provided the public has been notified of the Council’s intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820–2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.


Tracey L. Thompson,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E6–3300 Filed 2–21–08; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

RIN 0648–XE42

Notice of Public Scoping and Intent to Prepare a Joint Environmental Impact Statement for Fruit Growers Supply Company’s Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan, Siskiyou County, California


ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) (together the Services) intend to gather information about the Fruit Growers Supply Company (FGS) under the jurisdiction of NMFS and the survival and recovery of the species; (2) what reasonable and prudent measures required by FWS and NMFS.

Additionally, FGS proposes to include specific action is available in alternative formats upon request.

Background Information

Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the "take" of wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened by either the FWS or NMFS (16 USC 1538). The ESA defines the term "take" as: harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect listed species, or attempt to engage in such conduct. Pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA, FWS and NMFS may issue ITPs to take listed species if such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities.

Take of listed plant species is not prohibited under the Act, and cannot be authorized under a section 10 permit. However, FGS proposes to include Yreka phlox (Phlox histrix) in the HCP to extend the plan’s conservation benefits to this species. All species included on an ITP would receive assurances under the Services’ “No Surprises” regulations found in 50 CFR 17.22(b)(5), 17.32(b)(5), and 222.307(g).

To receive an ITP under the ESA, an applicant must prepare an HCP that specifies the following: (1) the impact of the taking, (2) the steps the applicant will take to minimize and mitigate the impact; (3) funding available to implement the steps; (4) what alternative actions to the taking the applicant considered and the reasons why they were not taken; and (5) any other measures NMFS or FWS may require as being necessary or appropriate for the purpose of the plan (16 USC 1539). To issue a permit, NMFS and FWS must find that: (1) the taking will be incidental, (2) the applicant will minimize and mitigate impacts of the take to the maximum extent possible; (3) the applicant will ensure adequate funding for the HCP; (4) the taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species; and the applicant has met other measures required by FWS and NMFS. Regulations governing issuance of FWS permits for endangered and threatened species are at 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32, and at 50 CFR 222.301 through 307 for NMFS-issued permits. FGS is developing a multi-species HCP in anticipation of applying for ITPs under the ESA. The HCP will apply to approximately 154,000 acres of commercial timberland owned by FGS in Siskiyou County, California. The ownership consists of three management units as defined by FGS:
Klamath River, Scott Valley, and Grass Lake, covering about 65,000, 39,000, and 50,000 acres, respectively. FGS's Klamath River and Scott Valley management units are located west of Interstate 5 and are adjacent to and intermixed with Klamath National Forest (KNF) lands. FGS's Grass Lake management unit (also adjacent to the KNF) lies east of Interstate 5 and predominantly north of State Highway 97. For the purposes of this HCP, all land owned by FGS in their Klamath National Forest (KNF) lands. FGS intends to request coverage from FWS for northern spotted owl (**Strix occidentalis caurina**) and Yreka phlox (**Phlox hirsute**). Separately, FGS intends to request coverage from NMFS for the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coasts (SONCC) coho salmon (**Oncorhynchus kisutch**) Evolutionally Significant Unit (ESU) and the Klamath Mountains Province steelhead (**O. mykiss**) ESU. Should these unlisted covered species become listed under the ESA during the term of the permit, take authorization for those species would become effective upon listing.

Activities that FGS may propose to cover under the ITPs include mechanized timber harvest; forest product transportation; road and landing construction, use, maintenance, and abandonment; site preparation; tree planting; certain types of vegetation management; silvicultural thinning and other silvicultural activities; fire suppression; rock quarry and borrow pit operations; aquatic habitat restoration and other forest management activities, miscellaneous and minor forest product collecting. The HCP is also expected to cover certain monitoring activities and scientific work in the HCP area.

FWS and NMFS expect FGS's proposed HCP to address each of the activities, species, and area described above, as required by the ESA. The goal of this HCP will be to: (1) protect and improve habitats required by species covered by the HCP and (2) establish appropriate guidelines for continuing timber harvests and other forest management activities.

During the preparation of the EIS, FWS and NMFS will consider a range of alternatives to the proposed HCP, including a No Action alternative and other project alternatives recommended during this scoping process. Alternatives may include HCPs with modified lists of covered species, land coverage areas, and permit terms.

Different strategies for minimizing and mitigating the impacts of incidental take may also be considered. We invite comments and suggestions from all interested parties to ensure that a reasonable range of alternatives and issues related to them are addressed and that all significant issues are identified.

Environmental review of the HCP will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), other applicable laws such as the National Historic Preservation Act, and FWS and NMFS procedures for compliance with those regulations.

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) intends to use this EIS as a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) equivalent document in the consideration and approval of a FGS master streambed alteration agreement. FGS will incorporate best management practices into the HCP that have been developed in cooperation with, and approved by, CDFG.

**Request for Comments**

This notice is being furnished in accordance with 40 CFR 1508.22 to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues and alternatives that will be addressed in the EIS. The primary purpose of the scoping process is to identify important issues raised by the public related to the issuance of ITPs for the HCP. Interested persons are encouraged to attend the public scoping meeting and to identify and discuss issues and alternatives that should be addressed in the joint EIS. We invite written comments from interested parties to ensure that the full range of issues related to the development of the HCP and issuance of the ITPs are identified.

To ensure all comments are fully considered, comments must be received no later than 45 days after the date of this notice. Comments provided during the scoping process, other than those received orally during the public meetings, will only be accepted in written form. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public. To facilitate comment review by the appropriate co-lead agency, NFMS, and FWS, encourage the public to specify which species their comments are addressing. Comments that do not identify a specific species will be reviewed by the co-lead agencies, and assigned for consideration by FWS, NFMS, or both.

Before including your 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 may 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.

Angela Somma,
Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Ken McDermond,
Deputy Regional Director, California and Nevada Region, Fish and Wildlife Service.


**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN: 0648–XF73

**Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene meetings of the Mariana Archipelago Advisory Panel, Mariana Archipelago Plan Team and Mariana Archipelago Regional Ecosystem Advisory Panel in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands and in Guam.

**DATES:** The meetings dates for Saipan, will be Saturday March 8, 2008, Monday March 10, 2008 and Tuesday March 11, 2008. The meetings dates for Guam will be Wednesday March 12, 2008 Thursday March 13, 2008 and Friday March 14, 2008. For the specific date, time, and agenda for each meeting see SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

**ADDRESSES:** All meetings on Saipan will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Hotel on Tum Chalan Tomas P. Sablan Road. All meetings on Guam will be held at