

to the Bureau of Reclamation addressing the effects of water management activities in the Upper Deschutes River Basin to the Oregon spotted frog, and continuation of actions covered in other ESA section 7 consultation documents addressing the effects of Deschutes River Basin projects to the Middle Columbia River steelhead trout and the bull trout.

Alternative 2—Proposed Action, Deschutes Basin HCP: Under this alternative, identified as the preferred alternative in the FEIS, the Services would issue 30-year ITPs to the applicants for incidental take of the four covered species caused by covered activities in the plan area, and the applicants would implement the HCP. Over the 30-year period of HCP implementation, in-stream flows would be modified to mimic more natural flow patterns to support the various life stages of the covered species.

Alternative 3—Enhanced Variable Streamflows: Under this alternative, the Services would issue ITPs to the applicants for the same plan area, covered lands and waters, covered species, covered activities, and permit term as described for the proposed action, but with modifications to the HCP conservation strategy, including increased fall and winter flows in the Deschutes River below Wickiup Dam, in-stream protection of uncontracted water releases on the Crooked River for fish and wildlife, and the inclusion of a habitat improvement fund for projects in the Upper Deschutes River Basin.

Alternative 4—Accelerated Schedule for Enhanced Variable Streamflows: Under this alternative, the Services would issue ITPs to the applicants for the same plan area, covered lands and waters, covered species, and covered activities as described for the proposed action, but with a 20-year permit term and modifications to the HCP conservation strategy for an accelerated schedule for increases in fall and winter flows in the Deschutes River below Wickiup Dam, in-stream protection of additional uncontracted water releases on the Crooked River for fish and wildlife, and the habitat improvement fund for projects in the Upper Deschutes River Basin.

As the DEIS was developed prior to the Council on Environmental Quality's issuance of updated regulations implementing NEPA which went into effect on September 14, 2020 (40 CFR 1506.13), the FEIS was completed under the previous regulations in the interest of time and efficiency.

EPA's Role in the EIS Process

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is charged with reviewing all Federal agency EISs and commenting on the adequacy and acceptability of the environmental impacts of proposed actions addressed in these EISs. Therefore, EPA is publishing a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing this EIS, as required under section 309 of the Clean Air Act. EPA serves as the repository (EIS database) for EISs prepared by Federal agencies. You may search for EPA comments on EISs, along with EISs themselves, at <https://cdxnodengn.epa.gov/cdx-eneпа-public/action/eis/search>.

Public Involvement

The notice of intent (NOI) to prepare a DEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on July 24, 2017 (82 FR 34326). The NOI also announced a public scoping period (July 24, 2017, through September 22, 2017), during which interested parties were invited to provide written comments related to the proposal. Four public scoping meetings were held: Two in Madras, Oregon, on August 14, 2017; and two in Bend, Oregon, on August 15, 2017. The meetings were convened in accordance with NEPA procedures (40 CFR 1501.7). Using public scoping comments, FWS prepared a DEIS to analyze the effects of the above alternatives on the human environment, with input from NMFS as a cooperating agency. A notice of availability (NOA) of the DEIS and draft HCP was published by FWS in the **Federal Register** on October 4, 2019 (84 FR 53164), opening a 45-day public comment period. Also on that day, NMFS published a NOA for the draft HCP in the **Federal Register** (84 FR 53114), also announcing a 45-public comment period. The Services also published a 15-day extension of the comment period on October 29, 2019 (84 FR 58169; 85 FR 61026), bringing the total comment period to 60 days for both the DEIS and draft HCP. Two public open-house meetings were held, on October 15, 2019, in Bend, Oregon, and on October 16, 2019, in Prineville, Oregon, to solicit additional input from the public on the DEIS and draft HCP. A total of 1,611 comment letters and electronic submissions were received from the public. The official comment period ended on December 4, 2019.

Next Steps

The Services will evaluate the permit applications, associated documents, and public comments in reaching a final decision on whether the applications meet the requirements of section 10(a)

of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1539 *et seq.*). The Services will also each evaluate whether the proposed permit action would comply with section 7 of the ESA. If the requirements are met, the Services will issue the ITPs to the applicants. Each agency (FWS and NMFS) will issue a record of decision, and approve or deny the request for an ITP no sooner than 30 days after publication of EPA's NOA of the FEIS in the **Federal Register**.

Public Review

We are not requesting public comments on the FEIS and HCP, but any written comments we receive will become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in a comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Authority

We provide this notice in accordance with the requirements of section 10 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1503.1 and 1506.6).

Robyn Thorson,

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Angela Somma,

Chief, Endangered Species Conservation, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-HQ-R-2020-N136;
FXGO1664091HCC0-FF09D00000-190]

Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council; Public Meeting by Videoconference

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce a public meeting via videoconference of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council (Council), in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The videoconference is open to the public.

DATES: *Videoconference:* Thursday, December 3, 2020, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Deadlines: For deadlines for registration, requests for accommodation, or comment submission, please see Public Input under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas Hobbs, Designated Federal Officer, by email at doug_hobbs@fws.gov, by telephone at 703-358-2336, or by the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council was established to further the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a *et seq.*), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701-1785), the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-ee), other statutes applicable to specific bureaus, and Executive Order 13443 (August 16, 2007), "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation." The Council's purpose is to provide recommendations to the Federal Government, through the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, regarding policies and endeavors that (a) benefit wildlife resources; (b) encourage partnership among the public; sporting conservation organizations; and Federal, State, Tribal, and territorial governments; and (c) benefit

recreational hunting and recreational shooting sports.

Meeting Agenda

- Review issues and recommendations from the 2018-2020 Council term and consider a final report of activities.

- Discuss issues for future Council consideration.

- Conduct other miscellaneous Council business.

- Open public comment period.

The final agenda and other related meeting information will be posted on the Council website at <https://www.fws.gov/hsscc>. The Designated Federal Officer will maintain detailed minutes of the meeting, which will be posted for public inspection within 90 days after the meeting at <https://www.fws.gov/hsscc>.

Public Input

If you wish to

You must contact the Council Designated Federal Officer (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) no later than

Listen to the meeting via telephone (listen-only mode)	November 30, 2020.
Request special accommodations	November 27, 2020.
Submit written information before the meeting for the Council to consider during the videoconference	November 30, 2020.
Give an oral presentation during the videoconference	December 3, 2020.
Submit a copy of oral statement or expanded statement, or to submit statement because time constraints prevented presentation during the videoconference.	Up to 30 days after the videoconference date.

Submitting Written Information

Interested members of the public may submit relevant information for the Council to consider during the videoconference. Written statements must be received by the Council Designated Federal Officer no later than the date in Public Input so that the information may be made available to the Council for their consideration prior to the videoconference. Written statements must be supplied to the Council Designated Federal Officer via email (acceptable file formats are Adobe Acrobat PDF, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, or rich text file) (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Giving an Oral Presentation

Depending on the number of people who want to comment and the time available, the amount of time for individual oral comments may be limited. Interested parties should contact the Council Designated Federal Officer, in writing (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), for placement on the public speaker list for this videoconference. Registered speakers

who wish to expand upon their oral statements, or those who had wished to speak but could not be accommodated on the agenda, may submit written statements to the Council Designated Federal Officer up to 30 days following the meeting. Requests to address the Council during the videoconference will be accommodated in the order the requests are received. Requests to address the Council during the teleconference will be accommodated in the order the requests are received.

Accommodations

The Service is committed to providing access to this videoconference to all participants. Please direct all requests for accommodations to Douglas Hobbs (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) by close of business on the date in Public Input. If you are hearing impaired or speech impaired, contact Douglas Hobbs via the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

Availability of Public Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your

comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2)

Matthew Huggler,

Acting Assistant Director—External Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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Second Call for Nominations for the Rio Puerco Management Committee, New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.