July 9, 2004

EMS TRANSMISSION 07/13/2004
Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2004-094
Expires: 9/30/2005

To: All District Managers

From: State Director, Oregon/Washington

Subject: Update to the State Director’s Special Status Species List DD: 10/31/2004

Program Area: Special Status Species (SSS)

Purpose: The purpose of this Instruction Memorandum (IM) is to issue an updated State Director’s SSS List for the Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It is also requested that districts submit any updates or changes to species data by October 31, 2004, to the State Office (see Timeframe below).

Policy/Action: OR/WA BLM districts are responsible for applying the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BLM SSS Manual Section 6840, and OR/WA SSS policy, as applicable, to the State Director’s SSS List (posted on OR/WA BLM SSS intranet website: web.or.blm.gov/or930/sssdb). The SSS List has been revised as a result of the changes to federal listed and candidate statuses, the recently issued 2004 Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center (ORNHIC) Species List, and the movement of the former Survey and Manage (S&M) species into the SSS Program per the March 22, 2004, Record of Decision to remove S&M Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines.

Districts are responsible for applying policy to species that are documented or suspected on their BLM-administered lands, and for making the determination of which species are documented or suspected. In May 2004, the districts submitted Documented “D”, Suspected “S”, or Neither Documented nor Suspected “N” data for the former S&M species. This data is reflected in the information posted on the SSS List on the website. For some of the other species that have been added as a result of recent federal or ORNHIC changes, the data is Undetermined “U” (as reflected under the “District” field). The “U” is intended as a temporary placeholder until districts provide “D”, “S”, or “N” data. Sections one through three on the SSS List contain species that are “D”, “S”, or “U” for one or more districts. Section 4 of the SSS List shows species that have federal, state, or ORNHIC status but are “N” for any BLM district.

Districts are asked to review the SSS List data and:

- Revise any “D” and “S” statuses as appropriate based on new information, such as field surveys.
- Provide “D”, “S”, or “N” status for species with “U” data in the “District” field.
Review the species in Section 4 that are “N” for any change to “D” or “S” as appropriate, based on new information.

Due to technical issues, the BRIO portion of the SSS List located on the website is inoperable and not updated. Districts will be notified when it is functional and updated.

**Timeframe:** The new list is effective immediately. For your district data revision, please submit one consolidated district submission by October 31, 2004. Please identify a contact/coordinator for this information. The district corrections may be submitted via the comment form on the SSS List site or an edited copy of the .pdf file clearly indicating what data is deleted and added. Please send this response to:

Carol S. Hughes, Interagency SSS Coordinator  
cshughes@fs.fed.us  
USFS – Natural Resources  
333 SW 1st Ave.  
Portland, OR 97204  
503-808-2661

**Budget Impact:** None

**Background:** IM No. OR-91-57, OR/WA SSS Policy, established the state policy on SSS management, expanding on the requirements in BLM Manual Sections 1734 (Inventory and Monitoring Coordination), 6600 (Inventory and Monitoring), and 6840 (SSS Management). That IM designated sensitive species for OR/WA under the category Bureau Sensitive and established two additional categories of plant and animal species (Assessment and Tracking). BLM Tracking species are not considered SSS for management purposes.

In January 2001, BLM Manual Section 6840 (SSS Management) was revised. The manual requires that actions requiring authorization or approval by BLM are consistent with the conservation needs of SSS and do not contribute to the need to list any SSS, either under the provisions of the ESA or other provisions of the manual (BLM Manual 6840.02). The BLM manual provides overall direction and criteria for designating Bureau Sensitive species; it states the designation is normally used for species that occur on BLM-administered land for which BLM has the capability to significantly affect the conservation of the species through management (6840.06E). The manual also requires coordination with the states in the designation of Bureau Sensitive species. The OR/WA policy designates the two additional categories of Bureau Assessment and Bureau Tracking. The State Director maintains final discretion for designating SSS.

In March 2003, the State Director reissued the policy in IM No. OR-2003-054. The IM states that districts are responsible for determining the documented and suspected status of species on their respective units, and that the policy will be applied to species that are documented and suspected.

The manual, policy, and IM No. OR-2003-054 can be found at: [http://www.or.blm.gov/resources/](http://www.or.blm.gov/resources/) or [www.or.blm.gov/issp](http://www.or.blm.gov/issp).

**Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:** 6840 Special Status Species Bureau Manual; 6840 Special Status Species OR/WA Policy

**Coordination:** OR 931, Branch of Biological Sciences; OR/WA Districts

**Contact:** Carol S. Hughes, Interagency SSS Specialist, Oregon State Office and Forest Service Region 6 Office, at 503-808-2661; Barbara J. Hill, SSS Biologist, Oregon State Office, at 503-808-6052; or Joan Seevens, SSS Botanist, Oregon State Office, at 503-808-6048.

**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 assistance in this matter.

Signed by
James G. Kenna
Associate State Director

Authenticated by
Mary O'Leary
Management Assistant

1 Attachment
1 – SSS List on CD (under separate cover)

Distribution
with attachment:
Harriet Allen, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Charles Bruce, OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
John Gammon, WA Natural Heritage Program
Jimmy Kagan, OR Natural Heritage Information Ctr
Jay Watson, Regional Ecosystem Office

without attachment (List can be accessed on intranet website):
CA-930 (Ed Lorentzen)
OR-125 (Bill Hudson)
OR-931 (George Buckner, Al Doelker, Barbara Hill, Rob Huff, Joe Lint, Joe Moreau, Joan Seevers)
Russ Holmes, Forest Service, Region 6
Carol Hughes, Forest Service, Region 6
Sarah Madsen, Forest Service, Region 6