

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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News Release



For Release on November 20, 2009
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Releases Recommendations for the Oregon Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Hatcheries *Stakeholder Meeting Planned for December 2009*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host a public stakeholder meeting on the Hatchery Review Team's draft report of their review of the Oregon Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP) fish hatchery programs located at Lookingglass, Irrigon, and Wallowa Fish Hatcheries and their satellite juvenile acclimation and adult recapture facilities. The Oregon LSRCP hatcheries and their satellite facilities contribute to salmon and steelhead production in the Lower Snake Mainstem, Grande Ronde, and Imnaha river basins.

The draft report is being prepared by a Hatchery Review Team that began an analysis of the Oregon LSRCP hatchery programs last spring. The team, comprised of scientists from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies, was convened by the Service's Pacific Region Fisheries Program. The draft report includes the team's assessments and recommendations. The public review draft of the Hatchery Review Team's report will be available on the Team's website on December 4, 2009 (<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Fisheries/Hatcheryreview>).

The purpose of this meeting is for the Hatchery Review Team to present an overview of the review process and introduce details of their Oregon LSRCP assessments and recommendations report. This meeting will provide the public with an opportunity to discuss with and provide initial feedback about the draft report and its recommendations to members of the Hatchery Review Team.

The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 2009 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the Oxford Suites Hotel in Pendleton, OR. A second meeting time, from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, will be added if there is public interest. Please RSVP to Michael Schmidt of Long Live the Kings, the Hatchery Review Team's facilitator, at 206.382.9555 x27 or by email at mschmidt@lltk.org. Directions to the meeting can be found at <http://www.oxfordsuitespendleton.com>.

The Service will accept public comments on the draft report for 30 days beginning December 8, 2009. Written comments can be sent to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fishery Resources, Attn: Hatchery Reviews, 911 NE11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232, or via email to Don_Campton@fws.gov. Hatchery review project information can be found on the USFWS Columbia River Basin Hatchery Review Project website at: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Fisheries/Hatcheryreview>

The review of the Lower Snake facilities is part of a five-year review process that began in October 2005 with the goal of improving salmon and steelhead hatcheries owned or operated by the Service in the Pacific Region, and to ensure that those facilities are best meeting conservation goals, harvest goals, and tribal trust and mitigation responsibilities now and in the future. The review includes the review of 12 National Fish Hatcheries in the Columbia River Basin, the three National Fish Hatcheries on Washington's Olympic Peninsula, and the nine additional federal hatcheries operated as part of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.