



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
West Coast Region  
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232

June 11, 2020

Dear Madam or Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we announce the availability for review of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for Sierra Pacific Land & Timber Company (SPL&T) and Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) Forestland Management Program Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) in the Sacramento River and Trinity River Basins, California.

SPL&T is the largest private forest land owner in the state of California, with ownership currently encompassing approximately 1.64 million acres of timberland throughout the northern and central portions of the state. SPI is the authorized representative and manager of SPL&T lands. SPI has prepared a joint HCP and SHA to address effects of forestland management in the Sacramento River and Trinity River basins on anadromous salmonids listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that are found in several watersheds within SPL&T lands.

- In support of an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) application under Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA, SPI has prepared a HCP that provides: an assessment of impacts; measures to monitor, minimize, and mitigate for those impacts; and procedures to account for unforeseen or extraordinary circumstances.
- In support of an Enhancement of Survival Permit (ESP) application under Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA, SPI has prepared a SHA to address the potential impacts of their timber harvest activities in the Sacramento River and Trinity River basins, upstream of impassable dams where the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is proposing to reintroduce populations of ESA-listed salmonids. The SHA meets the regulatory standard of producing a net conservation benefit for ESA-listed salmonids reintroduced onto SPL&T lands.

The DEA is accessible electronically through the NMFS West Coast Region's website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/habitat-conservation-plan-and-safe-harbor-agreement-sierra-pacific-industries-forestland>. Hard copies or CD copies of the DEA may be obtained from the Comment Coordinator, Amanda Cranford, at the contact information provided below.

Written comments may be submitted to NMFS via the Comment Coordinator during the public-comment period (the closing date for the public comment period is noted at the above website). When submitting comments by email or fax, please include the identifier "Sierra Pacific Industries HCP/SHA" on the subject line or cover page.



Thank you in advance for your vital assistance in ensuring that our evaluation is sound and based upon the best available information.

Comment Coordinator: Amanda Cranford  
Natural Resource Management Specialist  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
West Coast Region  
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Sacramento, California, 95814  
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Commenting Email Address: [SierraPacificHCP.wcr@noaa.gov](mailto:SierraPacificHCP.wcr@noaa.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott R. Thom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

for Barry A. Thom  
Regional Administrator