



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Northwest
Region

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File Code: 2670
Route To: 1950

Date: July 21, 2004

Subject: Update of the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List

To: Forest Supervisors

Thank you for the comments and information your staff provided in response to my April 26, 2004, (2670/1950) letter concerning updated information for the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species (RFSS) list. Enclosed (Enclosures 1-5) is the updated list that incorporates the comments and corrections that we received.

This letter officially updates the RFSS list with the information contained in the enclosures. The list of sensitive animals (Enclosure 3) was last updated in November 2000; the list of sensitive plants in April 1999 (Enclosure 5); and the list of federally-listed threatened, endangered, and proposed species, and proposed and designated critical habitat (Enclosure 4) in September 2002. The RFSS list was officially updated with the former Survey and Manage (S&M) species (Enclosures 1 and 2) for Forests within the Northwest Forest Plan area in my April 26, 2004, letter, and is updated for Forests, and portions of Forests, outside the Northwest Forest Plan area as of the date of this letter.

The RFSS list will be posted on the Region 6 Intranet site, which is accessed by going to the Pacific Northwest Region Internet Home Page then clicking on RO Staffs, NR (above San Dimas Technology and Development Center), and TES Species (<http://fsweb.r6.fs.fed.us/nr/index.shtml>). The list will also be posted on the new interagency (OR/WA Bureau of Land Management and R6) Sensitive/Special Status Species web site located at <http://www.or.blm.gov/ISSSP>. You will be notified if any changes are made to this list, for example if a species becomes proposed or listed as threatened or endangered. However, each Forest is responsible for tracking any changes in documented or suspected status, and reporting those to RO staff.

The Sensitive Species Program and development of the RFSS list are proactive approaches for meeting our obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), and our National policy direction as stated in the 2670 section of the Forest Service Manual (FSM) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Regulation 9500-4. The primary objectives of the Sensitive Species Program are to ensure that actions do not contribute to a loss of viability, or cause a trend toward listing under ESA. As defined in FSM 2670, the RFSS list includes (1) federally proposed and listed species, (2) proposed and designated critical habitat, (3) federal candidate species, and (4) sensitive species for which population viability is a concern. An analysis of the impacts of a proposed project on sensitive species should be documented in a Biological Evaluation (BE).

For National Forests within the area of the Northwest Forest Plan, the species in Enclosure 1 and Enclosure 2 (former survey and Manage species) were officially added to the RFSS list as of the date of my April 26, 2004, letter. Some corrections were made to the information for these species based on feedback received from Forest staff. As was clarified in my May 10, 2004, (2670/1950) letter, consideration of how the former S&M species added to the RFSS list are addressed in project decisions is described on page 9 of the *Record of Decision To Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation*



Measure Standards and Guidelines in Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (March 2004):

“Projects that are in development but have not yet fully complied with survey requirements of the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines may, at the discretion of the line officer responsible for the project decision, continue under those standards and guidelines or comply with the Special Status Species Policies for those Survey and Manage species that were added to the Special Status Species Programs.”

“Projects that are initiated after the effective date of this Record of Decision will comply with Special Status Species Policies.”

As is stated in the ROD language above, if the S&M standards and guidelines are met for species that were added to the RFSS list, then the Forest Service sensitive species policy for completing Biological Evaluations has also been met. No additional analysis would need to be completed.

For National Forests, or portions of forests, outside the Northwest Forest Plan area, projects that are initiated through scoping or an initiation letter on or after the date of this letter must include a BE that assesses potential impacts to the former S&M species in Enclosure 1 and Enclosure 2. For current or planned actions that are underway (or are completed) as of the date of this letter, the BE does not need to be updated for the new species so that actions that have been planned using the previous sensitive species list can go forward.

For the remainder of FY 04, for the former S&M species added to the RFSS list, field units should continue the identification and vouchering process established for the S&M Program (Centralized Process to Identify/Verify Survey and Manage Specimens Collected While Conducting Surveys, January 20, 2002). This will be a new requirement for those Forests outside the Northwest Forest Plan area. Additional specific information on how to package, identify, and provide paperwork for these species will be provided individually to these Forests. Vouchers should be sent to the following locations:

Bryophytes and Lichens	Fungi	Mollusks
Judy Harpel Gifford Pinchot NF HQ 10600 NE 51 st Circle Vancouver, WA 98682 Phone: 360-891-5121 FAX: 360-891-5045 E-mail: jharpel@fs.fed.us	Sarah Uebel Corvallis Forest Science Lab Mycology Lab 3200 SW Jefferson Way Corvallis, OR 97331 Phone: 541-750-7489 FAX: 541-750-7329	Nancy Duncan Bureau of Land Management Roseburg District Office 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd. Roseburg, OR 97470 Phone: 541-464-3338 FAX: 541-440-4948 E-mail: Nancy_Duncan@or.blm.gov

The process for vouchering and identification that will be used in FY 05 is still being developed. Forests will be notified of the process after it is completed.

We are planning a more extensive review and draft revision to the RFSS list by late fall of 2004 after RO staff have compiled and review the most current information provided by the Oregon and Washington Natural Heritage Programs. You and your staff will be asked to review and provide comments on these proposed revisions before the list is finalized sometime during early spring of 2005.

If you have specific questions concerning information on the enclosed lists, please contact the following RO staff:

Russ Holmes	503-808-2988 (vascular and nonvascular plants, fungi)
Carol Hughes	503-808-2661 (updated information in spreadsheets)
Sarah Madsen	503-808-2673 (birds)
Elaine Rybak	503-808-2663 (mammals, reptiles, terrestrial mollusks)
Scott Woltering	503-808-2669

For general questions about the R6 Sensitive Species Program please contact Sarah Madsen, Russ Holmes, or Carol Hughes. For National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) questions about the RFSS list, please contact Jill Dufour at 503-808-2276.

/s/ *Jim Golden (for)*

LINDA GOODMAN
Regional Forester

Enclosures (5)

Cc:

Cal Joyner
Alan Christensen
Margaret Kain
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