



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 29, 2008**

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**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING TO BE HELD FOR
FRUIT GROWERS SUPPLY COMPANY'S HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN**

YREKA, Calif., -- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will hold scoping meetings to gather information from the public so these federal agencies can develop a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with regard to the Fruit Growers Supply Company's proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), which will also include an application for Incidental Take Permits (ITPs).

These ITPs would enable the Fruit Growers Supply Co. to continue its forest management and timber operations on approximately 154,000 acres of company-owned land in Siskiyou County, Calif., for a period of 50 years. As part of its permit application, Fruit Growers Supply Co. will submit a HCP describing the measures it will implement to minimize and mitigate effects of its activities on three federally listed species and two unlisted species.

The species affected would include the northern spotted owl and Yreka phlox, which are under the jurisdiction of the FWS; and the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coasts coho salmon, which is under the jurisdiction of NMFS. The unlisted species, also under NMFS jurisdiction, are the California Coastal Chinook salmon and the Klamath Mountains Province steelhead.

The meetings will be held on March 11 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the Best Western Miner's Inn Convention Center, 122 East Miner Street, Yreka, Calif.; and on March 12 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the Karuk Tribe Housing Authority-Headway Building, 64101 2nd Avenue, Happy Camp, Calif.

Meeting dates are subject to change in the event of adverse weather conditions. The public is encouraged to contact the Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office at (530) 842-5763 to ensure there are no weather-related cancellations. If these meetings are postponed, they will be rescheduled for March 25 and March 26 (not the alternative dates published in the Federal Register notice, which were printed in error).

The primary purpose of these scoping meetings is to identify important issues raised by the public related to the issuance of ITPs for the HCP. Interested persons are encouraged to attend the public scoping meetings and to identify and discuss issues that should be addressed in the EIS. More information about HCPs and ITPs can be found at www.fws.gov/Endangered/pdfs/HCP/HCP_Incidental_Take.pdf.

A copy of the Federal Register notice announcing this meeting can be viewed on the Web at www.fws.gov/yreka. Comments regarding the scope of the EIS and requests for additional information should be addressed to Lisa Roberts, NMFS, 1655 Heindon Road, Arcata, California, 95521. Written comments may also be sent by facsimile to (707) 825-4840 or by e-mail to FGS-Scoping.SWR@noaa.gov. Written comments must be received on or before April 7, 2008.