

United States
Department of
Agriculture
Forest Service

United States
Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric
Administration Fisheries

United States
Department of
the Interior
Bureau of
Land Management

United States
Department of
the Interior
Fish and
Wildlife Service

United States
Environmental
Protection Agency

Reply to: 2670(FS)/6841(BLM)

Date: December 22, 2005

BLM/FS/FWS/EPA/NOAA Fisheries-Memorandum

To: Forest Supervisors/District Managers (covered under the 1998 or 2003 USFWS Bull Trout Biological Opinions)
National Forests: Deerlodge (Beaverhead-Deerlodge), Flathead, Helena, Idaho Panhandle, Kootenai, Lolo, Humbolt-Toiyabe, Colville, and Fremont-Winema NFs
BLM Districts: Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, Boise, Vale (Malheur Resource Area) and Burns Districts, and Lakeview Field Office

From: Interagency Interior Columbia Basin Deputy Team (NMFS, USFWS, FS, BLM, EPA)

Subject: 1998 and 2003 (Jarbidge) Bull Trout Biological Opinions - Line Manager Certification Report for 2005

Reply Due February 24, 2006

Enclosed is the annual Line Manager Certification Report (LMCR) which must be completed by February 24, 2006. The LMCRs provide a mechanism for documenting Forest Service (FS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administrative units' implementation and compliance with INFISH Standards & Guidelines, and the terms and conditions as described in the 1998 & 2003 USFWS Biological Opinions. Information will be compiled by FS Region, BLM State Office, and the Interior Columbia Basin scale. This information will assist the Deputy Team in identifying priority issues needing resolution, certify compliance with the legal requirements of the 1998 Opinion, more efficiently address FOIA requests, and assure the durability of INFISH, and the 1998 & 2003 Opinions until replaced through plan revisions.

Our expectation is for the LMCRs to be completed by Forest Supervisors and BLM District Managers in coordination with the USFWS, through Level 2 or similar interagency process. **Responses to the questions are to be shared and discussed with the USFWS prior to submission and signing of the LMCR by Forest Supervisors and BLM District Managers.**

This year the Line Manager Certification Report has been placed on a different website. Please copy the URL to your web browser to access the Region Six (6) "Columbia River Basin (CRB) Anadromous and Resident Fish" page.

Directions: On the Forest Service, Region 6 CRB website www.fs.fed.us/r6/fish, click on the "2005 Bull Trout Line Managers Certification Report Form," download and save the file to your computer. **Completed reports are to be emailed to your Deputy Team member and, based on your FS region or BLM state to the following persons: FS-R6 (Alan Christensen), FS-R1 (Eric Johnston), FS-R4 (Bill LeVere), BLM – OR/WA (Dorothy Mason), BLM-Idaho (Jon Foster.)**

The Deputies have agreed to make staff available to provide clarification or answer questions regarding the Line Certification Report. Please contact Linda Ulmer, FS CRB Coordinator, at 503-808-2929, or Dorothy Mason, Natural Resource Advisor, BLM OR/WA, at 541-523-1308 if you have any questions related to the purpose of this report.

/s/ James W. Golden

JAMES W. GOLDEN
Deputy Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Region

/s/ Susan Giannettino

SUSAN GIANNETTINO
Deputy State Director
for Resource Services - Idaho
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/s/ Mary Wagner

MARY WAGNER
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/s/ Michael S. Mottice

MICHAEL S. MOTTICE
Deputy State Director for Resource Planning,
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USDI, Bureau of Land Management

/s/ Kathleen A. McAllister

KATHLEEN A. MCALLISTER
Deputy Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
Northern Region

Enclosure: Line Manager Certification Report

cc: Interior Columbia Basin Interagency Executive Team

Ron Kreizenbeck

Deputy Regional

Administrator

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Agency

Region 10

Michael R. Crouse

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Region

NOAA Fisheries

Theresa Rabot

Assistant Regional Director,

Region 1

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

LINE MANAGER CERTIFICATION REPORT FORM

National Forest or BLM-District: _____

Please review INFISH or, if applicable, PACFISH (e.g. John Day) Standards and Guidelines for protection of bull trout habitat and the 1998 and 2003 bull trout Opinion requirements (Attachment A) for each of the following questions. **Only provide a supporting narrative on those questions for which you answered “no”. Response example is found in Attachment B.**

1. Have you implemented all Standards and Guidelines in either INFISH or PACFISH for protection of bull trout habitat (www.fs.fed.us/r6/fish)? If not, explain why, and what mechanisms you are using to ensure that riparian management objectives can still be met?
2. To identify important places and priority actions for the conservation and restoration of bull trout, the 1998 and 2003 Opinions require that various processes and assessments be utilized. Are all of those listed in the Attachment A, Question 2 being used on your unit? (Y/N) If no, please explain why and identify what processes/assessments are being used.
3. The 1998 Opinion identified various processes (Attachment A, Question 3) to ensure accountability and successful outcomes for bull trout through implementation of FS and BLM management actions.
 - a. Was this Certification Report completed in coordination with USFWS through Level 2 or other process? (Y/N) If no, provide explanation;
 - b. Did you convene at least one interagency-interdisciplinary field review in calendar year 2004 to address ongoing implementation questions, management issues, or other actions that may affect ESA-listed salmonids? (Y/N) If no, provide explanation;
 - c. Can you demonstrate compliance with the processes for successful outcomes identified in Attachment A, Question 3? (Y/N) If no, provide explanation and identify other mechanisms used for interagency/interdisciplinary process in the design and evaluation of all proposed actions that may affect bull trout;
 - d. Can you demonstrate full compliance with the previous (fiscal year’s) sampling scheme for Implementation Monitoring of grazing allotments and upward reporting? (Y/N) If no, provide explanation.
 - e. Can you demonstrate appropriate management response to monitoring results from previous fiscal year? (Y/N) If no, provide explanation.
4. Aquatic Habitat Restoration Accomplishments – List annual accomplishments in the section provided in Attachment A under Question 4.

I have coordinated responses to these questions with a USFWS Field Manager through Level 2 or other interagency processes.

Forest Supervisor or BLM District Manager Signature: _____

National Forest or BLM-District: _____

Report Submitted on (Date) _____

ATTACHMENT A

Requirements from the USFWS 1998 Bull Trout Opinion Term and Conditions USFWS 2003 Jarbidge Bull Trout Opinion Terms & Conditions

QUESTION 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC INFISH STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

The INFISH (and PACFISH Decision Notices) require that Standards and Guidelines (S&G) be used in the design and implementation of new and ongoing actions. These Standards and Guidelines can be accessed from the following website (www.fs.fed.us/r6/fish).

QUESTION 2: METHODS TO IDENTIFY IMPORTANT PLACES?

Hierarchical Analysis

- Completion of Sec 7 watershed baselines.
 - Develop priorities and schedules for Watershed Analysis concurrently with restoration plans. Update annually.
 - Complete watershed analysis using the 6 step process (1995 Federal Guide – EAWS). *Refer to July 29, 2004 Deputy Team letter Clarification for completing one Watershed Analysis and one Subbasin Assessment annually (www.fs.fed.us/r6/fish)*
 - Apply the results of watershed analysis to conclude that actions will either “meet” or “do not prevent attainment” of ACS objectives. Conclusion must be documented and supporting rationale provided.
 - Complete watershed analysis in INFISH priority watersheds.
- ***Aquatic Habitat Restoration***
- For watershed and aquatic habitat restoration actions: Ensure that proposed actions are designed to provide for long-term habitat benefits while avoiding/reducing short-term impacts, and utilize information and recommendations from environmental baselines and results of Matrix Checklist {*note: intent is to ensure that actions, especially restoration actions, would be conducted with a watershed view of benefits to bull trout and other species*}

Roads

- **Continue updating road inventories at the field level every other year in a format that can be consolidated at the state and regional level.**
- *Road Evaluation and Planning* – Apply RF2, RF3.
- *Road Construction*
 1. Avoid or minimize Incidental Take, apply PACFISH & INFISH Standards & Guidelines for road construction and decommissioning;
 2. New roads in Riparian Conservation Areas (RHCAs) shall be constructed only where Watershed Analysis has been completed.

QUESTION 3: ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY/OUTCOMES

Accountability and oversight mechanism for implementation of requirements at the field unit level:

- Use Level 1 streamlining;
- Use bull trout watershed consultation approach (1/27/98) letter of direction, new information, and bull trout Checklist/Matrix of Pathways & Indicators (or similar agreed-to-approach) to ensure that an interagency, interdisciplinary process is used in the design and evaluation of all proposed actions that may affect bull trout.

QUESTION 4: AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS –Bull Trout

BLM:

1. # Miles of Stream/Riparian Treatments (JG) _____
2. # Stream/Riparian Projects Completed (JH) _____
3. # Stream/Riparian projects Maintained (JI) _____
4. # Miles of Stream/Riparian Inventories (BU) _____
5. # Miles of Stream/Riparian Monitored (MO) _____

Forest Service:

1. # Miles of Stream Improved _____
2. # Acres of Lake Improved _____
3. # Acres of Watershed Improved _____
4. # Miles of Stream Inventoried (Physical) _____
5. # Miles of Stream Inventoried (Biotic) _____

ATTACHMENT B

Response Example

Question #2: To identify important places and priority actions for the conservation and restoration of bull trout, the 1998 Opinion requires that various processes and assessments be utilized. Are **all** of those listed in the Attachment, Question 2 being used on your unit? (Y/N) If no, please explain why and identify what processes/assessments are being used.

Response to Q #2: No, Section 7 watershed baselines and updating of road inventory information has not been completed for the entire forest due to insufficient funding. However, watershed analysis is still being applied in these areas using existing information to identify important “interim” areas for conservation and restoration.