



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Ms. Debra Crisp
Klamath River Compact Commission
6600 Washburn Way
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Subject: Stakeholder Committee for Lost River and Shortnose Sucker Recovery Plan

Dear Interested Party,

The Lost River and Shortnose suckers, which are limited to the upper Klamath River Basin, were listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1988, and in 1993 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued a Recovery Plan. The Recovery Plan is a non-binding roadmap that outlines tasks believed to be necessary to recover the species and remove them from the list of Endangered Species. Extensive research and monitoring since 1993, has provided new scientific information regarding each of these fish. Beginning in mid 2008 and continuing through 2009, the Recovery Plan will be revised. The revised plan will incorporate new knowledge about these listed species and refine the recovery strategies in the plan, accordingly.

The Service contracted with the Desert Research Institute (DRI) in Reno, Nevada, to work with scientists and stakeholders to revise the Recovery Plan. DRI is the non-profit research campus of the Nevada System of Higher Education. It is a unique blending of academia and entrepreneurship that provides solutions to pressing environmental problems by balancing the needs to develop resources while protecting and sustaining the environment. The Project Manager for the revised Recovery Plan is Dr. Donald Sada, an aquatic ecologist with more than 25 years of experience working with water management and aquatic life in the western U.S. He also has extensive experience preparing recovery plans.

A diverse team of scientists familiar with the local area and the listed species has been selected to serve on the Lost River and Shortnose Sucker Recovery Team. This team will identify and address key biological and environmental issues that are relevant to recovery, develop recovery criteria, and recommend a monitoring strategy to track progress towards achieving recovery. Members of the team are from the private sector, the Klamath Tribes, Oregon State University, and state and federal resource agencies.

The recovery plan revision process will be a fully transparent and inclusive process involving the public, stakeholders, and scientists with expertise on the Lost River and Shortnose suckers.

Stakeholders will be involved in the process in two ways. First, the public will be invited to participate in two public meetings in Klamath Falls. There will also be four to five (4-5) Recovery Implementation Committee meetings held in Klamath Falls. The Recovery Implementation Committee (RIC) will include people with knowledge of local watershed issues, opportunities for recovery actions that will benefit the listed species, and local concerns. Stakeholders include state, federal, tribal, and local government agencies, environmental interests, water user groups, and other interest groups. Stakeholder interests will be solicited throughout the process and focused through the Recovery Implementation Committee (RIC). The Committee will be the foundation of a transparent process to inform stakeholders of Recovery Team discussions. It will also be a conduit to communicate stakeholder concerns to the Recovery Team and foster consideration of alternative directions.

The duration of each of these stakeholder meetings is anticipated to be three to four (3-4) hours. The first Recovery Implementation Committee meeting and public meeting are tentatively scheduled for October 14 and 15, 2008 respectively. The ECO Resource Group, a company experienced with facilitating collaboration on natural resource issues, will facilitate the Implementation Committee and public meetings to assist in keeping them efficient and productive.

We have identified your agency or group as a potential stakeholder for the Recovery Plan revision process. We request that you let us know if you would like to participate in the process by serving on the Recovery Implementation Committee by August 1, 2008. If you wish to participate, please identify a single person to represent your group's interests at the Implementation Committee meetings and an alternate who could attend in your absence, should you be unable to attend a meeting. This will assure that your organization is represented at all meetings. Also, please provide representative and alternate's contact information including address, phone numbers, and email address.

If you have any questions about the Recovery Plan revision process or participation on the Recovery Implementation Committee, please contact Mark Buettner at (541) 885-2520 or email him at mark_buettner@fws.gov. Thank you. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Curt Mullis
Field Supervisor