

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Rollie White at the above address, or at (503) 231-6158.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On April 13, 2004, we announced in a **Federal Register** notice (69 FR 19449) that we are commencing a 5-year review of the bull trout. Section 4(c)(2)(A) of the Act requires that we conduct a review of listed species at least once every 5 years. The purpose of a 5-year review is to ensure that the classification of a species as threatened or endangered on the List is accurate. The 5-year review is an assessment of the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review that has become available since the species' original listing or its most recent status or 5-year review.

If there is no new information concerning the bull trout, no changes will be made to its classification. However, if we find that there is new information concerning the bull trout indicating a change in classification is warranted, we may propose a new rule that could either: (a) Reclassify the species from threatened to endangered; or (b) remove the species from the List.

**Public Solicitation of New Information**

We are publishing this extension of the comment period to allow for any new information relating to the current status of the bull trout that has become available since its original listing. In particular, we are seeking information such as:

A. Species biology including, but not limited to, population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics, and genetics;

B. Habitat conditions including, but not limited to, amount, distribution, and suitability;

C. Conservation measures that have been implemented that benefit the species;

D. Threat status and trends; and

E. Other new information, data, or corrections including, but not limited to, taxonomic or nomenclatural changes, identification of erroneous information contained in the List, and improved analytical methods.

Information submitted should be supported by documentation such as maps, bibliographic references, methods used to gather and analyze the data, and/or copies of any pertinent publications, reports, or letters by knowledgeable sources.

**Authority**

This document is published under the authority of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: June 17, 2004.

**David J. Wesley,**

*Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-14941 Filed 6-30-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****Draft Recovery Plan for the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment of Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), Volumes I and II**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("we") announces the availability of the Draft Recovery Plan for the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment of Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) for public review and comment. Two separate volumes comprise the draft recovery plan for bull trout in this distinct population segment: the Puget Sound Management Unit is addressed in Volume I, and the Olympic Peninsula Management Unit is the focus of Volume II.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before October 29, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Hard copies of the draft recovery plan will be available in 4 to 6 weeks for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office, 510 Desmond Drive SE., Suite 102, Lacey, Washington (telephone (360) 753-9440). Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to Ken Berg, Field Supervisor, at the above Lacey address. This plan is currently available on the World Wide Web at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html#plans>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For Volume I, the Puget Sound Management Unit, contact Jeffrey Chan, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Lacey address and telephone number. For Volume II, the Olympic Peninsula Management Unit, contact Shelley Spalding, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Lacey address and telephone number.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of our endangered species program and the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Recovery means improvement of the status of listed species to the point at which listing is no longer appropriate under the criteria set out in section 4(a)(1) of the Act. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Act requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. We will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments may result in changes to the recovery plan. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plan, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individual responses to comments will not be provided.

Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), members of the family Salmonidae, are native to the Pacific Northwest and western Canada. Compared to other salmonids, bull trout have more specific habitat requirements, including cold water temperatures, particularly for spawning and rearing, and the presence of complex forms of cover for all life history stages, including large woody debris, undercut banks, boulders and pools. Bull trout may be resident or may exhibit one of three migratory life history forms, including adfluvial (migrating from tributary streams to a lake or reservoir to mature), fluvial (migrating from tributary streams to larger rivers to mature), or anadromous (migrating from freshwater to the ocean to grow and mature, then returning to freshwater to spawn) behaviors.

The Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment of bull trout encompasses all Pacific coast drainages within the State of Washington, including Puget Sound. It is separated from other populations of bull trout by the Columbia River basin to the south

and the crest of the Cascade Mountain Range to the east. This population segment is highly significant to the species as a whole, since the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment supports all life history forms of the species, including the only known anadromous forms of bull trout in the coterminous United States. Bull trout populations in this region have been in decline as a result of both historical and current land use activities, including dams and diversions, forest management practices, fisheries management, agricultural practices, road construction and maintenance, and residential and urban development. The bull trout was listed as a threatened species in the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment on November 1, 1999 (64 FR 58910).

The recovery and delisting of the bull trout will depend upon the achievement of recovery goals and criteria laid out in this recovery plan. The overall recovery strategy for bull trout in the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment is to integrate with ongoing Tribal, State, local, and Federal management and partnerships efforts at the watershed or regional scales (e.g., Shared Strategy for Puget Sound). This coordination will maximize the opportunity for complementary actions, eliminate redundancy, and make the best use of available resources for bull trout and salmon recovery. The recovery criteria for bull trout in the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment are designed to demonstrate the maintenance or restoration of broadly distributed populations of bull trout, with an emphasis on migratory life forms; set target levels of adult abundance; ensure stable or increasing population trends over at least two bull trout generations; and address the restoration of connectivity between populations that are currently isolated.

At the scale of the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment, bull trout are broadly distributed, use a variety of habitats, and are affected by a wide array of factors. In order to account for these differences and allow recovery actions to be tailored to specific areas or threats, as well as to encourage the implementation of recovery actions by local interests, we have subdivided the population segment into two separate management units, the Puget Sound and the Olympic Peninsula. Individual draft recovery plans have been prepared for each of these management units. Volume I of the Draft Recovery Plan for the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment of Bull Trout covers the Puget

Sound Management Unit, addressing bull trout populations in all watersheds within the Puget Sound basin north of the Columbia River in Washington and the marine nearshore areas of Puget Sound; it also includes the Chilliwack River and associated tributaries flowing into British Columbia, Canada. Volume II covers the Olympic Peninsula Management Unit, including all watersheds within the Olympic Peninsula and the nearshore marine waters of the Pacific Ocean, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Hood Canal.

#### Public Comments Solicited

We solicit written comments on this draft recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered in developing the final recovery plan.

**Authority:** The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: May 21, 2004.

**David J. Wesley,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-14939 Filed 6-30-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Draft Recovery Plan for the Jarbidge River Distinct Population Segment of Bull Trout (*Salvelinus Confluentus*)

**AGENCY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("we") announces the availability of the Draft Recovery Plan for the Jarbidge River Distinct Population Segment of Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) for public review and comment.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before October 29, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Hard copies of the draft recovery plan will be available in 4 to 6 weeks for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Suite 234, Reno, Nevada 89502 (telephone (775) 861-6300). Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to Bob Williams, Field Supervisor, at the above Reno address. This plan is

currently available on the World Wide Web at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html#plans>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Selena Werdon, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Reno address and telephone number.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of our endangered species program and the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Recovery means improvement of the status of listed species to the point at which listing is no longer appropriate under the criteria set out in section 4(a)(1) of the Act. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Act requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. We will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments may result in changes to the recovery plan. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plan, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individual responses to comments will not be provided.

Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), members of the family Salmonidae, are char native to the Pacific Northwest and western Canada. Compared to other salmonids, bull trout have more specific habitat requirements, including cold water temperatures, particularly for spawning and rearing, and the presence of complex forms of cover for all life history stages, including large woody debris, undercut banks, boulders and pools. Bull trout may be resident or may exhibit one of three migratory life history forms.

The Jarbidge River Distinct Population Segment of bull trout occurs in the Jarbidge River and Bruneau River watersheds of northern Nevada and southwestern Idaho. Bull trout occur in