



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
1150 North Curtis Road
Boise, ID 83706-1234



IN REPLY REFER TO:

CPN-1725
2.1.4.17

VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

Subject: Request for Public Scoping Comments and Open House Public Meetings Announcement for Programmatic Environmental Assessment Addressing Federal Support of the Phase 2 Implementation Plan: Testing the Feasibility of Reintroduced Salmon in the Upper Columbia River Basin

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), collectively referred to as Co-Lead Agencies, are leading the preparation of a programmatic environmental assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for federal support of the “Phase 2 Implementation Plan: Testing the Feasibility of Reintroduced Salmon in the Upper Columbia River Basin” (P2IP). The P2IP was developed by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, and Upper Columbia United Tribes to test the feasibility of salmon reintroduction upstream of Chief Joseph Dam into the historic salmon habitats in the United States. Interested parties are invited to participate in the P2IP NEPA process starting with the 30-day scoping period. The scoping period will be open from February 9, 2024, to March 11, 2024.

Reclamation, BPA, and USACE need to consider and respond to the P2IP proposal developed by Project Proponents with respect to Federal actions, in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and authorities. The P2IP involves activities over an approximately 20-year period to test key biological assumptions through salmon research studies, develop interim hatchery and passage facilities, establish sources of donor and brood stocks for reintroduction, and evaluate effectiveness. Federal actions associated with the P2IP to be considered in the programmatic EA include:

- Funding P2IP activities throughout the project area, including research studies, interim fish passage, and fish rearing.
- Reviewing, approving, and issuing permits for actions including but not limited to data collection, installation of equipment, or facility construction on federally managed lands and facilities.
- Providing eggs and juvenile and adult salmon from existing hatcheries for research studies.

The Co-Lead Agencies are seeking scoping comments on this project. We are contacting stakeholders, potentially interested persons, groups, tribes, tribal citizens, and agencies to inform them of the project and gather pertinent feedback. We request comments to help identify potential issues to consider in this environmental compliance effort. Your comments will help us refine the proposal, identify interested and affected persons who should learn more about this NEPA process, and consider possible alternatives to the Proposed Action.

This public scoping process will also meet our public involvement obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. We invite your comments on the potential for this project to result in adverse effects to historic properties, if any.

INTERIOR REGION 9 • COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NORTHWEST

IDAHO, MONTANA*, OREGON*, WASHINGTON

* PARTIAL

The Co-Lead Agencies will host two in-person open house format meetings:

- In-Person Meeting: February 27, 2024, 5-7pm Pacific Time (PT) in Grand Coulee, WA at Colville Tribal Museum
- In-Person Meeting: February 28, 2024, 6-8pm (PT) in Airway Heights, WA at Kalispell Northern Quest Casino

In addition to the in-person public meetings, a virtual public meeting website will be accessible 24 hours a day to provide project information and allow visitors to submit comments. The virtual public meeting website is <https://www.virtualpublicmeeting.com/p2ip-salmon-reintroduction-programmatic-ea>.

Comments may be submitted by mail, through the virtual public meeting room, or by email at bor-sha-p2ip_peaproject@usbr.gov. Written comments may be sent to Melissa (Mel) Yenko, Natural Resource Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Pacific Northwest Regional Office, 1150 Curtis Road, Boise, ID, 83706-1234.

For your comments to be reviewed and considered in a timely manner, we ask that you submit comments by March 11, 2024. Comments specific to the proposed action will be most helpful. Comments received in response to this request, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project. They will be released in their entirety if requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

If you have questions about the project or how to comment, please contact Melissa (Mel) Yenko, Natural Resource Specialist, at (208) 914-0362 or myenko@usbr.gov. Additional project information is available at <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/p2ip/index.html>. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Sincerely,

**JENNIFER
CARRINGTON**

Digitally signed by JENNIFER
CARRINGTON
Date: 2024.02.08 08:53:30 -07'00'

Jennifer J. Carrington
Regional Director

Enclosure