



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

MAR 29 2001

James A. Kraft
Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Plum Creek Timber Company Inc.
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2300
Seattle, Washington 98104-4096

Dear Mr. Kraft:

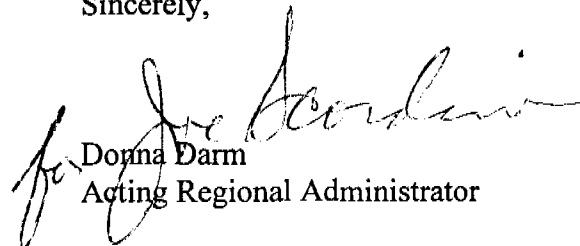
Enclosed is Incidental Take Permit Number 1220 issued to Plum Creek Timberlands and related companies (PCTC) under the authority of Section 10 (a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Permit 1220 authorizes incidental take of threatened Puget Sound (PS) chinook and threatened Middle Columbia River (MCR) steelhead trout associated with timber and related management activities in Washington state, as per the provisions of the PCTC Central Cascades Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Implementation Agreement (IA). Other currently unlisted species of anadromous fish will be added to the permit according to the provisions of the IA.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has determined that if PCTC management activities are conducted as described in the HCP, and in compliance with the terms and conditions of the IA and the permit, the expected take will be appropriately minimized and mitigated for and will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival or recovery of the PS chinook and MCR steelhead trout.

The authorization granted by this permit is subject to full and complete compliance with, and implementation of, the HCP and IA. The term of this permit is for 50 years and may be extended for another 50 years as Phase II, according to the IA provisions.

If PCTC does not comply with the terms and conditions of the permit, or cannot provide adequate funding for the HCP, the incidental take of PS chinook and MCR steelhead trout is not authorized. If you have any questions concerning the permit, please contact Steve Landino at the Washington State Habitat Conservation Branch, Lacey, WA, (360) 753-9530.

Sincerely,


Donna Darm
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure



NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
PERMIT FOR INCIDENTAL TAKE OF ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES

Permit Number: 1220

Expiration Date: Phase I of this permit (as defined in the Implementation Agreement (IA)) expires on June 27, 2046. Phase II of the permit runs from June 27, 2046 through June 27, 2096; provided that the Phase II period of the permit is effective only to the extent provided for in the IA.

Permit Holder:

Plum Creek Timberlands, L.P. and its partners Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc. and Plum Creek Timber I L.L.C.; Plum Creek Marketing, Inc.; and Plum Creek Land Company (referred to individually and collectively in this Permit as "PCTC")
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2300
Seattle, Washington 98104-4096

Principal Officer and Contact:

James A. Kraft, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, PCTC
Phone: (206)-467-3604
Fax: (206)-467-3799

Reporting Requirements: As described in Section 5.1.8 of the Plum Creek Timber Company Central Cascades Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) as revised December 2000, and in Section 10.0 of the IA.

Authorization:

PCTC and its officers, employees, agents and contractors are hereby authorized the incidental take of Puget Sound (PS) chinook salmon and Middle Columbia River (MCR) steelhead trout associated with its timber and related management activities in Washington state, subject to the provisions of the IA for the HCP, the provisions of Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regulations governing ESA-listed species permits (50 CFR Parts 222.301-222.309), and the conditions hereinafter set forth.

Abstract:

PCTC is authorized incidental take of Puget Sound (PS) chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and Middle Columbia River (MCR) steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) associated with PCTC covered activities in Washington state, pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. Unlisted species will be added to the permit in accordance with Section 7.1.2 of the IA and Condition 8 of this permit.

The HCP utilizes a combination of conservation measures that are expected to minimize and mitigate, to the maximum extent practicable, the impacts of take of the anadromous fish species as addressed in the HCP. The HCP includes a Riparian Management Strategy which is designed to protect in-stream habitat for resident and anadromous fish species in adjacent Riparian Habitat Areas (RHAs) (HCP, Section 3.3). This strategy incorporates watershed analysis and Plum Creek's ongoing experimentation with New Forestry techniques in the design of RHAs. In general, the RHAs will be designed to achieve six ecological objectives that are described in (HCP, Section 3.3) of the Riparian Management Strategy. These minimization and mitigation measures described in the HCP are the minimum level of conservation the PCTC has committed to implement. Watershed analysis may result in more protective conservation measures for specific areas. To ensure that the mitigation and minimization strategies are effective, the HCP incorporates a variety of monitoring components and supplemental studies that will provide feedback for adaptive management, and if needed, changes in the conservation measures set forth (HCP, Section 5.4.3.3). A thorough and detailed monitoring/reporting schedule can be found in HCP Section 5.1 (Table 33).

Incidental Take:

Covered activities that may cause incidental take of listed species will be conducted throughout the covered lands as listed in the HCP, Section 1.1, including stream typing and monitoring under the HCP. The principal areas in which covered activities will be conducted are the Green and Yakima River sub-basins, King and Kittitas counties respectively.

NMFS anticipates that an undetermined number of PS chinook salmon and MCR steelhead trout may be taken as a result of covered activities over the 50 to 100 year life of this permit. The incidental take of these species is expected to be in the form of harm, harassment, kill and injury (including without limitation when the foregoing occurs as a direct or indirect result of modification of habitat of any species covered by this permit).

Conditions:

1. The provisions of this permit may be amended as provided in section 7.1 of the IA.
2. Except as may be provided in current or future NMFS' regulations, PCTC may not transfer or assign this permit to any other person(s), as person is defined in the Section 3(12) of the ESA and this permit is not in force or effective if transferred or assigned to any other person.
3. This permit does not authorize PCTC or any other person to take ESA-listed species in the territorial waters of another country without the consent of that country. PCTC is responsible for securing consent from that country and complying with that country appropriate laws.
4. A copy of this permit, including the accompanying HCP and related agreements, must be available to PCTC personnel at the PCTCs field offices with responsibility for managing covered lands, which offices are currently located in Enumclaw and Roslyn, WA. All applicable provisions of this permit must be communicated to all authorized officers, employees,

contractors, or agents of PCTC who are conducting authorized activities.

5. PCTC, in effecting the take authorized by this permit, is considered to have accepted the terms and conditions of this permit and to be prepared to comply with the provisions of this permit, the applicable regulations, and the ESA.

6. To the extent provided by law, upon request by NMFS, PCTC must allow NMFS, or any other person(s) duly designated by NMFS, to inspect PCTCs records and facilities if such records and facilities pertain to (i) activities for which take of listed species is authorized by this permit, (ii) ESA-listed species covered by this permit, or (iii) NMFS' responsibilities under the ESA.

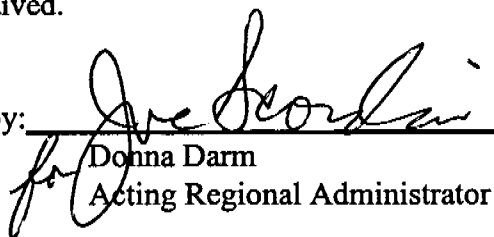
7. PCTC is responsible for the activities of any individual who is operating under the authority of this permit. Such activities include capturing, handling, releasing, transporting, maintaining, and caring for any fish authorized to be taken by this permit.

8. The permit will take effect for currently listed covered species on the date of issuance of this permit. Unlisted covered species may be added to this permit under the procedures of Section 7.1.2 of the IA.

9. Upon locating any dead, injured, or sick individuals of any listed species covered by this permit, PCTC shall, within three working days, notify NMFS Washington State Branch Office, Olympia, Washington ((360)753-9530). Instructions for proper handling and disposition of such specimens will be issued at that time. Care must be taken in handling sick or injured specimens to ensure effective treatment and care, and in the handling of dead specimens to preserve biological material in the best possible state. This condition does not apply to spawned-out carcasses.

10. The fee in 50 CFR Section 222.307(d)(5) to cover the cost of issuance of this permit has been waived.

Issued by:


for Donna Darm
Acting Regional Administrator

Date:

3/29/01