

Interagency Sensitive and Special Status Species Program Update- June 2015

Websites – ISSSSP and Survey & Manage

Many new or updated documents have been posted on the ISSSSP website: inventory reports, species fact sheets, conservation assessments, conservation planning tools, and site management plans.

The bat and fungi work groups identified a need to reorganize information on the ISSSSP website in order to more easily find conservation and inventory information related to these species groups. As a result, a major reorganization of the information supporting bat conservation and inventory has been completed. A new page has been established solely for bats to provide better customer service, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/species-index/fauna-mammals-bats.shtml>. A similar reorganization is also in progress for fungi.

If you have suggestions for other improvements to the website or, as you use the website, if you find errors or encounter problems, please notify Carol Hughes.

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ISSSSP List Update Status

The draft updated Region 6 Regional Forester and OR/WA State Director Special Status Species List was transmitted for review in December 2014 with comments received in late February. The final updated Region 6 Regional Forester Federally Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed, and Sensitive and Strategic Species List update and the OR/WA State Director Special Status Species List Update is about ready to be routed for signature and transmittal.

Corrections and comments received from field units on the draft list have been incorporated or resolved. This list update includes a minor change to the listing criteria. Species with a "Q" rank (meaning taxonomic question) previously could not qualify as Sensitive. In this list update, however, the Q rank no longer disqualifies a species as a potential Sensitive species. If you have any questions, please call Carol Hughes.

ISSSSP priority species

In January 2015, we asked field units to help identify the top Sensitive species for us to help focus our money and time on—with over 700 Sensitive species, it's important to prioritize our limited monies and energies. Field units identified key information gaps and conservation needs, and identified associated tasks to address them. These needs will drive ISSSSP funding and workload priorities over the next few years.

Key Points in this issue:

- New SSSS list out this summer
- Bumble bee training workshops this spring (identification and survey techniques)
- Changes in invertebrate species identification processes
- Buildings used by bats need to follow previously issued direction for the FS
- Bat Conservation Planning Tools posted on new ISSSSP bat web page



Inventory and Monitoring

Bumble Bees-Upcoming Workshops

In 2014 four ISSSSP-sponsored bumble bee workshops were held in Oregon and Washington. Not everyone was able to attend so three additional workshops are being offered in Oregon this summer. Rich Hatfield from The Xerces Society will be presenting the same material as last year. The day will be divided into morning classroom learning and afternoon field training. The same material will be presented at each of the 3 workshops. Both FS/BLM botanists and wildlife biologists are encouraged to attend.

- Government Camp, OR Workshop: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 (Already completed)
- Cottage Grove, OR Workshop: Thursday, June 4, 2015
- Bend, OR Workshop: Wednesday, June 10, 2015

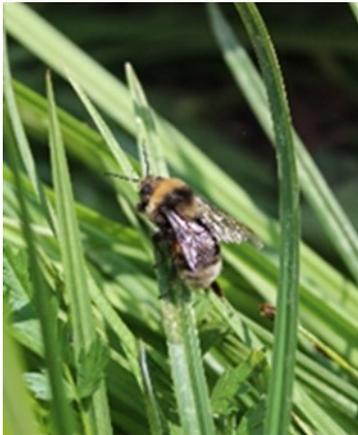


Photo: Western bumble bee from 2014 Wallowa-Whitman NF survey.

Specimen Identification Services-Invertebrates

We've had a change in the past year. Mollusk vouchers now get sent to Tiffany Young, our interagency Mollusk Center of Excellence. Many of you already know Tiff from her enthusiastic mollusk workshops. She is a District Wildlife Biologist on the Sweet Home Ranger District, Willamette NF, and is currently on detail at the Umpqua NF as the Forest Wildlife Biologist, where she will take over as the permanent Forest Wildlife Biologist at the end of July.

Send your non-mollusk invertebrate vouchers to Candace Fallon at The Xerces Society. Xerces is working under a Financial Assistance Agreement with ISSSSP to provide Identification Services and/or sub-contract to the appropriate experts. This includes bumble bees. Candace is coordinating all of these identifications.

All contact information, voucher tracking forms, and guidelines are available from <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/inventories/identification.shtml>

Caddisflies

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) has an ISSSSP project to determine presence of endemic caddisflies and stoneflies on the Oregon side of the Gorge. They are working with The Xerces Society and Bob Wisseman, an expert in these critters. Bob presented a one day training May 20th in Hood River. Additionally, Greg Wanner from the Mt Hood National Forest presented his findings so far on ISSSSP-funded surveys for the Mt Hood endemic caddisfly, Scott's Apatanian (*Allomyia scotti*). Eight populations of Scott's Apatanian have been found and a much better understanding of their habitat is now known.



Photo: A heavy-duty D-ring net trap is used to capture caddisfly larvae

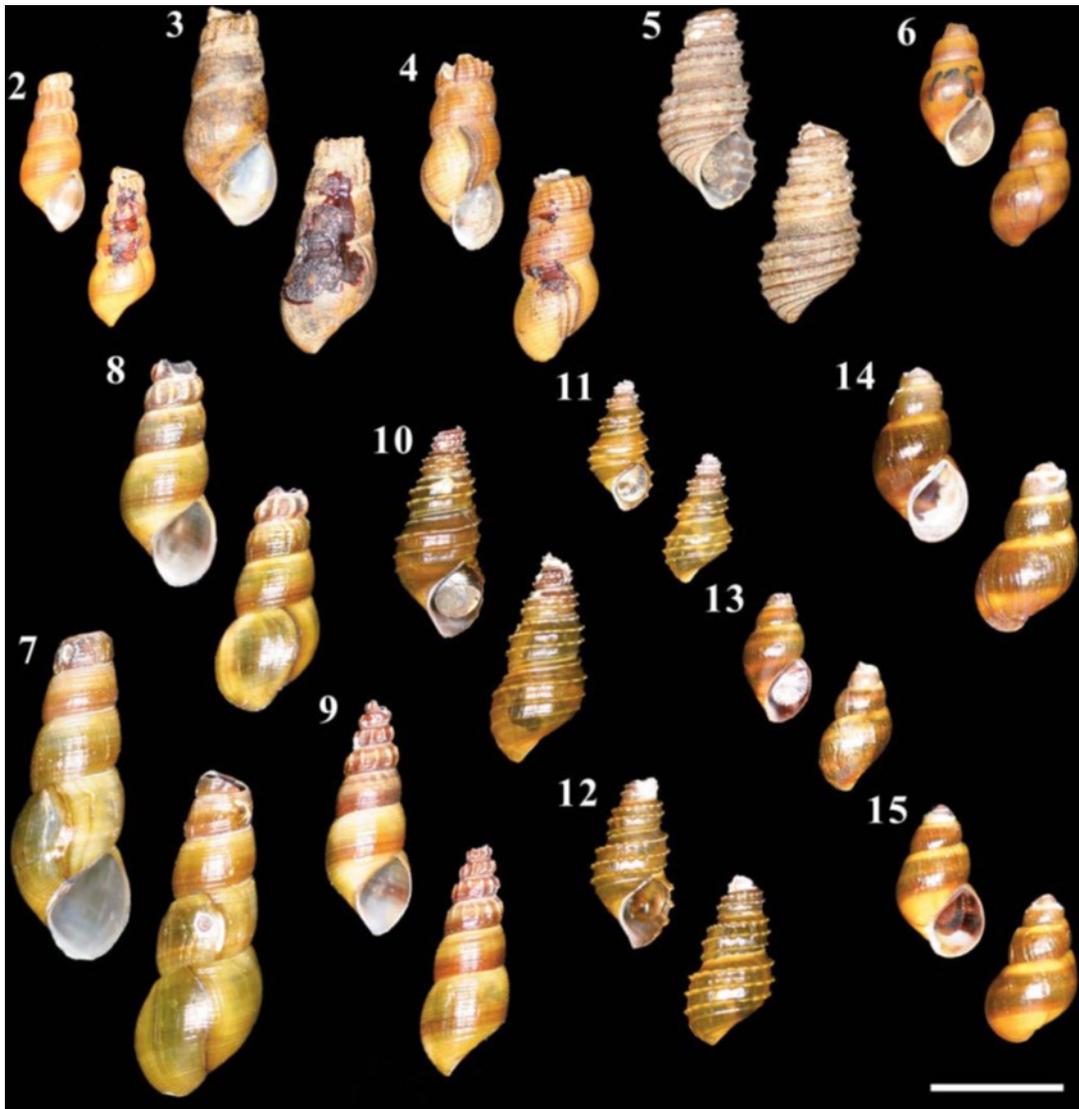


Photo: Nets are emptied of contents into a large, shallow white pan. The caddisfly larvae are plucked out as they begin to move around and put directly into a vial of 95% ETOH with a field tag.

Inventory and Monitoring, continued

Aquatic Gastropod Taxonomy on the Genus 'Juga'

Dr. Ellen Smith is a Research Zoologist with the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. She studies the gastropod superfamily Cerithioidea, with specific experience in both eastern and western North America Pleuroceridae and Semisulcospiridae. In 2014 ISSSP began a project with Dr. Smith to revisit Juga locations, make collections, and then conduct a morphological and molecular study. Dr. Smith's field crew traveled throughout Oregon for 2 weeks in 2014 and will return in September 2015. We especially need more Juga locations to sample east of the Cascades in Oregon and throughout Washington. Please contact Kelli Van Norman (kvannorm@blm.gov) prior to mid-August if you know of Juga locations in these areas.



Shells of *Juga newberryi* and other species. Scale bar = 1.0 cm. *Juga newberryi* is shown in figure 6 and 13-15. *Juga silicula* is shown in figures 2-4 (syntypes) and 7-9. *Juga acutifilosa* is shown in figure 5 and 10-12. This figure was extracted from Strong and Frest (2007); used with permission.

Inventory and Monitoring, continued

Species Spotlight-Columbia Spotted Frog

Environmental DNA (eDNA) is nuclear or mitochondrial DNA that is released from an organism into the environment. Sources of eDNA include secreted feces, mucous, and gametes; shed skin and hair; and carcasses. It is being found to be especially helpful in detecting cryptic aquatic species. Water samples are taken and pumped through a special filter that is preserved and taken to a genetics lab where DNA is extracted from the filter and tested for the target species.

Under a BLM Assistance Agreement with Washington State University, Master's degree student Matt Smith, under the guidance of Dr. Caren Goldberg, has begun an eDNA study for BLM/FS in southeastern Oregon and Nevada focusing on the Great Basin clade of the Columbia Spotted Frog (CSF GB), a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. This species can be difficult to detect at low densities using visual and dip net surveys, indicating a need for additional techniques. eDNA has been shown to have increased sensitivity for detecting amphibians over field surveys, including for CSF GB in a pilot study. Matt is using habitat models to inform sampling design and will be surveying during the summers of 2015 and 2016. He'll also be refining the techniques for eDNA sampling of CSF GB so that eventually agency personnel could conduct their own eDNA sampling.

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



Photo: Columbia spotted frog adult at Dry Creek, Vale District BLM (USFWS photo).

Work Group highlight

Bat Work Group

The FS/BLM Bat Work Group, comprised of Cassandra Hummel (Prineville BLM), Robin Snider (Medford BLM), David Probasco (Lakeview BLM), Joe Doerr (Willamette NF), Julie York, (Deschutes NF), Mitch Wainwright (Gifford Pinchot NF), Michelle Caviness (Willamette NF, Western Bat Working Group, Oregon representative), Josh Chapman (FS RO Wildlife Lead) and Rob Huff and Kelli Van Norman (ISSSSP), wanted to share two pieces of information more broadly:

Project EduBat – Bat trunk

The Project EduBat trunk has educational materials and activities about bats and white-nose syndrome directed at a wide variety of ages, from small kids to adults. The trunk is part of a national bat educational effort developed by a partnership of non-profits and various state and federal agencies including the FS and BLM. Visit <http://batslive.pwnet.org/edubat/> for an overview of the activities included. The trunk is available for use by any FS/BLM personnel or others (teachers, NGOs, other agencies, etc.). In Oregon, the EduBat trunk can be reserved via Julie York on the Deschutes NF, EduBatTrunkDeschutes@fs.fed.us, or you can call her directly at 541-549-7709. In Washington, the trunk can be reserved via Meg Lunnum with Bats Northwest in Stanwood, WA, 360-631-0668, info@batsnorthwest.org, or Jenny Barnett, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Zone I&M Biologist in Burbank, WA, 509-380-6479, jenny_barnett@fws.gov. The bat trunk is available free except for costs associated with shipping.

Bats and Buildings

A little over two years ago, Region 6 Forest Service issued direction on dealing with buildings used by bats, specifically within the Northwest Forest Plan area. (but with concepts applicable elsewhere). Based on some recent questions the work group has received we feel it is important to remind field personnel of this direction. The direction is posted on the ISSSSP website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/agency-direction/>

For additional information about the work group or these topics, contact any of the work group members.

Conservation Planning

Conservation Planning efforts focus on providing informational documents such as species fact sheets for the little known SSSS (fungi, lichens, bryophytes, invertebrates), as well as creating more detailed conservation and management oriented documents (Conservation Assessments, Conservation Strategies, Conservation Agreements, Site Management Plans) for higher-priority species or those species where more information is known about them. Species Fact Sheets or Conservation Assessments have been completed for all Sensitive fungi, lichens, bryophytes, and invertebrates, and are posted on the Conservation Planning Docs webpage. Some older versions of these documents have been updated or are in the process of being updated. Please see the ISSSSP website for a full listing of documents created to date.

In addition, habitat restoration and enhancement projects, including site management plan implementation are components of the Conservation Planning portion of ISSSSP, with a number of these types of projects funded and implemented over the last several years.

Completed and posted documents

While not comprehensive, the list of Conservation Planning documents that have been completed and posted on our website since the last ISSSSP update includes:

- Updated or new tools for fungi and bats, posted on the Conservation Planning Tools webpage.
- Conservation Assessments for Cope's Giant salamander and Van Dyke's salamander.
- 16 invertebrate species fact sheets.
- Site management plans for mardon skipper sites on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

For additional information about Conservation Planning please contact Rob Huff.

Completed but not yet posted

- Conservation assessments for the red-tailed chipmunk, and the mollusks *Cryptomastix devia*, *Helminthoglypta hertlieni*, and *Prophysaon coeruleum*.
- Species Fact Sheets for 12 invertebrates.
- Site Management Plans for 2 vascular plants and 1 mardon skipper site.

FY15 work in progress

- Conservation Assessments for four bat species (pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, fringed myotis, spotted bat), pygmy shrew, kit fox, Oregon vesper sparrow, seaside hoary elfin, 4 vascular plants (*Arabissparsiflora* var. *atorubens*, *Corydalis aquae-gelidae*, *Erythronium quinaultense*, and *Suksdorfia violacea*), and updated Assessments for 4 mollusk species (*Cryptomastix hendersoni*, *Hemphillia burringtoni*, *Hemphillia glandulosa*, *Monadenia fidelis minor*).
- Conservation Strategies for *Botrychium pumicola*, *Carex idahoensis*, and *Cypripedium fasciculatum*.
- Habitat restoration/enhancement projects for mardon skipper, Lower Table Rock vernal pools, *Ophioglossum pusillum*, *Lathyrus holochlorus*, xeric meadow associated invertebrates, Townsend's big-eared bat, purple martin, California mountain kingsnake, and the western pond turtle.
- Species Fact Sheets for 7 invertebrate species (*Anodonta californiensis* and *A. nuttalliana*, *Driloleirus americanus*, *Hesperia colorado oregonia*, *Lanx subrotunda*, *Megomphix lutarius*, *Vespericola sierranus*) and 4 vascular plants (*Hieracium horridum*, *Solanum parishii*, *Streptanthus glandulosus*, *Ribes divaricatum* ssp. *pubiflorum*).

Species Highlight-Bryophytes

Ron Exeter, Judy Harpel and David Wagner have submitted a final draft titled, *Rare Bryophytes of Oregon* to the Government Printing Office for formatting and then printing. Hopefully the publication will be available in late August or September. Each District/Forest and educational institutions will receive free copies. Copies will be made available to the public for a currently undetermined price. The abstract is as follows:

The Oregon Biodiversity Information Center's (ORBIC) species of concern list (2013) identifies one hornwort, 39 liverworts and 102 moss species occurring in Oregon as rare, threatened or endangered. This Bureau of Land Management publication provides for each species current nomenclature, distinctive taxonomic characteristics, technical description, similar species, ecology, mapped known distributions, references, and a photomicrograph plate. This work gives a much-needed review of known species locations by both county and ecoregions. For taxonomic reasons, we do not cover *Pohlia sphagnicola* and *Bartramia stricta* in this publication, although we do include *Asterella bolanderi*, *Riccia californica* and *Tritomaria exsecta*.



Photo by R. Exeter

Photo: *Tetraplodon mnioides*, by Ron Exeter

Program Information

Lists of Agreements in Place that Support ISSSSP and Survey and Manage

Attached is a list of agreements established by the ISSSSP and the OR/WA BLM State Office Plant Conservation Program that support the inventory and conservation of rare species for both BLM and FS in Oregon and Washington. These agreements can provide efficiencies for the transfer of funds or completion of work associated with rare species inventory and management, and they can be modified to support this work at the field level. Please contact Carol Hughes or Mark Mousseaux if you have a need to work with one these agencies/organizations.

Agreement Type	Partner	Project Description
IA	OR/WA BLM	General ISSSSP support, inventory and conservation of rare species
Purchase order, FAA	WNHP/WDNR	Plant and animal conservation and data services and support to ISSSSP
Purchase order, CESU-FAA	ORBIC/Portland State University	Plant and animal conservation, analysis, and data services and support to ISSSSP
IA	Region 6 FS	General ISSSSP support, inventory and conservation of rare species
FAA	Oregon Wildlife Institute	Conservation of rare vertebrates; red tree vole, Pond turtle
FAA	The Smithsonian Institution	Taxonomic work on aquatic mollusks
FAA	The Xerces Society, Portland	Invertebrate inventory and conservation
FAA	Chicago Botanic Gardens	Conservation Land Management interns
FAA	NW Lichenologists	Conservation and inventory of and training on rare lichen and bryophyte species
FAA	Institute for Applied Ecology	Conservation, inventory and monitoring of rare plants
CESU-FAA	University of Washington Rare Care	Plant monitoring, inventory, seed collection and germplasm storage
CESU-FAA	Portland State University (Rae Selling Berry Botanical Garden)	Plant conservation, rare plant seed collection and germplasm storage
CESU-FAA	UW Herbarium	Plant Conservation – Flora PNW
CESU-FAA,	Washington State University	Aquatic species environmental DNA
CESU-FAA	OSU	Plant Conservation – Flora of Oregon
CCS-FAA	Carex Working Group, LLC	Conservation, inventory and training of grasses and carices

IA = Interagency Agreement
FAA = Financial Assistance Agreement

CESU = Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit
CCS = Challenge Cost Share

Program Information, continued

Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (ORBIC) and Washington Natural Heritage Program (WNHP) Coordination

The ISSSSP team met with ORBIC and WNHP on April 16, 2015. A key objective of these meetings is to collaborate to determine where we can combine resources to provide for efficient and effective inventory and conservation of rare species. Work for 2015 and 2016 includes:

- Information management and data transfer,
- Continuing to apply the Climate Change Vulnerability Index for all our Sensitive vascular plants and then assess Sensitive invertebrates and mammals,
- Utilizing the NatureServe rank calculator for assessment of species ranks and creating an output that they post on their website,
- Assisting in identifying information gaps for Strategic species and prioritizing species and actions in order to fill information gaps, and
- Developing a training webinar on how to query the species data from the Heritage data geodatabases they provide to FS/BLM biannually.

FY2015 and 2016 Project Proposals

ISSSSP received 50 proposals requesting FY2015 funding and awarded funding for 27 proposals. In addition, there were 18 ISSSSP-funded projects from FY2014 that continued with funding from ISSSSP in 2015. In total \$ 184K of BLM and \$343K of FS projects were funded through the ISSSSP project proposal process in FY15.

For FY2016, 61 proposals were ranked by a small evaluation team in early May. The Fungi Work Group also recently evaluated 3 fungal proposals submitted. The results of these evaluations will be shared with requesting field unit personnel within the next month.

If you have questions on the Project Proposal process, please contact Kelli Van Norman or Rob Huff.

Updated *Phaeocollybia* publication

Lorelei Norvell and Ron Exeter are working on an update to their 2008 publication *Phaeocollybia of Pacific Northwest North America*. This new publication places at least 2 species in synonymy (*P. californica* & *P. rufotubulina*, and *P. tibiikauffmanii* & *P. spadicea*). In addition, up to 5 new species will be described and a new key presented. This publication should be sent to press after this fall mushroom season and available in the spring of 2016.

Data Management Update

NRIS Wildlife

To help have consistency among our datasets for taxa that have survey protocols or that are distributed across many Forests, we have developed or are developing data entry guidelines .

TAXA	AUTHOR	STATUS
Red tree vole	Terri Stone	Finalized April 2013
Oregon spotted frog	Cheron Ferland	Finalized April 2015
Bald eagle	Cheron Ferland	Finalized April 2015
Bats	Cheron Ferland	Finalized April 2015
Mollusks	Terri Stone	Under development

For more information about Data Management, please contact Ann Sprague or Kelli Van Norman about the Forest Service and Diane Stutzman for the BLM.

These guidelines are available at <http://fsweb.r6.fs.fed.us/natural-resources/wildlife/NRIS.shtml>

Contact Information and Feedback

We're always looking for feedback. Is this newsletter helpful? What other kind of information or topics would you like to hear about?

Please send any comments you have to Rob Huff, Rhuff@blm.gov

Interagency personnel contact info:

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