



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Snake River Basin Office, Columbia River Basin Ecoregion
1387 South Vinnell Way, Room 368
Boise, Idaho 83709

November 20, 1998

Mike Jostrom
Plum Creek Timber Company
P.O. Box 1990
500-12th Avenue West
Columbia Falls, Montana 59912

Subject Plum Creek Timber Company Species List
SP #1-4-99-SP-3

Dear Mr. Jostrom:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is providing you with a list of endangered, threatened, listed, candidate, and/or proposed species which may be present in the area of the Plum Creek Timber Company. The list fulfills requirements for a species list under Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended. The requirements for Federal agency compliance under the Act are outlined in Enclosure 2. If the project is not started within 180 days of this letter, regulations require that you request an updated list. Please refer to the number shown on the list (Enclosure 1) in all correspondence and reports.

Section 7 of the Act requires Federal agencies to assure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species. If a listed species appears on Enclosure 1, agencies are required to prepare a Biological Assessment. It would be prudent for you to consult informally with the Service in development of Biological Assessments. If you determine that a listed species is likely to be affected adversely by the proposed project, the Act requires that you request formal Section 7 consultation through this office. If a proposed species is likely to be jeopardized by a Federal action, regulations require a conference between the Federal agency and the Service. A Federal agency may designate, in writing, you or another non-Federal entity to represent them in consultation.

If you have any questions regarding Federal consultation responsibilities under the Act, please contact Alison Beck Haas of this office at (208) 378-5384.

Thank you for your continued interest in endangered species conservation.

Sincerely,

Dwan A. Burch

Supervisor, Snake River Basin Office

Enclosures

cc: FWS-ES, Lacey (Barrera)
FWS-ES, Helena (Nordstrom)
FWS-ES, Spokane (L.Hallock)

PLUM CREEK TIMBER COMPANY SPECIES LIST***SNAKE RIVER BASIN OFFICE******BOISE, IDAHO******SP #1-4-99-SP-3******LISTED SPECIES******COMMENTS*****Mammals**Gray wolf (LE;XN)
(*Canis lupus*)

See general comments

Gray wolf (LE)
(*Canis lupus*)

See general comments

Selkirk Mountains woodland caribou (LE)
(*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)Grizzly bear (LT)
(*Ursus arctos*)**Birds**Bald eagle (LT)
(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)Peregrine falcon (LE)
(*Falco peregrinus anatum*)**Fish**Sockeye salmon** (LE)
(*Oncorhynchus nerka*)Spring/Summer chinook salmon** (LT) Snake River ESU
(*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)Steelhead trout** (LT)
(*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Snake River ESU

Bull trout (LT)
(*Salvelinus confluentus*)

Plants

Macfarlane's four o'clock (LT)
(*Mirabilis macfarlanei*)

Water howellia (LT)
(*Howellia aquatilis*)

Ute ladies' - tresses (LT)
(*Spiranthes diluvialis*)

PROPOSED SPECIES

Mammals

Canada lynx (PT)
(*Lynx canadensis*)

CANDIDATE SPECIES

None

The Fish and Wildlife Service has concerns about the following plants and animals. Although these species have no status under the Endangered Species Act, we are concerned about their population status and threats to their long-term viability. In context with ecosystem-level management, we suggest that you consider these species and their habitats in project planning and review.

Mammals

Townsend's big-eared bat
(*Plecotus townsendii*)

Small-footed myotis
(*Myotis cilolabrum*)

Long-legged myotis
(*Myotis volans*)

Yuma myotis
(*Myotis yumanensis*)

Fringed myotis
(*Myotis thyysanodes*)

Long-eared myotis
(*Myotis evotis*)

California myotis
(*Myotis californicus*)

Wolverine
(*Gulo gulo luscus*)

Fisher
(*Martes pennanti*)

Pygmy shrew
(*Sorex hoyi*)

Birds

Mountain quail
(*Oreortyx pictus*)

Long-billed curlew
(*Numenius americanus*)

Northern goshawk
(*Accipiter gentilis*)

Flammulated owl
(*Otus flammeolus*)

Northern pygmy owl
(*Glaucidium gnoma*)

Great gray owl
(*Strix nebulosa*)

Boreal owl
(*Aegolius funereus*)

Black-backed woodpecker
(*Picoides arcticus*)

Pygmy nuthatch
(*Sitta pygmaea*)

White-headed woodpecker
(*Picoides albolarvatus*)

Black tern
(*Chlidonias niger*)

Three-toed woodpecker
(*Picoides tridactylus*)

Harlequin duck
(*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

Upland sandpiper
(*Bartramia longicordi*)

Invertebrates

Columbia pebblesnail
(*Flumincola columbianus*)

Idaho banded mountainsnail
(*Oreohelix idahoensis*)

Boulder pile mountainsnail
(*Oreohelix jugalis*)

Whorled mountainsnail
(*Oreohelix vortex*)

Lava rock mountainsnail
(*Oreohelix waltoni*)

Carinated striate banded mountainsnail
(*Oreohelix strigosa goniogyra*)

Amphibians and Reptiles

Ringneck snake
(*Diadophis punctatus*)

Coeur d'Alene salamander
(*Plethodon idahoensis*)

Northern alligator lizard
(*Elgaria coerulea*)

Fish

Inland Columbia Basin redband trout
(*Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri*)

White sturgeon
(*Accipenser transmontanus*)

Westslope cutthroat trout
(*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*)

Plants

Hazel's prickly phlox
(*Lepetodactylon pungens* ssp. *hazeliae*)

Bartonberry
(*Rubus bartonianus*)

Howell's gumweed
(*Grindelia howellia*)

Clustered lady's-slipper
(*Cypripedium fasciculatum*)

Idaho douglasia
(*Douglasia idahoensis*)

Triangular-lobed moonwort
(*Botrychium ascendens*)

Payson's milkvetch
(*Astragalus paysonii*)

Jessica's aster
(*Aster jessicae*)

Broad-fruit mariposa
(*Calochortus nitidus*)

Salmon River fleabane
(*Erigeron salmonensis*)

Spalding's silene
(*Silene spaldingii*)

Hapeman's sullivantia
(*Sullivantia hapemanii* var. *hapemanii*)

Tobias' saxifrage
(*Saxifraga bryophora* var. *tobiasiae*)

Palouse goldenweed
(*Haplopappus liatrifomis*)

GENERAL COMMENTS

GRAY WOLF -- Since the translocation of wolves from Canada, the population in Idaho south of Interstate Highway 90 is considered "experimental, non-essential" under Section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act. Under these circumstances, Federal action agencies are required to confer with the Service if their actions are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of gray wolves (see 50 CFR 17.83). Of course, you may opt to confer with the Service regardless of your determination.

** Under National Marine Fisheries Service jurisdiction.

**WESTERN WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE
LACEY, WASHINGTON
CONTACT: BOBBI BARRERA**

LISTED SPECIES

COMMENTS

Mammals

Gray wolf (LE)
(*Canis lupus*)

Grizzly bear (LT)
(*Ursus arctos*)

Birds

Bald eagle (LT)
(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Peregrine falcon (LE)
(*Falco peregrinus anatum*)

Northern spotted owl (LT)
(*Strix occidentalis caurtina*)

Marbled murrelet (LE)
(*Brachylagus marmoratus marmoratus*)

Fish

Steelhead trout** (LT)
(*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Lower Columbia River ESU

Bull trout (LT)
(*Salvelinus confluentus*)

PROPOSED SPECIES

Fish

Chinook salmon** (PT)
(*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

Lower Columbia River ESU

CANDIDATE SPECIES

Fish

Coho salmon** (C)
(*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)

Lower Columbia River ESU

Sea Run cutthroat trout ** (C)
(*Oncorhynchus clarkii*)

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Bald eagle:* Wintering bald eagles may occur from about October 31 through March 31.
There are 12 bald eagles nesting territories located in the area. Nesting activities occur from about January through August 15.
- Bull trout:* Columbia River population
- Marbled murrelet:* Nesting murrelets may occur from about April 1 through September 15.
- Northern spotted owl:* May occur throughout the year.
- Peregrine falcon:* Spring and fall migrant falcons and nesting falcons.

Major concerns that should be addressed in your Biological Assessment of project impacts to listed species are:

1. Level of use of the project area by listed species.
2. Effects of the project on listed species' primary food stocks, prey species, and foraging areas and owl foraging, roosting, nesting, and dispersal habitats in all areas influenced by the project.
3. Impacts from project activities and implementation (e.g. increased noise levels, increased human activity and/or access, loss or degradation of habitat (which may result in disturbance to listed species and/or their avoidance of the project area).

MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
HELENA, MONTANA
CONTACT: LORI NORDSTROM

LISTED SPECIES

Mammals

Gray wolf (LE)
(*Canis lupus*)

Grizzly bear (LT)
(*Ursus arctos*)

Birds

Bald eagle (LT)
(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Peregrine falcon (LE)
(*Falco peregrinus anatum*)

Whooping crane (LE)
(*Grus americana*)

Fish

Bull trout (LT)
(*Salvelinus confluentus*)

Kootenai River white sturgeon (LE)
(*Accipenser transmontanus*)

Plants

Water howellia (LT)
(*Howellia aquatilis*)

PROPOSED SPECIES

Mammals

Canada lynx (PT)
(*Lynx canadensis*)

CANDIDATE SPECIES

None

**UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN OFFICE
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON
CONTACT: LINDA HALLOCK
SP #1-9-98-SP-237**

LISTED SPECIES

COMMENTS

Mammals

Gray wolf (LE)
(*Canis lupus*)

Grizzly bear (LT)
(*Ursus arctos*)

Birds

Bald eagle (LT)
(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Peregrine falcon (LE)
(*Falco peregrinus anatum*)

Northern spotted owl (LT)
(*Strix occidentalis caurina*)

Fish

Bull trout (LT)
(*Salvelinus confluentus*)

Plants

Ute ladies'- tresses (LT)
(*Spiranthes diluvialis*)

PROPOSED SPECIES

Fish

Steelhead trout ** (PT)
(*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Middle Columbia River ESU

CANDIDATE SPECIES

None

The Fish and Wildlife Service has concerns about the following plants and animals. Although these species have no status under the Endangered Species Act, we are concerned about their population status and threats to their long-term viability. In context with ecosystem-level management, we suggest that you consider these species and their habitats in project planning and review.

Mammals

Small-footed myotis
(*Myotis cilolabrum*)

Long-legged myotis
(*Myotis volans*)

Yuma myotis
(*Myotis yumanensis*)

Long-eared myotis
(*Myotis evotis*)

California wolverine
(*Gulo gulo luteus*)

Pacific fisher
(*Martes pennanti pacifica*)

Birds

Northern goshawk
(*Accipiter gentilis*)

Black tern
(*Chlidonias niger*)

Harlequin duck
(*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

Loggerhead shrike
(*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Olive-sided flycatcher
(*Contopus borealis*)

Little willow flycatcher
(*Empidonax trailii brewsteri*)

Amphibians and Reptiles

Spotted frog
(*Rana pretiosa*)

Tailed frog
(*Ascaphus truei*)

Cascades frog
(*Rana cascadae*)

Larch Mountain salamander
(*Plethodon larselli*)

Fish

Westslope cutthroat trout
(*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*)

Pacific lamprey
(*Lampetra tridentata*)

River lamprey
(*Lampetra ayresi*)

Plants

Clustered lady's-slipper
(*Cypripedium fasciculatum*)

GENERAL COMMENTS

** Under National Marine Fisheries Service jurisdiction.

Major concerns that should be addressed for listed or proposed plant species are:

1. Distribution of taxon in project vicinity.
2. Disturbance (trampling, uprooting, collecting, etc). of individual plants and loss of habitat.
3. Changes in hydrology where taxon is found.

DESIGNATED

Critical habitat for the northern spotted owl has been designated in the vicinity.

Ute ladies'-tresses: This species was discovered in Okanogan County in 1997, the first known occurrence in Washington. It was previously known from the Snake River basin in Idaho and a few locations in Colorado, Montana, Nebraska and Wyoming. Until adequate surveys have been made it should be considered to be possibly present.

Westslope cutthroat trout: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been petitioned to list this species. Although a petition is an early step in the listing process, petitioned species receive no protection under the Endangered Species Act. In its 90-day finding, published June 10, 1998 in the Federal Register (63 FR 31691), the Service found that the petition presented substantial information that listing this species may be warranted. The Service is now surveying the status of the species range-wide, preparatory to making a 12-month finding, due January 25.

FEDERAL AGENCIES' RESPONSIBILITY UNDER SECTIONS 7(a) AND (c)
OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

SECTION 7(a) - Consultation/Conference

- Requires: 1) Federal agencies to utilize their authorities to carry out programs to conserve endangered and threatened species;
- 2) Consultation with FWS when a Federal action may affect a listed endangered or threatened species to insure that any action authorized, funded or carried out by a Federal agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species; or result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The process is initiated by the Federal agency after determining the action may affect a listed species; and
- 3) Conference with FWS when a Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a proposed species or result in destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat.

SECTION 7(c) - Biological Assessment for Major Construction Activities^{1/}

Requires Federal agencies or their designees to prepare Biological Assessment (BA) for major construction activities. The BA analyzes the effects of the action^{2/} on listed and proposed species. The process begins with a Federal agency in requesting from FWS a list of proposed and listed threatened and endangered species (list attached). If the BA is not initiated within 90 days of receipt of the species list, the accuracy of the species list should be informally verified with our Service. The BA should be completed within 180 days after its initiation (or within such a time period as is mutually agreeable). No irreversible commitment of resources is to be made during the BA process which would foreclose reasonable and prudent alternatives to protect endangered species. Planning, design, and administrative actions may be taken; however, no construction may begin.

We recommend the following for inclusion in the BA; an onsite inspection of the area to be affected by the proposal which may include a detailed survey of the area to determine if the species are present; a review of literature and scientific data to determine species' distribution, habitat needs, and other biological requirements; interviews with experts, including those within FWS, State conservation departments, universities and others who may have data not yet published in scientific literature; an analysis of the effects of the proposal on the species in terms of individuals and populations, including consideration of cumulative effects of the proposal on the species and its habitat; an analysis of alternative actions considered. The BA should document the results, including a discussion of study methods used, any problems encountered, and other relevant information. The BA should conclude whether or not a listed or proposed species will be affected. Upon completion, the BA should be forwarded to our office.

^{1/} A major construction activity is a construction project (or other undertaking having similar physical impacts) which is a major action significantly affecting the quality of human environment as referred to in the NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4332 (2)(c)).

^{2/} "Effects of the action" refers to the direct and indirect effects on an action on the species or critical habitat, together with the effects of other activities that are interrelated or interdependent with that action.