



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington Fish and Wildlife Office
510 Desmond Dr. SE, Suite 102
Lacey, Washington 98503

DEC 21 2018

In Reply Refer To:
13410-2008-F-0209

Michelle Walker, Chief Regulatory Branch
Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: Juliana Houghton
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, Washington 98124-3755

Dear Ms. Walker:

Subject: Extension of the FWS Biological Opinion for the 2008 Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration Programmatic

On September 27, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) extended the timeframe of coverage for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) 2008 Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration Programmatic (programmatic) until December 31, 2018. As you are aware, formal consultation is currently in progress on this action. Due to our current workload, competing priorities, and project complexity, the currently ongoing consultation will not be complete prior to the December 31 expiration date. As discussed with your staff at the quarterly coordination meeting between our agencies on November 14, 2018, with this letter, we are extending the effective date of the 2008 programmatic for species under the Service jurisdiction until July 31, 2019. It is expected that regular monitoring and reporting of approvals and take estimates will continue as required in the biological opinion and as needed if take limits are approached.

This programmatic provides an efficient and streamlined process for permitting activities that restore fish habitat and contribute to the recovery of listed species throughout Washington State. Extending the timeframe of the programmatic will allow for streamlined consultations for salmon recovery and other habitat restoration projects while we finalize our biological opinion.

If you have any questions about this letter or our joint responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act, please contact Jim Muck at jim_muck@fws.gov, (360) 753-9586; or Emily Teachout at emily_teachout@fws.gov, (360) 753-9583.

Sincerely,

for Brad Thompson, Acting State Supervisor
Washington Fish and Wildlife Office