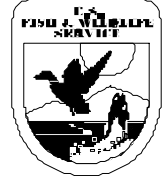


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News Release



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Comment Period Reopens on Snowy Plover Habitat Conservation Plan

Responding to a public request, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that it has reopened the public comment period for 15 days on a habitat conservation plan submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The plan is required for Oregon to receive a permit that acknowledges there may be times when recreation accidentally disturbs or harms plovers. The draft plan and permit application, and an Environmental Impact Statement analyzing their effects were released November 5, 2007, for public comment.

The first comment period closed January 4, 2008. Comments or information submitted during the new comment period must be received on or before March 12, 2008.

The requesting entities indicated that the scope of the proposals requires more time for review, particularly given extreme weather events that occurred during the comment period on the Oregon Coast. These weather events may have prevented access to the documents necessary for review.

"This extension allows the Service to comply with requests from stakeholders and provides the public that may have been impacted by extreme weather additional time needed for a thorough review of the proposed HCP," said Kemper McMaster, State Supervisor for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

You may view or download the draft Plan, draft IA, and DEIS on the internet at either of these links:

www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Species
egov.oregon.gov/OPRD/PLANS/osmp_hcp.shtml

The documents can also be reviewed by appointment at the Fish and Wildlife Service Newport Field Office, 2127 SE OSU Drive, Newport, OR, 97365-5258 during normal business hours. They also are available at the public libraries in Astoria, Bandon, Brookings, Coos Bay, Florence, Gold Beach, Manzanita, Newport, Port Orford, Reedsport, Seaside, Tillamook, and Warrenton.

All written comments on the Habitat Conservation Plan, Incidental Take Permit application, and Environmental Impact Statement must be sent to Laura Todd, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Newport Field Office, 2127 SE OSU Drive, Newport, OR, 97365-5258; facsimile (541) 867-4551. Comments also may be submitted by e-mail to FW1ORDHCP@fws.gov. In the subject line of the e-mail, include the identifier OPRD HCP DEIS.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov

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