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Subject: Manti-La Sal National Forest Species of Conservation Concern

To: Brian M. Pentacost, Forest Supervisor Manti La Sal National Forest

Identification of Manti-La Sal National Forest Plant Species of Conservation Concern

The Regional Office Natural Resource staff ("Regional Office") has reviewed your March 27, 2017, assessment of plant species for consideration as potential species of conservation concern (SCC) for the Manti La-Sal National Forest. The Regional Office also reviewed the public comments the Forest received on its SCC assessments, including those from the Utah Native Plant Society (UNPS). Based on this review, 12 plant species meet the SSC criteria, and I am identifying them as SCC for the Manti-La Sal National Forest:

Allium geyeri var. *chatterleyi*
Aquilegia flavescens var. *rubicunda*
Astragalus iselyi
Cymopterus beckii
Erigeron kachinensis
Erigeron mancus
Hedysarum occidentale var. *canone*
Penstemon navajoa
Salix arizonica
Senecio fremontii var. *inexpectatus*
Oreoxis bakeri
Podistera eastwoodiae

The Regional Office also identified four additional plant species that meet the SCC criteria based on UNPS and other best available scientific information. Although the Forest assessment did not propose these additional species as SCC, based on the Regional Office review, I am also identifying the following four plant species as SCC for the Manti-La Sal National Forest:

Cryptantha creutzfeldtii
Erigeron uttermannii (Syn. *E. carringtoniae*)
Packera musiniensis (Syn. *Senecio musiniensis*)
Penstemon tidestromii

Review of UNPS Proposed G1G2/T1T2 species

The UNPS identified additional G1G2/T1T2 plant species they feel the Forest should consider as SCC. The 2012 planning rule requires the Forest to consider all G1G2/T1T2 species for SCC status if known to occur in the planning area (FSH 1909.19, Chapter 10, Section 12.52d). The Regional Office found occurrence or other information UNPS provided sufficient to warrant further assessment as SCC by the Forest for the following seven plant species.



Androsace chamejasme subsp. *lehmanniana* (Syn. *Androsace chamejasme* var. *carinata*)
Echinocereus mohavensis forma *inermis*
Ericameria nauseosa var. *psilocarpa* (Syn. *Chrysothamnus nauseosus* var. *psilocarpus*)
Erigeron melanocephalus
Erigeron abajoensis
Plantanthera zothecina (Syn. *Habenaria zothecina*)
Potentilla paucijuga (Syn. *Potentilla pensylvanica* var. *paucijuga*)

I am directing the Forest to conduct the SCC assessment for these seven species no later than one month after issuing the draft plan revision assessment. This will allow the Regional Office review of the Forest's findings to determine if there is sufficient reason for me to amend the identified list of SCC for the Forest prior to the issuance of the final plan revision assessment and preliminary needs for change.

Review of UNPS Proposed G2G3/S1/S2 species

The UNPS identified 21 plant species that are either G2G3, S1, S2, or have threats that the UNPS feels the Forest should consider as SCC. The 2012 planning rule indicates the Forest should consider all G3, S1, and S2 species for SCC status if known to occur in the planning area (FSH 1909.19, Chapter 10, Section 12.52d). Regional Office review found there is information to indicate the Forest should consider the following species identified by UNPS for SCC status.

Potentilla paucijuga (syn. *Potentilla pensylvanica* var. *paucijuga*) - *La Sal cinquefoil*
Oxypolis fendleri
Erigeron elatior
Helianthella parryi
Rudbeckia laciniata var. *ampla*
Senecio serra var. *admirabilis*
Senecio fremontii var. *blitoides*
Symphyotrichum laeve var. *geyeri*
Callitriche heterophylla
Stellaria longifolia
Carex perglobosa
Potentilla nivea
Claytonia megarhiza
Saxifraga flagellaris ssp. *crandallii*
Saxifraga cernua
Saxifraga bronchialis var. *austromontana*
Synthyris alpina (syn. *Besseya alpina*)
Botrychium simplex
Artemisia pattersonii
Astragalus consobrinus
Townsendia beamanii

I am directing the Forest to conduct the SCC assessment for these species no later than one month after issuing the draft plan revision assessment. This will allow the Regional Office review of the Forest's findings to determine if there is sufficient reason for me to amend the identified list of SCC for the Forest prior to the issuance of the final plan revision assessment and preliminary needs for change:

Identification of Manti La Sal National Forest Animal Species of Conservation Concern

The Regional Office also reviewed the Forest's updated proposed animal SCC assessment. Based on this review, I am identifying the following 12 animals as SCC for the Manti La Sal National Forest:


Black Rosy-finch (*Leucosticte atrata*)
Bluehead Sucker (*Catostomus discobolus*)
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (*Onchorhynchus clarkii* Utah)
Boreal Toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*)
Colorado Cutthroat Trout (*Onchorhynchus clarkii*)
Fringed Myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*)
Greater Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)
Southern Leatherside (*Lepidomeda aliciae*)
Townsend's Big-eared Bat (*Sweltsa cristata*)
Utah Sallfly (*Sweltsa cristata*)
American Pika (*Ochotona princeps*)

Conclusion

In summary, I am identifying 16 plant species and 11 animal species as SCC for the Manti-La Sal National Forest, and I will issue the public notification about these 27 identified species as SCC for the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The public notification will indicate that the Forest Service will be considering information on seven G1G2/T1T2 plant species and 21 G2G3/S1/S2 plant species proposed by the UNPS and that I will subsequently determine if I need to add any of the species to the list of identified SCC for the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The Forest should not delay its efforts to issue the draft plan revision assessment solely to await this review of the 28 plant species.

I appreciate the considerable effort the Forest has completed in both the SCC assessments and in outreach to the public for comments on these assessments. If you have questions about our conclusions and documentation please contact John Proctor (R4 Botanist, 801-625-5562) or Lee Jacobson (R4 TES Program Manager, 801-625-5664).



 NORA B. RASURE
Regional Forester

cc: Tami Conner, Mark Bethke