



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Humboldt River Basin Safe Harbor Agreement



Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

Landowner cooperation and private lands are essential to development of networked population needed to ensure the survival and recovery of LCT within the Humboldt River DPS Area.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) has been working with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to produce a programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement that covers privately owned lands within and adjacent to Humboldt River Basin (northeast portion of the State). NDOW will be the permit holder and will enroll private landowners into Cooperative Agreements through issuance of Certificates of Inclusions.

Under these agreements, private landowners will voluntarily create, enhance, maintain, or restore LCT habitats or populations. The Safe Harbor Agreement will provide landowners certainty that future property-use restrictions will not be imposed if efforts are successful in attracting LCT to their enrolled property and the LCT will be able to occupy important recovery habitats today and into the foreseeable future.

Recovery efforts for LCT began with the development of the Humboldt River DPS team in 1999. Members of the team are comprised of NDOW, Bureau of Land Management's Elko and Battle Mountain Districts, Humboldt-Tioyabe National Forest, University of Nevada, Reno, and the Service's Fisheries Program. Expanding on the themes identified in the 1995 Recovery Plan, the team has been working to restore habitat and networked populations based upon the results of recent research.

The Service is requesting comments on the permit application, the HCP, and the categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) through May 9, 2006.