



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office
1829 South Oregon Street
Yreka, California 96097



In Reply Refer To:

08EYRE00-2021-F-0127

Docket No. P-14803-001

February 27, 2023

Mr. Matt Robart
Camas, LLC.
680 G Street, Suite C
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Kimberly Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Response to Request for Modification of Receiving Locations for Salvaged Suckers Under the Biological Opinion for the Surrender and Decommissioning of the Lower Klamath Hydroelectric Project, Nos. 14803-001, 2082-063

Dear Mr. Robart and Ms. Bose:

This letter responds to Camas, LLC's February 10, 2023, request regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's December 22, 2021, Biological Opinion for the Surrender and Decommissioning of the Lower Klamath Hydroelectric Project No. 14803 (Project). The designated non-federal representative for the Project is the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (Renewal Corporation). Camas submitted the request on the Renewal Corporation's behalf.

The Biological Opinion describes the proposed actions for salvage and translocation of endangered Lost River suckers (*Deltistes luxatus*) and shortnose suckers (*Chasmistes brevirostris*) (BO pp. 19-22, 85-87, 90-95). These actions are proposed in the year prior to the drawdown of J.C. Boyle Reservoir in Oregon, and Copco No. 1 and Iron Gate Reservoirs in California. Your request is specific to defining and confirming the receiving locations for salvaged Lost River suckers and shortnose suckers.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been coordinating with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and the Klamath Tribes to determine suitable receiving locations for the salvaged suckers over the last several months.

- In California, the Service and CDFW have agreed and decided to utilize the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge as the receiving location for individual fish from California. The Service acknowledges that once we receive these fish at the Refuge in accordance with the conservation measures and Terms and Conditions in the Biological Opinion, the Renewal Corporation's involvement in the salvage operation from California will cease.
- In Oregon, the Service, the Klamath Tribes, and ODFW have agreed and decided to use the Klamath Tribes' rearing facility in Chiloquin, Oregon.¹ The rearing facility is maintained by the Klamath Tribes and the Service acknowledges that once the translocated fish are received at this location in accordance with the conservation measures and Terms and Conditions in the Biological Opinion, the Renewal Corporation's involvement in the salvage operation from J.C. Boyle Reservoir in Oregon will cease.

The Biological Opinion describes that captured Lost River suckers and shortnose suckers may be translocated to the Klamath Falls National Fish Hatchery, the Klamath Tribes' rearing facility, the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, or other translocation sites identified based on further planning and agreement between the Service, the Klamath Tribes, ODFW, and CDFW (BO pp. 4, 19, 21, 94). With CDFW, we have decided to utilize the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge because it shares with the previously identified Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge the suitability and survival criteria that will allow these animals to persist and both refuge components are part of the same Klamath Refuge Complex.

Therefore, the decision to utilize the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge and the Klamath Tribes' rearing facility are considered consistent with the analysis and effect conclusions in the Biological Opinion. Our analysis addressed specific conservation measures for capture, transport, release, and acclimation as well as the effects of those actions along with effects that may occur at release sites from predation, water quality, parasites, or hybridization (BO pp. 90-95). Translocating Lost River suckers and shortnose suckers to the Klamath Tribes' rearing facility and the Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge does not represent new information that reveals effects not previously considered, and they do not modify the proposed action in a manner that causes an effect to a listed species or critical habitat that was not already considered.

As described in prior consultation documents, it will be necessary for the Renewal Corporation and FERC to contact our office if: 1) the amount or extent of taking specified in the incidental statement is exceeded, 2) new information reveals there are effects from the action that may affect a listed or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, in a manner or to an extent not considered in the consultation, 3) a new species is listed under the Endangered Species Act or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the action, or 4) the action is modified in a manner that causes an effect to a listed species or critical habitat not considered in the consultation.

¹ The request letter from Camas, LLC describes the receiving location for suckers salvaged from Oregon as the Klamath Tribes Fish Hatchery in Chiloquin, Oregon. We clarify here that the Klamath Tribes operate a sucker rearing facility in Chiloquin, Oregon, which is the agreed-upon receiving location.

If you have any questions or concerns about this response, or the consultation process in general, please feel free to contact me at jenny_ericson@fws.gov or by phone at (530) 340-6223, or you may contact Christine Jordan at (530) 841-3111 or by email at christine_jordan@fws.gov. We will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

**JENNY
ERICSON**  Digitally signed by
JENNY ERICSON
Date: 2023.02.27
09:15:33 -08'00'

Jenny Ericson
Field Supervisor

cc: Project Service List, P. 14803

Diane Barr, Camas, LLC.

Mark Bransom, Klamath River Renewal Corporation

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