

Salmon Creek Project

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

(DOE/EIS-0346)

Responsible Agency: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Cooperating Agencies: U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Okanogan Irrigation District.

County and State Involved: Okanogan County, Washington

Abstract: BPA proposes to fund activities that would restore sufficient water flows to Salmon Creek and rehabilitate its streambed as necessary to provide adequate passage for summer steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and possibly spring chinook (*O. tshawytscha*). Both steelhead and spring chinook are known to have historically occurred in Salmon Creek. However, habitat for these species in Salmon Creek was greatly affected in the early 1900s by the construction of two dams: Conconully Dam, constructed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) on the upper reaches of Salmon Creek in 1910, and the Okanogan Irrigation District (OID) diversion dam on the lower reaches of Salmon Creek in 1916. Since these facilities were constructed, the lower 4.3 miles of Salmon Creek downstream from the OID diversion dam has been (and continues to be) typically dewatered under normal irrigation operations, except during high runoff years that result in uncontrolled spill at the reservoirs and diversion dam.

Three alternatives for restoring the flow of water in lower Salmon Creek are described and analyzed. Alternative 1 would construct a new pump station on the Okanogan River and use Okanogan River water for irrigation in place of Salmon Creek water and remove a gravel barrier at the mouth of Salmon Creek to aid fish passage. Alternative 2 would upgrade the existing Shellrock pump station to increase use of Okanogan River water for irrigation and also proposes to rehabilitate the stream channel in the lower 4.3 miles of Salmon Creek to improve fish passage. Alternative 3 would purchase water rights from irrigators and place the water in trust through the State of Washington to remain in Salmon Creek. All three of these alternatives also would upgrade the Salmon Lake Feeder Canal to increase water flow capability. Alternative 4 is the No Action Alternative.

Public comments are being accepted through October 19, 2004.

For additional information, contact:

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You may submit your comment on-line at: www.bpa.gov/comment, or you may FAX a comment to 503-230-3285.

To receive additional copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), call BPA's document request line at 1-800-622-4520. You may access the Draft EIS on BPA's web site at <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/SalmonCreek>.

For information on DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) activities, please contact:

Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington D.C. 20585, 1-800-472-2756; or visit the DOE NEPA web site at www.eh.doe.gov/nepa.