

filing equipment and/or stored as imaged documents on magnetic media.

#### RETRIEVABILITY:

Indexed by name, social security number, and organizational code.

#### SAFEGUARDS:

Maintained with safeguards meeting the requirements of 43 CFR 2.51.

#### RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

The records contained in this system of records have varying retention periods as described in General Records Schedule 2 issued by the Archivist of the United States, and are disposed of in accordance with the National Archives and Records Administration Regulations, 36 CFR part 1228 et seq.

#### SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

The following system manager is responsible for the payroll records contained in the Department's integrated payroll and personnel automated information system. These records are pertinent to all Department of the Interior bureaus and offices and client agencies. Personnel records contained in the system fall under the jurisdiction of the Office of Personnel Management as prescribed in 5 CFR part 293 and 5 CFR part 297.

Chief, Benefits and Program Information Branch, Bureau of Reclamation, Administrative Service Center, Payroll Operations Division, 7201 West Mansfield Avenue, Denver, CO 80235-2230.

#### NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

Inquiries regarding the existence of records should be addressed to the System Manager. The request must be in writing, signed by the requester, and meet the content requirements of 43 CFR 2.60.

#### RECORDS ACCESS PROCEDURES:

A request for access may be addressed to the System Manager. The request must be in writing, signed by the requester, and meet the content requirements of 43 CFR 2.63.

#### CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

A petition for amendment should be addressed to the System Manager. The request must be in writing, signed by the requester, and meet the content requirements of 43 CFR 2.71.

#### RECORDS SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Individuals on whom the records are maintained, supervisors, timekeepers, official personnel records, previous employers, and the Internal Revenue Service.

[FR Doc. 98-11718 Filed 5-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-RK-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Intent To Amend an Incidental Take Permit: Inclusion of Bull Trout on the Plum Creek Timber Company Permit for Timber Harvest in the State of Washington

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received a request to add bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) to the species covered by permit PRT-808398 issued to Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P., on June 27, 1996. This request is pursuant to the Implementation Agreement for the Habitat Conservation Plan accompanying incidental take permit PRT-808398. The Service is proposing to add bull trout to Plum Creek's permit.

**DATES:** Written comments regarding the addition of bull trout to the Plum Creek permit should be received on or before June 3, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to Mr. John Engbring, Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office, 510 Desmond Drive, S.E., Suite 101, Lacey, Washington 98503. Documents cited in this notice and comments received will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. William Vogel, Wildlife Biologist, Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office, 510 Desmond Drive, S.E., Suite 101, Lacey, Washington 98503; telephone (360) 753-4367.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On June 27, 1996, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued an incidental take permit (PRT-808398) to Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P., pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1532 et seq.). This permit authorizes the incidental take of the threatened northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus marmoratus*), and grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*=*U.a. horribilis*), and the endangered gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), in the course of the otherwise legal forest management and related land-use activities in portions of King and Kittitas Counties, Washington. Pursuant to the Habitat Conservation Plan and the

Implementation Agreement, Plum Creek received assurances from the Service that then-unlisted vertebrate species would be added to the permit upon listing under the Act, if doing so were consistent with the Implementation Agreement.

On June 13, 1997 (62 FR 32268), the Service proposed to list the Klamath River population of bull trout as endangered and the Columbia River population of bull trout as threatened. On September 11, 1997, Plum Creek requested that bull trout be added to its permit. While the Service has not yet made a final decision on listing bull trout as a threatened or endangered species, the Service is proposing to respond to Plum Creek's request and determine if addition of the Columbia River distinct population segment of bull trout to the permit is warranted. The purpose of this notice is to seek public comment on the Service's proposal to add bull trout to Plum Creek's permit.

#### Implementation Agreement Provisions

The Implementation Agreement is a legal document describing the roles and responsibilities of the Service and Plum Creek during the permit period. Under the Implementation Agreement, plan species are those vertebrate species dependent on the various habitat types analyzed in the Habitat Conservation Plan. In the Plum Creek Habitat Conservation Plan, bull trout are a plan species. The Implementation Agreement specifies that should any of the plan species that were unlisted at the time of permit issuance subsequently become listed under the Act, Plum Creek may request a permit amendment to have that species added to their permit.

Plum Creek received assurances that, absent extraordinary circumstances, plan species would be added to the permit without requiring additional mitigation from Plum Creek if the Service determined that such action would not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the affected species, or any other species, in the wild and that adding the species to the permit would be consistent with the Service's other responsibilities. Absent extraordinary circumstances, plan species would be added to the permit without requiring additional mitigation from Plum Creek. Extraordinary circumstances are defined in the Implementation Agreement as a substantial and material adverse change in the status of the species.

To determine whether adding bull trout to Plum Creek's permit would appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of bull trout or

any other species, the Service will reinitiate the Section 7 process under the Act. The Service will also determine whether the permit amendment meets each of the issuance criteria described in Section 10(a)(2)(B) and that a substantial and material adverse change in the status of bull trout has not occurred since the permit issuance.

#### **Bull Trout Requirements and New Information Since Permit Issuance**

The Service is currently reviewing information about bull trout to determine whether extraordinary circumstances exist and/or whether adding bull trout to Plum Creek's permit would appreciably reduce the ability of bull trout to survive and recover in the wild. The Service is also reviewing public comments on the proposed rule to list the Klamath River population of bull trout as endangered and the Columbia River population of bull trout as threatened, and will make a final listing determination soon. Information collected as part of the listing determination process is also being used to make the permit amendment decision. This information is available for review at the address listed above.

The Service has identified five distinct population segments of bull trout: (1) Coastal/Puget Sound; (2) Klamath River; (3) Columbia River; (4) Jarbidge River; and (5) Saskatchewan River (June 13, 1997, 62 FR 32268). The Columbia River population segment includes the entire Columbia River Basin and all its tributaries, excluding the isolated bull trout populations found in the Jarbidge River of Nevada. In the Plum Creek Habitat Conservation Plan area, bull trout have been documented in the Yakima River subbasin, which is part of the proposed Columbia River Basin distinct population segment. Within the planning area, bull trout are documented to occur upstream of Cle Elum Lake, within and upstream of Kachess and Kechelus Lakes, and in the Cle Elum River downstream of Kechelus Lake.

The Yakima River subbasin encompasses 6,155 square miles and contains about 1,900 river miles of perennial streams. Predominant land use within the subbasin includes irrigated agriculture (~1,000 square miles), urbanization (~50 square miles), timber harvesting (~2,200 square miles), and grazing (~2,900 square miles) (DOI 1996). About 150 square miles of the subbasin is managed for timber production by Plum Creek and these lands are located within 3 subpopulation areas of the 7

subpopulation areas within the Yakima River subbasin.

Despite an extensive survey effort, bull trout have not been found in the Green River drainage upstream of the Howard Hansen Dam. The Green River drainage is part of the Coastal/Puget Sound distinct population segment. The Coastal/Puget Sound distinct population segment has not been proposed for listing under the Act (June 13, 1997, 62 FR 32268) and is not being considered for addition to the Plum Creek permit.

Bull trout rely on cold, clean water. They are most closely associated with complex habitats, including large woody debris, undercut banks, boulders, and pools. Cover provides critical rearing, foraging, and resting habitat, and protection from predators. The fact that bull trout spawn in the fall and that the young have a strong association with substrates makes them particularly vulnerable to altered stream flow patterns and channel instability. Bull trout prefer cold, low-gradient streams with loose, clean gravels for spawning and rearing. Bull trout appear to have strict water temperature tolerances and maintaining cold water temperatures is important for bull trout. Water temperature is controlled not only by shade (as influenced by canopy coverage of adjacent riparian stands), but by groundwater sources, sedimentation, influx of water from upstream areas, presence of large woody debris, elevation, and other factors.

Historic adverse impacts to bull trout from forest management and related land-use activities include removal of large woody debris from streams and riparian areas, inputs of sediment from upslope logging and road construction, elevated stream temperatures, and transportation of logs within the channel network. Current management actions to minimize impacts from timber harvest include managing riparian buffers to provide large woody debris, shade, root strength, detrital inputs, and sediment filtration; managing upslope areas to reduce peak flows, mass-wasting, and other man-caused inputs of sediment; adequately addressing construction, maintenance, and abandonment of roads so as to reduce the delivery of fine sediments to streams; and avoiding any unnatural blockages to fish passage or alterations in channel morphology. There are several recent treatments of the effects of forest management, especially forest roads, on bull trout (Baxter *et al.* In press; Quigley and Arbelbide 1997; Quigley *et al.* 1996; and Thurow *et al.* 1997). Thurow determined that increasing road densities and their related effects are associated with

declines in four non-anadromous salmonid species (including bull trout). Thurow found a correlation between low road densities and healthy populations of salmonids. Therefore, addressing impacts from roads is extremely important to protect critical bull trout habitat requirements.

#### **Minimization and Mitigation Measures**

The Environmental Impact Statement developed for the initial permit decision analyzed the effects that implementing the Habitat Conservation Plan would have on bull trout. The Service believed that the Habitat Conservation Plan would have minimal adverse impacts on bull trout and that it generally provided improving conditions for bull trout. Buffers on fishbearing and other perennial streams were expected to provide for the natural processes and functions that bull trout rely on such as large woody debris inputs, detrital and litter input, root-strength and bank stability. The Service expected to see reductions in delivery of fine sediment from roads and recovery of forest stand structures to improve hydrologic conditions, and reductions in peak flows and mass-wasting risks.

The Plum Creek Habitat Conservation Plan utilizes a combination of conservation measures that are expected to protect bull trout. All fishbearing streams receive a conservatively managed buffer 200 feet in width (measured horizontally). The first 30 feet is a no-harvest zone. Perennial streams without fish and spatially intermittent streams containing perennial subsurface flow both receive a 100-foot managed buffer if they are located above bull trout streams. The management of these buffers is dictated by post-harvest criteria as well as by stand-level amounts of various forest stages. For instance, over the 50-year duration Habitat Conservation Plan, these areas are scheduled to improve from 37 percent mature forest or better to 60 percent mature forest or better. Any riparian habitat area entered for selective harvest must retain minimum standards designed to maintain riparian functions. Inner gorges and mass-wasting areas are protected. The entire area is undergoing Watershed Analysis on an accelerated 5-year schedule that can only increase (not decrease) the level of protection these streams and sensitive areas receive. Even-aged harvest units will contain an average of 6 snags or snag recruitment trees per acre. Where harvest units contain ephemeral streams with definable channels, a portion of the leave trees are often aggregated in these areas due to logistical constraints. Additionally,

because rotations are long (65–120 years depending on species and site) and selective harvest is used liberally (about 80 percent of east-side harvests are uneven-aged management), fewer ephemeral streams are exposed to the temporary yet harsh conditions of a standard clearcut at any given time than would be observed under standard commercial forestry.

Road management is another important component of the Habitat Conservation Plan and will also be addressed through watershed analysis. Watershed Analysis examines potential risks to the resources, such as sediment delivery from roads, and develops prescriptions to reduce the vulnerability of the resources. For instance, as a result of the Quartz Mountain Watershed Analysis within the Habitat Conservation Plan area, a road-sediment budget was established that included an elaborate monitoring system. In that watershed, sediment delivery must be reduced to target levels prior to construction of new roads.

In the Plum Creek Habitat Conservation Plan area, the known bull trout locations are within the Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone. In that area, as part of the Habitat Conservation Plan's grizzly bear conservation strategy, open roads under Plum Creek's control must be reduced to below 1 mile per section within the first 10 years of the plan.

The minimization and mitigation measures described above represent the minimum level of riparian conservation that Plum Creek has committed to implement. Several aspects of the Habitat Conservation Plan, including watershed analysis, are subject to adaptive management as described below. If additional actions are necessary to protect bull trout, adjustments would be made to watershed analysis-derived prescriptions and to the interim and minimum buffer prescriptions.

**Monitoring and Adaptive Management:** To ensure that the mitigation and minimization strategies are effective, the Habitat Conservation Plan incorporates a variety of aquatic monitoring components that will provide feedback for adaptive management. For habitat conditions, Plum Creek will conduct bank-full and low-flow cross-sectional and longitudinal channel profiles, Wolman pebble counts, large woody debris counts, permanent photo points to document changes in channel morphology and substrate composition, and measurement of the frequency and residual volume of pools. To analyze the effects on stream temperatures, Plum Creek will initiate a study to measure

potential differences in stream temperatures for four riparian prescriptions, including 300-foot no-harvest riparian buffers on fish-bearing streams on National Forest lands. Streams with verified populations of bull trout, or those on the Clean Water Act 303(d) list, will be monitored for stream temperature at a minimum of two locations per stream. Diurnal fluctuations and maximum annual temperature will be evaluated. Bull trout streams will have additional temperature measurements to monitor conditions during the spawning season, and to evaluate the effects of groundwater input on stream temperature. Ambient air temperature will also be monitored.

In addition to habitat monitoring, Plum Creek will assess salmonid populations in a watershed with recovering habitat conditions. To assess the biological integrity of streams, Plum Creek will continue long-term monitoring of aquatic macro-invertebrates.

Plum Creek will also conduct watershed analysis and re-evaluations of watershed analyses to provide updated information on hillslope conditions, stream channel conditions, and the effectiveness of resource protection prescriptions. Examples of monitoring and research done as a result of watershed analysis include: (1) A road sediment production study; (2) McNeil sampling of streams to assess fine sediment levels; (3) installation of stream gages; (4) testing of digital elevation hydrologic models; (5) stream temperature monitoring; and (6) stream surveys to evaluate channel changes and large woody debris levels. If monitoring results indicate that prescriptions are ineffective or inadequate, the prescriptions will be changed to make them effective and adequate.

## References

- Baxter, C.V., Frissell, C.A. and F.R. Hauer. In press. Geomorphology, logging roads and the distribution of bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) spawning in a forested river basin: implications for management and conservation.
- Quigley, T.M., R.W. Haynes and R.T. Graham, technical editors. 1996. Integrated scientific assessment for ecosystem management in the interior Columbia Basin and portions of the Klamath and Great Basins. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. Portland, Oregon.

Quigley, T.M. and S.J. Arbelbide, technical editors. 1997. An assessment of ecosystem components in the interior Columbia Basin and portions of the Klamath and Great Basins: Volume III. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. Portland, Oregon.

Thurrow, R.F., D.C. Lee and B.E. Rieman. 1997. Distribution and status of seven native salmonids in the Interior Columbia River Basin and portions of the Klamath River and Great Basins. North American Journal of Fisheries Management 17: 1094–1110.

U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Department of Commerce. 1996. Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Issuance of a Permit to Allow Incidental Take of Threatened and Endangered Species: Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P., Lands in the I-90 Corridor, King and Kittitas Counties, Washington. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service). Olympia, Washington. March 1996.

Dated: April 29, 1998.

**Thomas J. Dwyer,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

[FR Doc. 98–11825 Filed 5–1–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

#### Technology Transfer Act of 1986

**AGENCY:** United States Geological Survey, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice to accept contribution from private source.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Geological Survey is accepting a \$10,000 contribution from the National Stone Association to expedite a digital map showing potential sources of crushed stone in the conterminous United States.

**ADDRESSES:** If any other parties are interested in making contributions for the same or similar purposes, please contact Mr. William Langer, U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Resources Program, Box 25046, Mail Stop 973, Denver, CO 80225; telephone (303) 236–1249; e-mail blanger@usgs.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is to meet the USGS requirement stipulated in the Survey Manual.

Dated: April 14, 1998.

**P. Patrick Leahy,**

*Chief, Geologic Division.*

[FR Doc. 98–11787 Filed 5–1–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–Y7–M