

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****National Weather Service  
Modernization and Associated  
Restructuring**

**AGENCY:** National Weather Service (NWS), NOAA, Commerce,

**ACTION:** Notice and opportunity for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The NWS is publishing proposed certifications for the automation and closure of the following Weather Service offices at the indicated FAA Weather Observation Service Level:

(1) Colorado Springs, Co Weather Service Office (WSO) which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level B and with services being provided by the future Pueblo, Denver/Boulder, and Goodland Weather Forecast Offices (WFO);

(2) Dubuque, IA WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and with services being provided by the future Quad Cities and Milwaukee WFOs;

(3) Residual Des Moines, IA WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level A and with services being provided by the future Des Moines WFO;

(4) Evansville, IN WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and with services being provided by the future Paducah, Central Illinois, Indianapolis, and Louisville WFOs;

(5) Residual Minneapolis, MN WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level A and with services being provided by the future Minneapolis WFO;

(6) Elkins, WV WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and with services being provided by the future Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Baltimore/Washington WFOs;

(7) Residual Fresno, CA which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level A and with services being provided by the future San Joaquin Valley WFO;

(8) Residual Las Vegas, NV WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level A and with services being provided by the future Las Vegas WFO;

(9) Residual Portland, OR WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level A and with services being provided by the future Portland WFO;

(10) San Francisco, CA WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level A and with services being provided by the future San Francisco Bay Area WFO; and

(11) Residual Spokane, WA WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level A and with services being provided by the future Spokane WFO.

In accordance with Public Law 102-567, the public will have 60-days in which to comment on these proposed automation and closure certifications.

**DATES:** Comments are requested by September 12, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Request for copies of the proposed automation and closure packages should be sent to Tom Beaver Room 11426, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-0300. All comments should be sent to Tom Beaver at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie Scanlon at 301-713-1698 ext 151.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with section 706 of Public Law 102-567, the Secretary of Commerce must certify that these automations and closures will not result in any degradation of service to the affected areas of responsibility and must publish the proposed automation and closure certifications in the FR. The documentation supporting each proposed certification includes the following:

(1) A draft memorandum by the meteorologist(s)-in-charge recommending the certification, the final of which will be endorsed by the Regional Director and the Assistant Administrator of the NWS if appropriate, after consideration of public comments and completion of consultation with the modernization Transition Committee (the Committee);

(2) A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns which affect the weather services provided within the service area;

(3) A comparison of the services provided within the service area and the services to be provided after such action;

(4) A description of any recent or expected modernization of NWS operation which will enhance services in the service area;

(5) An identification of any area within the affected service area which would not receive coverage (at an elevation of 10,000 feet) by the next generation weather radar network;

(6) Evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, which was considered in

reaching the conclusion that no degradation in service will result from such action including the ASOS Commissioning Report; series of three letters between NWS and FAA confirming that weather services will continue in full compliance with applicable flight aviation rules after ASOS commissioning; Surface Aviation Observation Transition Checklist documenting transfer of augmentation and backup responsibility from NWS to FAA; successful resolution of ASOS user confirmation of services complaints; and an in-place supplementary data program at the responsible WFO(s);

(7) Warning and forecast verification statistics for pre-modernized and modernized services which were utilized in determining that services have not been degraded;

(8) An Air Safety Appraisal for offices which are located on an airport; and

(9) A letter appointing the liaison officer.

These proposed certifications do not include any report of the Committee which could be submitted in accordance with sections 706(b)(6) and 707(c) of Public Law 102-567. In December 1995 the Committee decided that, in general, they would forego the optional consultation on proposed certifications. Instead, the Committee would just review certifications after the public comment period had closed so their consultation would be with the benefit of public comments that had been submitted.

This notice does not include the complete certification packages because they are too voluminous to publish. Copies of the certification packages and supporting documentation can be obtained through the contact listed above.

Once all public comments have been received and considered, the NWS will complete consultation with the Committee and determine whether to proceed with the final certification. At the June 25, 1997 MTC meeting the Committee stated that its endorsement of certifications is subject to the following qualifications:

(1) The number of trained staff in each modernized field office meets staffing requirements as established by the modernization criteria and documented in the National Implementation Plan and the Human Resources Plan (WBS 1100). Delays in training or failure to fill required positions will increase the risk of degradation of service;

(2) The availability of operational systems in each modernized field office meets requirements as established by the modernization criteria and

documented in the System Commissioning and Support Function Demonstration Plans; and

(3) The operational and administrative infrastructures and technical development needed to support the modernized field offices be maintained as required by the modernization plan." It is expected that these qualifications can be met for the above proposed certifications. If these qualifications can not be met prior to the September MTC meeting, these proposed certifications may or may not be presented to the Committee. If a decision to certify is made, the Secretary of Commerce must publish the final certification in the FR and transmit the certification to the appropriate Congressional committees prior to automating and closing these offices.

Dated: July 8, 1997.

**Robert S. Winokur,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 063097D]

#### Endangered Species; Permits

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Issuance of modification 6 to permit 848 (P507D) and modification 1 to permit 1011 (P211J).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued modifications to permits to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at Olympia, WA (WDFW) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at La Grande, OR (ODFW) that authorize takes of Endangered Species Act-listed species for the purpose of scientific research/enhancement, subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Protected Resources Division, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The modifications to permits were issued

under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-222).

Notice was published on April 16, 1997 (62 FR 18587) that an application had been filed by WDFW (P507D) for modification 6 to scientific research/enhancement permit 848. Modification 6 to permit 848 was issued to WDFW on May 23, 1997. Permit 848 authorizes WDFW takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) associated with a supplementation hatchery program and scientific research/monitoring. For modification 6 to permit 848, WDFW is authorized takes of juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) associated with scientific research designed to answer questions on fall chinook salmon production in the lower Tucannon River. Also for modification 6, WDFW is authorized to return adult, ESA-listed, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon carcasses from the supplementation program back to the Tucannon River for nutrient enrichment. Modification 6 is valid for the duration of the permit. Permit 848 expires on March 31, 1998.

Notice was published on April 16, 1997 (62 FR 18587) that an application had been filed by ODFW (P211J) for modification 1 to scientific research/enhancement permit 1011. Modification 1 to permit 1011 was issued to ODFW on June 20, 1997. Permit 1011 authorizes ODFW takes of juvenile, threatened, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) associated with a captive broodstock program for Catherine Creek, upper Grande Ronde River, and Lostine River populations. For modification 1, ODFW is authorized to collect returning adult, ESA-listed, naturally-produced fish from the three watersheds in 1997 to begin a supplementation program. ODFW anticipates sufficient adult returns to these watersheds in 1997 to allow the collection of ESA-listed adults for hatchery broodstock. ODFW believes that the collection of ESA-listed adults for hatchery supplementation will increase the probability of the persistence of the populations because of the survival advantage provided by the hatchery. The collection of ESA-listed adults for broodstock is authorized in 1997 only. The incubation of eggs and the rearing of ESA-listed juveniles is authorized for the duration of the permit. Permit 1011 expires on December 31, 2000.

Issuance of the permit modifications, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that the modifications: (1) Were requested/proposed in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the ESA-listed species that are the subject of the permits, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed species permits.

Dated: July 7, 1997.

**Nancy Chu,**

*Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061097B]

#### Endangered and Threatened Species; Revision of Candidate Species List Under the Endangered Species Act

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of modification of list of candidate species.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS identifies marine and anadromous species as candidates for possible addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Species. NMFS is soliciting information concerning the status of these species and nominations of additional species that appear to warrant listing consideration. This notice is not a proposal for listing, and the involved species do not receive substantive or procedural protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). The candidate species list serves to notify the public that NMFS has concerns regarding these species/vertebrate populations that may warrant listing in the future, and it facilitates voluntary conservation efforts. NMFS encourages Federal agencies and other appropriate parties to take these species into account in project planning.

**DATES:** Comments will be accepted until further notice (see **ADDRESSES**).

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and reliable documentation for these and any recommended additions or deletions to the candidate species list should be sent to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, NMFS, Office of Protected