

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

Agencies: California Department of Fish and Game (lead state agency) & US Fish and Wildlife Service (lead federal agency)

Action: Notice of Availability of a joint draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) and notice of public meetings.

Project contact:

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Project title: California Department of Fish and Game Fish Hatchery and Stocking Program draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/EIS)

Project location: DFG currently operates 24 hatchery facilities statewide and stocks in both urban and rural lakes, streams, rivers and other waterbodies throughout California. DFG's headquarters are in the City of Sacramento in Sacramento County, Ca.

Project summary: The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), have released a joint draft EIR/EIS related to DFG's Fish Hatchery and Stocking Program (Program) on Friday, Sept. 25, 2009 for public review and comment.

DFG and FWS have prepared this joint DEIR/EIS to evaluate and disclose the potential effects the Program has on aquatic resources and the environment. Preparation of this document also complies with a recent court decision that determined DFG's Program must undergo environmental analysis under CEQA in order to continue fish stocking practices.

Within this document, hatchery operations and stocking activities associated with the DFG's Program, which includes FWS funding for the operation of 14 inland trout facilities and the Mad River Hatchery steelhead portions of the Program, are evaluated for their effects on the environment. These effects include, but are not limited to, potential impacts to native fish and wildlife species and other biological resources, water supply, water quality, hydrology, cultural resources, and recreation and economics. The principal issues addressed are effects on native amphibians, reptiles and fish from stocking trout; genetic and other effects on native salmon and steelhead from stocking hatchery-reared salmon and steelhead; the potential for spreading pathogens and invasive species through fish stocking; the potential for water quality degradation associated with hatchery discharges to creeks and rivers; and the effects of reduced fishing opportunities on recreation and local economies. The attached table displays those areas where impacts were identified, and associated mitigation measures. Those areas of the Program where implementation of mitigation measures may not reduce the effects to less than significant have

also been identified. DFG has also evaluated its issuance of stocking permits to private parties seeking to stock fish in California's inland waters.

DFG and FWS will hold four public meetings to solicit public input on the DEIR/EIS. The meetings will be held as follows:

Sacramento, CA:

Place: Elk's Lodge

Location: 6446 Riverside Blvd., Riverside Hall

Time: 5:30pm to 7:30 pm

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009

Bakersfield, CA

Place: Double Tree Hotel, California Grill Room

Location: 3100 Camino Del Rio Court

Time: 5:30pm to 7:30 pm

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009

Redding, CA

Place: Shasta Builders Exchange Training Facility

Location: 2985 Innsbruck Dr., Shasta Room

Time: 5:30pm to 7:30 pm

Date: Monday, Oct. 26, 2009

Carson, CA

Place: Carson Community Center, Main Hall

Location: 3 Civic Plaza Drive, Carson

Time: 5:30pm to 7:30 pm

Date: Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009

For more information on the Program, and to view and download the DEIR/EIS and other supporting documents, visit the Program Web site at: www.dfg.ca.gov and select the "Hatchery EIR/EIS" icon in the "news" column. You can also email your questions and/or comments to dfghatcheryeir@dfg.ca.gov.

A copy of the document is available at each hatchery facility and at DFG and FWS headquarters; please call ahead to schedule an appointment to view the copy at headquarters (see attached for addresses). A copy may also be requested by contacting Mr. Jim Starr or Mr. Bart Prose (see contact information above). You also can email your request to dfghatcheryeir@dfg.ca.gov.

Per CEQA, the comment period for the EIR begins Sept. 25, 2009 and ends close of business Nov. 10, 2009. Per NEPA, the comment period for the EIS ends close of business 45 days after publication of the notice of the EIR/EIS's availability in the Federal Register. <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/eisdata.html>

Special Assistance at Public Meetings

If special assistance is required at the public meetings, please call (916) 231-9605, or email jrogers@icfi.com no later than Monday, Oct. 19, 2009.

Public Disclosure

Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal information—may be made publicly available.

Summary of Potentially Significant Impacts on Biological Resources Associated with the DFG Hatchery and Stocking Program

Impact	Mitigation Measure
Potentially Significant Impacts Requiring Mitigation	
BIO-8: Effects of Aquaculture Chemicals and Drugs in Rivers and Streams	BIO-8: Implement Alternative Technologies for Reducing Copper Concentrations in Discharges from Darrah Springs Hatchery as Required in Order R5-2004-0113
BIO-10: Effects Due to the Spread of Invasive Species through Hatchery Discharge	BIO-10: Develop and Implement Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Plans at Each DFG Hatchery
BIO-12: Pathogen Effects on Native Amphibian Populations	BIO-12: Develop and Implement Pathogen Monitoring and Control Management Practices
BIO-13: Effects from Stream Flow Alteration or Groundwater Draw-Down Due to Hatchery Water Supply Intakes	BIO-13: Manage Black Rock Rearing Ponds Pumping to Protect <i>Calochortus excavatus</i> Population
BIO-203: Impacts of Introducing Aquatic Invasive Species into Native Ecosystems as a Result of the Salmon and Steelhead Stocking Program	BIO-10: Develop and Implement Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Plans at Each DFG Hatchery
BIO-49: Predation and Competition Effects from Stocked Trout on Steelhead DPSs (Except Northern California DPS and Klamath Mountains Province DPS) and Chinook Salmon ESUs	BIO-49: Implement Pre-Stocking Evaluation Protocol for Steelhead and Chinook Salmon
BIO-69: Predation and Competition Effects from Stocked Trout on Oregon Spotted Frog	BIO-69: Implement Pre-Stocking Evaluation Protocol for Oregon Spotted Frog
BIO-71: Predation and Competition Effects from Stocked Trout on California Red-Legged Frog	BIO-71: Implement Pre-Stocking Evaluation Protocol for California Red-Legged Frog
BIO-72: Predation and Competition Effects from Stocked Trout on Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog	BIO-72: Implement Pre-Stocking Evaluation Protocol for Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog
BIO-73: Predation and Competition Effects from Stocked Trout on Cascades Frog	BIO-73: Implement Pre-Stocking Evaluation Protocol for Cascades Frog
BIO-74: Predation and Competition Effects from Stocked Trout on Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog	BIO-74: Implement Pre-Stocking Evaluation Protocol for Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog
BIO-75: Predation and Competition Effects from Stocked Trout on Northern Leopard Frog	BIO-75: Implement Pre-Stocking Evaluation Protocol for Northern Leopard Frog
BIO-83: Predation and Competition Effects from Stocked Trout on San Francisco Garter Snake	BIO-83: Implement Pre-Stocking Evaluation Protocol for San Francisco Garter Snake
BIO-87: Predation and Competition Effects from Stocked Trout on Willow Flycatcher	BIO-87: Implement Pre-Stocking Evaluation Protocol for Willow Flycatcher
BIO-103: Effects from Trout Stocking Program Non-Target Harvest on Central Valley DPS Steelhead, Central California Coast DPS Steelhead, South-Central Coast DPS Steelhead and Southern California DPS Steelhead	BIO-103: Implement Pre-Stocking Evaluation Protocol for Central Valley DPS Steelhead, Central California Coast DPS Steelhead, South-Central Coast DPS, and Southern California DPS Steelhead
BIO-105: Effects from Trout Stocking Program Non-Target Harvest on Klamath-Trinity River Spring-Run, Sacramento River Winter-Run, Central Valley Spring-Run, and California Coast Chinook Salmon ESUs	BIO-105: Implement Pre-Stocking Evaluation Protocol for Klamath-Trinity River Spring-Run, Sacramento River Winter-Run, Central Valley Spring-Run, and California Coast Chinook Salmon

Impact	Mitigation Measure
	ESUs
BIO-107: Impacts of Introducing Pathogens to Native Amphibian Populations as a Result of the Trout Stocking Program	BIO-107: Implement Monitoring and Best Management Practices Program to Minimize Risk of Disease Transmission to Native Amphibian Populations
BIO-108: Impacts of Introducing Aquatic Invasive Species into Native Ecosystems as a Result of the Trout Stocking Program	BIO-10: Develop and Implement Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Plans at Each DFG Hatchery
BIO-118: Genetic Effects on Central Valley DPS Steelhead, Central California Coast DPS Steelhead, South-Central Coast DPS Steelhead, and Southern California DPS Steelhead from Interbreeding with Stocked Trout	BIO-118: Evaluate Trout Stocking Locations and Stock Triploid Trout as Needed to Reduce the Potential for Interbreeding with Steelhead
BIO-119: Effects of Unintended Releases of Hatchery-Reared Trout	BIO-119: Minimize Unintended Releases
BIO-139: Predation and Competition Effects from Stocked Salmon and Steelhead on Steelhead, Klamath Mountains Province DPS	BIO-139: Complete Hatchery Genetics Management Plans
BIO-145: Predation and Competition Effects from Stocked Salmon and Steelhead on Coho Salmon, Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast ESU	BIO-139: Complete Hatchery Genetics Management Plans
BIO-147: Predation and Competition Effects from Stocked Salmon and Steelhead on Chinook Salmon, Upper Klamath-Trinity Rivers ESU	BIO-139: Complete Hatchery Genetics Management Plans
BIO-150: Predation and Competition Effects from Stocked Salmon and Steelhead on Chinook Salmon, Central Valley Spring-Run ESU	BIO-139: Complete Hatchery Genetics Management Plans
BIO-151: Predation and Competition Effects from Stocked Salmon and Steelhead on Chinook Salmon, Central Valley Fall-/Late Fall-Run ESU	BIO-139: Complete Hatchery Genetics Management Plans
BIO-190: Salmon and Steelhead Stocking Program Non-Target Harvest Effects on Central Valley Fall- and Late Fall-Run Chinook Salmon ESU	BIO-190: Reduce the Potential for Non-Target Harvest on Fall- and Late Fall-Run Chinook ESU
BIO-192: Salmon and Steelhead Stocking Program Non-Target Harvest Effects on Upper Klamath-Trinity Rivers Chinook Salmon ESU	BIO-192: Reduce the Potential for Non-Target Harvest on Upper Klamath-Trinity Rivers Chinook Salmon ESU
BIO-202: Impacts of Introducing Pathogens to Native Amphibian Populations as a Result of the Salmon and Steelhead Stocking Program	BIO-107: Implement Monitoring and Best Management Practices Program to Minimize Risk of Disease Transmission to Native Amphibian Populations
BIO-207: Genetic Effects on Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon ESU from Stocking Salmon and Steelhead	BIO-139: Complete Hatchery Genetics Management Plans
BIO-208: Genetic Effects on Chinook Salmon, Central Valley Fall-/Late Fall-Run ESU, from Stocking Salmon and Steelhead	BIO-139: Complete Hatchery Genetics Management Plans
BIO-211: Genetic Effects on Chinook Salmon, Upper Klamath/Trinity Rivers ESU, from Stocking Salmon and Steelhead	BIO-139: Complete Hatchery Genetics Management Plans

Impact	Mitigation Measure
BIO-213: Genetic Effects on Coho Salmon, Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast ESU, from Stocking Salmon and Steelhead	BIO-139: Complete Hatchery Genetics Management Plans
BIO-214: Genetic Effects on Steelhead, California Central Valley DPS, from Stocking Salmon and Steelhead	BIO-139: Complete Hatchery Genetics Management Plans
BIO-215: Genetic Effects on Steelhead, Northern California DPS, from Stocking Salmon and Steelhead	BIO-139: Complete Hatchery Genetics Management Plans
BIO-216: Genetic Effects on Steelhead, Klamath Mountains Province DPS, from Stocking Salmon and Steelhead	BIO-139: Complete Hatchery Genetics Management Plans
BIO-226: Predation and Competition Impacts from Fishing in the City Program–Stocked Fish on Sensitive, Native, or Legally Protected Fish and Wildlife Species	BIO-226: Implement Private Stocking Permit Evaluation Protocol
BIO-228: Impacts of Introducing Pathogens to Native Amphibian Populations Through FICP Stocking	BIO-233b: Implement Private Stocking Permit Evaluation Protocol
BIO-229: Impacts of Introducing Aquatic Invasive Species into Native Ecosystems Through FICP Stocking	BIO-229: Require and Monitor Invasive Species Controls at Private Aquaculture Facilities
BIO-233: Predation and Competition Impacts from Fish Released Under Private Stocking Permits on Sensitive, Native, or Legally Protected Fish and Wildlife Species	BIO-233a: Eliminate Private Stocking Exemption BIO-233b: Implement Private Stocking Permit Evaluation Protocol
BIO-236: Impacts of Introducing Pathogens to Wild Populations of Native Fish and their Habitats through Private Stocking Permit Fish Releases	BIO-236: Require Aquaculture Products Stocked in Waters of the State to be Certified Free of Disease
BIO-237: Impacts of Introducing Pathogens to Native Amphibian Populations and Their Habitats through Private Stocking Permit Fish Releases	BIO-233a: Eliminate Private Stocking Exemption BIO-233b: Implement Private Stocking Permit Evaluation Protocol
BIO-238: Impacts of Introducing Aquatic Invasive Species to Wild Populations of Native Fish and Native Amphibian Populations and Their Habitats through Private Stocking Permit Fish Releases	BIO-238: Require and Monitor Invasive Species Controls for Private Stocking Permits
BIO-243: Predation and Competition Impacts from Stocked Trout on California Black Rail	BIO-87: Implement Pre-Stocking Evaluation Protocol for California black rails
BIO-252: Impacts from Introduction of Invasive Species and Pathogens on Supplemental Evaluation Species	BIO-107: Implement Monitoring and Best Management Practices Program to Minimize Risk of Disease Transmission to Native Amphibian Populations
BIO-254: Predation and Competition Impacts from Stocked Salmon and Steelhead on California Black Rail	BIO-87: Implement Pre-Stocking Evaluation Protocol for California Black Rails
BIO-263: Impacts of Invasive Species and Pathogens Released through Stocking Salmon and Steelhead on Supplemental Evaluation Species	BIO-107: Implement Monitoring and Best Management Practices Program to minimize risk of Disease Transmission to Native Amphibian Populations

Impact	Mitigation Measure
BIO-266: Impacts of Invasive Species and Pathogens Released through Fishing in the City Program Stocking on Supplemental Evaluation Species	BIO-229: Require and Monitor Invasive Species Controls at Private Aquaculture Facilities BIO-233B: Implement Private Stocking Permit Evaluation Protocol
BIO-269: Predation and Competition Impacts from the Private Stocking Program on Supplemental Evaluation Species	BIO-233a: Eliminate Private Stocking Exemption BIO-233b: Implement Private Stocking Permit Evaluation Protocol
BIO-270: Impacts from Introduction of Invasive Species and Pathogens on Supplemental Evaluation Species	BIO-233a: Eliminate Private Stocking Exemption BIO-238: Require and Monitor Invasive Species Controls for Private Stocking Permits
BIO-120: Disturbance of Riparian Systems Due to Use of Vehicles and Foot Travel to Access Fishing Locations as a Result of the Trout Stocking Program	BIO-120: Minimize Disturbance in Riparian Areas
BIO-123: Distribution of Invasive Species by Anglers as a Result of the Trout Stocking Program	BIO-123: Educate Anglers to Control Invasive Species
BIO-224: Distribution of Invasive Species by Anglers as a Result of Salmon and Steelhead Stocking Program	BIO-123: Educate Anglers to Control Invasive Species
BIO-240: Distribution of Invasive Species by Anglers as a Result of the Private Stocking Permit Program	BIO-123: Educate Anglers to Control Invasive Species BIO-233a: Eliminate Private Stocking Exemption

Copies of the DFG Fish Hatchery and Stocking Program EIR/EIS can be viewed at the following locations:

1. Iron Gate (Siskiyou County)
8638 Lakeview Road
Hornbrook, CA 96044
2. Mad River (Humboldt County)
1660 Hatchery Road
Arcata, CA 95521
3. Trinity River (Trinity County)
1000 Hatchery Drive
Lewiston, CA 96052
4. Feather River (Butte County)
5 Table Mountain Blvd.
Oroville, CA 95965
5. Feather River–Thermalito Annex (Butte County)
4700 Highway 99
Oroville, CA 95965
6. Warm Springs (Sonoma County)
3246 Skaggs Springs Road
Geyserville, CA 95441
7. Coyote Valley Dam Egg Collection Facility
(Mendocino County)
1160 Lake Mendocino Drive
Ukiah, CA 95482-9404
8. Nimbus (Sacramento County)
2001 Nimbus Rd., Ste. F
Gold River, CA 95670
9. Mokelumne (San Joaquin County)
25800 North McIntire Road
Clements, CA 95227
10. Merced River (Merced County)
4998 Robinson Road
Snelling, Ca 95369
11. Mount Shasta (Siskiyou County)
#3 North Old Stage Road
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067
12. Darrah Springs (Tehama County)
29661 Wildcat Road
Paynes Creek, CA 96075
13. Crystal Lake (Shasta County)
40158 Baum Lake Road
Cassel, CA 96016
14. American River (Sacramento County)
2001 Nimbus Road
Gold River, CA 95670
15. Moccasin Creek (Tuolumne County)
Highway 49 and 120
Moccasin, CA 95347
16. Hot Creek (Mono County)
121 Hot Creek Hatchery Road
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
17. Black Rock (Inyo County) Annex of Mount
Whitney Hatchery
1 East Black Rock Springs Road
Independence, CA 93526
18. Fish Springs (Inyo County)
215 Fish Springs Road
Big Pine, Ca 93513
19. Mount Whitney (Inyo County)
#1 Golden Trout Circle
Independence, CA 93526
20. San Joaquin (Fresno County)
17372 Brook Trout Drive
Friant, CA 93626
21. Fillmore (Ventura County)
612 East Telegraph Road
Fillmore, CA 93016
22. Mojave (San Bernardino County)
12550 Jacaranda Avenue
Victorville Road, Ca 92395
23. Kern River Planting Base (Kern County)
14400 North Sierra Way
Kernville, Ca 93238
24. Silverado Planting Base (Napa County)
7329 Silverado Trail
Yountville, Ca 94599
25. USFWS Offices
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606
Sacramento, CA 95825
Phone: (916) 978-6152
26. DFG Offices
830 "S" Street
Sacramento, Ca 95811
Phone: (916) 327-0713