



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office

P.O. Box 2965

Portland, Oregon 97208



In Reply Refer to:

6840 (OR-931) P

February 6, 2008

EMS TRANSMISSION 02/07/2008

Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2008-038

Expires: 9/30/2009

To: All District Managers

From: State Director, Oregon/Washington

Subject: Final State Director's Special Status Species List

Program Area: Special Status Species (SSS)

Purpose: The purpose of this Instruction Memorandum (IM) is to issue a final State Director's SSS List, including federally listed and proposed species, for the Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This final list is in response to comments and corrections that were received from the field as a result of the request transmitted in IM-OR-2007-072.

Policy/Action: The Interagency Special Status/Sensitive Species (ISSSS) Program staff, Region 6 (R6) staff, and BLM OR/WA staff developed new criteria for the determination of Sensitive and Strategic species within the BLM SSS and Forest Service (FS) Sensitive Species Programs. The final criteria were transmitted July 25, 2007, via IM-OR-2007-072 with an associated list applying the new criteria. In that IM, updates to documented and suspected status were requested from the field units.

The attachments to this IM include the final SSS lists in response to the field comments submitted for the July 25, 2007, request. All attachments are available for download from the ISSSS website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/agency-policy/> or the BLM Information Mall at: <http://web.or.blm.gov/records/infomall.htm>. Attachment 1 includes the Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Sensitive Species in Oregon and Washington while Attachment 2 includes the Strategic Species in Oregon and Washington.

Management of Bureau Sensitive species still follows the SSS policy as identified in BLM Manual 6840 and BLM OR/WA 6840 policy. The old OR/WA BLM criteria for Bureau Sensitive species were replaced by criteria transmitted in IM-OR-2007-072. Also, OR/WA BLM Bureau Assessment and Bureau Tracking are no longer SSS categories.

A new category, Bureau Strategic, was identified in the July 25, 2007 IM. Strategic species are not Special Status for management purposes. The only requirement for this group of species is if

species sites are located during any survey efforts, the site information must be entered into the agency corporate database, Geographic Biotic Observations (GeoBOB). However, management of sites found for species that are strategic only because they were suspected, but not yet documented, on FS or BLM land is recommended since they will be listed as sensitive in the next list update due to their newly documented status on federal land. Attachment 2 identifies those Strategic Species that are Strategic only because they are suspected on FS or BLM lands.

Timeframe: The updated State Director's SSS lists included in Attachment 1 will apply to all projects initiated on or after the date of this letter. Projects initiated prior to the date of this letter may use the updated SSS list transmitted in this letter or the SSS list that was in effect when the project was initiated. For the purpose of this letter, "initiated" means that a signed, dated document such as a project initiation letter, scoping letter, or *Federal Register* Notice for the project exists.

Budget Impact: None

Background: In the July 25, 2007, IM, the state director transmitted new criteria, jointly approved by the FS R6 Regional Forester and the BLM OR/WA State Director, for determination of species included within the BLM SSS and FS Sensitive Species Programs. The old criteria for Bureau Sensitive species were replaced by new criteria in Attachment 1 of IM-OR-2007-072. The new criteria were designed to make the two agencies (OR/WA BLM and FS R6) more consistent in their approaches to the development of lists of species with conservation concerns. It also reissued SSS lists applying the new criteria and reissued policy maintaining the Bureau Sensitive category, removing the Bureau Assessment and Bureau Tracking categories, and establishing a new category identified as Strategic.

All attachments to IM-OR-2007-072, July 25, 2007, are available for download from the ISSSS website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/agency-policy/> or the BLM Information Mall at: <http://web.or.blm.gov/records/infomall.htm>.

Development of consistent SSS list criteria for OR/WA BLM and FS R6 is one of the four key goals of the ISSSS Program established in December 2005, via executive decision. The State Director's SSS List is a critical component of the BLM's SSS Program, which is a proactive approach for meeting our obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and national policy direction, as stated in the 6840 section of the BLM Manual. These laws and policies direct us to conserve species and prevent trends toward listing under the ESA.

IM-OR-91-57, OR/WA SSS Policy, established the state policy on SSS management, expanding on the requirements in *BLM Manual Sections 1734* (Inventory and Monitoring Coordination), *6600* (Inventory and Monitoring), and *6840* (SSS Management). At that time, the IM designated sensitive species for OR/WA under the category Bureau Sensitive and established two additional categories of plant and animal species (Assessment and Tracking). This current IM supercedes IM-OR91-57 by changing the criteria for inclusion as Bureau Sensitive and removes the Bureau Assessment and Tracking categories.

The Bureau's BLM Manual Section 6840 (SSS Management) directs that actions requiring authorization or approval by BLM be consistent with the conservation needs of SSS and not

contribute to the need to list any SSS, either under the provisions of the ESA or other provisions of the manual (*BLM Manual 6840.02*). The BLM Manual provides overall direction and criteria for designating Bureau Sensitive species; it states the designation is normally used for species that occur on BLM-administered land for which BLM has the capability to significantly affect the conservation of the species through management (*BLM Manual 6840.06E*). The manual also requires coordination with the states in the designation of Bureau Sensitive species. The state director shall designate BLM sensitive species and may designate additional categories of special status species as appropriate and applicable to state needs (*BLM Manual 6840.06E*).

In March 2003, the state director reissued the policy, with clarification, in IM-OR-2003-054. The IM states that districts are responsible for determining the documented and suspected status of species on their respective units, and that the District is responsible for applying policy to species that are documented and suspected on their BLM administered lands. This IM also provided clarification on techniques for review of the effects of proposed actions and for conservation and management measures for species.

The Manual, Policy, and IM-OR- 2003-054 can be found at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/agency-policy/>

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: 6840 Special Status Species OR/WA Policy

Coordination: OR 931, Branch of Biological Sciences; OR/WA Districts

Contact: Carol Hughes, ISSSS Program Assistant, at 503-808-2661; Barbara Hill, BLM State Office SSS Biologist, at 503-808-6052; or Joan Seevers, BLM State Office Botanist, at 503-808-6048.

Districts with Unions are reminded to notify their unions of this Instruction Memorandum and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by
John K. Keith
Acting, Associate State Director

Authenticated by
Mary J. O'Leary
Records Section

2 Attachment(s)

- 1 - [TES List Final](#) (33pp)
- 2 - [Strategic List Final](#) (22pp)

Distribution

WO-230

CA-930 (Ed Lorentzen)

OR-125 (Bill Hudson)

OR-930 (Michael Haske)

OR-931 (George Buckner, Steve Calish, Al Doelker, Barbara Hill, Rob Huff, Joe Lint, Joe Moreau, Adrienne Pilmanis, Joan Seevers, Kelli VanNorman)

OR-933 (Janis VanWyhe)

OR BOTANY ALL

OR WILDLIFE ALL

Russell Holmes, Forest Service, Region 6

Carol S. Hughes, Forest Service, Region 6

Sarah Madsen, Forest Service, Region 6

Darci Pankratz, Forest Service, Region 6

Elaine Rybak, Forest Service, Region 6

Scott Woltering, Forest Service, Region 6