

Issue Paper: Rare Plants and Fungi

Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon



Background:

The forest habitat for rare plants and fungi is directly linked to any of the options proposed in the BLM's new Resource Management Plan. Road construction, recreational pursuits and normal timber practices are among the examples of activities that can cause soil disturbance for special plants. In this section, planners detail the number of plants and fungi with special status.

Key Points:

- There are 269 plant and fungi species within the planning area that have special status – 178 of which have been documented on BLM-administered land:
 - 179 vascular plants
 - 41 mosses and liverworts
 - 27 fungi
 - 22 lichens
 - 6 species listed as endangered or threatened
- Only two federally listed plant species occur within forest and woodland habitat in the decision area: Kincaid's lupine and Gentner's fritillary. Under all alternatives, the BLM

would conduct pre-disturbance survey and apply conservation measures for these federally listed.

- The BLM would manage Bureau Sensitive plant and fungi species under the BLM's sensitive species program under all alternatives. However, under Alternative D, the BLM would manage these species on O&C lands only in such a way that would not conflict with sustained-yield timber production.
- None of the action alternatives would include the Survey & Manage standards and guidelines. Under all action alternatives, species that are currently Survey & Manage and not included on the Bureau Sensitive species list would receive no specific protections.
- All action alternatives allocate more acres to Late-Successional Reserve than the No Action alternative, which would benefit rare plants and fungi associated with mature and structurally complex forest.

The Resource Management Plans (RMP) for Western Oregon will determine how the BLM-administered lands in western Oregon will be managed to further the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide for clean water, to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, to produce a sustained yield of timber products, to coordinate management of lands surrounding the Coquille Forest with the Coquille Tribe, and to provide for recreation opportunities.

For more information, please visit the BLM's Resource Management Plans of western Oregon website at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/index.php>.