

July 31, 2007

Volume 1, Issue 1

Interagency Special Status and Sensitive Species Program-Update

ISSSSP Website

The ISSSSP website, hosted by the Forest Service, has had major difficulties over the past six months. Many of the documents being posted on the website were immediately corrupted, or quickly became inaccessible to users. We stopped posting new documents on the website back in February 2007 due to this issue; we were told that this problem originated at

the national level, and that it was being worked on.

After spot checking the website, and the website being down for maintenance, it appears that the problems have been corrected, and previously corrupted documents are fixed.

This week we will begin posting new documents that have been developed since

February. This includes species fact sheets, Conservation Assessments, and species distribution maps covering over 400 species. The website address is: www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/

For additional information please contact: Carol Hughes, cshughes@fs.fed.us,

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New Sensitive and Special Status Species Lists

New criteria for determining Sensitive and Special Status Species (SSSS) were developed by the FS and BLM SSSS Program Managers and inter-agency SSSS staff. The new criteria are intended to bring BLM and FS list development more closely together, to ensure that we are managing species across agency boundaries. These new criteria and the resulting lists have been mailed out to each of the Forests and BLM Districts.

Forest Service personnel provided feedback through a July 6th Reply Due memo as

to the Documented and Suspected status of the various new species, and updates to species previously on the list. A final version of the list will be mailed out this fall.

BLM Districts were recently mailed a final SSSS list, and also asked to identify the Documented or Suspected status of new species, and to update S and D determinations for previously listed species. The BLM Reply Due date is August 31. An updated list will be shared with the units after that date.

The lists will be/are posted at: www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/agency-policy/

For additional information please contact: Carol Hughes, cshughes@fs.fed.us, 503-808-2661

Key Points in this issue:

- New agency Special Status and Sensitive Species lists transmitted to field
- Conservation Planning Documents covering over 250 Sensitive and Strategic species to be posted
- Species specific strategies being developed
- FY08 ISSSS Project Proposals to be selected by Aug 31

Special Status and Sensitive Species Work Groups

Work groups are short term teams that identify high priority information and conservation gaps, to assist our management of the species in accordance with SSS policies. The ISSSSP then funds tasks to address those gaps. We've focused our work groups on species of high conservation or management concern, particularly those with much complexity or potential disagreements on approaches.

There have been 8 different work groups initiated since the beginning of the ISSSSP in 2005. Attachment 1 identifies each of the work groups and the key

tasks that have been funded over the past 3 years. In addition, Conservation Assessments or Species Fact Sheets have been or are currently being developed for the species covered by the 8 work groups.

Work group conference call updates and participation on specific tasks are open to all interested field personnel. Please contact Rob or Kelli if you are interested.

Additional work groups will be developed in FY08, but those groups have not yet been identified.

For additional information please contact:

Rob Huff, Rob_Huff@blm.gov, 503-808-6479, Conservation Planning Coordinator or

Kelli Van Norman, Kelli_VanNorman@blm.gov, 503-808-6606, Inventory Coordinator.

Conservation Planning Documents

Please see Attachment 2 for a complete listing of all completed and/or ongoing Conservation Planning documents. Documents covering over 250 species are newly posted (or will be posted in the next week) on the website.

Also recently posted on the website is a format document for developing "Site Management Plans". Site Management Plans can be a useful tool in determining how best to manage a SSSS site location now and in the future. All of Conserva-

tion Planning documents are posted (or to be posted) on the interagency website: www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/planning-documents/

For additional information, contact Rob Huff, Rob_Huff@blm.gov, 503-808-6479, Conservation Planning Coordinator.

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Inventory and Monitoring

The Inventory and Monitoring portion of the ISSSSP web page was modified last winter (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/inventories/>). You can now find survey protocols, field guides, and information about our regional specimen identification services there. A few project reports and models have been posted, and more will be posted soon.

New publication

"The utility of strategic surveys for rare and little-known species under the Northwest Forest Plan" PNW-GTR-708.

Kelli Van Norman and Rob Huff assisted PNW Researcher and former Survey &

Manage Program amphibian taxa expert, Dede Olson, to compile and evaluate strategic surveys funded by the Survey and Manage program. The publication can be downloaded from the PNW web-page (<http://treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/27294>) or contact Kelli Van Norman for a hardcopy.

From 63 funded projects, 123 products, (e.g. publications and reports) were compiled and are now available in a regional archive. Although all project types significantly contributed to advancing our understanding of rare species, numerous lessons learned from this effort will be important considerations for future con-

servation programs and are already being applied to our Interagency Special Status Species Program.

For additional information about ISSSSP inventory or monitoring efforts, please contact Kelli VanNorman, Kelli_VanNorman@blm.gov, 503-808-6066, Inventory Coordinator.

Program Planning

FY07 ISSSSP Projects

In FY07 26 projects totaling more than \$270,000 were funded through the ISSSSP Project Proposal Process. Please see Attachment 3 for a complete list. These projects should all be well underway by now. All final products including final reports are due at the end of this fiscal year. A handful of projects have a different agreed upon completion schedule, in which case an interim report is due at the end of this fiscal year. If you are a project lead and anticipate any problems or delays, please notify us as soon as possible.

FY08 ISSSSP Project Proposals

Fifty-one proposals were received for competition for funding through the ISSSSP Project Proposal Process. A small group comprised of ISSSSP staff and field personnel reviewed the Proposals the 18th and 19th of July; projects will be selected for funding and field offices notified by August 31st.

Species Specific Strategies

In FY05, Kelli Van Norman and Rob Huff visited with field unit personnel representing each of the BLM and Forest Service units in Oregon and Washington. The purpose of those meetings was to determine which species are of highest priority for conservation planning and/or inventory efforts. Field input from those meetings identified about 200 species (not including fungi, which as a group, have been considered high priority) that were considered of medium to high priority to work on.

For each of these species, we've been developing a Species Specific Strategy, drawing from the information and conservation gaps the field units identified, and identifying tasks to address those gaps. We will soon have draft Strategies available for field review and input. We will then use these Strategies to determine priority tasks to work on in FY08 and beyond. With SSS Lists changing this

FY, we'll need to determine if each of the 200 species are still on our SSS Lists, and determine if there are additional (new) species that should be considered as medium to high priority as well (and have Species Specific Strategies developed for them).

For additional information on Program Planning work please contact:

Rob Huff, Rob_Huff@blm.gov, 503-808-6479, Conservation Planning Coordinator or

Kelli Van Norman, Kelli_VanNorman@blm.gov, 503-808-6066, Inventory Coordinator.

“For each of these species, we've been developing a Species Specific Strategy, drawing from the information and conservation gaps the field units identified...”

Data Management

BLM-GeoBOB

Additional GeoBOB web queries and application reports are being developed. A demonstration of prototypes for field users was held via conference call and NetMeeting on June 26th. The new queries and reports are scheduled for completion at this fiscal year.

The OR/WA BLM budget FY08 Preliminary Target Allocation (PTA) has once again identified funds for GeoBOB data management at each District. Specifically, the PTA says “Each unit is funded in BPS 40492 to accomplish annual entry of plant and animal data into GeoBOB. GeoBOB is a key component and tool in support of the State Director’s priority for federally listed species and SSS and their habitats and the ISSSSP... Districts will be asked to report on accomplishments for BPS 40492 in the Fall 2008. Districts are required to complete entry of all FY 08 observation and associated survey and

site data from Special Status Species and S&M surveys or monitoring activities into GeoBOB.” The Districts were asked to report on GeoBOB accomplishments in the FY07 PTA as well.

For additional information please contact: Adrienne Pilmanis, 503-808-6604, adrienne_pilmanis@blm.gov, (<http://intra.or.blm.gov/geobob/>)

FS-NRIS TES Plants

Migration of NRIS TES Plant data from NRIS 1.0 into NRIS 2.0 located on the national data center server is anticipated this fall after the beginning of the new fiscal year. All Forests should have the rest of this fiscal year to complete their 2007 data entry commitments. Version 2.0 will combine the current invasive and TES Plant modules, utilize ArcGIS 9.2,

include a geodatabase that will permit regionwide analysis and limit each Forest to their own forest boundary for data entry and editing.

For additional information please contact: Rod Clausnitzer, 509-826-3278, rclausnitzer@fs.fed.us or Russ Holmes, russellholmes@fs.fed.us, 503-808-2150, FS Region 6 Regional Botanist

Data Management, continued

FS-NRIS Fauna

Fauna Move to the Data Center: The move of NRIS Fauna from Forest servers to the NRIS Data Center at the National Information Technology Center (NITC) in Kansas City, has been delayed due to technical problems with NRIS architecture. The full application is expected to be available in February 2008. A partial release could be available earlier, which would allow users to get used to working at the Data Center and with the new version of Fauna prior to the move. Training for the new version of Fauna will be scheduled when the move is complete. The Fauna team is also considering some Sametime sessions to guide users in dealing with the application at NITC.

FS Wildlife Data Migration from GeoBOB/ISMS: The original trial resulted in many errors that would be time-consuming and annoying for the biologists to identify and correct. Additional work has been completed by contractors and Fauna development team personnel to reduce the errors when the data is run a second time. The end product should be Fauna working files or Fauna Migrator files that will contain records ready for committing into Fauna, and a separate file of (hopefully) a few records that will require more work to commit. This second run is expected by the end of the fiscal year. Ken Meyer (GIP NF) and Ann Sprague (OKW NF) will be available to walk biologists through the process of correcting and committing data.

If your Forest has been asked to update protocol names prior to the migration, this needs to be done soon. One of the migration steps is that the forest server is checked for the appropriate names. If they are not found, the record will be tagged as an error. If you need help with updating the protocol names for your Forest, call Ann Sprague and she'll Net-Meet with you to complete it.

For additional information please contact: Ann Sprague, 509-996-4047, asprague@fs.fed.us

Region 6 FS Botanical Program Managers Meeting

A coordinated program managers meeting for TES Plants, Native Plants, Invasive Plants, and Range has been scheduled for Oct 29 - Nov 1, 2007 at the Bonneville Hot Springs Resort in North Bonneville, WA (<http://www.bonnevilleresort.com/>).

The target audience will be Forest level program leads. More information will be forthcoming on reservation deadlines and agenda topics.

For additional information please contact: Russ Holmes, russellholmes@fs.fed.us, 503-808-2150, FS Region 6 Regional Botanist

OR/WA BLM Plant Conservation (Botany) Program Lead Meeting

A Plant Conservation program lead meeting has been scheduled for October 11th and 12th at the Lasell Stewart Center in Corvallis. Target audience will be district level program leads.

Agenda topics will be discussed at the

August 16th monthly botany call. Emphasis will be on the Native Plant Material Development Program. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Please send comments to Joan_Seevers@blm.gov.

Research Natural Area Meeting for OR/WA BLM & Region 6 FS

There will be a two-day meeting in Corvallis October 9th and 10th at the Lasell Center dedicated to Research Natural Areas. The first day will examine the RNA program as it now exists and the second day will concentrate on how to train and use volunteers in RNA monitoring and management. Target audience is BLM district level program leads and Forest level program leads.

Please send comments to:

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Joan_Seevers@blm.gov.

Contact Information and Feedback

We're looking for feedback. Is this news-letter 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

Interagency personnel contact info:

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