

requirements of 40 CFR parts 1500–1508 Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations to implement NEPA apply to the preparation of the Environmental Assessment. Specifically, 40 CFR 1506.6 requires agencies to provide public notice of the availability of environmental documents. This notice is part of NOAA's action to comply with this requirement.

Copies of the Proposed Findings Document, EA, and Finding of No Significant Impact may be found on the NOAA Web site at <http://www.ocrm.nos.noaa.gov/czm/6217/> or may be obtained upon request from: Helen Farr, Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, phone (301) 713–3155, x150, e-mail [helen.farr@noaa.gov](mailto:helen.farr@noaa.gov).

**DATES:** Individuals or organizations wishing to submit comments on the proposed Findings Document or EA should do so by April 16, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be made to: John King, Acting Chief, Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, phone (301) 713–3155, x188, e-mail [john.king@noaa.gov](mailto:john.king@noaa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Helen Farr, Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, phone (301) 713–3155, x150, e-mail [helen.farr@noaa.gov](mailto:helen.farr@noaa.gov).

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Administration)

Dated: March 5, 2003.

**Jamison S. Hawkins,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

**G. Tracy Mehan III,**

*Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency.*  
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**BILLING CODE 3510–08–M**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[I.D.022003D]

#### Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Federal Actions Under the Endangered Species Act Related to the State of Washington Forest Practices Rules

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (NEPA), that NOAA Fisheries and FWS (known hereafter as the Services) intend to gather information necessary to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) related to anticipated applications from the State of Washington (State) for take authorization or a take limit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). Washington State has entered into discussions with the Services in anticipation of submitting an application for take authorization pursuant to the ESA (see Background Section for specific sections) for the Washington State Forest Practices Rules, regulating forest management activities on non-Federal forest lands in the state of Washington.. Both Services have listed threatened and endangered species in the State that are likely to be affected by this action. The species are identified below in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** and in the “Covered Resources” section of Appendix A and Schedule H–1 of the Forests and Fish Report, April 1999, available at <http://www.wa.gov/dnr/htdocs/forestpractices/rules/forestsandfish> or by calling one of the contacts listed below in **ADDRESSES**.

The Services are providing this notice: (1) to advise other agencies and the public of their intent to prepare a DEIS on the State application(s); and (2) to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the DEIS.

**DATES:** Written scoping comments for the DEIS from all interested parties must be received no later than 5 p.m. Pacific time on April 16, 2003. Interested parties may contact the Services for more information at the addresses and phone numbers listed below. Four public scoping workshops will be held in 2003. Each meeting will begin with a one-hour open house to accommodate informal discussion and questions; the presentation portion of the meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

The meeting dates and times are:

1. March 18, 2003, 5 - 8 p.m., Tacoma, WA.
2. March 20, 2003, 5 - 8 p.m., Port Angeles, WA.
3. March 25, 2003, 5 - 8 p.m., Spokane, WA.
4. March 26, 2003, 5 - 8 p.m., Ellensburg, WA.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and requests for information should be sent to Craig Hansen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 510 Desmond Drive, S.E., Suite 102, Lacey, WA 98503–1273, telephone (360)753–6046, facsimile (360)753–9518; or Steve Keller, NOAA Fisheries, 510 Desmond Drive, S.E., Suite 103, Lacey, WA 98503–1273, telephone (360)534–9309, facsimile (360)753 9517. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above addresses.

The meeting locations are:

1. Tacoma, Tacoma Sheraton Hotel, 1328 Broadway Plaza, Tacoma, WA.
2. Port Angeles, Red Lion Hotel, 221 North Lincoln, Port Angeles, WA.
3. Spokane, Red Lion Hotel at the Park, 303 W. North River Drive, Spokane, WA.
4. Ellensburg, Grupe Center at Central Washington University, 400 East 8th Avenue, Ellensburg, WA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steve Keller, (360) 534-9309.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Species Listed in this Notice

NMFS listed species potentially addressed in this action include Ozette Lake sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), Snake River sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*), Puget Sound chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), Lower Columbia River chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), Upper Columbia River spring-run chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), Snake River fall chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*) Lower Columbia River steelhead (*O. mykiss*), Middle Columbia River steelhead (*O. mykiss*), Upper Columbia River