

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Forest
Service**

**R-6
R-5**

**OR/WA
CA**

**Bureau of Land
Management**

**United States
Department of
Interior**

Reply Refer To: 2360 (FS)/1736PFP (BLM) (OR-935) P

Date: 04/09/2004

EMS TRANSMISSION 04/13/2004

FS-Memorandum

BLM-Information Bulletin No. OR-2004-106

To: All District Managers and Field Managers (Oregon/Washington) and Field Managers (Arcata, Redding, and Ukiah, CA) and Forest Service Supervisors (Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, Olympic, Wenatchee, Okanogan, Gifford Pinchot, Mt. Hood, Willamette, Umpqua, Rogue River, Siskiyou, Deschutes, Winema, Siuslaw, Klamath, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Six Rivers, and Shasta-Trinity)

Subject: Data Management Decisions for Survey and Manage and Special Status Species Programs

The *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage (S&M) Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* highlighted the need to examine how the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (FS) manage data on their Special Status Species Programs (SSS). The BLM SSS and the FS Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Staffs have long recognized a need for data management that can facilitate species range-wide, province-wide, or multiple watershed analyses. The FS policy is to begin using the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) Fauna and the to-be-built Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) Plants business areas for their sensitive species data management. The BLM does not have a similar national database, and in Fiscal Years (FY) 04/05 will be investigating the use of NRIS as a SSS database. The Record of Decision has been signed and will be published in April. The agencies will be developing a communication/implementation strategy on the transition from S&M to SSS. Please refer to the strategy for further information on data management. In the meantime, direction and information are as follows:

Interim Data Management

Direction for FY04:

- California BLM, Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) BLM, and FS, R-6 will continue to input S&M species that are being recategorized as SSS into the Interagency Species Management System (ISMS) until NRIS accommodates the information on these species.
- FS, R-5 expects to stop using ISMS and transition to NRIS Fauna, or in the case of NRIS TES Plants, to an interim database solution. The exact details will be worked out in the next couple of months.

Other work in FY04:

- ISMS will be streamlined and upgraded to ArcGIS by the end of FY04.
- User requirements will be completed for other SSS taxa by the end of FY04. Requirements that are consistent with the geodatabase model will be accommodated in the new geodatabase.

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- OR/WA BLM will decide by the end of FY04 whether or not to transition all SSS to the upgraded ISMS (both east and westside) or continue using existing district SSS databases.

NRIS Technical Feasibility Study

The executives have also directed the ISMS team to work with others in the BLM and FS to develop a Technical Feasibility Study on the BLM using Fauna and TES Plants from the NRIS as a BLM SSS data management system. The following steps will be implemented:

1. Develop an Interagency Agreement with goals, tasks, participants, and schedule.
2. Prepare a Technical Feasibility Study to determine if it makes sense economically and technically for the

OR/WA BLM to become a client of the FS NRIS Fauna and TES Plants business areas

3. The executives will decide whether to implement a test pilot to try the NRIS application out at one or two districts in consultation with field office managers.
4. After a test period, another decision would be made on whether the two agencies will bring OR/WA BLM onto the NRIS system.

Please ensure that personnel working with either S&M or SSS receive a copy of this document. Further questions can be addressed to Janis VanWyhe (OR-932) at 503-808-6296, Joan Seevers (OR-931) at 503-808-6048, Barbara Hill (OR-931) at 503-808-6052, or Sarah Madsen (FS, R-6) at 503-808-2673.

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