



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

October 10, 2008

Mr. Edward W. Shepard  
Bureau of Land Management State Director  
Oregon State Office  
P.O. Box 2965  
Portland, Oregon 97208



Dear Mr. Shepard:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) received your letter documenting the actions relative to the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has taken regarding compliance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In that letter, you also briefly summarize the proposed plan-level guidance that BLM anticipates will be included in the six incorporated, individual, coordinated Resource Management Plans.

As you know, in August, 2005, NMFS received cooperating agency status under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) upon which BLM's WOPR is based. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations emphasize cooperative consultation among agencies before an EIS is prepared, rather than submitting adversarial comments on a completed document (40 CFR 1501.1(b)). As a cooperating agency, NMFS submitted comments on BLM's preferred alternative in the draft EIS (DEIS). NMFS appreciates BLM's consideration of those comments in changes from the proposed alternative in the DEIS into what has become the current Proposed Resource Management Plans (PRMP) that will be considered by BLM in the Final EIS.

NMFS' involvement in the WOPR process to date also reflects numerous discussions and correspondence with BLM relating to the ESA. Consistent with its independent responsibilities under the ESA, NMFS will continue to consult on all actions where BLM requests consultation under section 7 of the ESA to ensure that those actions will not jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or adversely modify critical habitat. We look forward to working with you in project-specific consultations to further address these issues.



Thank you for the update on the status and direction of BLM's Proposed Resource Management Plans under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. NMFS looks forward to continuing to provide BLM with assistance in meeting its continuing obligation under the ESA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Robert Lohn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

D. Robert Lohn  
Regional Administrator

cc: USFWS, NW Region