

News Bulletin

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approves conservation plan with Yamhill County to protect Fender's blue butterfly and Kincaid's lupine

County can conduct road maintenance activities while conserving two endangered species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved the Yamhill County Road Maintenance Habitat Conservation Plan and associated incidental take permit to cover Fender's blue butterfly (*Plebejus icarioides fenderi*) and Kincaid's lupine (*Lupinus oregonus*).

Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) provide for partnerships with non-Federal parties to conserve the ecosystems upon which listed species depend. Specifically, an HCP is a planning document that describes how proposed actions may affect federally-listed species, and those measures taken to minimize and mitigate those effects.

"The time and effort Yamhill County has invested in developing and receiving approval for their HCP will pay great dividends to both the County and the covered species over the 30 year term of the permit," said Yamhill County Commissioner Allen Springer. "Under the HCP the County will be able to continue to manage and maintain County roadways for safe public transport while helping to preserve and enhance habitat for Fender's blue butterfly, Kincaid's lupine and other prairie species."

The Yamhill County HCP covers road maintenance activities such as grading, mowing, spraying, and brush cutting. Conservation measures to minimize and mitigate incidental take of Fender's blue butterfly and Kincaid's lupine include control of invasive species, upland prairie habitat restoration and monitoring. In addition, special maintenance zones that receive additional protective measures have been identified within the HCP.

"The Service commends Yamhill County on developing this HCP which will go a long way in protecting these important prairie species," said Paul Henson, State Supervisor, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office. "This is a very positive action for conservation."

Fender's blue butterfly, listed as endangered, only occurs in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, in which Yamhill County is situated. This butterfly depends on the presence of certain lupine plants, including the federally-listed as threatened Kincaid's lupine, which serves as the caterpillar host plant and adult nectar source. Both listed species are part of the upland prairie ecosystem which occurs along some portions of Yamhill County right-of-ways.

The Service is committed to making the Endangered Species Act work for the American people, and our priority is to make its implementation less complex, less contentious, and more effective. HCPs are one such tool that can assist private landowners in conserving at risk species.

For more information on the Yamhill County Road Maintenance Activities HCP, visit <http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/>.

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