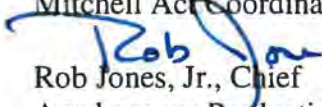




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-1274

April 17, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR: James Dixon
Mitchell Act Coordinator

FROM: 
Rob Jones, Jr., Chief
Anadromous Production and Inland Fisheries Program
Sustainable Fisheries Division

SUBJECT: Acceptance of eighteen (18) Mitchell Act Funded Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMP) for Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7(a)(2) Consultation

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed your request, dated April 8, 2014, for formal Endangered Species Act (ESA) review and concurrence under Section 7 for eighteen (18) hatchery programs that are proposed for funding under the Mitchell Act. These programs are described within the Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) that were submitted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and are listed below in Table 1. The WDFW proposes to release hatchery salmon and steelhead into several Washington tributaries to the Lower Columbia River (LCR) and into the mainstem LCR itself. The HGMPs also describe proposed monitoring and evaluation (M&E) actions within the range of several ESA-listed species that are expected to affect ESA-listed species.

Table 1. Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans submitted for review under the Endangered Species Act.

Program (HGMPs)	Operating Agency
Kalama River Spring Chinook Salmon	WDFW
Deep River Net Pen Tule Fall Chinook Salmon	WDFW
Skamania Hatchery Summer Steelhead (On-Station Release)	WDFW
Drano Lake Summer Steelhead (Skamania Hatchery Outplant)	WDFW
East Fork Lewis River Summer Steelhead (Skamania Hatchery Outplant)	WDFW
Kalama River Hatchery Summer Steelhead (Skamania stock)	WDFW
South Fork Toutle River Cowlitz Game and Anglers (Skamania stock)	WDFW
North Toutle Hatchery Summer Steelhead (Skamania stock)	WDFW
Beaver Creek (Elochoman River) Summer Steelhead (Skamania stock)	WDFW
Skamania Winter Steelhead On-Station Release (Chambers stock)	WDFW
Rock Creek Winter Steelhead (Skamania Hatchery Outplant)	WDFW
Salmon Creek (Klineline Pond) Winter Steelhead (Chambers stock)	WDFW

Program (HGMPs)	Operating Agency
East Fork Lewis River Winter Steelhead (Skamania Hatchery Outplant)	WDFW
Kalama River (Early) Winter Steelhead (Chambers stock)	WDFW
Beaver Creek (Elochoman River) Winter Steelhead (Chambers stock)	WDFW
Grays River Winter Steelhead (Chambers stock)	WDFW
Coweeman Winter Steelhead (Chambers stock)	WDFW
Cathlamet Channel Net Pen Spring Chinook	WDFW

In 1938, Congress passed the Mitchell Act, providing Federal agencies with the authority to work with the states to set up and operate a series of hatcheries and passage facilities to counter declining fish runs in the Columbia River. Mitchell Act hatcheries are the mainstay of many commercial, recreational, and treaty fisheries in the Columbia River Basin; they also contribute to ocean fisheries from the Oregon to Alaska. These hatcheries produce nearly 50 percent of the salmon and steelhead released annually into the Columbia River. Fish produced by these hatcheries mitigate for fish and habitat losses caused by land and water development activities within the Columbia River Basin. NMFS, as the Federal funding agency for the Mitchell Act, must also ensure that Mitchell Act-funded hatchery programs comply with the ESA. The WDFW, in close collaboration with NMFS staff, have taken numerous steps to shape their hatchery programs to be consistent with fisheries objectives and comply with the ESA. The results of these efforts are described in detail in the attached plans.

We have reviewed the material that you submitted for consultation under ESA section 7(a)(2), and have determined that it complies with the section 7 regulations (50 CFR §402.14(c)) and is sufficient to begin consultation. These regulations require that the submitted material include a description of: the specific area that may be affected by the action; any listed species or critical habitat that may be affected by the action; the manner in which the action may affect any listed species or critical habitat; the cumulative effects; relevant reports, including any environmental impact statements, environmental assessments, biological assessments or other analyses prepared on the proposal; and any other relevant studies or other information available on the action, the affected listed species, or critical habitat.

NMFS has assigned reference number WCR-2014-697 to this consultation; please refer to this number in future correspondence concerning this consultation. If you have any questions or comments regarding this memo, please contact Jeromy Jording at (503) 736-4737.

cc: Jeromy Jording, SFD
Sharon Houghton, SFD (file copy)

