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 River, Scott Valley, and Grass Lake Management Units as described above are referred to as the HCP Area.

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). FGS also intends to request coverage under the ITP for the unlisted California Coastal Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*) 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 its 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 1501.7 and 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 comments are reviewed 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.

Dated: February 19, 2008.

Angela Somma,

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

Dated: February 19, 2008.

Ken McDermond,

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

[FR Doc. E8–3365 Filed 2–21–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODES 3510–22–S, 4310–55–S

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

the Guam Hilton, 202 Hilton Road, Tumon Bay.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The date, time and agenda for each meeting are as follows:

Saturday, March 8, 2008, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Mariana Archipelago Advisory Panel (Saipan)

1. Status Report on 2007 Advisory Panel Recommendations
2. Upcoming Council Actions
   a. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) & Guam Purse Seine Closed Area
   b. CNMI Longline Area Closure
   c. Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)
   d. Community Development Program (CDP) Options
3. 2007 Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization
   a. Establishing a Community Consultation Process in CNMI
   b. Regional Recreational Fishery Data Collection Options
4. Cooperative Research
5. Emerging Fishery & Marine Issues
   a. Northern Islands Marine National Monument
   b. Military Buildup
   c. Status of Research on Marine Resources
   d. Proposed Fishery Act

Monday, March 10, 2008, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mariana Archipelago Plan Team (Saipan)

1. Review of Annual Report Module for Northern Mariana Islands
   a. Bottomfish
   b. Coral Reef
   c. Crustaceans
2. Upcoming Council Actions
   a. CNMI & Guam Purse Seine Closed Area
   b. CNMI Longline Area Closure
   c. Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)
   d. Community Development Program (CDP) Options
3. 2007 Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization
   a. Establishing a Community Consultation Process in CNMI
   b. National Saltwater Angler Registry
4. Research
   a. Cooperative Research
   b. Archipelagic Wide Research Needs

Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mariana Archipelago Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee (Saipan)

1. Status Report on 2007 REAC Meeting Outcomes
2. Synopsis of Upcoming 140th Council Meeting Actions
3. Community Marine Management Forum
   a. Fisheries Development & Seafood Exports
   b. Highway Fuel Tax
   c. CNMI Coral Reef Local Action Strategies & Accomplishments
   d. Micronesian Challenge
   e. Northern Islands Marine National Monument
   f. Military Build-Up in the Marianas
   g. Promoting Indigenous Cultural & Traditional Practices
4. Use of Traditional Knowledge in Marine Resource Management
5. Building a Community Consultation Process

Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Mariana Archipelago Advisory Panel (Guam)

1. Status Report on 2007 Advisory Panel Recommendations
2. Upcoming Council Actions
   a. CNMI & Guam Purse Seine Closed Area
   b. CNMI Longline Area Closure
   c. Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)
   d. Community Development Program (CDP) Options
3. 2007 Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization
   a. Establishing a Community Consultation Process in Guam
   b. Regional Recreational Fishery Data Collection Options
4. Cooperative Research
5. Emerging Fishery & Marine Issues
   a. Navy Offshore Dumping
   b. Military 12 mile Marine Exclusion Zone
   c. Report on DAWR's Fish Aggregation Device Program
   d. Guam Seashore Reserve Plan
6. Use of Traditional Knowledge in Marine Resource Management
7. Building a Community Consultation Process

Thursday, March 13, 2008, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mariana Archipelago Plan Team (Guam)

1. Review of Annual Report Module for Northern Mariana Islands
   a. Bottomfish
   b. Coral Reef
   c. Crustaceans
2. Upcoming Council Actions
   a. CNMI & Guam Purse Seine Closed Area
   b. CNMI Longline Area Closure
   c. Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)
   d. Community Development Program (CDP) Options
3. 2007 Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization
   a. Establishing a Community Consultation Process in Guam
   b. National Saltwater Angler Registry
4. Research
   a. Cooperative Research
   b. Archipelagic Wide Research Needs

Friday, March 14, 2008, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mariana Archipelago Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee (Guam)

1. Status of 2007 REAC Meeting Outcomes
2. Synopsis of Upcoming 140th Council Meeting Actions
3. Community Marine Management Forum
   a. Update on Merizo Marine Preserve & PCB Contamination
   b. Update on Tamuning Public Beach Access
   c. Guam Coral Reef Local Action Strategies & Accomplishments
   d. Sportsfish Restoration Fund
   e. Military Build-Up in the Marianas
4. Use of Traditional Knowledge in Marine Resource Management
5. Building a Community Consultation Process

The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. Public comment periods will be provided throughout each agenda. The Advisory Panels, Plan Teams and Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committees will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 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 Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522–8220 (voice) or (808) 522–8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February 19, 2008.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E8–3298 Filed 2–21–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Permanent Stationing of the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT)

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability (NOA).

SUMMARY: The Department of the Army announces the availability of a FEIS for the permanent stationing of the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (2/25th) SBCT. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of the Army has prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to disclose potential impacts to the natural, physical, and human environment resulting from the permanent stationing of the 2/25th SBCT. Potential impacts have been analyzed at installations that are capable of meeting the SBCTs training, operational, Soldier and Family quality of life, and strategic deployment requirements. This FEIS identifies Schofield Barracks Military Reservation in Hawaii as the Army's preferred alternative for the stationing location of the 2/25th SBCT. A Record of Decision (ROD) will announce the final location decision after the 30-day waiting period for the FEIS has been completed.

DATES: The waiting period for the FEIS will end 30 days after publication of an NOA in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ADDRESSES: Send all written comments concerning this EIS to: Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Environmental Command, Building E4460, 5179 Hoadley Road, Attention: IMAE–PA, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010–5401. E-mail comments should be sent to: *PublicComments@aec.apgea.army.mil.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Public Affairs Office at (410) 436–2556; facsimile: (410) 436–1693 during normal business hours Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern standard time.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action and analysis within the FEIS covers those activities required to implement the stationing of the 2/25th SBCT. These activities include garrison construction, training range construction, live-fire training, and maneuver training.

In May 2004, the Department of the Army (Army) released the FEIS for Transformation of the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light) to the 2/25th SBCT. The SBCT is a maneuver brigade that includes approximately 4,100 Soldiers (infantry, artillery, engineers, and other Army specialties) and 1,000 vehicles (including about 320 Stryker Combat Vehicles). In July 2004, the Army released a ROD documenting its decision to transform the 2/25th from an Infantry Brigade to an SBCT and permanently home station it in Hawaii.

The Stryker is an armored infantry wheeled combat vehicle and provides Soldiers and commanders with increased firepower, maneuverability, and, most importantly, survivability in a combat environment. The increased speed and maneuver capabilities of the SBCT allow operations to be conducted across much larger areas than the Army's traditional legacy brigades. These capabilities have allowed the SBCT to successfully conduct a broad range of missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

To be effective when operationally deployed abroad requires that the SBCT have the proper training and support facilities at home station. Such facilities include training ranges, maneuver land, housing, administrative, and quality of life infrastructure for the SBCTs Soldiers, their Families, vehicles, and equipment. Without these resources, the SBCT cannot attain the readiness levels needed to ensure the successful accomplishment of its missions and safety of its Soldiers. In addition to these requirements, the SBCT must be stationed in a location from which it can rapidly deploy to support national security requirements.

The 2/25th began its transformation to an SBCT shortly after completion of the 2004 FEIS and signing of the ROD. Since this time, the Brigade has completed its transformation in Hawaii and is currently deployed to Southwest Asia. The SBCT is scheduled to return to the permanent stationing location selected by the Army in early 2009.

In October 2006, the Federal Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit determined that the Army had not fully complied with NEPA for the transformation of the 2/25th because it did not adequately address or analyze potentially reasonable alternative locations for the transformation and training of this unit. In particular, the Court concluded that the Army had a duty under NEPA to consider locations other than Hawaii for the permanent stationing of the 2/25th SBCT, and the Court ordered the Army to prepare an EIS to address a broader range of alternatives. The Army has prepared an EIS in accordance with the Court's guidance to examine reasonable alternative locations for the proposed action to station the 2/25th SBCT permanently.

The Army analyzed 140 installations for their suitability to meet the appropriate training infrastructure, maneuver land, compatible mission and garrison support infrastructure to support the SBCT. Out of the 140 installations, three Army installations were determined to have the appropriate infrastructure capable of supporting the permanent stationing of the 2/25th SBCT. The FEIS examines the three Army installations. The EIS will provide the Army senior leadership with a hard look at environmental impacts associated with the proposed action and better inform their decision-making process for selecting the final stationing location. This effort includes analysis of all activities (training, facilities construction, and Soldier and Family support) required to permanently station the 2/25th SBCT. This EIS effort will assist the Army in arriving at a decision that can accommodate the Brigade's training, operations, and quality of life requirements while meeting the strategic defense needs of the nation.

After reviewing the full range of potential Army stationing locations, three alternatives for implementing the proposed action have been identified by the Army as reasonable alternatives capable of meeting the Army's needs and screening criteria. Alternatives for implementing the proposed action included: (1) Permanently stationing the 2/25th SBCT at Schofield Barracks Military Reservation while conducting required training at military training sites in Hawaii; (2) permanently stationing the 2/25th SBCT at Fort Richardson while conducting required training at military training sites in Alaska; and (3) permanently stationing the 2/25th SBCT at Fort Carson while conducting required training at military training sites in Colorado. In addition to these alternatives, the No Action alternative, which provides the baseline conditions for comparison to the proposed alternative, was fully assessed and considered.

Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed action have been considered in the FEIS along with public comments received during scoping and on the Draft EIS published in July 2007. The EIS identifies impacts