

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Bulletin

Washington Fish & Wildlife Office

510 Desmond Drive

Lacey, Washington 98503-1273

Phone: (360) 753-9440 Fax: (360) 753- 9460

<http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/>



Date: October 27, 2015

Contact: Ann Froschauer (360) 753-4370 or ann_froschauer@fws.gov

Service Seeks Public Comments on Draft Habitat Conservation Plan and Permit for Development in Thurston County, Washington

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking public review and comment on a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) describing the potential effects of issuing a proposed Incidental Take Permit for construction and development activities in Thurston County, Washington.

The Applicant (Meier Group, LLC.) developed a draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and applied for a 5 year Incidental Take Permit for a 6.4 acre property located in the City of Tumwater in Thurston County, Washington known to be occupied by the Olympia subspecies of the federally listed threatened Mazama pocket gopher. This permit would provide coverage for unavoidable impacts to federally listed Mazama pocket gophers that may occur incidental to otherwise lawful construction and development activities.

The Applicant's draft HCP identifies conservation measures intended to minimize or offset unavoidable impacts to Mazama pocket gophers as a result of construction and development activities covered by the permit.

The National Environmental Policy Act requires that Federal agencies analyze and publicly disclose the social, economic, and environmental effects associated with major Federal actions. The Service created a draft EA to fulfill this requirement and is now making this document available for public review and comment. The Service is specifically interested in public input including information, views, and opinions on the proposed issuance of the requested permit.

To request further information or submit written comments, please use one of the following methods, and note that your information request or comments are in reference to the "Meier HCP/EA":

- *Internet:* Documents may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/> and written comments may be submitted through U.S. Mail: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Fish and Wildlife Office, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98503.
- *In-Person Viewing or Pickup:* Documents will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Fish and Wildlife Office, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98503.

Written comments must be received on or before December 28, 2015.

To learn more about Incidental Take Permits and Habitat Conservation Plans, visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/ENDANGERED/permits/index.html>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov/pacific, or connect with us through facebook.com/USFWSPacific, twitter.com/USFWSPacific/, tumblr.com/blog/usfwspacific, flickr.com/photos/usfwspacific/ and youtube.com/user/USFWS

– FWS –