Forest Service Sensitive Species - Wildlife

Sensitive species are those plant and animal species identified by the Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern on National Forest Service (NFS) lands within the region. The goal of the Forest Service Sensitive Species Program (Forest Service Manual 2670) is to ensure that species numbers and population distribution are adequate so that no federal listing will be required and no extirpation will occur on NFS lands. The Queen Charlotte goshawk is covered on a separate handout.

Steller sea lion – Eastern AK DPS

(Eumetopias jubatus)

The Steller’s sea lion eastern Distinct Population Segment (DPS) was delisted under the Endangered Species Act effective December 4, 2013 (Federal Register Vol. 78, No. 213). Members of the endangered Western DPS have been documented in northern Southeast Alaska but rarely occur south of Fredrick Sound (NMFS 2013c).

The eastern DPS of the Steller sea lion has been removed from the endangered species list; however it is still analyzed as a sensitive species for 5 years after removal from the list.

Project Level

Most Forest Service projects have very minimal impact to the marine environment.

Black oystercatcher

(Haematopus bachmani)

The black oystercatcher is found along rocky shorelines along the coast. It forages in sheltered areas where low-sloping gravel or rock beaches with abundant prey occur.

Project Level

These areas are generally protected under the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines.

Aleutian Tern

(Sterna aleutica)

The Aleutian tern nests on islands, shrub-tundra, grass or sedge meadows and freshwater and coastal marshes. Distribution within Alaska is restricted to coastal areas throughout the Aleutian Islands as far west as Attu Island, north to the southeastern Chukchi Sea and east to the Alaska Peninsula, Yakutat, and Glacier Bay.

Project Level

The area is outside of the known range of the Aleutian tern.