



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office  
P.O. Box 2965  
Portland, Oregon 97208  
<http://blm.gov/or>

**JUL 29, 2015**

**IN REPLY REFER TO:**

6840 (OR931) I

EMS TRANSMISSION 07/31/2015

Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2015-028

Expires: 09/30/2018

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:** This instruction memorandum (IM) officially updates the State Director's SSS list, which includes federally threatened, endangered and proposed species and Bureau sensitive and strategic species for the Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The updated list reflects comments and corrections received from the field in response to IB-OR-2015-028 transmitted January 15, 2015.

A minor change to the criteria was made (as noted in IB-OR-2015-028) and is officially applied in this list update. Species with a "Q" rank (meaning taxonomic question) previously could not qualify as sensitive. In this list update, the Q rank is no longer a criterion which limits a species from qualifying as sensitive.

The updated lists are available for download from the Interagency Special Status/Sensitive Species Program (ISSSSP) website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/agency-policy/> under "OR/WA Bureau of Land Management" and "Current Lists" section.

Management of Bureau sensitive species shall follow the SSS policy as identified in BLM Manual 6840 (12/12/2008, IM-2009-039). In addition, surveys and site information of Bureau sensitive species shall be entered into the agency corporate database, Geographic Biotic Observations (GeoBOB). Strategic species are not special status for management purposes. The only requirement for strategic species is that information for species sites located during any survey efforts shall be entered into GeoBOB.

**Timeframe:** Apply the updated State Director's SSS list (with the exception of strategic species) to all projects initiated on or after the date of this IM. Projects initiated prior to the date of this IM may apply either the updated SSS list transmitted in this IM or the SSS list in effect

when the project was initiated. For the purpose of this IM, “initiated” means that a signed, dated document such as a project initiation letter, scoping letter, or Federal Register Notice has been completed for the project.

**Budget Impact:** None.

**Background:** The State Director transmitted new criteria (July 25, 2007, IM-OR-2007-072) jointly approved by the Region 6 Regional Forester and OR/WA BLM State Director for determination of species included within the BLM SSS and Forest Service (FS) Sensitive Species Program. The new criteria were designed to make the two agencies (BLM and FS) more consistent in their approaches to the development of lists of species with conservation concerns. Subsequent memorandums transmitted on February 7, 2008 (IM-OR-2008-038) and December 21, 2011 (IM-OR-2012-018) reissued updated SSS lists, applying the new criteria, and reissued policy maintaining the Bureau sensitive and strategic categories.

The BLM Manual Section 6840 (SSS Management) was updated in December 2008. The Washington Office (WO) asked State Offices to review their criteria for identifying sensitive species and update their lists. Sensitive species policy objectives are to initiate proactive conservation measures that reduce or eliminate threats to Bureau sensitive species to minimize the likelihood of and need for listing of these species under the Endangered Species Act (BLM Manual 6840.02). The manual, policy, and IM-2009-039 can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/agency-policy/>.

**Coordination:** Branch of Forest Resources and Special Status Species (OR931), OR/WA Districts. Branch of Resources, Science and Planning (OR935). Forest Service, Region 6, Natural Resources.

**Contact:** Carol Hughes, Interagency Special Status/Sensitive Species Program Assistant, 503-808-2661; Rob Huff, ISSSSP Conservation Planning Coordinator, 503-808-6479; Mark Mousseaux, State Office Plant Conservation Lead, 541-618-2232; Bruce Hollen, State Office Wildlife T&E Lead, 503-808-6604; Scott Lightcap, State Office Fisheries Program Lead, 541-464-3325.

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

Signed by  
Jerome E. Perez  
State Director

Authenticated by  
K. Wentworth  
Records Section

BLM Distribution

WO-220

WO-230

OR930 (Mike Haske, Cathy Harris)

OR931 (Lee Folliard, Rick Schultz, Rob Huff, Bruce Hollen, Scott Lightcap, Mark Mousseaux, Diane Stutzman, Kelli Van Norman)

OR935 (Sally Sovey, Cindy Lou McDonald)

[blm\\_or\\_botany\\_all@blm.gov](mailto:blm_or_botany_all@blm.gov)[blm\\_or\\_wildlife\\_all@blm.gov](mailto:blm_or_wildlife_all@blm.gov)[blm\\_or\\_fish\\_biologists\\_all@blm.gov](mailto:blm_or_fish_biologists_all@blm.gov)Forest Service, Region 6 DistributionCarol Hughes, [cshughes@fs.fed.us](mailto:cshughes@fs.fed.us)Debbie Hollen, [dahollen@fs.fed.us](mailto:dahollen@fs.fed.us)Darci Rivers-Pankratz, [dpankratz@fs.fed.us](mailto:dpankratz@fs.fed.us)John Chatel, [jchatel@fs.fed.us](mailto:jchatel@fs.fed.us)Mark Skinner, [miskinner02@fs.fed.us](mailto:miskinner02@fs.fed.us)Scott Woltering, [swoltering@fs.fed.us](mailto:swoltering@fs.fed.us)