

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Pacific
Northwest
Region

Forest
Service

March 2004



DIAMOND LAKE

RESTORATION PROJECT

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DIAMOND LAKE RANGER DISTRICT
UMPQUA NATIONAL FOREST



DIAMOND LAKE RESTORATION PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Douglas County, Oregon--March 2004

Lead Agency: USDA Forest Service, Umpqua National Forest

Cooperating Agencies: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Send Comments to: Comments should be sent to Diamond Lake Restoration IDT, North Umpqua Ranger District at the address provided above and must be postmarked no later than _____.

Abstract: This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) documents alternatives considered for the restoration of Diamond Lake, which is degraded by an abundance of non-native tui chub fish. Diamond Lake is located on the Umpqua National Forest, Diamond Lake Ranger District in the Southern Cascade Mountains, 68 air-miles west of Klamath Falls, Oregon and 60 air-miles east of Roseburg, Oregon. The purpose of and need for action includes the need to restore water quality and the recreational fishery; both are substantially diminished compared to conditions prior to the tui chub population expansion that began around 1992. Mitigation measures and management requirements for watershed management, human health and safety, fish, groundwater, soil, wildlife, recreation, cultural resources, and plants are also considered. Four alternatives are considered, including: Alternative 1, no action; Alternative 2, designed to improve water quality and the recreational fishery by using rotenone (a fish toxicant) to kill tui chub followed by a put, grow, and take fish stocking strategy using mostly fingerling trout; Alternative 3, designed to improve water quality and the recreational fishery while lessening the risks of the fishery on lake ecology by using rotenone and instituting a put and take fish stocking strategy using larger-sized fish; and Alternative 4, designed to improve water quality and the recreational fishery by using no toxicants and relying instead on mechanical tui chub removal in combination with a fish stocking strategy using larger predacious fish. The Forest Service has identified Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative.

Reviewers should provide the Forest Service with their comments during the review period of the DEIS. This will enable the Forest Service to analyze and respond to the comments at one time and to use this information in the preparation of the final environmental impact statement, thus avoiding undue delay in the decision-making process. Reviewers have an obligation to structure their participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewers' position and contentions [Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978)]. Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement [City of Angoon v. Hodel (9th Circuit, 1986) and Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980)]. Comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be specific and should address the adequacy of the statement and the merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3).



The large tui chub population has affected lake conditions such that toxic algae blooms have occurred during the summers of 2001, 2002, and 2003. These toxic blooms present risks to human health, trigger lake closures, and cause the normally blue lake to turn green (as shown in the above photograph).

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