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**Date:** September 12, 2003

**FS-Memorandum**

**EMS TRANSMISSION**

**BLM-Information Bulletin No. OR-2003-244**

**To:** Bureau of Land Management District Managers (Coos Bay, Eugene, Lakeview, Medford, Roseburg, and Salem) and Field Managers (Klamath Falls, Tillamook); Forest Service Forest Supervisors within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl

**Subject:** 2003-2004 Survey and Manage Strategic Survey Implementation Guide

Strategic surveys are an integral part of the Survey and Manage (S&M) program. These surveys gather information at different scales and address the need to manage for a reasonable assurance of species persistence. They are more efficient than pre-project surveys in collecting information about S&M species and will help address fundamental questions for each species, including: 1) is there a concern for persistence; 2) is the species associated with late-successional/old-growth habitats; and 3) is the species rare or uncommon.

The Record of Decision (ROD) for S&M indicated that a Strategic Survey Implementation Guide be developed annually which displays strategic survey needs for all S&M species. It is prepared and/or updated annually to reflect the changes in information and priorities resulting when new data is collected. This guide will help ensure that the survey deadlines listed in the ROD Standards and Guidelines are met, identify the magnitude and duration of the strategic survey program, and identify when strategic surveys are completed for S&M species.

For each S&M species this document provides a brief summary of known information and identifies species information needs, the strategic survey methods to answer these needs, and the benefits of conducting these surveys. It also identifies the survey priorities for 2003-2004. For those species that are Category B species, there is a summary of long-term survey strategies to meet ROD timelines.

The Strategic Survey Implementation Guide is subject to Regional Interagency Executive Committee (RIEC) review as stated on pages 28-29 of the Standards and Guidelines of the S&M Record of Decision. The RIEC has delegated the review of this document to the Intermediate Managers' Group (IMG) who oversees the S&M program. The IMG has reviewed the implementation guide and has determined this document meets the requirements of the ROD. This document will also be available soon on the S&M web page ([www.or.blm.gov/surveyandmanage](http://www.or.blm.gov/surveyandmanage)).

Strategic survey priorities in 2003-2004 include completing the analysis and interpretation of the random grid survey, completing red tree vole surveys, and completing other ongoing surveys. Additional projects looking at effects to Survey and Manage species from fires/fuel reduction

and forest management activities are also being developed. Emphasis of strategic surveys may change depending on the outcome of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standard and Guideline.

If you have any questions regarding the S&M Strategic Survey program, please contact Bruce Rittenhouse, Strategic Survey Coordinator, at 503-808-2984.

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