



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office

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Portland, Oregon 97208



In Reply Refer to:
6700 (OR-931) P

November 12, 2008

EMS TRANSMISSION 11/12/2008
Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2009-007
Expires: 09/30/2009

To: District Managers: Vale, Prineville, Spokane

From: State Director, Oregon/Washington

Subject: Review and Comment on Draft Endangered Species Act Recovery Plan for Middle
Columbia River Steelhead

DD: 12/11/2008

Program Area: Special Status Species - Fisheries

Purpose: To ensure that descriptions of current and projected habitat conditions, recovery objectives, and recovery actions are accurate and/or feasible; do not conflict with laws, policies, or regulations governing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) programs and activities; identify constraints on BLM programs, activities, or practices; evaluate effects of planned recovery actions carried out by other cooperators on BLM programs; identify any modifications to other BLM plans, ongoing programs, or ongoing practices that need to be made to carry out the recovery plan; are checked for the accuracy of cost estimates for BLM tasks; and evaluated for personnel and funding needs.

Policy/Action: To review and provide comments on the draft Endangered Species Act (ESA) recovery plan for Middle Columbia River Steelhead. This is consistent with the BLM manual direction at 6840.21B(2)(c).

Timeframe: Comments are requested by December 11, 2008. A consolidated set of comments will be prepared by Joe Moreau (OR-931) and submitted by cover letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to meet the December 23 deadline.

Budget Impact: Minimal.

Background: On September 24, 2008, the NMFS published a *Federal Register* notice (73FR55045) announcing the availability of the draft Middle Columbia steelhead ESA recovery plan for review and comment. The recovery plan consists of several geographic subdivision plans and a summary plan. The geographic subdivisions of the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment area include four in the state of Washington (Klickitat, White Salmon, Rock Creek, and Yakima) and one in Oregon. The summary plan is titled “Proposed Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment ESA Recovery Plan.” Each district is requested to review and comment on the appropriate geographic subdivision plan(s) and the summary plan. Each of the geographic subdivision plans, the summary plan, and other information may be found at the NMFS web page accessed by the following URL:

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Recovery-Planning/Recovery-Domains/Interior-Columbia/Mid-Columbia/Mid-Col-Plans.cfm>

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None.

Coordination: This was coordinated within OR-930. Informal communication describing the availability of the plans for review and comment has taken place between Joe Moreau and district fisheries staff.

Contact: Joe Moreau, Lead Fish Biologist (OR-931), at 503-808-6418.

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

Signed by
James G. Kenna
Associate State Director

Authenticated by
Paj Shua Cha
Records Section

Distribution:
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