

United States Forest R-6 OR/WA Bureau of Land United States
Department of Service R-5 CA Management Department of
Agriculture Interior

Reply Refer To: 1950 (FS)/ 1736PFP (BLM) (OR-935) P

Date: October 23, 2002

FS-Memorandum EMS TRANSMISSION 10/25/2002
BLM-Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2003-003
Expires: 09/30/2004

To: USDA Forest Service Forest Supervisors within the Area of the Northwest Forest Plan and Bureau of Land Management District Managers (Coos Bay, Eugene, Lakeview, Medford, Roseburg, Salem) and Field Managers (Klamath Falls and Tillamook, OR. and Arcata, Redding and Ukiah, CA.)

Subject: Protocol Revisions to the "Survey Protocol for the Red Tree Vole", Version 2.0

The "Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures" (S&M ROD) directs protocol revisions, as needed, based on new species-specific information. The Red Tree Vole (RTV) Taxa Team was asked to review the current Survey Protocol, Version 2.0, for modifications that may be necessary due to recent information collected on the species from pre-project and strategic surveys as well as clarified direction regarding survey requirements as identified in the S&M ROD.

The attached revision replaces the Executive Summary and pages 9 through (most of) page 13 in the Version 2.0 Survey Protocol for the RTV. All other pages and sections in Version 2.0 of the Survey Protocol are still applicable. The revisions identified in Attachment 1 are immediately applicable, and are to be used for any project not yet surveyed.

There are numerous changes to Version 2.0 presented in this revision. Some of the specific changes identified include:

A modification/update to the "List of Administrative Units Within the Red Tree Vole Distribution Zones." The listing of Administrative Units by Distribution Zone amends/updates the same list from the "Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement For Amendment to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standard and Guidelines" (S&M FSEIS), page 379, and replaces Table 1, page 9, from the Survey Protocol. This updated table differentiates the Administrative units based on habitat characteristics owing to different climactic and vegetation elements.

A new section titled "Criteria for determining the need for pre-disturbance surveys." This new section replaces the sections titled "Implementation of Protocol" and "Trigger for Protocol

Surveys.” The new section identifies three criteria to assess in determining whether surveys are recommended or not. The three criteria are: 1) the field unit is within the range; 2) the project is within the updated definition of habitat; and 3) the project is a habitat-disturbing activity. The changes listed in this section also include a

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range-wide reduction in elevation where surveys are now required (change from 6,000 feet to 5,500 feet).

These changes reflect the Teams use of the following Standard and Guidelines (S&Gs) from the 2001 Record of Decision (ROD): “Pre-disturbance Survey Protocols should also identify habitat conditions or locations, or criteria for identifying such conditions locally, where surveys are not needed for a reasonable assurance of persistence, and thus surveys are not needed” (page 23, S&Gs in the 2001 ROD). This new section of the Protocol was developed to exclude habitats that are not anticipated to be capable of supporting long-term species persistence, at the site level. These revisions are designed to locate sites in habitats/stand types that may be needed for maintenance of species persistence, and may be chosen as sites to maintain through the development of a “high-priority” sites Management Recommendation.

The section “Additional Survey Guidelines for Old-Growth Conifer Stands,” page 13, has been modified. The Taxa Team has revised some of the wording to clarify and provide additional flexibility when sampling trees by climbing, and to better define the types, locations and sampling intensity of trees to be climbed. These changes were made to alleviate potential misinterpretations of version 2.0 of the protocol, and to answer questions that have been asked of the Taxa Team by field units.

A new section titled “Determination of Site Type” has been added to alleviate confusion over RTV site type terminology and delineation.

In addition, consistent with the results of the FY01 Annual Species Review, surveys are not required or needed where the species has been determined to be Category D.

If you have questions regarding the implementation of these protocol revisions, please contact Laura Finley, Taxa Lead, at (530) 842-5763. For other questions you may contact Terry Brumley, S&M Program Manager at (503) 808-2968, or your agency representative; Rob Huff, BLM and R6 Forest Service (acting) at (503) 808-6479, or Paula Crumpton, R5 Forest Service at (530)-242-2242.

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1 Attachment(s)

1 - [Survey Protocol for the Red Tree Vole Version 2.1](#) (13 pp) [174KB PDF File]

BLM Distribution

WO-230 (Room 204LS)-1
CA- 330 (Paul Roush)-1
CA- 340 (Field Manager)-1
CA- 360 (Field Manager)-1
OR-010 (Lucile Housley) -1
OR-930 (Ed Shepard)-1
OR-931 (Judy Nelson)-1
OR-932 (Janis VanWyhe)-1
OR-935 (NancyDuncan,
Paul Hohenlohe, Russell Holmes,
Rob Huff, Neal Middlebrook,
Bruce Rittenhouse)-6

cc:

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