



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Northern Region
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



March 15, 2019

Jim Simondet, Klamath Branch Chief
National Marine Fisheries Service
1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95521
Jim.simondet@noaa.gov

Subject: Application for Individual Enhancement of Survival Permit Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County

Dear Mr. Simondet:

We are pleased to transmit this application for an Individual Enhancement of Survival Permit (ESP) submitted under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area in Siskiyou County. This application is provided for the Department as a participant to the Shasta River Safe Harbor Agreement process. Though the properties are currently still owned by The Nature Conservancy, they are in escrow and anticipated to transfer to the Department by April 2019.

Below follows the relevant information in support of this application for ESPs consistent with the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) regulations located at 50 C.F.R. section 222.308:

1. Title of applications.

Applications for permits for the enhancement of survival of listed species under the ESA.

2. Date of the permit applications.

The date of these applications listed at the top of this letter.

3. Identity of the applicants, including names, addresses, and telephone numbers.
California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

4. A description of the purpose of the proposed acts.

The enclosed Landowner Site Plan and the Template Safe Harbor Agreement outline in detail the purpose of the proposed acts. These acts include undertaking conservation activities to enhance habitat for Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in the Shasta River, California and its tributaries.

5. A detailed description of the project, or program, in which the species is to be used.

The enclosed Site Plan and Template Safe Harbor Agreement describe the Safe Harbor Agreement conservation program in detail.

6. A description of the species which is the subject of the application.

Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit of Coho Salmon.

7. A description of the manner of transportation for any live animal taken, imported, exported, or shipped in interstate commerce.

Not applicable.

8. Describe the contemplated care and maintenance of any live animals sought, including a complete description of the facilities where any such animals will be maintained.

Not applicable.

9. A statement of willingness to participate in a cooperative breeding program and maintain or contribute data to a stud book.

The Department is willing to participate in any cooperative Coho Salmon breeding programs.

10. A statement of how the applicant's proposed project or program will enhance or benefit the wild population.

The Applicants' proposed program, including those actions described in the enclosed Site Plan and Template Safe Harbor Agreement, will provide a net conservation benefit for Coho Salmon that occur in the Shasta River and its tributaries. The Site Plan has been specifically developed with technical input from NMFS to enhance aquatic habitat within the Shasta River watershed. Conserved water provided through Site Plan implementation will remain in the stream to benefit listed Coho Salmon. Other conservation actions contained in the Site Plan will enhance habitat conditions in the plan area.

11. For the 5 years preceding the date of application, the applicant shall provide a detailed description of all mortalities involving species under the control of or utilized by the applicant and are either presently listed as endangered species or are taxonomically related within the Order to the species which is the subject of this application.

No mortality was associated with management of the property under the current landowner, The Nature Conservancy. As part of the Departments monitoring of juvenile Coho Salmon on the property, we utilized passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags, which involved handling and some subsequent mortality, although this was covered by a section 4(d) authorization.

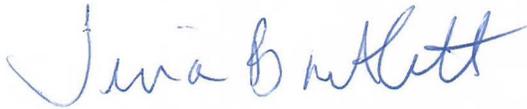
Jim Simondet, Klamath Branch Chief
National Marine Fisheries Service
March 15, 2019
Page 3 of 3

12. A certification in the following language: "I hereby certify that the foregoing information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that this information is submitted for the purpose of obtaining a permit under the Endangered Species Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder, and that any false statement may subject me to the criminal penalties of 18 U.S.C. 1001, or to penalties under the Act."
Through the submission of this permit application and associated supporting documents, the Department so certifies.

13. The applicant and/or an officer thereof must sign the application.
See below.

The Department appreciates all the hard work by NOAA staff and the policy support from management for this effort. We believe this is an excellent opportunity to implement conservation for Coho Salmon through voluntary actions and a collaborative process. The Department also commends The Nature Conservancy for the significant strides to enhance Coho Salmon habitat on this important property. Please contact Curt Babcock of my staff at (530) 225-2740 or curt.babcock@wildlife.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Tina Bartlett
Regional Manager

ec: Jim Simondet
National Marine Fisheries Services
Jim.simondet@noaa.gov

Amy Campbell
The Nature Conservancy
acampvell@tnc.org

Jason Roberts, Jeff Stoddard, Curt Babcock
Department of Fish and Wildlife
jason.roberts@wildlife.ca.gov, jeffrey.stoddard@wildlife.ca.gov,
curt.babcock@wildlife.ca.gov