



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office

1655 Heindon Road

Arcata, CA 95521-5582

Phone: (707) 822-7201 Fax: (707) 822-8411

In Reply Refer To:
File #: 8-14-2007-3085.2

FEB 26 2007

Dear Interested Party:

Subject: Public review of HCP Amendment, draft Implementation Agreement Amendment, and draft Environmental Assessment for the Northern Spotted Owl Habitat Conservation Plan for the Green Diamond Resource Company, Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, California

The attached compact disk contains documents related to proposed amendments to the Northern Spotted Owl Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the California Timberlands of the Green Diamond Resource Company (formerly Simpson Timber Company). We invite your review and comment on three of the attached documents, the proposed HCP Amendment, draft Implementation Agreement (IA) Amendment, and draft Environmental Assessment. As described in a recent Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register, comments on these documents are due within 60 days of the Notice's publication date. All of the documents on the compact disk are in PDF format. Software that reads this format can be downloaded for free from the internet at: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. The Notice of Availability, which contains the due date for public comments, can be accessed at the following internet address: <http://www.fws.gov/arcata/>.

The compact disk includes two other documents, the original 1992 HCP and Implementation Agreement, for informational purposes only. We provide these two documents because they are not readily available to the public, and provide context for the proposed amendments to them. These 1992 documents are not subject to public review, comment or reconsideration. That review occurred in 1992, before the Service issued the Permit.

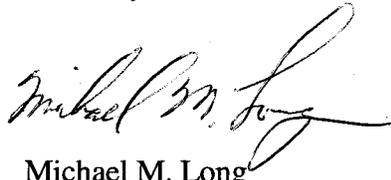
As described in the recent Notice of Availability, Green Diamond Resource Company has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to amend its existing HCP, IA, and incidental take permit (Permit) for the federally threatened northern spotted owl. The proposed Permit amendment would authorize the take of eight additional northern spotted owl pairs on Green Diamond's ownership in Humboldt and Del Norte counties, California. These additional takes would be authorized during the existing Permit term expiring in 2022, and would provide Green Diamond with operational flexibility while the Service and Green Diamond consider and

evaluate the findings of a comprehensive HCP review. The attached draft Environmental Assessment describes the proposed action and its effects in detail.

In 1992 the Service issued a Permit to Simpson Timber Company authorizing incidental take of up to 50 owl pairs in accordance with conditions set forth in an HCP and IA. The Permit was issued in response to a permit application with an associated Habitat Conservation Plan, for timber harvesting on the firm's properties in Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Trinity counties, California. The incidental take would occur primarily due to the displacement of owl pairs by timber harvest near nest sites. The effects of the proposed Permit and associated HCP were analyzed and described in an EA prepared and issued by the Service, and provided for public comment in 1992 (Notice of Availability, Federal Register, May 27, 1992).

Please send written comments to Ms. Amedee Brickey, ES Program Manager, at the above letterhead address. You also may send comments by facsimile to (707) 822-8411. For further information, please contact Gary Falxa at the same address or at (707) 822-7201.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael M. Long". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michael M. Long
Field Supervisor

Attachment