



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Instruction Memorandum No. CA-2004-028
Expires: 09/30/2005

To: AFOs

From: State Director

Subject: Update of the California-BLM Sensitive Species List

The California-BLM sensitive species list is hereby updated to include the taxa shown in Attachment 1. Most of these species have been managed until now as “Survey and Manage” taxa under the Northwest Forest Plan. The one exception is Hoover’s woolly-star (*Eriastrum hooveri*), which is a San Joaquin Valley species that was recently delisted and transferred to our sensitive species list according to the rule-making process described in the October 7, 2003, final rule (Federal Register 68:57829-57837). The former Survey and Manage taxa being added to the California-BLM sensitive species list include one amphibian, six mollusks, two vascular plants, four bryophytes, 31 fungi, and 13 lichens. Transfer of these former Survey and Manage taxa to the California-BLM sensitive species list is being effected pursuant to the *Record of Decision to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines in Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*. This ROD and the associated Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement were developed in response to a lawsuit involving the Northwest Forest Plan.¹

Effective immediately, the taxa shown in Attachment 1 shall be managed pursuant to the policies prescribed in BLM Manual 6840. It is BLM policy under Manual Section 6840.06(E) to provide sensitive species with the same level of protection prescribed for candidate species. For reference

¹On September 30, 2002, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior entered into a settlement agreement with Douglas Timber Operators and the American Forest Resource Council concerning a lawsuit involving the 2001 *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*. The settlement agreement required the Agencies to examine, in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), an alternative “that replaces the Survey and Manage mitigation requirements with existing Forest Service and BLM special status species programs to achieve the goals of the Northwest Forest Plan through a more streamlined process...” The preferred alternative in the draft *Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* was to discontinue the Survey and Manage program and transfer selected Survey and Manage taxa to agency Special Status Species Programs (SSSP). Survey and Manage taxa that met the criteria for addition to agency SSSP lists will now be managed pursuant to the SSSP policies of the respective agencies (BLM OR/WA and CA, and USFS Regions 5 and 6). Links to the draft SEIS, Final SEIS, and Record of Decision are provided on the following California-BLM website <http://www.or.blm.gov/nwfpnepa/index.htm#Survey_and_Managehtml>.

purposes, the policy stated in BLM Manual Section 6840(C) with respect to candidate species is shown in Attachment 2.

Given the large number of taxa now being added to the California-BLM sensitive species list, and the limited resources available to conduct inventories, compile and analyze data, and develop conservation strategies for sensitive species, field offices with former Survey and Manage species are encouraged to establish priorities and collaborate with cooperating agency offices to achieve sensitive species policy objectives in the most efficient manner possible. Where opportunities exist, sensitive species conservation efforts should focus on activities and habitats that will benefit more than one species. After priorities have been established for the former Survey and Manage taxa, the affected Field Managers (CA-330, CA-340, and CA-360) should coordinate with other affected agency offices to develop an annual work plan that addresses the priority conservation needs of the species shown in Attachment 1. The initial allocation of program resources should be directed toward those species that have the highest potential for listing under the Endangered Species Act and those habitats that have greatest potential for providing multi-species conservation benefits.

The updated lists of California-BLM sensitive animals and plants, including the additions shown in Attachment 1, are provided in Attachment 3 (animals) and Attachment 4 (plants). For administrative purposes, the lichens and fungi have been included on the sensitive plant list even though – according to the current taxonomic wisdom – those organisms now belong in other phylogenetic Kingdoms. There is also a link to these lists on the California-BLM Wildlife, Fisheries and Botany webpage <<http://www.ca.blm.gov/pa/biology/index.html>>. A link to BLM Manual Handbook 6840 is also provided on the above website. This update of the California-BLM sensitive species list has been coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Game per the BLM/CDFG Master Memorandum of Understanding.

Questions regarding California-BLM's sensitive species program, or any of the documents referenced in this Instruction Memorandum, may be directed to Ed Lorentzen at (916) 978-4646.

Signed by:
James Wesley Abbott
Associate State Director

Authenticated by:
Richard A. Erickson
Records Management

Attachments

- 1 - Taxa Added to the California-BLM Sensitive Species List, April 2004 (3 pp.)
- 2 - BLM 6840 Manual Special Status Species Policy RE: Candidate Species (1 p.)
- 3 - California-BLM Animal Sensitive Species List, Updated April 2004 (2 pp.)
- 4 - California-BLM Plant Sensitive Species List, Updated April 2004 (14 pp.)

Distribution

OR-930 (Attn: Barb Hill)
WO-230, MS 204 LS (Attn: Peggy Olwell)