5.1

BLM BATTLE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT OFFICE
RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET

Managing Special Status Plant and Wildlife Species

Douglas Furtado, BMD Manager
50 Bastian Rd. Battle Mountain, NV 89820
Office hours are 7:30am to 4:30 pm
Phone: (775) 635-4000
FAX:(775) 635-4034

The BLM Battle Mountain District Office (BMDO) is revising the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the BMDO planning area. The BMDO RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's dual mandate of *multiple use* and *sustained yield*.

Special status species are 1) those plants or animals that are federally listed as endangered, threatened, candidate, or proposed for listing by the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and 2) species designated by each state's BLM Director as sensitive and requiring special management consideration to promote their conservation and reduce the likelihood and need for future listing under the ESA.

PRIMARY CAUSES OF SPECIES DECLINE

Habitat loss, competition, predation, disease, and other factors can contribute to species decline and imperilment. Habitat loss and modification due to human activities are primary threats to ecosystems, particularly for species that are adapted to specific ecological niches. BLM land management practices are intended to sustain and promote wildlife and plants while allowing for other authorized land use activities.

A FOCUS ON HABITAT

While our partners with other federal and state agencies focus on population status and trends, the BLM's efforts are focused on habitat management for wildlife and plants. This management concentrates on habitat conditions to help ensure self-sustaining populations and a natural abundance and diversity of wildlife and plants on public lands.

PROTECTING FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES

The ESA mandates the protection of species listed as threatened or endangered of extinction, and the habitats on which these species depend. Section 7 of the ESA clarifies the responsibility of federal agencies to carry out programs for the conservation of listed species. In addition, federal agencies must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by an agency is "...not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species..."

The BMDO analyzes the effects of proposed actions on threatened, endangered, and candidate species and designated critical habitat for these species. Seven federally protected plant and animal species potentially occur in the planning area, including 3 threatened species, Lahontan cutthroat trout, Railroad Valley springfish, and desert tortoise.

BLM 5.1—Special Status Plant and Wildlife Species

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

A Shared Goal with State and Federal Agencies

Federally listed threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitat are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in cooperation with other federal agencies, with the ultimate goal of species recovery and viability. Consultation with the USFWS is required on any action proposed by the BLM or other federal agency that "may affect" a listed species or critical habitat.

Candidate species are those that are warranted for listing by the USFWS but further analysis of their status is precluded by other priorities. Candidate, Nevada State, and BLM sensitive species are all managed to maintain viable populations in order to avoid further listing. The BLM, USFWS, and State of Nevada have developed formal and informal agreements to provide guidance on species management.

Other Non-Listed, Non-Status Species (E.G., Big Game, Migratory Birds, Game Fish, Etc.)

While the BLM is responsible for managing the habitats of fish and animals in a condition that will sustain desired levels of a species, the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) is directly responsible for managing wildlife population levels. Population data on game, and increasingly for key non-game species, is tracked by the NDOW.

The BLM assists the NDOW with collection of this information for certain species. While the NDOW is primarily interested in population dynamics and demographics, the BLM's principle responsibility is habitat condition and quality based on play community attributes. Within this framework, the BLM focuses on key animal species and their habitats.

The BLM wants your input...

- **What areas do you think are important for plant and wildlife species? How can these areas and species be better protected or managed?**
- **Does the BMDO need more protected areas (such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern or Wildlife Management Areas) within the planning area? For what species and where?**

Mail comments to:
Battle Mountain RMP
c/o Christopher Worthington
Bureau of Land Management
Battle Mountain District Office
50 Bastian Road
Battle Mountain, NV 89820

BMDO Planning Webpage:
www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field/blm_information/rmp.com

Email comments to:
BattleMountainRMP@blm.gov