SUMMARY: This notice announces the extension of the comment period on the application from the County of San Diego, California, for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Because of an administrative error, the original public comment period that closes December 15, 1997 (62 FR 61140) is extended to allow adequate time for review and response by the public. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act. All comments received will become part of the public record and may be released.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before January 12, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Mr. Gail Kobetich, Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California 92008. Comments may be sent by facsimile to telephone (760) 431–9618.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Sherry Barrett, Assistant Field Supervisor, at the above address; telephone (760) 431–9440.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Documents

The application includes the County of San Diego Subarea Plan and an Implementing Agreement, both of which were prepared in accordance with the regional Multiple Species Conservation Program. Persons wishing to obtain copies of the documents or additional background material should contact the County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use, 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B, Mail Station 0650, San Diego, California 92123; telephone (619) 260–8316. Documents will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.), Monday through Friday, at the above County office and at the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Dated: December 8, 1997.

Thomas Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 97–32513 Filed 12–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to Allow Incidental Take of Species on Lands Administered by Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P., in the States of Idaho, Montana, and Washington

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior; National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notce of intent.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (collectively, the ''Services'') intend to gather information necessary to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to conduct public scoping meetings. Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P. (Plum Creek) has informed the Services that it is preparing an application for a permit and approval of a Conservation Plan (Plan) covering bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and possibly other native salmonids, including steelhead trout (*Onchorynchus mykiss* ssp.), pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The proposed Plan would be designed to address the effects of Plum Creek activities that may have an impact on bull trout and possibly other aquatic species not currently listed under the Act. As a part of its application, Plum Creek may be seeking a permit that would authorize incidental take of steelhead trout, an aquatic species presently listed under the Act. Plum Creek would also be seeking future incidental take authority, subject to certain conditions, for other species adequately covered by the Plan should those species subsequently be listed under the Act during the term of the Plan. The Plan would be in the form of a Candidate Conservation Agreement or a Habitat Conservation Plan, depending upon whether it includes species currently listed under the Act.

In compliance with their responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500, *et. seq.*) the Services jointly announce their intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed action of approving the proposed Plan and issuing the permit. This notice is furnished to solicit suggestions and information from tribes, other agencies, and the public to determine the scope of issues and alternatives to be considered in preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement. The Services jointly announce their intent to hold scoping meetings, the date, time, and place of which are provided in this notice, below. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6.

DATES: Scoping will commence as of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register.** Written comments on the scope of the proposed action, the approval of the Plan and issuance of the permit should be received on or before February 27, 1998. A total of six scoping meetings will be held in each of the three states, on January 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, and 29, 1998. Each meeting will run from 3:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The Services will use an open house format for the meetings, allowing interested members of the public to drop by at any point during the meeting to gather information and/or provide comments.

ADDRESSES: Meeting locations are scheduled as follows: January 14—Venture Motor Inn, 443 Highway 2 West, Libby, Montana; January 15—Outlaw Inn, 1701 U.S. 93 South, Kalispell, Montana; January 21—Shilo Inn, 702 West Appleway, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; January 22—Holiday Inn Parkside, 200 South Pattee, Missoula, Montana; January 28, Doubletree Inn, 510 Kelso Drive, Kelso, Washington; and January 29, Cavanaugh's Gateway, 9 North 9th Street, Yakima, Washington, Written comments regarding the proposed action and the proposed Environmental Impact Statement should be addressed to Robert G. Ruesink, Supervisor, Snake River Basin Fish and Wildlife Office, 1387 South Vinnell Way, Room 368, Boise, Idaho 83709.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ted Koch, at the address above, (208) 378–5293; Bill Vogel, Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office, 510 Desmond Drive, Suite 102, Lacey, Washington, 98503–1273 (360) 753–4367; or Bob Ries, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 377, Boise, Idaho, 83709 (208) 378–5647.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under section 9 of the Act and its implementing regulations, ''taking'' of a threatened or endangered species, is prohibited. However, under certain circumstances the Services may issue permits to take these wildlife species if such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities.

Regulations governing permits for taking of threatened or endangered species are found at 50 CFR 17.22, 50 CFR 17.32, 50 CFR 222.22, 50 CFR 222.23, and 50 CFR 227.21. According to the Services' draft policy and proposed rule for Candidate Conservation Agreements, the Services may also issue permits, under certain circumstances, in connection with a Candidate Conservation Agreement (see 62 FR 32183–32188, June 12, 1997).

Plum Creek proposes to develop the Plan employing the technical assistance of the Services. Plum Creek has identified the goals of their Plan as:

1. To the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impacts of Plum Creek's activities on all species covered by the Plan.

2. Provide habitat conditions that are necessary and advisable to conserve and enhance species populations, and allow for the long-term survival of species covered by the Plan.

To the extent that unlisted species are covered by the Plan, Plum Creek's objective is to address the listing factors under its control such that the listing of such species would be unnecessary, assuming the measures in the Plan were implemented by similarly situated landowners through a species' range.

3. Provide Plum Creek will predictability and flexibility to manage its timberlands economically. Plum Creek's objective is that the Plan would meet or exceed the standards set forth in the Services' ''No Surprises'' Policy proposed rule such that Plum Creek would be entitled to the assurances provided thereunder (see FR 29091, May 29, 1997).

The terms of any permit that the Services may issue in connection with Plum Creek's Plan, will be governed by the Services' final policy and rules for Candidate Conservation Agreements, or the final ''No Surprises'' rule, depending upon which is applicable.

The Scope of the Agreement

As currently envisioned, the Plan would involve a multi-year agreement covering approximately 1.7 million acres of Plum Creek ownership in the Pacific Northwest, including 1,462,000 acres in Montana, 132,000 acres in Idaho, and 85,000 acres in Washington. These acres include all Plum Creek ownership in Idaho and Montana, and those acres in Washington which are tributary to the Columbia River and not included in Plum Creek's approved Cascades Habitat Conservation Plan. In addition, the Plan might include 71,000 acres of Plum Creek ownership in the Puget Sound Basin that are presently not addressed in the company's Cascades Habitat Conservation Plan. Plum Creek is currently considering an agreement term of 30 years for the Plan. The Services specifically request comment on the term of the agreement.

Plum Creek has indicated that the Plan will adopt a multi-species, aquatic-ecosystem approach spanning all watersheds in the planning area in order to protect bull trout specifically, as well as other aquatic species. Bull trout are currently proposed for listing under the Act.

The intent of employing an aquatic-ecosystem approach would be to address biological concerns of fish species present in the area and remove threats to the species and/or their habitat. Other species besides bull trout which could be included in the plan include westslope cutthroat trout (*Onchorynchus clarki lewisi*), redband trout (*Onchorynchus mykiss* ssp.), and steelhead trout. Other aquatic species may also be included. Except for steelhead trout, which is listed as threatened under the Act, all of these species are currently unlisted. The Service specifically requests comment on the aquatic ecosystem approach to Plan development, and the possibility of inclusion of these and other species in the Plan and permit.

A key assumption for species protection in the Plan may be that actions taken to address the biological needs of bull trout would be beneficial to other fish species in the area. For planning purposes, the Plan and environmental analysis may rely, in part, on a classification of watershed units based on bull trout biology. In addition, the conservation needs of other fish species to be included in the Plan would be fully and independently identified and analyzed, and any additional actions necessary for their conservation would be included in the Plan.

The Plan may use a two-tier bull trout habitat classification system. Tier 1 watersheds would include Plum Creek lands within catchment areas (drainages) tributary to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th order watercourses known or suspected to support spawning and juvenile rearing of bull trout. Tier 2 watersheds would include Plum Creek lands within catchment areas tributary to all other watercourses within the Columbia River basin, within the project area. Some of these areas are known or are suspected to provide migratory, foraging, and over-wintering habitat for adult and sub-adult bull trout. Tier 2 watersheds may also provide the majority of available habitat (on Plum Creek lands), for other native salmonids such as westslope cutthroat trout, redband trout, and steelhead trout.

Fish habitat management, mitigation and restoration activities in Tier 1 watersheds would focus on protection of habitat for spawning and rearing of bull trout and other fish species included in the plan. Conservation measures in Tier 2 watersheds would be designed to protect migration, foraging, and overwintering habitat for bull trout and other fish species, and possibly spawning and rearing habitat for other fish species. The Services will evaluate the conservation needs of bull trout and other fish species throughout their ranges to ensure that conservation measures in the Plan are adequate to allow for long-term survival of each species.

As a component of this planning process, the Services seek to identify fish habitat conditions and land management actions on lands adjacent to those owned and managed by Plum Creek. In many cases, these lands may be managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. In such cases the Services will seek to work with the Forest Service under existing authorities to develop and implement management actions that are complementary to those developed for Plum Creek lands. This approach to habitat conservation planning will help ensure that adequate conservation of bull trout habitat, and habitat for other fish species, is achieved in the planning area.

Plum Creek management activities that might impact fish species covered under the Plan include commercial forestry and associated activities (such as logging road construction, logging road maintenance, gravel quarrying primarily for the purposes of logging road construction, and silvicultural activities including tree planting, site preparation, pesticide application, fertilization, and prescribed burning). Other activities which could also be addressed include forest fire suppression, open range cattle grazing, miscellaneous forest and land product sales (such as gravel and landscape stones). Non-forestry related activities also addressed would include special forest use permits for commercial outfitting, special recreation permits (such as club activities on Plum Creek land), electronic facility sites, manufacturing of forest products, and other activities common to commercial forestry and the forest products business.

Proposed Conservation Measures

For the proposed Plan, Plum Creek would develop specific conservation

measures to be implemented under the umbrella of the company's ''environmental principles.'' The measures would be developed under the following general categories:

1. Riparian Management Areas. Conservation measures would be developed to regulate activities in riparian areas. Such measures would address habitat needs by providing adequate wood for habitat complexity, adequate canopy cover for temperature management, and adequate filtration for the prevention of sediment delivery to streams.

2. Forest Road Management. Sediment from forest roads is recognized as having the potential to significantly impact fish habitat. Conservation measures would be developed to minimize the delivery of sediment from forest roads to streams.

3. Grazing. Livestock grazing (primarily cattle) occurs on over 40% of Plum Creek ownership in the planning area. Intensive grazing on many of these acres has occurred annually for decades, and for over a century in some locations. Conservation measures would be developed to manage riparian impacts resulting from grazing.

4. Land-Use Planning. Plum Creek owns property in the planning area that may ultimately have long-term uses other than forestry. Plum Creek also buys and sells land in the planning area. Land Use Planning measures would be developed to mitigate the impacts of future development or land ownership adjustments.

5. Legacy Management and Other Restoration Opportunities. On Plum Creek ownership, the legacy impacts of a variety of past management activities may have a greater bearing on fish habitat health than current practices under well-informed land-management policies and regulations. Restoration and legacy-management projects designed to remove threats to fish habitat may be identified as a part of this Plan.

6. Administration and Implementation. Plum Creek would initiate a program to monitor significant elements of the Plan and develop a program to inform and educate contractors and employees on standards and practices to be implemented.

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

As currently envisioned, the Plan would incorporate active adaptive management features, including watershed analysis. Research and monitoring would help determine the effectiveness of the Plan, validate models used to develop the Plan, and provide the basic information used to implement ''mid-course corrections'' if necessary.

Dated: December 8, 1997.

Thomas Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 97–32512 Filed 12–11–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

A request revising and extending the collection of information listed below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's Clearance Officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the requirement should be made within 30 days directly to the Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to the Bureau Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, Reston, VA 20192.

As required by OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the U.S. Geological Survey solicits specific public comments regarding the proposed information collection as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the bureau, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. The utility, quality, and clarity of the information to be collected; and,

4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Lime.

Current OMB approval number: 1032–0038.

Abstract: Respondents supply the U.S. Geological Survey with domestic production, values, end-use data, and capacity information on the domestic lime industry. This information will be published as an Annual Report for use by Government agencies, industry, and the general public.

Bureau form number: 6–1221–A.

Frequency: Annual.

Description of respondents: Commercial and captive producers of quicklime, hydrated lime, and dead-burned dolomite.

Annual Responses: 110.

Annual burden hours: 165.

Bureau clearance officer: John E. Cordyack, Jr., 703–648–7313.

John H. DeYoung, Jr.,

Acting Chief Scientist, Minerals Information Team.

[FR Doc. 97–32514 Filed 12–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–31–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

A request revising and extending the collection of information listed below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's Clearance Officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the requirement should be made within 30 days directly to the Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington DC 20503 and to the Bureau Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, Reston, VA 20192.

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3. The utility, quality, and clarity of the information to be collected; and,