

Addendum No. 2 to Blue Mountains Biological Assessment and Appendices

The Forest Service (FS) received a verbal agreement on August 9, 2017, from the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that the draft biological assessment (BA) on the revised Blue Mountains Forest Plans was complete and ready to submit for a final review. The FS delivered a BA in late August 2017 to the FWS and NMFS for their 30 day sufficiency review. Due to changes in the GM-3 guideline a BA addendum was submitted on November 13, 2017. On December 6, 2017 the FS received letters from by the FWS and NMFS that the BA was sufficient to initiate formal consultation.

During the Services' review of the BA, GIS information became available to the Forest Service from NMFS regarding Snake River fall Chinook salmon and its designated critical habitat (DCH) in the planning area. Upon review, the FS determined this information needs to be recognized and considered in the ESA consultation for effects to fall Chinook salmon and its designated critical habitat in the Tucannon River and in the Grande Ronde River up to the confluence with the Wallowa River.

Additionally during the Services' review of the BA, several other minor updates to the BA and its appendices were identified, as follows. Small edits were made in three Standards and Guidelines, none of which substantively change our analysis. Those errors have been corrected in the ARCS and/or in the Plan as noted below. Those edits track through in the BA, the Plan, the ARCS, and the PACFISH/INFISH crosswalk with the ARCS. One of them (MM-2) was listed in the Recovery Plan crosswalks and was revised there as well. Additionally, small errors were identified on maps relating to species distribution and DCH for listed Snake River Chinook salmon in that they showed Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon distribution and DCH in the Middle Columbia River region. Maps for spring/summer Chinook salmon distribution and DCH have been corrected accordingly. Map information was added for Snake River fall Chinook distribution and DCH, along with related information where appropriate. We also reconsidered our available information for fall Chinook salmon and its DCH and decided to change our No Effect determinations to Not Likely to Adversely Affect determinations with supporting maps, tables and narrative discussions, given their locations in or downstream of the planning area in the Tucannon and Grande Ronde River basins.

Therefore, the following changes are provided to the BA and appendices:

Biological Assessment

p. 11. Watersheds and Aquatic Habitats. First paragraph, last sentence. Clarified that there is no EFH for salmon in the Walla Walla and John Day basin portions of the planning area.

p. 15. Last paragraph, Sentences 3 and 4, added to clarify that the portions of the Ochoco National Forest currently administered by the Malheur National Forest, are included in the acres identified as Malheur National Forest in Table 6 and by implication in other BA content where relevant and will be managed under the revised Forest Plan for the Malheur National Forest.

p. 16. Added clarifying phrase, “in the HCNRA”, to emphasize Snake River fall Chinook are not being reinitiated for the HCNRA, but that we intend to consult on Snake River fall Chinook and their DCH in other subbasins affected by forest management in the planning area.

p. 17. Table 1. Added Snake River fall Chinook salmon and DCH for purposes of consulting in Lower Grande Ronde and Tucannon river subbasins.

p. 17. Deleted fall Chinook from **Species Not included in this Biological Assessment and No Effect Determination** section. We acquired GIS data for Snake River fall Chinook salmon DCH from NMFS prior to completion of the draft Biological Opinion and determined it would be best to consult on the species and DCH now rather than reinitiate later. The area being consulted for SR fall Chinook salmon is within the range of effects and geography already analyzed and disclosed for SR spring/summer Chinook and SR steelhead, but is limited to the species and/or DCH in Lower Grande Ronde, and in the Tucannon River far downstream of National Forest System lands.

p. 19. Clarifying language added to disclose that we are not reinitiating consultation for Snake River fall Chinook salmon or their DCH in the Imnaha Wild and Scenic River or Hells Canyon NRA CMP.

p. 46. Table 6. Footnote added to clarify and explain the difference between RMA (MA 4B) vs MA 4B (RMA 300/150/100feet buffers), ie RMA acres (all buffers), are inclusive of but not limited to MA 4B acres within MA 4A.

Standards and Guidelines

P. 41. All Species. FLS-16G is now FLS-14G.

p. 42. Gray Wolf. FLS-18S is now FLS-16S.

p. 42. Plants. FLS-3G is now FLS-2G.

FLS-4S is now FLS-3S

FLS-5G is now FLS-4G

FLS-6G is now FLS-5G

FLS-7S is now FLS-6S

FLS-9G is now FLS-7G

FLS-10G is now FLS-8G

FLS-11S is now FLS-9S

FLS-12G is now FLS-10G

FLS-13S is now FLS-11S

FLS-14S is now FLS-12S

p. 42 (cont.). Plants. FLS-15G is now FLS-13G

FLS-16G is now FLS-14G

p. 44. Plants. FLS-17S is now FLS-15S

p. 77. RMA-1S. Footnote to this standard has been corrected (“S” has been added to “WM-1” to clarify that WM-1S, is a standard.

p. 80. TM-1S. under **MA 4B, Silvicultural and Timber Management:** Substitute the word “shall” for “should”. The word “Shall” reinforces the intent that this is a standard. The word “should” was an error, as that word is used in the context of a Guideline. TM-1S is and has always been a Standard. This change was edited for proper Standard language, and for clarity and correct application of the standard by future users. This change does not substantively change our analysis or conclusions.

p. 84. MM-2G. Text has been updated for clarity and consistency of correct interpretation for future use. This change does not substantively change our analysis or conclusions.

p. 149. Overview, Paragraph 1. Fall Chinook salmon and DCH federal register information and recovery plan citations were added to list of federal register final rules for listed species, based on information available for BA content at time it was submitted.

p. 150. Evolutionarily Significant Units, Recovery Units and Distinct Population Segments; Snake River fall Chinook salmon ESU was added to the list of ESUs and DPS discussed in this section.

p. 150. Factors and Threats: Snake River fall Chinook added in first sentence.

p. 157-158. Figure 42 and Figure 43, replaced, corrected. Maps removed erroneously and confusingly showed non-listed spring/summer Chinook salmon in the Middle Columbia River Basin region as being part of Threatened Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon distribution, for the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests. The maps have been updated and now display only Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon distribution. Maps also showed significant gap in spring/summer Chinook salmon distribution between the Grande Ronde River and the Wallowa River outside of NFS lands. The gap has been corrected, as the fish must traverse the portion of the river in the gap through other ownerships, to access the Wallowa River subbasin. These changes do not substantively change our analysis or conclusions for Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon. We have also reconsidered information we have on Snake River fall Chinook salmon distribution and DCH, based on the draft Recovery Plan and our agency corporate GIS information regarding Snake River fall Chinook distribution, which overlaps the lower portions of our spring Chinook salmon distributions in the Imnaha and Grande Ronde Wild and Scenic River management allocations discussed in the BA. For clarity, we have updated Figures 42 and 43 to show where, based on our corporate GIS data, Snake River fall Chinook salmon are co-located with Snake River spring Chinook salmon distributions.

p. 159. Figure 44. Designated Critical Habitat for Snake River Chinook salmon. Updated map replaces the original map. This change does not substantively change our previous analysis or conclusions for Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon.

p. 159. Figure 44. p. 160. Figure 45. Designated Critical Habitat for Snake River Chinook salmon. Updated map replaces the original map. This change does not substantively change our previous analysis or conclusions for Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon.

p. 162. Paragraph immediately before **Factors** heading: added “Snake River Basin” and “fall Chinook salmon”, for clarity.

p. 165-169. Snake River fall Chinook Salmon, Narrative Section added for this species, parallel construction to content provided for other species already covered. Species description, abundance, distribution, etc, including draft Recovery Plan information.

p. 167-168. Figures 46-47. Inserted 2 new maps for Snake River fall Chinook salmon DCH, Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests. These two map insertions create a reset of the Figure numbering sequence for all subsequent figures in the BA. The Table of Contents has been updated, pursuant to the change in Figure numbering sequence from these figures forward.

p. 168. Table 36. New table for Designated Critical Habitat for Snake River fall Chinook Salmon DCH for Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests, similar to tables included for other species in the BA. This table insertion creates a reset of the Table numbering sequence for all subsequent tables in the BA. The Table of Contents has been updated, pursuant to the change in Table numbering sequence from this Table forward.

p. 169. Table 37. New table of tributary limiting factors for Snake River fall Chinook salmon, from draft recovery plan, similar content to tables for other species. Table numbering is in sequence with table 36 on page 168. This table insertion creates a reset of the Table numbering sequence for all subsequent tables in the BA. The Table of Contents has been updated, pursuant to the insertions of new tables 36 and 37 for Snake River fall Chinook salmon.

p. 169. Text and website reference added as narrative, bottom of page, **below Table 37**, referring reader to the draft Snake River fall Chinook salmon recovery plan for more information on the species and recovery information relevant to the planning area.

p. 217. Key Watersheds. First paragraph, last 2 sentences. Information added to narrative discussion on relationship of Snake River fall Chinook designated critical habitat to management allocations and key watersheds in the planning area.

p. 248-249. Summary of Effects on ESA Listed Fish Species and their Designated Critical Habitat within the Plan. Last paragraph. Conclusions and rationale for Snake River fall Chinook salmon and DCH added.