
File Code: 1900; 2600
Date: May 13, 2015

Cal Joyner
Regional Forester
333 Broadway Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Mr. Joyner:

The Cibola National Forest (Cibola) would like to present to you for your review and concurrence the proposed potential species of conservation concern (SCC) list (attached), developed during the assessment phase of forest plan revision for the Cibola's mountain ranger districts (Sandia, Mountainair, Magdalena, and Mt. Taylor). SCC are defined in the 2012 Planning Rule (Rule) as "a species, other than federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, that is known to occur in the plan area and for which the regional forester has determined that the best available scientific information (BASI) indicates substantial concern about the species' capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area." The Cibola began the process of identifying potential SCC under the proposed directives (Forest Service Handbook [FSH] 1909.12 – Land Management Planning, Chapters 10 and 20) for the Rule. In January of this year, the directives were finalized and we updated the analysis so this list reflects those final directives and the changes therein regarding potential SCC. In accordance with §219.56 (e)(2) of the Rule, this potential SCC list will not be finalized until after the conclusion of the objection process following the release of the Cibola's revised Land and Resource Management Plan and final environmental impact statement.

Both the Rule and directives mandate the use of BASI for development of the SCC list. The Cibola accessed a wide variety of sources in an effort to compile the BASI for species considered. This included NatureServe, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico State Forestry Division, adjacent Native American tribes, and the New Mexico Rare Plants Technical Council. Forest Service biologists at the Cibola supervisor's office and at each of the four mountain districts, as well as biologists at the Southwestern Regional Office, also participated in the development of the potential SCC list. Subject matter experts were consulted via personal communications and included faculty and staff at universities and other Federal and state agencies.

Of the initial 1,350 species known to exist in New Mexico, 84 met one or more of the criteria for potential SCC as outlined in the directives. Of those 84 species, 60 had been documented at some point in time on the Cibola National Forest; however only 35 of those had been documented on the Cibola since 1998 and the BASI indicated they were declining. This date was used because the proposed directives mandated that a species be documented on the planning unit within the last 10-15 years. When the directives were finalized, the 15-year requirement was removed, and we revisited the potential occurrence of the 25 species that had



not been seen since 1998. Of those, there was only one for which there was enough BASI to indicate that the species is known to occur in the plan area and there is substantial concern about its ability to persist over the long term. Of this list of 36 species known to occur on the Forest and known to be declining, we then evaluated the threats to persistence in the plan area and determined that 18 were directly threatened by Cibola management activities. These 18 species comprise the proposed potential SCC for the Cibola and may change based on new information obtained throughout the planning process. A complete description of the process for developing the potential SCC list is included in the Cibola Assessment Report. The list and accompanying analyses have been reviewed by the Regional Office Wildlife, Fisheries, and Rare Plants staff, RO Planning staff, and the public.

Please contact Sarah Beck, wildlife planner (505-346-3824 or sebeck@fs.fed.us), for more information about the proposed potential SCC list or the process used to develop it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine Kohrman".

ELAINE KOHRMAN
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

Proposed species of conservation concern list for the Cibola National Forest Mountain Districts, August 31, 2015.

Scientific Name	Common Name
Mammals	
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens</i>	Pale Townsend's Big-Eared Bat
<i>Cynomys gunnisoni</i>	Gunnison's Prairie Dog
<i>Myotis occultus</i>	Arizona Myotis
<i>Ovis canadensis canadensis</i>	Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
Birds	
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk
<i>Athene cunicularia hypugaea</i>	Burrowing Owl
<i>Baeolophus ridgwayi</i>	Juniper Titmouse
<i>Cardellina rubrifrons</i>	Red-faced Warbler
<i>Dendroica graciae</i>	Grace's Warbler
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American Peregrine Falcon
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike
<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Lewis's Woodpecker
<i>Toxostoma bendirei</i>	Bendire's Thrasher
<i>Vireo vicinior</i>	Gray Vireo
Amphibian	
<i>Rana pipiens</i>	Northern Leopard Frog
Invertebrate	
<i>Streptocephalus henridumontis</i>	Dumont's Fairy Shrimp
Plants	
<i>Astragalus accumbens</i>	Zuni Milkvetch
<i>Astragalus humistratus var. crispulus</i>	Villous Groundcover Milkvetch
<i>Erigeron sivinskii</i>	Sivinski's Fleabane
<i>Heuchera pulchella</i>	Sandia Mountain Alumroot