



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181



In Response Reply To:  
MBSP/WSFR

August 11, 2008

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) have drafted an environmental assessment of the portion of WDFW's long-standing program of lake rehabilitation program that is funded through annual grants from the USFWS. **Through this letter we are inviting your comments on this environmental assessment.** WDFW's lake rehabilitation program applies rotenone, a plant-based formulation federally registered for this use, to kill fish in selected lakes and ponds that are subsequently restocked with game fishes. Federal funding is through the USFWS' Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

The WDFW routinely applies rotenone to waters in eastern Washington as needed to maintain a diverse and productive angling opportunities. This state fish management program is neither novel nor experimental. WDFW last reviewed the environmental and other consequences of their management program through documentation and public review according to Washington's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) in 2002. In addition, each year the WDFW makes the list of waters being considered for treatment available for public comment and also holds public meetings around the state as part of Washington's ongoing environmental review. The draft environmental assessment described here is intended to meet the USFWS' federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

The environmental assessment considers the environmental baseline and the environmental effects expected to result from each of three alternative approaches to WDFW's lake rehabilitation program. Your comments will be considered in selection among the alternatives. In any case, no projects will be funded by the USFWS until National Environmental Policy Act requirements are met through programmatic or individual project reviews. The alternatives considered are:

- No action: WDFW and the USFWS would continue to publically evaluate individual waters proposed for treatment through both the state and federal environmental policy act processes, as is currently done.
- Proposed Action: WDFW would continue to publically evaluate individual waters proposed for treatment through the State Environmental Policy Act, as is currently done. Federal NEPA requirements would be satisfied for all projects that meet the conditions evaluated in the draft environmental assessment. Projects that apply potassium permanganate to detoxify outflow from lakes where rotenone has been applied are included. Any projects outside the conditions evaluated in the assessment would be individually reviewed under NEPA requirements.

- Alternative Action: WDFW would continue to publically evaluate individual waters proposed for treatment through State Environmental Policy Act process, as is currently done. Federal NEPA requirements would be satisfied for all projects that meet the conditions evaluated in the draft environmental assessment. Projects that apply potassium permanganate to detoxify outflow from lakes where rotenone has been applied are excluded from this programmatic NEPA coverage. Any projects that propose to use potassium permanganate or are otherwise outside the conditions evaluated in the assessment would be individually reviewed under NEPA requirements.

The full text of this environmental assessment is available on-line at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>.

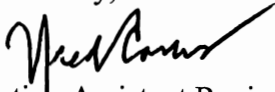
Paper copies are available by mail. To obtain one, please call Maggie Parker, USFWS, at 503-231-2267 and leave your name and mailing address.

Please e-mail your comments to [Sepadesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Sepadesk2@dfw.wa.gov) or send them by ordinary mail to:

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Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program  
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**We will consider all comments received by September 9, 2008 in our evaluation of the adequacy of this environmental assessment and subsequent selection among the three alternatives.**

Sincerely,



Acting Assistant Regional Supervisor  
Migratory Birds and State Programs