DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Federal Sport Fish Restoration; California Department of Fish and Game Fish Hatchery and Stocking Program

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a joint environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (EIS/EIR); announcement of public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), intend to serve as the lead agency, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, in the preparation of a joint EIS/EIR for the California Department of Fish and Game’s (CDFG) Fish Hatchery and Stocking Program (Program). Under the Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFRA), FWS currently proposes to fund actions associated with the operation of CDFG’s 13 trout hatcheries (listed below) and the Mad River anadromous fish hatchery, including stocking from those 14 hatcheries. The Federal action would not include funding CDFG’s private stocking permit program. The CDFG will serve as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analyzing the hatcheries’ operations funded by the SFRA, as well as CDFG’s entire fish hatchery program. This notice announces two public scoping meetings on our intended actions.

DATES: Two public scoping meetings will be held to solicit public input on the alternatives, concerns, and issues to be addressed in the EIS/EIR. The meeting dates are:

1. Monday, September 8, 2008, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., Sacramento, California.
2. Thursday, September 11, 2008, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Carson, California.

ADDRESSES: The public scoping meeting locations are:

1. Sacramento—Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, Main Floor, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.
2. Carson—Carson Community Center, First Floor, Adult Activities Room, 3 Civic Plaza Drive, Carson, CA 90745.

Send comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR to Ms. Jill Wright, Fish and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W–2606, Sacramento, CA 95825; via e-mail to dfghatcheryoir@dfg.ca.gov; or via fax to (916) 978–6155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jill Wright, (916) 978–6182.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FWS intends to serve as the lead agency in the preparation of a joint EIS/EIR for CDFG’s Program. Under the SFRA, FWS has the authority to approve grants and provide Federal funds to support actions associated with the Program. FWS currently proposes to fund the 13 trout hatcheries (listed below) and the Mad River anadromous fish hatchery. The combined EIS/EIR document will provide NEPA compliance for the FWS’s discretionary action regarding the issuance of Federal funds under the SFRA to support these hatchery operations, including stocking, which provides freshwater angling opportunities and recreation throughout the State. The Federal action does not include funding CDFG’s private stocking permit program.

The CDFG will serve as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analyzing the hatcheries’ operations funded by the SFRA, as well as its entire CDFG fish hatchery program. The purpose of CDFG’s Program is to implement the requirements of AB 7 (2005), which requires certain production amounts of trout from CDFG hatcheries, as well as to comply with a court order regarding the adequacy of environmental review of CDFG’s continuing hatchery program, which stocks various trout species, one species of char, and anadromous fish species in the inland waters of California.

The CDFG has been rearing and stocking fish in the inland waters of California since the late 1800s, when the State of California enacted legislation to restore and preserve fish in State waters. This legislation called for the newly formed California State Fish and Game Commission, to establish “fish breeders” to stock and supply streams, lakes, and bays with both foreign and domestic fish. Since that time in the late 1800s, the CDFG has continued that mandate by rearing and stocking both inland and anadromous species of fish reared at 21 hatcheries and planting bases located throughout the State.

The CDFG is proposing to continue this objective of stocking hatchery-reared inland and anadromous fish for the recreational use of anglers, per the requirements of AB 7 and subject to the mandates of the court order, while balancing the interaction between hatchery-stocked fish and threatened and endangered species, and other environmental effects. Hatchery operations and stocking activities associated with the CDFG’s inland water hatchery program will be evaluated for their effects on the environment, including potential impacts to native species, such as native amphibians, which have recently experienced a decline within the State of California.

The CDFG will also evaluate its issuance of stocking permits to private parties seeking to stock fish in California’s inland waters. However, activities associated with CDFG’s permitting of private stocking are not eligible for Federal funding under the SFRA and are not within the scope of the NEPA action.

The CDFG currently operates 13 trout hatcheries and 8 anadromous fish hatcheries throughout the State, rearing 5 trout species and 3 salmon species. The trout species include rainbow, brown, brook, cutthroat, and golden. The salmon species include Chinook, Coho, and Kokanee. Operations associated with 1 anadromous (Mad River) and all 13 trout hatcheries are eligible for SFRA grants from FWS.

The trout hatcheries are:

Mount Shasta (Siskiyou County), #3
North Old Stage Road, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067.

Darrah Springs (Tehama County), 29661
Wildcat Road, Paynes Creek, CA 96075.

Crystal Lake (Shasta County), 40158
Baum Lake Road, Cassel, CA 96016.

American River (Sacramento County),
2001 Nimbus Road, Gold River, CA 95670.

Mocassin Creek (Tuolumne County),
Highway 49 and 120, Mocassin, CA 95347.

Hot Creek (Mono County), 85 Old
School Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

Fish Springs (Inyo County), 215 Fish
Springs Road, Big Pine, CA 93513.

Mount Whitney (Inyo County), #1
Golden Trout Circle, Independence, CA 93526.

Black Rock Fish Hatchery (Inyo County)
Annex of Mount Whitney Hatchery, 1
East Black Rock Springs Road,
Independence, CA 93526.

San Joaquin (Fresno County), 17372
Brook Trout Drive, Friant, CA 93626.

Fillmore (Ventura County), 612 East
Telegraph Road, Fillmore, CA 93016.

Mojave (San Bernardino County), 12550
Jacaranda Avenue, Victorville, CA 92395.

Kern River Planting Base (Kern County),
14400 North Sierra Way, Kernville,
CA 93238.

Silverado Planting Base (Napa County),
7329 Silverado Trail, Yountville, CA 94599.
The anadromous fish hatcheries are:
Iron Gate (Siskiyou County), 8638
Lakeview Road, Hornbrook, CA 96044.

Mad River (Humboldt County), 1660
Hatchery Road, Arcata, CA 95521.

Trinity River (Trinity County), 1000
Hatchery Drive, Lewiston, CA 96052.

Feather River (Butte County), 5 Table
Mountain Blvd., Oroville, CA 95965.

Feather River Thermalito Annex (Butte
County), 4700 Highway 99, Oroville, CA 95965.

Warm Springs (Sonoma County), 3246
Skaggs Springs Road, Geyserville, CA 95441.

Nimbus (Sacramento County), 2001

Mokelumne (San Joaquin County),
25800 North McIntire Road, Clements,
CA 95227.

Merced River (Merced County), 4998
Robinson Road, Snelling, CA 95369.

Over the past 6 years, the CDFG has
planted over 49 million combined
salmon and trout in hundreds of
locations, including some high
mountain lakes, low elevation
reservoirs, and various streams and
creeks. It is anticipated that the
production of trout species will increase
as a result of the implementation of AB
45. This production in production will be
achieved through options within the
existing hatchery system and through
the continued assistance of SFRA
funding. If the SFRA funding is
withdrawn, it may be necessary for
CDFG to cut other activities to meet the
AB 7 fish production goals. The CDFG
has also issued approximately 80
private stocking permits annually, with
the majority being issued to individuals
stocking rainbow, brook and brown
tROUT; Channel and bullhead catfish;
large mouth bass; white and black
crappie; bluegill; redear; mosquito-fish;
white and green sturgeon; and triploid
grass carp.

Purpose and Need

The EIS must explain the underlying
purpose and need to which the Lead
Agency is responding in proposing the
action. The purpose of this FWS action
is to provide Federal SFRA funds to
CDFG to support actions associated with
their fish hatchery and stocking program
(the 13 trout hatcheries (listed above)
and the Mad River anadromous fish
hatchery) to provide sportfishing
recreation in California. The funds are
needed to support angler success within
both urban and rural waterbodies. SFRA
funds will not, however, be used to
support private stocking permits.

Alternatives

Proposed Action Alternative

Under the proposed action, FWS will
continue to provide funding for CDFG's
13 hatcheries and the Mad River
anadromous fish hatchery.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the
FWS would not approve SFRA grant
funds to be used by CDFG to support
actions associated with the operations
of their fish hatcheries and fish stocking
program. Because of the State statutory
and public trust requirements related to
the hatchery program, CDFG would
attempt to continue to implement its
State hatchery program, seeking other
funding sources to replace the Federal
funds.

Other Alternatives

In the EIS, FWS will consider a range
of alternatives that could accomplish
the proposed action's purpose and need.
FWS will be rigorously exploring and
objectively evaluating a reasonable
range of alternatives with the proposed
action and no action alternatives, taking
into account the feasibility of the
alternatives, as well as the ability to
address significant impacts on the
human environment.

Special Assistance for Public Scoping
Meetings

If special assistance is required at the
scoping meetings, please contact Ms. Jill
Wright, (916) 978-6182, or via e-mail at
Jill_Wright@fws.gov. Please notify Ms.
Wright as far in advance of the meetings
as possible to enable the Service to
secure the needed services. If a request
cannot be honored, the requestor will be
notified.

Public Disclosure

Before including your name, address,
phone number, e-mail address, or other
personal identifying information in your
comment, you should be aware that
your entire comment—including your
personal identifying information—may
be made publicly available at any time.
While you can ask us in your comment
to withhold your personal identifying
information from public review, we
cannot guarantee that we will be able to
do so.

Dated: July 30, 2008.

Tom McCabe,
Acting Deputy Regional Director, California
and Nevada Region, Sacramento, California.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Tribal-State Compact
Taking Effect.

SUMMARY: Notice is given that the State
of Oklahoma and the Quapaw Tribe of
Oklahoma (O-GAH—PAH) Off-Track
Wagering Compact is considered
approved and in effect.

DATES: Effective Date: August 5, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Paula L. Hart, Acting Director, Office of
Indian Gaming, Mailstop 3657—Main
Interior Building, Washington, DC
20240, (202) 219-4066.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under
Section 11 of the Indian Gaming
Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Public
Law 100–497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the
Secretary of the Interior shall publish in
the Federal Register notice of approved
Tribal-State compacts for the purpose of
engaging in Class III gaming activities
on Indian lands. Pursuant to 25 U.S.C.
2710(d)(8)(D), compacts that are
approved or considered to have been
approved are effective upon publication
of a notice thereof in the Federal
Register. No action was taken to
approve or disapprove this Compact
within forty-five (45) days of its
submittal to the Secretary for approval;
therefore, in accordance with 25 U.S.C.
2710(d)(8)(C), this Compact is
considered to have been approved by
the Secretary, but only to the extent that
it is consistent with the provisions of
the IGRA.


George T. Skibine,
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy
and Economic Development.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

30-Day Notice of Submission to the
Office of Management and Budget
(OMB): Opportunity for Public
Comment

AGENCY: Department of the Interior,
National Park Service.

ACTION: Notice and request for
comments.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the
Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and 5