



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

OCT 28 2009

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as co-lead agencies under NEPA, enclose for your review the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Authorization for Incidental Take and Implementation of Fruit Growers Supply Company's Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan* and proposed *Fruit Growers Supply Company Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan*.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NMFS and USFWS proceeding with the issuance of Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) to the Fruit Growers Supply Company (FGS), under the authorities of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The ITP issued by NMFS will allow for the take of three species of anadromous salmonids during the course of timber management activities on FGS lands located in Siskiyou County, California. The three aquatic species are the federally threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coasts coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU), and two currently unlisted species, the Klamath and Trinity Rivers Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*) ESU and the Klamath Mountains Province steelhead (*O. mykiss*) ESU. The ITP issued by USFWS will allow for the take of one terrestrial species, the federally threatened northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*). The Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) will also address conservation measures for the federally endangered plant Yreka phlox (*Phlox hirsuta*). The duration of the ITPs is proposed for 50 years from the date of permit issuance.

Additional copies of the DEIS and proposed HCP may be obtained by contacting Ms. Lisa Roberts of NMFS at (707) 825-5178. The documents are also accessible electronically through the NMFS Southwest Region website at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov>, or the USFWS website at [www.fws.gov/yreka/](http://www.fws.gov/yreka/). A public meeting will be held on December 2, 2009, from 6-8 p.m. at the Best Western Miners Inn Convention Center, 122 East Miner Street, Yreka, CA 96097.

Written comments should be submitted through mail, facsimile (fax), or e-mail to the individual identified below. Written comments submitted during the 90-day public comment period must be received by February 11, 2010. When submitting fax or e-mail comments, include the following document identifier in the comment subject line: FGS HCP. Comments submitted by e-mail should be sent to the following address: [FGSHCP.SWR@noaa.gov](mailto:FGSHCP.SWR@noaa.gov).

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Sincerely,



for Paul N. Doremus, Ph.D  
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosures

1. *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Authorization for Incidental Take and Implementation of Fruit Growers Supply Company's Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan*
2. *Fruit Growers Supply Company Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan*