

# Interagency Special Status and Sensitive Species Program-Update

## Special Status Species List Update

The draft Special Status Species (SSS) list was transmitted for internal review this past summer. The majority of units provided responses. Comments and edits received have been reviewed and changes made to the master SSS list, yet resolution of documented and suspected occurrence status is continuing for some species where units did not address those species. Issues related to the interagency list criteria and species qualifications have been resolved by the Interagency SSS Program team. The final step is getting BLM Branch Chief and FS Assistant NR Director approval to route memos for Executives' signatures.

A final list will be transmitted by the end of the calendar year. For additional information, please contact Carol Hughes, [cshughes@fs.fed.us](mailto:cshughes@fs.fed.us), 503-808-2661.

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## Inventory and Monitoring

### Specimen Identification Services

We will be updating the policy requiring that lichens, bryophytes, fungi, and mollusks be collected and vouchered to acknowledge that there are a handful of species that many field unit botanists and wildlife biologists have the skills to correctly identify. This is based in part to reduce the workload and expense of vouchering due to the return of certain Survey & Manage species that may be more common in some areas.

The first step is that Kelli Van Norman, the Inventory Coordinator, with field unit assistance will compose the list of potential species. Then as we go forward and the species are found during surveys, it will be up to each field unit to make their case identifying individuals on staff with the skills and experience necessary to correctly identify their list of species. Photo vouchers will still be required as part of corporate data entry.

Please email Kelli ([kelli\\_vannorman@blm.gov](mailto:kelli_vannorman@blm.gov)) by January 31st to assist in creating the list of potential species for which only photo vouchering will be required (e.g., *Usnea longissima*, lichen; *Sparassis crispa*, fungi; *Hemphillia malonei*, mollusk).

The mollusk vouchering guidelines have been updated. For all current vouchering policy and guidelines, see the Identification Service section of the ISSSSP Inventory web page at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/inventories/identification.shtml>

If potential special status invertebrate species other than mollusks are found during surveys, ISSSSP will also help get their identifications verified. Let Kelli know if there are particular species or groups of invertebrates we should focus upon.

### Key Points in this issue:

- ISSSSP List Update to occur winter 2010
- Priority species and key information gaps to be determined by field this spring.
- Project Proposals selected for FY11 funding
- Coordination meetings with Heritage Programs completed

# Inventory and Monitoring

## Arthropod Highlight

In 2009 under an Assistance Agreement with ISSSSP, The Xerces Society evaluated 47 of our Strategic species that were suspected on FS/BLM lands. The goal was to dig into existing records, identify known locations of rare invertebrates and find out if any were on FS/BLM lands, identify their habitat, develop an ArcGIS map of these known sites and suitable habitats, and identify an appropriate process for surveying within these suitable habitats. The exciting and innovative aspect was an additional analysis prioritizing each species based on conservation need, degree of habitat restriction, degree of habitat threat, and ease of identification and surveying. In addition, Xerces provided specific information about habitat, threats, identification notes, recommended survey techniques and timing, references, and who the experts are considered to be – a wealth of information all compiled into a prioritization spreadsheet!

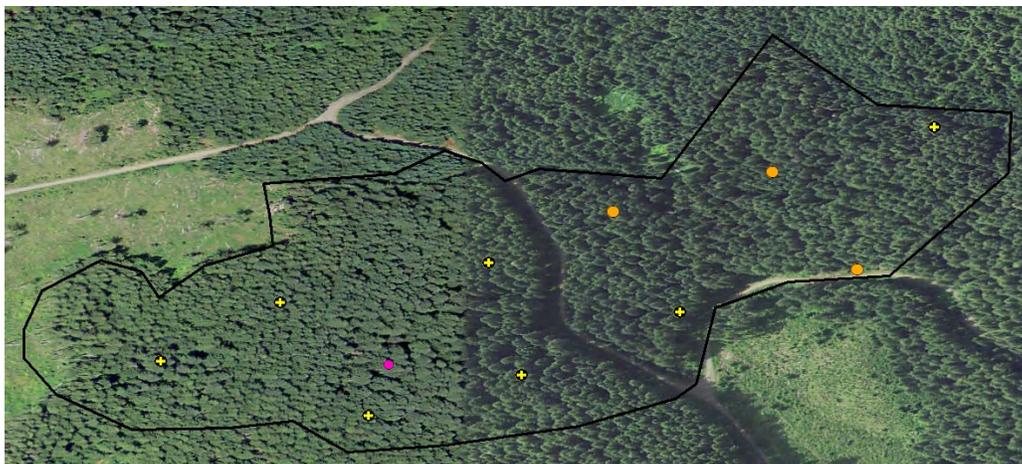
The records for species on and very near FS/BLM lands have already been entered into GeoBOB/NRIS Wildlife. Species fact sheets have been developed for the species found to occur on FS/BLM lands because those species now become Sensitive. And based on this information, ISSSSP funded 2010-2011 inventory work with Xerces for the following:

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	GROUP	SPECIES
Umatilla	Gastropoda - Terrestrial Mollusks	<i>Megomphix lutaris</i> , <i>Ogaridiscus subrupicola</i> , <i>Oreohelix strigosa delicata</i> , <i>Polygyrella polygyrella</i>
Umatilla	Lepidoptera -Butterfly	<i>Colias occidentalis pseudochristina</i>
Columbia River	Tiger Beetles	<i>Cicindela columbica</i> , <i>Cicindela hirticollis couleensis</i>
S. Oregon Coast	Gastropoda – Aquatic Snail	<i>Pomatiopsis chacei</i>
Willamette Valley edges	Hemiptera – Grass Bug	<i>Acetropis americana</i>
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie	Coleoptera - Bog Beetles	<i>Eanus hatchi</i> , <i>Agonum belleri</i>

## Fungi Highlight

The fuzzy sandozi fungus (*Bridgeoporus nobilissimus*) is considered to be the only easily inventoried fungus on our list because it produces a persistent conk near the base of large noble or Pacific silver fir trees. The problem is that it rarely produces conks and thus the species has been considered rare. Over the last two years, the *Bridgeoporus nobilissimus* ISSSSP work group has been working with a fungal genetics contractor and agency biometricians to find out if the species is present in more trees than have the conk. In 2009 we took increment cores from 420 trees and stumps within six known site stands. We were very excited to discover that it is present in 10 to 23 noble/Pacific silver fir trees and stumps per acre at the four known site stands where variable plots were sampled. This knowledge helps us better understand the species and to manage known sites. The next step is to survey for the species in areas where it is not know. Maybe the species is more prevalent across the landscape than it appears from the presence of conks.

Snow Peak, Salem BLM – Aerial photo showing the forest stand (black polygon) sampled at the Snow Peak known site (pink dot) and results for *Bridgeoporus nobilissimus* presence.



- ⊕: Fungus present
- : Fungus not present
- : Known site

For additional information about ISSSSP inventory or monitoring efforts, please contact Kelli Van Norman.

## Program Planning

### FY2011 Project Proposals

Sixty-four proposals were received for competitive funding through the ISSSSP Project Proposal Process. Thanks to Holly Witt (wildlife bio, Coos Bay BLM), Chris Loggers (wildlife bio, Colville NF), Linda Swartz (botanist, Gifford Pinchot NF), and Christina Veverka (botanist, Deschutes NF) for participating on the evaluation team. The Fungi Work Group evaluated another four fungal proposals. Twenty-eight projects were selected for funding. A large number of prior year proposals are ongoing and require FY2011 funds meaning that less funding was available for new projects.

The request for FY12 project proposals will be out this winter, with proposals due by April.

### GeoBOB

The Oregon Bald Eagle database has been migrated into GeoBOB. Diane Stutzman, regional GeoBOB data steward, cleaned up data that did not migrate well. Districts may begin entering in their 2008 through 2010 Bald Eagle data.

Next up on the GeoBOB migration to-do list is to migrate the Pat Ormsbee's bat data records for OR/WA BLM lands.

### NRIS

#### Wildlife

The bat database that Pat Ormsbee, the R6 Forest Service and BLM Bat Center of Excellence, manages is being migrated into NRIS Wildlife by Cheron Ferland.

The Region 6 Forest Service red tree vole data have been migrated from ISMS/GeoBOB into NRIS Wildlife. Look for the data not in your Forest schema, but in the Regional schema. We hope to take the next step of migrating the data from the Regional schema to the Forests within the next year.

## Conservation Planning

### Ongoing work

Work is underway on the following documents:

- Conservation Strategies: *Calochortus longebarbatus* var. *peckii*, *Botrychium pumicola*, *Cypripedium fasciculatum*, *Sisyrinchium sarmentosum*, *Castilleja chlorotica*, *Kalmiopsis fragrans*.
- Conservation Assessments: *Achnatherum wallowaensis*, *Achnatherum hendersonii*, *Sidalcea hirtipes*, *Penstemon glaucinus*, *Pogogyne floribunda*, Van Dyke's salamander, Rocky mountain tailed frog, Cascade torrent salamander, Gray flycatcher, Great gray owl, White-headed and Lewis' woodpeckers, Mardon skipper.
- Species fact sheets: 25 invertebrates, 5 lichens, 1 fungi, 1 plant
- Site management plans: *Amasinckia carinata*, *Sisyrinchium hitchcockii*, *Horkeia congesta*, Townsend's big-eared bats (2), Mardon skipper (4), Oregon spotted frog (12).

### Completed documents

Since the last ISSSSP update (December 2009), a number of conservation planning documents have been completed. Here's a select list of documents posted on our website since the last update:

- Conservation Strategies: *Penstemon peckii*,
- Conservation Planning Tools: Third year report on monitoring of project buffers, Wildlife Conservation in Oregon oak woodlands, an update Fungi Effects bibliography
- Updated or new species fact sheets for 43 invertebrates, 2 fungi, 12 bryophytes (including photographs for many), 22 lichens (with maps for some).
- Conservation Assessments: *Arcostaphylos hispidula*,
- Conservation Agreement: Oregon spotted frog, Klamath Basin
- Site Management Plans: 12 Mardon skipper sites

### Conservation highlight: Mardon skipper restoration work

Site management plans for 12 mardon skipper sites on the Medford BLM District were completed in 2010. The Plans identified the need for fencing to be constructed at three localities to protect habitat for the species, and to better understand the effects of livestock grazing. With the Plans in place, the ISSSSP was able to request BLM Washington Office funds to implement the fencing projects. The projects were initiated this summer and should be complete by Mardon skipper flight time next year. The Plans will serve as future foundations for requesting monies from ISSSSP for restoration and habitat management work. To see a site management plan format check out: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/planning-documents/site-management.shtml>

### Work Groups-highlight

The Fungi work Group is developing outreach and communication strategies in order to acquire additional information about SSS fungi. The strategies target mycological societies and other amateur mycologists, as well as university researchers. In addition, the Work Group is developing a strategy for Agency biologists, to address issues and tools needed as a result of the recent fungi questionnaire filled out by Agency botanists. The strategies will be shared with field units for comment this winter.

For more information about Conservation Planning documents and work, contact Rob Huff.

## ORNHIC to ORBIC

On May 15, 2010, the Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center (ORNHIC) was transferred from Oregon State University (OSU) to Portland State University (PSU). It is a part of the newly established School of the Environment in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Institute for Natural Resources (INR) Portland will continue to be a part of the Institute for Natural Resources which will now operate within both OSU and PSU. INR Portland has three primary programs, 1) Oregon Biodiversity Information Center or ORBIC, 2) Oregon Natural Areas Program, and 3) Northwest Landscape Assessment and Mapping Program (PNW – LAMP). Their role as the information center for the state and the FS and BLM relation with them is not expected to change.

Oregon Biodiversity Information Center or ORBIC:

ORBIC's key function is to maintain, develop and distribute biodiversity information in Oregon. The center works with a variety of agency, NGO, and private partners to provide the most comprehensive information on plants, wildlife, fish, fungi, and vegetation throughout Oregon. ORBIC maintains the rare and endangered species database for Oregon.

The new link to their home page and the 2010 "Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species of Oregon" is as follows: <http://orbic.pdx.edu/index.html>

The new link to their to their publications is as follows: <http://orbic.pdx.edu/publications.html>

Oregon Natural Areas Program:

The official state natural heritage program has become the "Oregon Natural Areas Program" through changes in the Natural Heritage Act made by the Oregon Legislature in 2009. The program is managed by the Department of State Lands. INR Portland provides staff to support the program and the Natural Areas Program's Advisory Council, via an interagency agreement. This program will also be managed by PSU staff in Portland.

Pacific Northwest Landscape Assessment and Mapping Program (PNW – LAMP):

The program is focused on mapping existing vegetation, modeling vegetation conditions and structure, improving historic and potential natural vegetation, and developing information needed for management and conservation analyses. The PNW-LAMP is to remain a partnership between INR, the Forest Service's PNW Research Station, and the College of Forestry at OSU.

Contacts for ORBIC can be found at the following link: <http://orbic.pdx.edu/staff.html>

## WNHP and ORBIC Coordination Meetings

The ISSSSP met with WNHP and ORBIC in June and July, respectively. The objectives of the meetings were to discuss our programs of work, collaborate on conservation and inventory efforts and data management, finalize action plans drafted in FY09, and determine FY11 contract elements.

Key components of the action plans are communication, species assessment process, data entry, data sharing, and data transfer. The tasks associated with these key components may be different for each state Heritage Program, but the goals of the tasks are to 1) improve marketing of the Heritage network and educate on the value of the network, 2) enhance our collaboration, efficiencies, and leveraging of resources for rare species management, 3) make the species assessment process and rationale transparent, 4) encourage other agencies and organizations to share species data with WNHP and ORBIC to ensure they have all data available to best evaluate species status, 5) continue to share data between the agencies and WNHP/ORBIC, and 6) make the transfer of data more efficient. In particular to WNHP, we also are working toward reducing the disparity between Oregon and Washington on lichen, bryophyte, and fungi species assessments.

For FY 11, the WNHP contract items are information management and data transfer, maintaining flora EOs,

incorporating FS flora data into Biotics, providing statewide flora dataset (on and off FS land) in personal geodatabase format to the FS, creating element occurrences for lichens and bryophytes (continuing work from FY10), and evaluating fungi species on the WNHP fungi working list and assess placement in the WNHP Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive or Review category.

For FY 11, the ORBIC contract items are information management and data transfer, maintaining flora and fauna EOs, incorporating FS flora and fauna data into Biotics, providing statewide flora and fauna dataset (on and off FS land) in personal geodatabase format to the FS, conducting species assessments using NatureServe rank calculator tool and posting the output on ORBIC website (transparency issue), and identifying the information gap for List 3 species.

Products are due by the end of the fiscal year and will ultimately contribute to updating the SSS list, making statewide data available for use in NEPA analyses, making rationale for species assessment available to FS and BLM personnel and the public, and assisting the ISSSSP in determining what information gaps need to be filled for Strategic species.

The ISSSSP plans to have annual meetings with WNHP and ORBIC to establish annual contracts and adjust the action plan as goals and objectives are reached.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Hughes, 503-808-2661, [cshughes@fs.fed.us](mailto:cshughes@fs.fed.us).

## Contact Information and Feedback

We're looking for feedback. Is this newsletter helpful? Is the format okay, or would you recommend something different? What other kind of information or topics would you like to hear about?

Please send any comments you have to Rob Huff, [Rob\\_Huff@blm.gov](mailto:Rob_Huff@blm.gov)

### Interagency personnel contact info:

Rob Huff, [Rob\\_Huff@blm.gov](mailto:Rob_Huff@blm.gov), 503-808-6479, Conservation Planning Coordinator

Kelli Van Norman, [Kelli\\_Vannorman@blm.gov](mailto:Kelli_Vannorman@blm.gov), 503-808-6606, Inventory Coordinator

Carol Hughes, [cshughes@fs.fed.us](mailto:cshughes@fs.fed.us), 503-808-2661, SSSS Specialist

Darci Rivers-Pankratz, [dpankratz@fs.fed.us](mailto:dpankratz@fs.fed.us), 503-808-2688, Inventory Coordinator Assistant

### Agency Program leads contact info:

Mark Skinner, [mkskinner02@fs.fed.us](mailto:mkskinner02@fs.fed.us), 503-808-2150, Region 6 Botanist

Sarah Madsen, [smadsen@fs.fed.us](mailto:smadsen@fs.fed.us), 503-808-2673, Region 6 TES Program Leader

OR/WA BLM Special Status Species Biologist-vacant

OR/WA BLM Botanist-vacant

