

Interagency Special Status and Sensitive Species Fungi Work Group

Information Sheet

November 2011

Since 2006, the Forest Service Region 6 and BLM Oregon/Washington have had an interagency Fungi Work Group focused on the conservation and management of fungal species listed in the Interagency Special Status and Sensitive Species Program (ISSSSP). The goal of the Work Group has been to develop a longer-term, larger-scale strategy to address key information and conservation gaps to assist in managing fungal species in accordance with BLM and FS Special Status and Sensitive Species (SSSS) policies. High-priority tasks are identified, key personnel and monies determined, and timelines and expected products developed.

To date the following tools for field personnel use have been produced:

- 1) Fungi Conservation Assessment (covers all SSSS fungi)
- 2) Habitat summary for all Sensitive Fungi species
- 3) Sporocarp survey protocol
- 4) Species Distribution maps (as of October 2007)
- 5) Fungi effects analysis guidelines, including a likelihood of occurrence key, an annotated bibliography of fungi effects literature.

In addition, a number of survey reports, species fact sheets, and genetic marker projects have been completed. All products are posted on the ISSSSP website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/species-index/flora-fungi.shtml>

The Work Group has also outlined criteria for field proposals for fungal survey or conservation work, and annually the Work Group evaluates field proposals as part of the ISSSSP Project Proposal Process.

Every couple of years the Work Group evaluates progress to date in addressing high priority information gaps and conservation needs. At that time, new tasks are identified to address the new gaps and needs. New priority tasks were identified in spring 2010, including the development of an outreach and communication strategy for amateur mycologists, agency botanists, and university researchers. A questionnaire shared with field botanists this past summer has resulted in new tasks for the Work Group including the development of white papers summarizing research on fungi effects from different management activities, and a NEPA/BE and fungi effects workshop for botanists. In addition, the Work Group will continue to complete tasks and support work to address key information gaps regarding: 1) species life history, habitat, distribution and range; 2) site management issues and threats and; 3) monitoring and trends.

Team members on the Work Group include:

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Feel free to contact any of these individuals to learn more about the work group, to volunteer for tasks, or to share your thoughts about fungi SSSS management and conservation.
