows into the main channel of the Yakima River); that consideration be taken for effluent plumes in the Yakima River if lateral mixing is incomplete; and that BPA provide rationale that the analysis is considering worst-case conditions and rationale that the effluent discharge will achieve water quality standards.

In response to these comments, BPA continued to work with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), the entity responsible for regulating water quality in the State of Washington, conducted additional waste load calculations, and had further conversations and email exchanges with EPA.

As described in Sections 2.2.3.3, 3.5.1.4.2, 3.5.2.2.4, and 4.1.3.1.2 of the EIS, BPA and the Yakama Nation have worked with Ecology to ensure that the hatchery complies with National

Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. Per Washington State Administrative Code (WAC) 173-221A-100, all upland fin fish facilities require wastewater discharge permits requiring compliance with defined effluent standards, and must comply with the applicable Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The TMDLs determine the amount of pollutants that a given waterbody, in this case it is the Yakima River, can receive and still meet or exceed water quality standards. The permit application submitted to Ecology described the hatchery design (size, number of fish, water sources and flow rates, dimensions and volumes of settling ponds, discharge points and receiving waters, solid waste disposal areas, and details about the water condition equipment) and the water quality characterization of the hatchery effluent. The technical memo supporting the permit application and the additional hatchery effluent discharge analysis may be viewed on BPA's project website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/MelvinSampsonHatchery](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/MelvinSampsonHatchery).

The Yakima River 7Q10 flow rate (the lowest 7-day average flow occurring on average once every 10 years) is 1,891 cubic feet per second (cfs), while the volume of discharge from the hatchery will be 4 cfs, 0.002 percent of the river flow. As described in Section 3.5.2.2.4 of the EIS, the effluent limits for general NPDES permit treatment requirements include a net total suspended solids (TSS) maximum concentration of 5 milligrams per liter (mg/l); the calculated TSS concentrations in the hatchery effluent during peak fish feeding (worst case pollutant discharge conditions) is 0.73 mg/l—which is well under the requirements. This TSS limitation requirement is for the end-of-pipe effluent and does not require determinations of lateral mixing or dilution. The hatchery easily meets the TMDL load allocation that has been approved by EPA for the Yakima River.

The additional waste load calculations conducted at EPA's request found that waste load allocations for total ammonia nitrogen (TAN), dissolved oxygen (DO), and total phosphorous associated with hatchery discharge had no-to-minimal influence on the background concentrations (TAN changed background river levels by 0.002 mg/l; DO had no change; total phosphorous changed by 0.0004 mg/l over background levels). As described above, the TSS levels would be well under the TMDL load allocation requirements, and because of the correlation of TSS and turbidity, Ecology determined that, based on the limitations associated with TSS, the

facility would not impact the Yakima River turbidity. BOD is not a pollutant of concern with fish hatcheries; there are no BOD limitations in either federal requirements or in the 2015 Upland Fin-Fish Hatchery and Rearing general permit requirements. Therefore, BPA believes it has sufficiently considered the potential impacts of the effluent pollutants on water quality.

Regarding EPA's comment that the side channel dilution rates should be considered, the end-of-pipe effluent that would be discharged into the side channel would meet the water quality standards for the Yakima River, whether it is into the side channel or the main stem itself; dilution is not part of the criteria for meeting the effluent water quality standards. Therefore, BPA believes that further calculations of dilution rates are not necessary or relevant to water quality considerations.

The end-of-pipe effluent water quality also pertains to EPA's comment on whether there would be effluent plumes due to incomplete lateral mixing in the Yakima River. The hatchery operation at full capacity has to meet end-of-pipe discharge limitations that reduce the existing load present in the Yakima River. The WAC sets effluent limitation guidelines for the pollutant of concern to meet water quality standards at the end-of-pipe, not at some point downstream after a mixing zone or dilution factor are taken into consideration. Therefore, because the effluent itself would meet load requirements, there would be no plumes within the river due to the effluent and further consideration of lateral mixing is not necessary or relevant.

Ecology is poised to issue an NPDES permit for the hatchery and has stated that it is satisfied that the hatchery effluent would clearly meet all water quality criteria. As such, BPA believes it has a sufficient understanding of the impacts of the hatchery effluent on water quality, that the final EIS provides appropriate consideration and analyses of these impacts to meet the requirements of NEPA, and that the additional calculations do not alter the conclusions made in the final EIS about potential water quality impacts.

#### Rationale for Decision

In making its decision to implement the Proposed Action, BPA has considered and balanced a variety of relevant factors. BPA considered how well the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative would fit with BPA's statutory missions and relevant policies and procedures. BPA also considered the environmental impacts described in the final EIS, as well as public

comments received throughout the NEPA process for the Project.

Another consideration was the extent to which each alternative under consideration would meet the following BPA purposes (*i.e.*, objectives) identified in the final EIS:

- Support efforts to mitigate for effects of the development and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System on fish and wildlife in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries under the Northwest Power Act.
- Assist in carrying out commitments related to proposed hatchery actions that are contained in the 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords Memorandum of Agreement with the Yakama Nation and others.
- Implement BPA's Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan EIS and Record of Decision policy direction, which calls for protecting weak stocks, while sustaining overall populations of fish for their economic and cultural value.
- Minimize harm to natural and human resources, including species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

After considering and balancing all of these factors, BPA has decided to fund the Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery, Yakima Basin Coho Project. The Proposed Action was recommended to BPA for funding by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and is consistent with the Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Providing funding for the construction of the Proposed Action will help mitigate for the effects of the FCRPS on fish and wildlife by restoring natural coho spawning in the Yakima Basin. In addition, the Proposed Action is consistent with commitments contained in the 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords, as well as with BPA's Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan policy direction for protecting weak stocks, while sustaining overall populations of fish for their economic and cultural value.

In planning and designing the hatchery, BPA, the Yakama Nation, and other project designers worked to minimize environmental and social impacts through project design, consultation with regulatory entities, and development of mitigation measures. Impacts considered and fully disclosed in the final EIS, include disturbance of soils, vegetation removal, conversion of habitat, groundwater and surface water impacts on aquifers and floodplains, impacts of hatchery effluent discharge, impacts of hatchery construction and juvenile coho releases on species such as bull trout and

steelhead, and visual changes associated with new structures.

#### Mitigation

All mitigation measures described in the final EIS and the project Biological Assessment with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been adopted. A complete list of these measures is presented in the project Mitigation Action Plan, available on the project website. All practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm are adopted.

Issued in Portland, Oregon, on April 10, 2018.

Dated: April 10, 2018.

**Elliot E. Mainzer,**  
*Administrator and Chief Executive Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2018-08285 Filed 4-19-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Proposed Subsequent Arrangement

**AGENCY:** National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Proposed subsequent arrangement.

**SUMMARY:** This document is being issued under the authority of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. The Department is providing notice of a proposed subsequent arrangement under the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and the Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy between the United States of America and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom).

**DATES:** This subsequent arrangement will take effect no sooner than May 7, 2018 and after 15 days of continuous session of the Congress has elapsed, beginning the day after the date on which the reports required under section 131b.(1) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, are submitted to the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The two time periods referred to above may run concurrently.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Sean Oehlbert, Office of Nonproliferation and Arms Control, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy. Telephone: 202-586-3806 or email: [Sean.Oehlbert@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:Sean.Oehlbert@nnsa.doe.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This subsequent arrangement concerns the retransfer of 507,713 g of U.S.-obligated