



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office
2600 SE 98th Avenue, Suite 100
Portland, Oregon 97266

Phone: (503)231-6179 FAX: (503)231-6195

Reply To: 8330.06533(05)
File Name: Final Invasive Plant BO transmittal letter
TS Number: 05-2512

SEP 07 2005

Linda Goodman
Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region
US Forest Service
P.O. Box 3623
Portland, Oregon 97208-3623

SUBJECT: Consultation and conferencing on the US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region Invasive Plant Program (file # 1-7-05-7-0653)

Dear Ms. Goodman:

This document transmits the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) letters of concurrence and Biological Opinion based on our review of the June 14, 2005, Biological Assessment covering amendments to National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP) described and analyzed in the Pacific Northwest Region Invasive Plant Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (Invasive Plant Program). This consultation covers amendments to the LRMPs for the Colville, Deschutes, Ochoco (including Crooked River National Grassland), Fremont, Winema, Gifford Pinchot (including Washington portions of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area), Malheur, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Mount Hood (including Oregon portions of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area), Okanogan, Wenatchee, Olympic, Rogue, Siskiyou, Siuslaw, Umatilla, Umpqua, Wallowa-Whitman (including Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area), and Willamette National Forests. This document was prepared in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA)(16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The Invasive Plant Program Forest Plan Amendments do not authorize any activities or projects to be implemented on the ground. Future projects will require a site-specific analysis and consultation, when applicable, before implementation can occur. This may occur at a sub-regional, National Forest, or individual action level. However, because future actions (such as the use of certain herbicides) can be considered for use as a result of the Invasive Plant Program, the determination of effects for species and critical habitat are based on the potential effects of future actions conducted under the Invasive Plant Program.

The US Forest Service determined that the Invasive Plant Program and future actions likely to occur under the amendments, will not affect the American brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), western lily (*Lilium occidentale*), rough popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys hirtus*), marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*), water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*), Bradshaw's

Printed on 100 percent chlorine free/60 percent post-consumer content paper.



lomatium (*Lomatium bradshawii*), golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*), Howell's spectacular thelopody (*Thelypodium howellii* ssp. *spectabilis*), Fender's blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides fenderi*), northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) critical habitat, marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) critical habitat, and Warner sucker (*Catostomus warnerensis*) critical habitat. These species and designated critical habitats are not covered further in this document. Based on the most recent surveys and identification work, we and the US Forest Service no longer consider the Bliss Rapids snail (*Taylorconcha serpenticola*) to occur in the action area or that the amendments will affect the snail, and therefore it will not be further addressed in this document.

The US Forest Service requested concurrence with the determination that, based on potential effects of future actions under the Invasive Plant Program, the amendments may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect, the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Wenatchee mountains checkermallow (*Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva*) and its critical habitat, MacDonald's rockcress (*Arabis macdonaldiana*), Gentner's fritillary (*Fritillaria gentneri*), Cook's lomatium (*Lomatium cookii*), Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*), Kincaid's lupine (*Lupinus sulphureus kincaidii*), and Warner sucker. This document contains the USFWS letter of concurrence for these species.

The US Forest Service requested formal consultation on the following species, for which they determined that, based on potential effects of some future actions under the Invasive Plant Program, the amendments may affect and are likely to adversely affect: bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, western snowy plover (coastal population) (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*), showy stickseed (*Hackelia venusta*), MacFarlane's four o'clock (*Mirabilis macfarlanei*), Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*), Lost River sucker (*Delistes luxatus*), shortnose sucker (*Chasmistes brevirostris*), Oregon chub (*Oregonichthys crameri*), bull trout (Coastal/Puget Sound, Columbia River, and Klamath distinct population segments) (*Salvelinus confluentus*), bull trout (Columbia River and Klamath distinct population segments) designated critical habitat, Oregon silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria zerene hippolyta*) and Oregon silverspot butterfly designated critical habitat.

In addition, the action area for the Invasive Plant Program includes proposed critical habitat for western snowy plover, Coastal/Puget Sound bull trout, and the Lost River and shortnose suckers. The US Forest Service determined that, based on potential effects of some future actions under the Invasive Plant Program, it may affect and are likely to adversely affect the proposed critical habitat for western snowy plover and Coastal/Puget Sound bull trout critical habitats and request conferencing following formal consultation procedures for these proposed critical habitats.

In the case of the Lost River and shortnose suckers, a substantial amount of time has lapsed since critical habitat for the Lost River and shortnose suckers was proposed. We agree with the US Forest Service's belief that any final designation may involve substantial modifications to the original proposal and that it is unlikely that conferencing following formal consultation procedures would provide an Opinion that could be directly applied in the event that critical habitat is designated. After discussions between the agencies, the US Forest Service determined that the Invasive Plant Program will not result in destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat for the Lost River and shortnose suckers. Therefore, based on the conferencing requirements in 50 CFR 402.10(a), you did not request a conference for critical habitat for the Lost River and shortnose suckers.

If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact Robin Bown or Miel Corbett at (503) 231-6179.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kemper M. McMaster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kemper M, McMaster
State Supervisor

Attachment: Consultation document

cc: Shawna Bautista