

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

**Date:** March 2, 2016

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

**To:** Forest Supervisors/District Managers Responsible for areas included under INFISH and/or PACFISH

**National Forests and BLM Districts:**

**FS PACFISH & INFISH:** Bitterroot, Nez Perce-Clearwater, Salmon-Challis, Deschutes-Ochoco (only the Ochoco portion of the Forest), Malheur, Wenatchee-Okanogan (only the Okanogan portion of the Forest), and Wallowa-Whitman NFs.

**FS PACFISH Only:** Umatilla NF and Columbia River Gorge NSA.

**FS INFISH Only:** Flathead, Helena, Lolo, Humboldt-Toiyabe, Deschutes-Ochoco (only the Deschutes portion of the Forest), Colville, and Fremont-Winema NFs.

**BLM PACFISH & INFISH:** Idaho Falls, Coeur d'Alene, Prineville, Vale, and Spokane Districts.

**BLM INFISH Only:** Missoula, Twin Falls, Boise, Burns, and Lakeview (Klamath Falls Resource Area) Districts.

**From:** Interior Columbia Basin Interagency Deputy Team (NOAA Fisheries, USFWS, FS, BLM, & EPA)

**Subject:** 2015 Line Manager Certification Report for 1998 Salmon, Steelhead, and Bull Trout Biological Opinions and 2003 (Jarbidge) Bull Trout Biological Opinion

**REPLY DUE MAY 16, 2016**

The Line Manager Certification Report (LMCR) fulfills the annual reporting requirements of the 1998 and 2003 Biological Opinions on Interim Strategies for Managing Anadromous Fish-producing Watersheds in Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho and Portions of California (PACFISH) and Interim Strategies for Managing Fish-producing Watersheds in Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho, Western Montana, and Portions of Nevada (INFISH) as issued to the Forest Service (FS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Additionally, the LMCR provides the Interior Columbia Basin Interagency Deputy Team with valuable information regarding implementation of the PACFISH/INFISH strategies and the Terms and Conditions in the Incidental Take Statements associated with these Biological Opinions.

The content of the 2015 LMCR is the same as last year except for some document format changes to the form and attachments. Enclosed is the LMCR Form and directions (Attachment A) and supporting documents: 1998 & 2003 Opinion Requirements (Attachment B), PACFISH/INFISH Standards and Guidelines Questions (Attachment C), and Guidance on Special Situations (Attachment D). Information will be compiled at the FS Region and the BLM State Office levels to assist the Deputy Team in identifying priority issues needing resolution; certify compliance with the legal requirements of the 1998 and 2003 Opinions (Opinions); more efficiently address FOIA requests; and assure the durability of PACFISH, INFISH, and the 1998 & 2003 Opinions until replaced through plan revisions.

## Forest Supervisors/District Managers

Our expectation is for the LMCRs to be completed by persons familiar with PACFISH and INFISH and who have an understanding of how the requirements in the Opinions should be applied. The LMCR is to be reviewed and signed by Forest Supervisors and BLM District Managers in coordination with NOAA Fisheries and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), through Level 2 or similar interagency process. Responses to the questions (including supplemental attachments) are to be shared and discussed with NMFS and the USFWS prior to signing and submission of the LMCR by Forest Supervisors and BLM District Managers.

Signed and completed reports are to be emailed to the following persons by **May 16, 2016**: FS-R6 Jim Capurso ([jcapurso@fs.fed.us](mailto:jcapurso@fs.fed.us)), FS-R1 Cameron Thomas ([cthomas@fs.fed.us](mailto:cthomas@fs.fed.us)), FS-R4 Cynthia Tait ([ctait@fs.fed.us](mailto:ctait@fs.fed.us)), BLM – OR/WA Al Doelker ([adoelker@blm.gov](mailto:adoelker@blm.gov)), BLM-Idaho Scott Hoefler ([shoefler@blm.gov](mailto:shoefler@blm.gov)). Please contact your BLM State office or FS Regional Office representative (listed above) if you have questions about completing the LMCR.

Analysis of the data from each field unit report shall be compiled and summarized by each BLM State office and FS Regional Office. Included in these BLM State and FS Regional summaries should be a report detailing compliance or non-compliance by the field units. Summary reports are due to the Deputy Team Coordinator, Spencer Hovekamp ([spencer.hovekamp@noaa.gov](mailto:spencer.hovekamp@noaa.gov)) by COB July 29, 2016. Results will be presented to the Interagency Deputy Team at the December 2016 meeting.

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Enclosures

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