



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Region
Klamath Basin Area Office
6600 Washburn Way
Klamath Falls, OR 97603-9365

IN REPLY REFER TO:

KO-300
2.2.1.06 (ENV-7.00)

NOV 13 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Barry Thom, Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
West Coast Region
1201 NW Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97232

Subject: Reinitiation of Formal Consultation - on the Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for Klamath Project Operations from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2024 (2019 BiOp)

Dear Mr. Thom:

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is hereby requesting reinitiation of formal consultation (ROC) with the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS), as provided under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), on the effects of operating the Klamath Project. In particular, Reclamation received new information since completion of the most recent consultation that it believes reveals effects of the action on listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered (50 C.F.R. § 402.16 (a)(2)) (specifically to Threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)).

In early October 2019, Reclamation confirmed that data provided by an outside source and used to evaluate the amount of available habitat for SONCC coho fry in the effects analysis of both Reclamation's 2018 Biological Assessment, and subsequently in NMFS's 2019 BiOp, contained erroneous information. Specifically, Reclamation and NMFS were provided inaccurate distance-to-cover data related to SONCC coho fry weighted usable area (WUA) curves. Reclamation believes the corrected data reveals effects to SONCC coho, or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered. Reclamation requests a target date of no later than March 31, 2020 for completion of this ROC process.

Reclamation is appreciative of NMFS's collaboration and coordination during development and implementation of the 2019 BiOp and we look forward to working with your agency to conclude this reinitiated Section 7 consultation in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Nettleton
Area Manager

cc:

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