

News Bulletin

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office
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<http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/>



July 21, 2017

Input Requested on Plan to Protect Deschutes Basin Species *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Partners hold Public Scoping Meetings*

PORTLAND, OR. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and National Marine Fisheries Service are working with The Deschutes Basin Board of Control and City of Prineville to develop a Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan to minimize potential impacts to five listed and nonlisted species that may result from the irrigation and related water management operations in the Deschutes Basin. Members of the public are invited to attend four public meetings that are being held as part of the scoping process, an initial step in developing the Habitat Conservation Plan.

The aquatic species covered in the Habitat Conservation Plan include three federally listed species (Oregon spotted frog, bull trout, and steelhead) and two non-listed species (sockeye salmon and spring Chinook salmon). The Plan covers the majority of the 10,000 square mile Deschutes River basin, with the exception of the Metolius River basin.

“This planning process brings together partners to collaborate on a science-based strategy that will not only conserve imperiled species in the Deschutes Basin, but also provide predictability to water users,” said Bridget Moran, the Service’s Bend Field Supervisor. “We want input from all interested parties to ensure the planning process is inclusive and has addressed all possible issues and concerns.”

The primary purpose of the scoping process is to encourage Federal, Tribal, State and local governments, and the public to help the Service and applicants identify issues and alternatives related to the proposed action. Input will be used to prepare a draft Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act.

The agencies developing the Habitat Conservation Plan will hold four public meetings. Each meeting will follow the same format starting with presentations followed by informal questions and discussions. The public meeting schedule and locations are:

Monday, August 14, 2017
Inn at Cross Keys Station
66 NW Cedar Street
Madras, Oregon 97741
2:00 -4:00 pm
6:00 -8:00 pm

Tuesday, August 15, 2017
U.S. Forest Service
63095 Deschutes Market Road
Bend, Oregon 97701
2:00 -4:00 pm
6:00 -8:00 pm

Written comments concerning the development of the Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan and the preparation of the associated Environmental Impact Statement will be accepted until September 22, 2017 and can be submitted at the public meetings or by mail. For further instructions go to:

<https://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/>

Persons needing reasonable accommodations to attend and participate in the public meeting should contact Peter Lickwar at peter_lickwar@fws.gov at 541/312-6422. Information regarding the applicant's proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

For updates to the planning process, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bridget Moran, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, email bridget_moran@fws.gov, 541-312-6428.

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