



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 21, 2012**

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**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AVAILABLE ON
FRUIT GROWERS SUPPLY COMPANY'S MULTI-SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN**

YREKA, Calif., -- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (Services) today announced the availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement that provides an analysis of the Fruit Grower's Supply Company's Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP).

According to the environmental analysis, the timber company may be eligible to receive Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) from the Services, which would allow the company to proceed with certain approved activities that may otherwise result in the prohibited "take" (i.e., harm) of a listed species. Under the terms of the 50-year permit, FGS can operate in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as long as the company implements the mandated conservation and mitigation measures developed in the HCP.

The HCP applies to 152,178 acres of commercial timberland owned by FGS in Siskiyou County, California, and spans three management units: Klamath River (65,339 acres), Scott Valley (39,153 acres), and Grass Lake (47,686 acres). The Klamath River and Scott Valley management units are located west of Interstate 5, adjacent to and intermixed with Klamath National Forest (KNF) lands. The Grass Lake management unit (also adjacent to the KNF) lies east of Interstate 5 and predominantly north of U.S. Highway 97.

FGS is seeking ITPs for the federally threatened northern spotted owl and Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon. The company has requested that the Upper Klamath and Trinity Rivers Chinook salmon and the Klamath Mountains Province steelhead be included as Covered Species in the aquatic ITP in the event these species become listed in the future. FGS has also requested that Yreka phlox, a protected flower, be included in the terrestrial ITP even though incidental take of a listed plant species cannot be authorized under an ITP. FGS is requesting this coverage in order to gain assurances under the "No Surprises" policy in section 10 of the ESA.

Hard bound copies of the HCP, Implementing Agreement, and FEIS are available for viewing and for partial or complete duplication at the Siskiyou County Library, Yreka Branch (719 4th St., Yreka, Calif., 96097); Happy Camp Branch (PO Box 317, 143 Buckhorn Rd., Happy Camp, Calif., 96039); Etna Branch (PO Box 130, 130 Main St., Etna, Calif., 96027); Mt. Shasta Branch (515 East Alma St., Mt. Shasta, Calif., 96067); Humboldt County Library (1313 3rd St., Eureka, Calif., 95501); Del Norte County Library (190 Price Mall, Crescent City, Calif., 95531); National Marine Fisheries Service (1655 Heindon Rd., Arcata, Calif., 95521); and Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office (1829 South Oregon St., Yreka, Calif., 96097).

A copy of the FEIS and accompanying documents can be viewed on the Web at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/nepa.html> or at <http://www.fws.gov/yreka>. Correspondence related to the FEIS

and associated documents, as well as requests for additional information, should be addressed to Lisa Roberts, NMFS, 1655 Heindon Rd., Arcata, Calif., 95521. Correspondence may also be sent by facsimile to (707) 825-4840 or by e-mail to SWR.NCO.FGSHCP@noaa.gov. No action will be taken until at least 45 days after publication of this notice.

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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 in California, Nevada and the Klamath Basin of southern Oregon, visit www.fws.gov/cno.

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