

News Release



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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Awards \$950,000 to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to monitor Species of Greatest Conservation Need

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced today the distribution of \$950,000 under its 2012 Competitive State Wildlife Grant Program to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to help prevent “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” from becoming threatened, endangered, or extinct.

As lead agency, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will work with over twenty partners from state, tribal, federal, university and nonprofit organizations to implement the “Multi-Species Baseline Initiative” (MBI). The MBI will focus on acquiring distribution and abundance information for twenty species in the Idaho Panhandle, northeastern Washington and British Columbia.

Biological data of these species, including rare forest carnivores, amphibians and terrestrial gastropods, will be collected over three years. All the species are identified in Idaho’s and Washington’s State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) as Species of Greatest Conservation Need that are lacking essential information on their status.

Additionally, data will be collected that will address the emerging concerns of climate change on these species’ habitats across Idaho, Washington and British Columbia, using the innovative approach of co-locating climate monitoring stations with species survey plots. Both Idaho and Washington have committed to consider climate change concerns in their revised SWAPs, which will be updated by 2015.

The Congressionally authorized funds will be matched by nearly \$1,216,000 from state partners and nonprofit organizations to build partnerships, engage community support, continue volunteer citizen science efforts, and collaborate on a shared conservation mission. Idaho Department of Fish and Game contributions include \$45,000 in nongame trust funds and \$155,000 in volunteer match.

“This award will provide for critical conservation programs essential to managing Species of Special Concern, and will supplement funds provided in 2012 under the non-competitive State Wildlife Grant Program,” said Robyn Thorson, Director of the Service’s Pacific Region.

For more information about the Multi-Species Baseline Initiative, please visit the project website at <https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/baseline>. For information on Idaho's State Wildlife Action Plan and Species of Greatest Conservation Need, visit <https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/cwcs>.

To view a complete list of the State Wildlife Grants that were awarded for 2012, go to <http://www.fws.gov/pacific>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>

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