

forests in central Georgia and on the Flint-Appalachicola bluffs at the southern border of Georgia and adjoining Florida. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before February 25, 1997 to receive consideration by the Service.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor, Jacksonville Field Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, 6620 Southpoint Drive South, Suite 310, Jacksonville, Florida 32216 (Telephone: 904-232-2580, FAX 904-232-2404). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor, at the above address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Linda Finger at the above address (Telephone: 904-232-2580 ext. 107).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

Restoring endangered or threatened plants and animals to the point where they are secure self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice, and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

Fringed campion inhabits hardwood bottoms and ravines in a very limited geographic range. As a result, it was

probably comparatively rare even before the time of European contact. The greatest threat to this forest species is the progressive alteration or degradation of its habitat due to logging. The resultant increased sunlight, lack of replenishment of the humus layer, and growth of aggressive exotic weeds such as Japanese honeysuckle, act in concert to eliminate this species. Browsing of flowering stems by deer impact reproduction by seed.

The actions needed to recover this species are: 1) Protect populations. 2) Preserve genetic stock from acutely threatened populations. 3) Monitor populations to determine trends and developing threats. 4) Control exotic pest plants. 5) Search for additional populations. 6) Reestablish fringed campion at protected locations, if necessary. 7) Manage sites to maintain and/or enhance populations. Most opportunities to conserve this plant will be on private land because only two sites are in public ownership and no public land acquisition is contemplated. Landowners are not obliged in any way to conserve the plant on their property.

##### **Public Comments Solicited**

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to the approval of the plans.

##### **Authority**

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: December 10, 1996.

David Hankla,

*Field Supervisor.*

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#### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

##### **Availability of a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Impacts of Artificial Salmon and Steelhead Production Strategies in the Columbia Basin**

**AGENCIES:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (lead agency), National Marine Fisheries Service, Bonneville Power Administration (cooperating agencies).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and schedule of public workshops.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) have issued a draft Programmatic

Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on Impacts of Artificial Salmon and Steelhead Production Strategies in the Columbia Basin. The draft PEIS frames the policy level issues associated with the agencies' proposals to change salmon and steelhead fish hatchery production in Columbia Basin and discusses the cumulative impact issues within the basin's salmon and steelhead mainstem migration corridor. This notice is being furnished pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing The Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

**DATES:** Written comments are requested by February 10, 1997.

Three public informational workshops have been scheduled to explain the proposals and receive comments. All of the workshops will be held from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

January 14, 1997, Red Lion—

Downtown, Boise, Idaho

January 16, 1997, Red Lion Inn, Pasco, Washington

January 21, 1997, Red Lion Hotel—  
Lloyd Center, Portland, Oregon

**ADDRESS WRITTEN COMMENTS:** Send comments to PEIS Team Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 NE 11 Ave, Portland, Oregon, 97232-4181.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lee Hillwig, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Telephone: 503-872-2766 or Dave Riley, Telephone: 503-226-2460.

Copies of the Draft PEIS are available for review at the following libraries:

Astoria Public Library, Astoria, Oregon  
Deschutes County Library, Bend,

Oregon

Hood River County Library, Hood River, Oregon

King County Library System, Seattle, Washington

Multnomah County Library, Portland, Oregon

North Central Regional Library, Wenatchee, Washington

Seattle Public Library, Seattle, Washington

Yakima Valley Regional Library, Yakima, Washington

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Columbia Basin fish managers continue to struggle to meet a variety of fishery obligations and mandates that often compete for scarce resources. Management of fish hatcheries is one of many factors affecting overall fish populations within the basin. In recognition of the need to develop a systemwide salmon and steelhead artificial production strategy in the Columbia Basin that better

balances responses to competing legal mandates, the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Bonneville Power Administration are proposing policy level changes in Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead fish hatchery production. These proposals are contained in the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Impacts of Artificial Salmon and Steelhead Production Strategies in the Columbia Basin.

#### A. Development of the Draft EIS

This draft PEIS has been developed cooperatively by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Division (lead agency); the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Bonneville Power Administration.

In the development of this draft PEIS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has initiated action to assure compliance with the purpose and intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Extensive scoping activities were undertaken preparatory to developing the EIS with a variety of Federal, State, and local entities. A Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS was published in the Federal Register on July 25, 1994.

Key issues addressed in this draft PEIS are identified as the effects that implementation of various alternatives would have upon (1) production for fisheries, (2) fish stock diversity, and (3) social and economic conditions.

#### B. Alternatives Analyzed in the Draft EIS

The draft PEIS examines a range of alternatives from closure of all or most fish hatcheries to abandoning most fish habitat improvement programs and relying almost exclusively on increased artificial production. The preferred action proposes systemwide, policy-level decisions to better meet competing fishery obligations and mandates. Key components include:

- Limiting overall basin artificial production to current levels or very small increases,
- Shifting some emphasis of outplanting strategies from downstream (below Bonneville Dam) to the upstream and/or tributary streams,
- Implementing measures to more fully assess risks where site specific hatchery management changes are contemplated,
- Establishing an enhanced natural production objective, and
- Proposing aggressive subbasin planning and monitoring for hatchery programs and adaptive management

measures for hatchery practices where indicated.

At the programmatic or systemwide level, the PEIS frames the policy level issues associated with the proposed actions and discusses the cumulative impact issues within the basin's salmon and steelhead mainstream migration corridor.

Dated: December 13, 1996.

Michael J. Spear,

William W. Stelle, Jr.,

*For the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:*

Dated: December 19, 1996.

*For the National Marine Fisheries Service:*

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### **Preparation of a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for Federal and State Actions Associated with Furthering the Purposes of the September 28, 1996, Agreement Between the United States, State of California, and MAXXAM, Inc. and its Subsidiary, Pacific Lumber Company**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior. (Lead Agency)

Cooperating Agencies:

National Marine Fisheries Service,  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Forest Service, Agriculture  
Bureau of Land Management, Interior  
California State Resources Agency  
California State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
California State Department of Fish and Game

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (collectively "the Services"), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and California Resources Agency (Agency), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) intend to gather information necessary for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/ Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The EIS/EIR will consider the Federal and State actions associated with the September 28, 1996 agreement, (agreement) namely:

(1) Transfer of the Headwaters Forest and the Elk Head Forest and adjacent forest lands, totaling approximately 7,500 acres, to the United States and California in exchange for (i) the Elk

River Exchange Property (described below), and (ii) property and other consideration from both the United States and California (including cash) having an aggregate fair market value of \$300 million;

(2) Acquisition by the United States and California of the approximately 9,600-acre Elk River Timber Company property through exchange for up to 10,000 acres of National Forest System lands in the Eldorado, Plumas, Stanislaus, and Tahoe National Forests or other considerations;

(3) Transfer of approximately 7,775 acres of the Elk River Timber Lands (the Elk River Exchanged Property) to the Pacific Lumber Company and its parent MAXXAM, Inc. in return for acquisition of the Headwaters Forest and Elk Head Forest; with the remaining approximately 1,825 acres of the Elk River Timber lands becoming part of the Headwaters-Elk Head Reserve;

(4) Issuance of an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act (Act) by the Services in anticipation of a permit application by The Pacific Lumber Company (a subsidiary of MAXXAM, Inc.) to take federally listed species and requesting assurances regarding other species occurring or potentially occurring on the remaining lands of The Pacific Lumber Company, the Elk River Property, and any other timberlands or timber harvesting rights acquired by Pacific Lumber and its parent MAXXAM, Inc. as a result of the above described transactions; and

(5) Approval of The Pacific Lumber Company's Sustained Yield Plan (SYP) by CDF including consideration of conservation measures or plans addressing State-listed species.

The EIS/EIR will also consider any actions by other Federal or State agencies that are necessary or appropriate to perform the agreement.

This notice is being furnished pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing The Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (40 CFR sections 1501.7 and 1508.22) to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues and alternatives to be considered in preparation of the EIS.

To satisfy both Federal and State environmental policy act requirements, the above Federal agencies and California agencies are conducting a joint scoping process for the preparation of environmental documents. In order to expedite the planning process, the above agencies request all scoping