

In your association's ongoing effort to keep our membership up to date concerning the latest on the status of the Three Species, I have received notice from the EWA attorneys and our Washington Lobbyist that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will be posting a new rule in the Federal Registry governing these three species July 1, 2011. We have not received anything official from USFWS and will let our membership know if and when this proposed rule is posted for public comment.

What this means is that the USFWS is carrying out the mandate of the court. This proposed rule will be posted for sixty (60) days giving the public a chance to comment on the merits of the new rule and the newly proposed regulations. After the comment period the proposed rule could be withdrawn for changes depending on the comments from the public or it will go into affect and be the new rule governing the three species.

How does this affect the Three Species at this time? Until revoked the existing rule will still be the regulation governing the movement of these three species until the final rule is published. I will let our membership know when that takes affect.

I will send our membership the website address so that as many of you as possible can comment to the USFWS about their proposed regulations.

Your association is still committed to fighting and settling this legislatively. This does not change those efforts and we will keep our membership informed throughout the process.

Please do not listen to rumors concerning the permitting process or anything that may or may not be in the proposed rule. For the latest up to date information contact your EWA office or your Executive Director directly at 830-928-3158.