

Since 1845

## LEWIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Lewis County, Washington

LEWIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
351 NW NORTH STREET  
CHEHALIS, WA 98532-1900  
(360) 740-1120 • FAX: (360) 740-1475  
TDD: (360) 740-1480

RON AVERILL  
First District

P.W. SCHULTE  
Second District

F. LEE GROSE  
Third District

Sheila Unger  
Board Administrator



July 8, 2010

Mr. Will Stelle

Regional Administrator

Northwest Regional Office

NOAA Fisheries

7600 Sand Point Way NE

Seattle, WA 98115-0070

Dear Mr. Stelle:

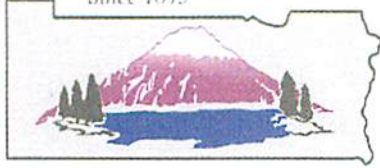
We would like to bring you up to date on recent actions regarding the Family Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (FFHCP) Incidental Take Permit application which was submitted to US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and NOAA Fisheries on January 12, 2008.

On June 7, 2010 we received a letter (enclosed) from the USFWS Lacey office stating they will publish a Notice of Receipt of Application in the Federal Register and invite public comment on our application documents. We recently learned from the USFWS that the Federal Register notice will be jointly published with NOAA Fisheries. We are excited that the Services have finally decided to publish our proposed HCP in the Federal Register and solicit public comments. For your information, we have been trying to get the Services to send our proposed HCP out for public comment for over two years. The Regional Offices of both Services had refused to do so claiming that our proposed HCP was not based on credible science. We strongly disagree with this assertion. We are confident that the opportunity to have the larger scientific community, as well as the public, review our HCP will support our contention that the HCP is indeed based on credible science. In addition, the public review process will also provide the opportunity to clearly and transparently articulate the purported scientific concerns claimed by the Services. In short, we have always wanted and welcomed a public review of our HCP.

As the new Regional Administrator, we hope you will join the USFWS in giving our HCP a fresh examination. We also hope that you will lend your support to a more open and transparent process for resolving purported scientific disputes.

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We are available to meet with you to provide additional information or to answer questions about the HCP. Thank you for your attention to this matter which is of critical importance to our County and our small forest landowners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'F. Lee Grose'.

F. Lee Grose

Commissioner, Lewis County

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tom Fox'.

Tom Fox

President, Family Forest Foundation

Enclosed: June 7 2010 Correspondence from USFWS

Cc: Michael Bean, Patty Murray, Brian Baird and Norm Dicks