

Notice of Intent & Preparation

withhold your name or address, you must state this request prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. To the extent consistent with applicable law, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Information received in response to this notice and review will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours (see **ADDRESSES**).

Authority: This document is published under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: May 19, 2006.

Wendi Weber,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3.

[FR Doc. E6-8565 Filed 6-1-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Paiute Cutthroat Trout Restoration Project, Carson-Iceberg Wilderness, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Alpine County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent of public scoping.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) as the lead agency, advises the public that we intend to gather information necessary to prepare, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (Forest Service), an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed Paiute Cutthroat Trout Restoration Project (Project). The Forest Service is a cooperating agency because activities within designated wilderness on National Forest System lands require Forest Service approval (36 CFR 261.9f, 293.6c).

The Service provides this notice to: (1) Describe the proposed action and possible alternatives; (2) advise other Federal and State agencies, affected Tribes, and the public of our intent to prepare an EIS; (3) announce the initiation of a 30-day public scoping

period; and (4) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives to be included in the EIS.

DATES: A public meeting will be held on: June 19, 2006 from 4 to 7 p.m. Written comments should be received on or before July 3, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at Turtle Rock Park Community Center 17300 State Route 89 Markleeville, California 96120. Information, written comments, or questions related to the preparation of the EIS and the NEPA process should be submitted to Robert D. Williams, Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234, Reno, Nevada 89502; or FAX (775) 861-6301. Comments may be submitted electronically to fw8pctcomments@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chad Mellison (See **ADDRESSES**) at (775) 861-6300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Reasonable Accommodation

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public meeting should contact Chad Mellison (See **ADDRESSES**) at (775) 861-6300 as soon as possible. In order to allow sufficient time to process requests, please call no later than one week before the public meeting. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

Authority

This action is done in accordance with Recovery implementation section 4(f)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA).

Background

At the time of its original listing as endangered under the Endangered Species Protection Act of 1966, non-native trout were considered a threat to the Paiute cutthroat trout (PCT; *Oncorhynchus clarki seleniris*). In 1975, PCT were reclassified as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and a 4(d) rule was issued to facilitate management between California Department of Fish and Game and the Service. In order to recover the subspecies, non-native trout need to be removed from their historic habitat and PCT reintroduced as specified in the 2004 Revised PCT Recovery Plan. Without this project, PCT in the Silver King drainage will continue to be at risk from an illegal introduction of non-native trout and/or stochastic (one time) events such as a large fire or flood.

Recovery of the species cannot be achieved without this project and the long-term survival of the species will be in doubt.

We propose to eradicate non-native trout with the piscicide rotenone from 14.7 kilometers (9.1 miles) of historic PCT habitat, in Silver King Creek, from Llewellyn Falls downstream to Silver King Canyon as well as the accessible reaches of three small named tributaries: Tamarack Creek, Tamarack Lake Creek, the lower reaches of Coyote Valley Creek downstream of barrier falls, and Tamarack Lake.

Environmental Impact Statement

The Service has selected Entrix to prepare the EIS. Entrix will prepare the EIS under the supervision of the Service, which will be responsible for the scope and content of the NEPA document.

NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) requires that Federal agencies conduct and environmental analysis of their proposed actions to determine if the actions may significantly affect the human environment. Under NEPA, a reasonable range of alternatives to proposed projects is developed and considered in the Services' environmental review. Alternatives considered for analysis in an EIS may include: Variations in the scope of proposed activities; variations in the location, amount, and types of conservation; variations in activity duration; or, a combination of these elements. In addition, the EIS will identify potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on biological resources, land use, air quality, water quality, water resources, socio-economics, and other environmental issues that could occur with the implementation of the proposed action and alternatives. For all potentially significant impacts, the EIS will identify avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to reduce these impacts, where feasible, to a level below significance.

The EIS will consider the proposed action, no action, and a reasonable range of alternatives. A detailed description of the impacts of the proposed action and each alternative will be included in the EIS. The alternatives to be considered for analysis in the EIS may include: Various fish removal methods; variations in timing; or, a combination of these elements.

Request for Comments

The primary purpose of the scoping process is for the public to assist the Services in developing the EIS by identifying important issues and

alternatives related to the proposed action. A public meeting will be held on June 19, 2006 as noted in the **DATES** section above.

Written comments from interested parties are welcome to ensure that the full range of issues related to the proposed action are identified.

All comments and materials received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public.

Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

The Service requests that comments be specific. In particular, we request information regarding: Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of implementation of the proposed action; other possible alternatives that meet the purpose and need; potential adaptive management and/or monitoring provisions; existing environmental conditions in the project area; other plans or projects that might be relevant to this proposed project; and minimization and mitigation efforts.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the NEPA of 1969 as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), Council on the Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1518), other applicable Federal laws and regulations, and applicable policies and procedures of the Services. This notice is being furnished in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.7 to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS.

Dated: May 23, 2006.

John Engbring,

Acting Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.
[FR Doc. 06–4918 Filed 6–1–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID 111 1610 DP 049D DBG060003]

Notice of Availability of Draft Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Idaho

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of

1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/EIS) for the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA).

DATES: To assure that they will be considered, BLM must receive written comments on the Draft RMP/EIS within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes this Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The BLM will announce future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings.

ADDRESSES: The Draft RMP/EIS will be posted on the Internet at <http://www.id.blm.gov/planning> and will be mailed to those who have indicated that they want a hard copy or a compact disk.

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- E-mail:

srbp@contentanalysisgroup.com.

- Fax: 801–397–2601.

- Mail: Snake River Birds of Prey NCA, C/O Content Analysis Group, P.O. Box 2000, Bountiful, UT 84011–2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Sullivan, NCA Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Four Rivers Field Office, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, Idaho 83705, phone—208–384–3300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NCA encompasses approximately 484,000 acres of public land along 81 miles of the Snake River. The NCA was established on August 4, 1993 by Public Law 103–64 for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of raptor populations and habitats and the natural and environmental resources and values associated with the area.

Issues identified through public scoping to be addressed in the planning process include the following:

- **Vegetation:** Substantial losses of native shrub and perennial grass communities have resulted in smaller and less stable small mammal raptor prey populations, which have secondarily impacted raptor populations.

- **Fuels Management:** The landscape-scale change from perennial to annual plant communities has altered the natural fire regime, resulting in more frequent fires, and greater potential for damage to private improvements in the wildland urban interface.

- **Recreation:** The burgeoning human population and associated development in the surrounding area have increased recreation-related impacts on soils and vegetation, predominately through off-road vehicle use. In addition, unregulated recreational shooting has caused safety conflicts with military training activities.

- **National Guard:** Military activities need to be conducted in a way that reduces impacts to soils and vegetation, especially shrub communities.

Four alternative strategies are described and analyzed, as follows:

Alternative A: (No-Action) Serves as a baseline for comparison with the other three alternatives, and proposes no major changes in resource management.

Alternative B: Emphasizes a moderate level of raptor and raptor prey habitat restoration and rehabilitation, while accommodating recreation, military, and commodity uses that are compatible with the purposes of the NCA.

Alternative C: Places a heavy emphasis on restoration and rehabilitation of all non-shrub areas outside the National Guard's Orchard Training Area (OTA) to improve raptor and raptor prey habitat. Livestock grazing preference would be eliminated, and recreation and military training would be substantially restricted to support habitat restoration projects.

Alternative D: (Preferred Alternative) Places a heavy emphasis on restoration of all non-shrub areas outside the OTA to improve raptor and raptor prey habitat, with moderate restrictions on recreation, military, and commodity uses.

Decision Process: Depending on the number and types of comments on the Draft RMP/EIS, the Proposed RMP/Final EIS is expected to be published in late 2006. A Notice of Availability of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS will be published in the **Federal Register** and through local news media. A notice of an approved Record of Decision will be published in the **Federal Register** following resolution of any protests or appeals on the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The official responsible for the decision is the BLM Idaho State Director.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

RECEIVED

SEP. 16 2008

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

To: Responsible Agencies and Interested Parties

Date: September 16, 2008

Subject: Notice of Preparation of Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Environmental Impact Report

Project Title: **PAIUTE CUTTHROAT TROUT RESTORATION PROJECT**

Environmental review of this project is required under both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Implementation of the project will require discretionary approvals from federal and state agencies. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) will serve as the lead agency under CEQA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will serve as the lead agency under NEPA, and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will serve as a cooperating agency under NEPA.

To ensure coordination and to prevent duplication of efforts, CDFG, USFWS, and USFS will prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) as recommended by Title 40 section 1506.2 of the Code of Federal Regulations and CEQA Guidelines section 15222.

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of CEQA. This NOP provides a description of the project, the project location, and a brief discussion of the probable environmental effects of the project.

The NOP is an important step in the environmental scoping process, which is designed to determine the range of issues to be addressed in the EIS/EIR. The objectives of scoping include:

- o Ensuring agency and public involvement in the environmental review process;
- o Determining which specific impacts must be evaluated in the EIS/EIR;
- o Establishing a reasonable range of alternatives; and
- o Identifying the scope of issues that must be discussed to adequately and accurately address the potential impacts of the project as they relate to permitting and approval authority.

We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIS/EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other

approval for the project. We will need the name for a contact person at your agency. Your written response must be received at the earliest possible date but no later than October 31, 2008.

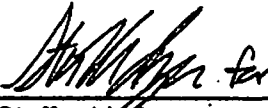
Please send your written response to:

Stafford Lehr
Senior Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Game
North Central Region
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Telephone: (916) 358-2838
slehr@dfg.ca.gov

For additional information about the project or the scoping process, please use the contact information listed above.

A scoping meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at Turtle Rock Park Community Center, 17300 Highway 89, Markleeville, California. Persons needing reasonable accommodations to attend the meeting should contact Stafford Lehr at the phone number listed above as soon as possible. Please call no later than one week before the scoping meeting.

Date: September 16, 2008



Stafford Lehr
Senior Environmental Scientist

Description of the Proposed Project:

The Paiute cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki seleniris*) is a federally listed threatened species. Silver King Creek is part of the Paiute cutthroat trout's historic range but is currently populated by hybridized non-native trout that could threaten the existence of pure Paiute cutthroat trout located above Llewellyn Falls if these populations were inadvertently mixed. Hybridization with non-native fish is a primary threat to the subspecies. The fish present in reaches downstream from Llewellyn Falls to Silver King Canyon are a genetic mixture of introduced rainbow (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Lahontan cutthroat (*Oncorhynchus henshawi*), golden trout (*Oncorhynchus aguabonita*), and native Paiute cutthroat trout.

The proposed project would geographically isolate pure populations of Paiute cutthroat trout. CDFG, in collaboration with USFWS and USFS, proposes to remove all non-native hybridized trout in Silver King Creek, in Alpine County, California, from Llewellyn Falls to Silver King Canyon, using the piscicide rotenone. Alternatives that will be considered include: no action, chemical treatment, various fish removal methods (e.g., mechanical removal and dewatering), combination of dewatering followed by chemical treatment.

This action is necessary to implement the Recovery Plan for the Paiute cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki seleniris*). USFWS published a revised Recovery Plan for the Paiute Cutthroat Trout (Recovery Plan), which is available for public review at: http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/040910.pdf. The first two criteria in the Recovery Plan for accomplishing the goal of delisting the species are: (1) removal of all nonnative salmonids in Silver King Creek and its tributaries downstream of Llewellyn Falls to fish barriers in Silver King Canyon; and (2) occupation by a viable population of all historic habitat in Silver King Creek and its tributaries downstream of Llewellyn Falls to the fish barriers in Silver King Canyon.

Location of the Proposed Project:

The Silver King Creek drainage is located on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Range, in Alpine County, California. The drainage is a main tributary to the East Fork of the Carson River, which drains into the Lahontan Basin. The project area occurs within the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness on National Forest System lands administered by the Carson Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (See Attachment 1).

The proposed project would encompass 14.7 kilometers (9.1 miles) of historic Paiute cutthroat trout habitat in Silver King Creek, from Llewellyn Falls downstream to Silver King Canyon as well as the accessible reaches of three small named tributaries: Tamarack Creek, Tamarack Lake Creek, the lower reaches of Coyote Valley Creek downstream of barrier falls, and Tamarack Lake.

Probable Environmental Effects of the Project:

CDFG, USFWS, and USFS have determined this project could result in significant environmental impacts and/or have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Preparation of an EIS/EIR is thus appropriate. CDFG, USFWS, and USFS have identified the following environmental considerations as potential significant effects of the project:

o Effects on Biological Resources.

- **Effects on Paiute Cutthroat Trout.** Rotenone is toxic to fish. Fish that are not removed from the water would be exposed to potentially fatal concentrations of rotenone. Any Paiute cutthroat trout present in the project area would likely be lost during the project's implementation. Mechanical removal may result in the loss of some Paiute cutthroat trout due to stress or injury. Dewatering in combination with chemical treatment may result in the loss of Paiute cutthroat trout that may remain in the project area. The EIS/EIR will evaluate any potential significant impacts on Paiute cutthroat trout.
- **Effects on Non-Target Organisms.** Rotenone is toxic to fish and other gill-breathing organisms, such as aquatic invertebrate nymphs and larvae and some forms of amphibians. There may be

negative effects of the project on non-target organisms, including, but not limited to aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, Management Indicator Species, Forest sensitive species, and species listed as Threatened, Endangered, or Proposed under the Endangered Species Act. Rotenone is toxic to some aquatic organisms and may affect macro-invertebrate populations. Dewatering followed by chemical treatment will have the same effects on non-target organisms as stated above. The EIS/EIR will evaluate any potential significant impacts on non-target organisms.

- o Hazardous Materials. Rotenone is a restricted-use pesticide due to its aquatic toxicity and acute toxicity when inhaled. It may only be purchased and used by Certified Applicators or persons under their direct supervision. Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined the use of rotenone for fish control does not present a risk of unreasonable adverse effects to humans, the EIS/EIR will analyze any potential significant impacts due to the use of rotenone. The transportation and handling of rotenone poses a potential risk of accidental spillage in route to the project site or at the project site. Potential significant impacts from an accidental spill will be analyzed in the EIS/EIR.
- o Effects on Hydrology and Water Quality. The proposed project would require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. The application of rotenone could result in concentrations of some constituents that would temporarily exceed water quality standards. Implementation of the proposed project would require a neutralization plan. The EIS/EIR will evaluate all potentially significant impacts to both surface and groundwater quality and multiple methods of neutralization.
- o Effects on Recreational Fisheries. Silver King Creek is used by recreational anglers. There may be potentially significant impacts on angling opportunities due to the potential long-term closure of approximately eleven (11) miles of angling waters along Silver King Creek in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness within Alpine County, California.

NOP DISTRIBUTION:

This NOP was sent to the following agencies, organizations, and individuals:

Federal:

- o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- o Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- o Federal Tribes
- o U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- o U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco Division
- o U.S. Department of Agriculture
- o U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service

- o U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Library
- o U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
- o U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Civil Rights
- o U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance
- o U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- o U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 San Francisco
- o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- o U.S. Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
- o U.S. Forest Service, Carson Ranger District

State Agencies:

- o California Department of Boating and Waterways
- o California Department of Food & Agriculture
- o California Department of Health Services
- o California Department of Pesticide Regulation
- o California Department of Toxic Substances Control
- o California Department of Water Resources
- o California Native American Heritage Commission
- o Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
- o State Clearinghouse
- o State Historic Preservation Officer
- o State Water Resources Control Board

Regional and Local Agencies:

- o Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
- o Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- o Alpine County Board of Supervisors
- o Alpine County Clerk
- o Town of Markleeville

Individuals and other Organizations:

- o Alpine County Chamber of Commerce
- o Alpine County Sheriff
- o Carson River Resort
- o Sorensen's Resort
- o Woodfords Station
- o Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
- o Center for Collaborative Policy
- o Nancy Erman
- o Jim Crouse
- o David Katz
- o Mike Matuska
- o John Regan
- o Bob Rudden
- o Judy Wickwire
- o Dave Zelmer

Entire Range of Paiute Cutthroat Trout

