



United States Department of the Interior  
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To: District Managers: Burns, Vale, Prineville, Spokane  
From: Deputy State Director for Resource Planning, Use and Protection  
Subject: Compliance with PACFISH/INFISH Strategies and Biological Opinions and Oregon State Office Contacts

In 2004, the Interagency Deputy Team assumed the role of assuring implementation, coordination, and accountability for PACFISH/INFISH and Related Biological Assessments (BA) and Biological Opinions (BO). Your completion of these Deputy Team assignments and implementation of the Bureau's commitments to PACFISH/INFISH and the BO's are vital to our success. This bulletin summarizes the specific components and Oregon State Office (OSO) contacts for the implementation strategy, including (1) monitoring and technical assistance; (2) reporting; (3) field reviews; (4) developing Aquatic Conservation Strategies (ACS) for Resource Management Plan (RMP) revisions; and (5) providing staff work for the Interagency Deputy Team meetings.

(1) Monitoring and Technical Assistance

We continue our commitment to both Grazing Implementation Monitoring and PACFISH/INFISH BO (PIBO) Effectiveness Monitoring.

The Interagency Deputy Team has appointed a "standing" monitoring team:

- *Grazing Implementation Monitoring*- Tim Burton/Bureau of Land Management (BLM)- ID, and Dan Fissel/Forest Service (FS)-R6 (Co-Leads), Dorothy Mason and Al Doelker/OSO, Kerry Overton/FS Rocky Mountain Research Station (Database/Technical Support), Clay Fletcher/United States Fish & Wildlife Services (USFWS), Kim Kratz/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, and Don Martin/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- *PIBO Effectiveness Monitoring* - Eric Archer and Brett Roper (FS, Logan UT); Al Doelker/OSO, technical liaison.

The monitoring team will provide needed coordination and technical assistance to the field and raise issues that may require further consideration by the Deputies.

**Al Doelker is available to visit the districts to provide technical assistance.**

(2) Reporting

Documentation of field implementation is required under the 1998 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and USFWS BO's, using an annual, simplified *Line Manager Certification Report*. You must complete the *Line Manager Certification Report* each year, in coordination with NMFS and USFWS, through Level 2 or similar interagency processes (See Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. OR-2007-013 and IM No. OR-2007-014). Information provided in these reports is compiled annually by the Interagency Deputies for their associated regions and states to help identify issues needing resolution, to certify compliance with the legal requirements of the BO's, to address Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and to assure the durability of PACFISH, INFISH, and the 1998 BO's.

**Al Doelker coordinates the annual Line Manager certifications.**

(3) Field Reviews

The BLM is required to fully implement and document actions taken to meet the requirements of PACFISH, INFISH, and the BO's for Salmon, Steelhead, and Bull Trout. Field reviews focus on compliance with commitments made in the 1998 BA's, the Terms and Conditions and Mechanisms of the 1998 BO's, as well as PACFISH and INFISH. Reviews also focus on field unit implementation of the monitoring strategy approved by the Interagency Deputy team. Implementation monitoring documents and instructions are located at:  
[http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/research/techtrans/projects/pacfish\\_home.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/research/techtrans/projects/pacfish_home.shtml).

**Dorothy Mason serves as the Field Review Coordinator. A team of FS, BLM, NOAA, and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) personnel and Monitoring Team representatives conducts reviews of National Forests and BLM Field Offices within the region.**

The Field Review Team looks at specific projects or actions to determine:

- How well PACFISH and INFISH standards and guidelines are understood and implemented;
- How well PACFISH and INFISH and BO requirements are understood and implemented;
- Whether implementation monitoring requirements are understood and implemented according to the latest version of the Interagency Implementation Team (IIT) Monitoring Module;
- Whether training or guidance is needed regarding PACFISH or INFISH direction, BO's, or monitoring; and
- Whether barriers exist to PACFISH/INFISH implementation.

The annual selection of field units is based on individual BLM State and FS Regional Office staff review of responses from Line Manager Certification Reports and monitoring reports, NOAA Fisheries and USFWS feedback, and requests by field managers to their respective Interagency Deputies.

(4) Developing ACS's during RMP revisions

The 2005 PACFISH, INFISH Restoration Strategy (BLM/FS/FWS/EPA/NOAA Fisheries-Memorandum, Enclosure B, November 16, 2004) updated and replaced the 2000 Interim

Restoration Strategy. The 2005 Restoration Strategy now guides restoration programs for all FS and BLM field units, until replaced by a new restoration or aquatic conservation strategy during Resource Management Plan revision.

To provide a framework for use in developing an ACS and a consistent foundation for implementation of the Aquatic and Riparian Habitat component of the Interior Columbia Basin Strategy (Information Bulletin (IB) No. OR-2003-084) in BLM plan revision efforts, *A Framework for Incorporating The Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Component of the Interior Columbia Basin Strategy into BLM and FS Plan Revisions* (IB No. OR-2004-148) was completed as directed by the Interagency Executive Team.

**Al Doelker is the OSO contact for development of new ACS during RMP revisions to replace PACFISH/INFISH Restoration Strategies.**

(5) Interagency Deputy Team staff work

**Dorothy Mason supports my participation in the Interagency Deputy team meetings. Her role includes: assembling comments and information on items for discussion at the meetings, communicating meeting outcomes, and passing along and tracking assignments.**

For additional information, please call Al Doelker, 503-808-6067 or Dorothy Mason, 541-523-1308.

**Districts with Unions** are reminded to notify their unions of this Information Bulletin and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by  
Michael S. Mottice

Authenticated by  
Rita Wallberg  
Records Section

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