



**File Code:** 1920  
**Route To:**

**Date:** May 23, 2016

**Subject:** Species of Conservation Concern for the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests' Draft Plans and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

**To:** Forest Supervisors – Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests

In coordination with the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests, and pursuant to my responsibilities and authority under the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.7(c)(3)), I have determined that the terrestrial wildlife, aquatic wildlife, and plant species identified in the enclosed documents meet the criteria for Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) for the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests' Draft Plans and Draft Environment Impact Statement (DEIS). The definition of SCC is found at 36 CFR 219.9(c), and criteria for identifying them are outlined in the Forest Service Handbook FSH 1909.12 Chapter 10, Section 12.52c.

The SCC lists for the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests' Draft Plans and DEIS were developed in coordination with Regional Office staff and the interdisciplinary planning teams from all three forests. My staff and I carefully reviewed the rationale and documentation for potential SCC and evaluated best available scientific information to determine if a species meets the SCC criteria. I also considered agency and public input on potential SCC. The evaluation criteria used, the species that we considered during our evaluation, and our justification for including or excluding them in the SCC lists will be available at the project website: <http://tinyurl.com/r5earlyadopters>.

The identification of SCC is a dynamic process and these lists are subject to change based on new information and input received from the public or our specialists at any time. My staff continue to work with you to evaluate new information in order to determine if conferring SCC status to additional species or removing species from the SCC lists is warranted.

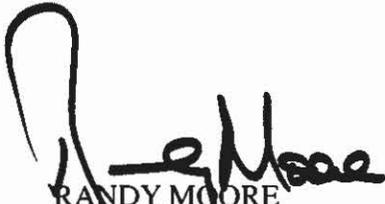
The 2012 Planning Rule requires that plan components in your revised land management plans provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain viable populations of each SCC within the plan area (36 CFR 219.9(b)(1)). If you determine that it is beyond the authority of the Forest Service or not within the inherent capability of the plan area to provide such conditions, you must document the basis for this determination and include plan components to maintain or restore ecological conditions within the plan area to contribute to maintaining a viable population of the species within its range (36 CFR 219.9(b)(2)).

It is my intent that once a revised plan is in effect, the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species list will no longer apply to the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests; however, the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species requirements will apply until the effective day of the revised plans.



I appreciate the expertise and assistance of your staffs during this process. I look forward to continuing to work together, along with our stakeholders, to ensure the diversity of species on the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests.

Sincerely,



RANDY MOORE  
Regional Forester

Enclosures

cc: Alan Olson, John Exline