



Species of Conservation Concern

Inyo National Forest

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Forest Service proposing changes to the Species of Conservation Concern list?

Based on public comment, we re-evaluated the species of conservation concern (SCC) list that was released with the draft forest plan in [May 2016](#). As a result several species that are not on the previous list, are now proposed to be SCCs. These proposed changes are due to additional information provided by the public that we were not aware of during our draft analysis. Also as a result of public comment, the species-specific information that supports how we identify SCCs has been strengthened for many species. By adding this supporting scientific information we can better explain why a species is currently proposed or was previously identified as an SCC. Lastly, a few species are being proposed for removal from the current list due to insufficient information.

Which species are now proposed as an SCC but were not before?

Several species that are not on the current species of conservation concern list are now proposed to be SCCs. The proposed changes are the result of new occurrence information about a species we either discovered ourselves or received from the public during the comment period, or there is substantial concern about a species capability to persist on the forest.

Species currently proposed as additions to the existing list include:

- Great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*)
- California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*)
- Mt. Pinos sooty grouse (*Dendragapus fuliginosus howardi*)
- Dune horsebrush (*Tetradymia terameres*)
- Many-flowered thelypodium (*Thelypodium milleflorum*)
- Virgate halimolobos (*Transberingia bursifolia* ssp. *virgata*; (*Halimolobos* v.))

To learn more about why we are proposing these changes, please read the supporting materials on-line: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r5/FPRPreview.

What species are proposed for removal from the current SCC list?

Several species are proposed for removal from the current list of SCCs due to insufficient information or the species was found to not occur on the forest. Species currently proposed for removal from the existing list are:

- Fringed myotis-tailed bat (*Myotis thysanodes vespertinus*)
- Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii*)
- American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)
- Sierra skipper (*Hesperia miriamae*)
- White Mountains skipper (*Hesperia miriamae longaevicola*)
- Atronis fritillary (*Speyeria mormonia obsidiana*)
- Denning's cryptic caddisfly (*Cryptochia denningi*)
- California sallfly (*Sweltsa resima*)
- Alpine slender buckwheat (*Eriogonum microthecum* var. *alpinum*)

To learn more about why we are proposing these changes, please read the supporting materials on-line: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r5/FPRPreview.

Why don't I see a particular species being proposed as a SCC?

We received comments and scientific information on a few species that are of special interest to some members of the public. We reviewed the publicly provided information for these species but it was not sufficient to meet the criteria for a SCC found in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 § 52c. Some of the species that fall into this category are:

- Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
- Olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*)
- Black-backed woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)
- Summer tanager (*Piranga rubra*)
- Yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechiai*)

To learn more about why we did not propose a change in the status of these species, please read the supporting materials on-line: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r5/FPRPreview.

How will the proposed changes in the SCC list affect the Inyo's Forest Plan?

The proposed changes to the SCC list would not alter the plan significantly. With the case of potentially removing species, any corresponding species specific plan components would also be removed. In the case of potentially adding a species, new plan components may need to be added to provide for its persistence over the long term if existing plan components are not sufficient. For example, with the proposed addition of the Great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*) to the SCC list, existing plan direction is designed to sustain or restore ecosystem diversity and habitats the owl may use, and plan direction also provides the ability to protect nest sites and areas required for their needs; however, a new plan component might be added to perform follow-up surveys for credible sightings.

How did the Forest Service utilize public input to make the proposed changes to the current SCC list?

We read every comment received and asked ourselves if the input offered valid scientific information we hadn't previously considered. As a result, we modified some of our species-specific information with publicly provided, valid science. In the case of new species occurrence information, we considered if the information was from a credible source and if so, we reconsidered species previously left off the list.

Once the list is final, can it be updated?

Yes. As new scientific information is developed, it may indicate some species should be added or removed from the list. It is also possible a species that meets the [criteria](#) for a SCC that was previously not known to occur on the forest is discovered and should be added to the list. In these cases and in similar situations the public would be notified of any proposed changes.

When will the SCC list be finalized?

The list will be finalized when the final Inyo National Forest Plan is released.

Where can I find more information about the proposed SCC list?

You may review supporting materials, including the new proposed Inyo SCC list on-line: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r5/FPRPreview. If you have questions, please contact Deb Schweizer, Inyo National Forest Public Affairs Officer at 760-873-2427. If you would like to read information we've shared in the past regarding SCCs, please visit our website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/planning/?cid=STELPRD3847418>

Why is the Forest Service sharing this information? Is this a comment period?

This is not a formal comment period. We are sharing information about the species of conservation concern list and other topics to provide you a preview of the Inyo National Forest's land management plan. This preview provides a glimpse into plan development as it is happening. This process is information sharing, and we are not receiving formal comments at this time. The completed, final EIS and forest plan will be available for a 60-day objection period this fall.

When will the Inyo National Forest's final environmental impact statement and forest plan be released?

Our goal is to publish these documents this fall. We are providing previews of these documents by sharing information about species of conservation concern, sustainable recreation, aquatic and riparian conservation, and wild and scenic rivers before we release the final plan and EIS.

What is the status of the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests' plans?

We announced in March 2017, that the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests will continue to address public comments in a refinement of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) and draft forest plans [published](#) in May 2016. Those forests will release a revised draft EIS and forest plans in early 2018 for public comment. In the coming months, we will share updates on our progress with these two forests as well.

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