

Appendix 6

Summary of the Addendum to the 2003 Sawtooth National Forest Plan Biological Assessment and Biological Evaluation

Summary of the Addendum to the 2003 Sawtooth National Forest Plan Biological Assessment and Biological Evaluation for Federally Listed, Proposed, Candidate and Forest Sensitive Species

An Addendum to the 2003 Biological Assessment (USDA Forest Service 2003d, pp. I-1 through VII-38), the 2003 Forest Plan Terrestrial Biological Evaluation (USDA Forest Service 2003e, pp. 1–55), the 2003 Forest Plan Botanical Biological Evaluation (USDA Forest Service 2003f, pp. 1–114), and the 2003 Forest Plan Aquatics Biological Evaluation (USDA Forest Service 2003g, pp. 1-116) has been completed and is on file in the Project Record. The 2003 Biological Assessment and Biological Evaluations were reviewed and updated to ensure the analysis of effects completed for the Forest Plan remains accurate and determinations of effects do not change under the amendment to the Forest Plan.

Since completion of the 2003 BA (USDA Forest Service 2003d) and BEs (USDA Forest Service 2003e, USDA Forest Service 2003f, USDA Forest Service 2003g), there have been changes in the list of federally protected species as well as in the Regional Forester’s sensitive species list. The addendum incorporates those changes. For all species, including those species whose status has not changed since 2003, the addendum assesses whether the effects analysis and conclusions in the 2003 BA or BE remain valid with selection of the preferred alternative under the Forest Plan Amendment. The changes in management direction and incorporation of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy in the Forest Plan Amendment for the preferred alternative did not result in previously undisclosed effects or greater levels of risk than previously considered in the 2003 analyses (USDA Forest Service 2003d, USDA Forest Service 2003e, USDA Forest Service 2003f, USDA Forest Service 2003g).

There are 52 species assessed in the *Addendum to the 2003 Sawtooth National Forest Plan Biological Assessment and Biological Evaluations* (BA/BE). Designated critical habitat for four species is also addressed as well as essential fish habitat for one species. The determination of effect for these species or habitat is summarized in Table 6-1. There were no changes to the 2003 Forest Plan effects determinations for any species or habitat with the exception of those whose status changed due to federal listing, federal de-listing, or designation as a Forest sensitive species. For those species, the determination of effect terminology changed to be commensurate with the status change of the species. (i.e., de-listing of the bald eagle changes the determination of effect from “may affect” to “may impact”).

The BA/BE meets the requirements set forth under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and implementing regulations [19 U.S.C. 1536 (c), 50 CFR 402.12 (f) and 402.14 (c)] and standards established in Forest Service Manual direction (FSM 2672.42). All consultation and/or conferencing requirements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (“NOAA Fisheries”) for species listed as threatened, endangered, or proposed have been completed. This BA/BE updates the previous Biological Assessment and Biological Evaluations for the Sawtooth Forest Plan Revision dated August 2003 (USDA Forest Service 2003d, USDA Forest Service 2003e, USDA Forest Service 2003f, USDA Forest Service 2003g).

Table 6-1. Effects Determinations for 52 species and critical habitat analyzed in the BA/BE.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status¹	Determination²
Fish	Columbia River bull trout	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	T	LAA
Fish	Snake River steelhead trout (summer)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	T	LAA
Fish	Snake River Spring/summer chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	T	LAA
Fish	Sockeye salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	E	LAA
Fish	Westslope cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi</i>	S	MIIH
Fish	Wood River sculpin	<i>Cottus leiopomus</i>	S	MIIH
Fish	Yellowstone cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki bouvieri</i>	S	MIIH
Fish	Northern leatherside chub	<i>Lepidomeda copei</i>	S	MIIH
Habitat	Columbia River Bull Trout Critical Habitat	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	DCH	LAA
Habitat	Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook Critical Habitat	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	DCH	LAA
Habitat	Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook Essential Fish Habitat	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	EFH	LAA
Habitat	Snake River Summer Steelhead Trout Critical Habitat	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	DCH	LAA
Habitat	Sockeye Critical Habitat		DCH	LAA
Bird	Yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	C/S	MIIH
Bird	Greater sage grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	C/S	MIIH
Bird	Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	S	MIIH
Bird	Northern goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	S	MIIH
Bird	White-headed woodpecker	<i>Picoides albolarvatus</i>	S	MIIH
Bird	Flammulated owl	<i>Otus flammeolus</i>	S	MIIH
Bird	Mountain quail	<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>	S	MIIH
Bird	Boreal owl	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	S	MIIH
Bird	American three-toed woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	S	MIIH
Bird	Great gray owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	S	MIIH
Bird	Common loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	S	MIIH
Bird	Columbian sharp-tailed grouse	<i>T. phasianellus columbianus</i>	S	MIIH
Bird	Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	S	MIIH
Mammal	Canada lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	T	LAA
Mammal	Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>	C/S	MIIH
Mammal	Fisher	<i>Martes pennanti</i>	S	MIIH
Mammal	Gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	S	MIIH
Mammal	Townsend's western big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens</i>	S	MIIH
Mammal	Spotted bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	S	MIIH
Mammal	Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis canadensis</i>	S	MIIH
Mammal	Pygmy rabbit	<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>	S	MIIH
Amphibian	Columbia spotted frog (<i>Great Basin population</i>)	<i>Rana luteiventris</i>	C/S	MIIH
Amphibian	Columbia spotted frog	<i>Rana luteiventris</i>	S	MIIH

¹ T= Federally listed as a threatened species; C=Federally listed as a candidate species; S=Regional Forester sensitive species; DCH=federally designated critical habitat; EFH=essential fish habitat

² LAA = May affect, likely to adversely affect. MIIH = May impact individuals or habitat, but is not likely to contribute to a trend toward federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ³	Determination ⁴
Plant	Ute ladies'-tresses orchid	<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	T	NLAA
Plant	Christ's Indian paintbrush	<i>Castilleja christii</i>	C	NLAA/MIIH
Plant	Goose Creek milkvetch	<i>Astragalus anserinus</i>	C	NLAA/MIIH
Plant	Lemhi milkvetch	<i>Astragalus aquilonius</i>	S	MIIH
Plant	White Cloud milkvetch	<i>Astragalus vexilliflexus</i> Sheld. var. <i>nubilus</i> Barneby	S	MIIH
Plant	Slender Moonwort	<i>Botrychium lineare</i>	S	MIIH
Plant	Least moonwort	<i>Botrychium simplex</i> E. Hitchc	S	MIIH
Plant	Bryum moss	<i>Bryum calobryoides</i> Spence	S	MIIH
Plant	Davis' wavewing	<i>Cymopterus davisii</i> R.L. Hartman	S	MIIH
Plant	Idaho Douglasia	<i>Douglasia idahoensis</i> <i>D. Henderson</i>	S	MIIH
Plant	Pointed/rockcress draba	<i>Draba globosa</i> <i>Payson</i>	S	MIIH
Plant	Stanley's whitlow-grass	<i>Draba trichocarpa</i> <i>R Reollins</i>	S	MIIH
Plant	Desert buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum desertorum</i> <i>(Maguire) Welsh</i>	S	MIIH
Plant	Guardian buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum meledonum</i> <i>Reveal</i>	S	MIIH
Plant	Sacajawea's bitterroot	<i>Lewisia sacajaweaana</i> <i>Brandg.</i>	S	MIIH
Plant	Idaho penstemon	<i>Penstemon idahoensis</i> <i>Atwood & Welsh</i>	S	MIIH
Plant	Least phacelia	<i>Phacelia minutissima</i> L.F. Henderson	S	MIIH
Plant	Marsh's bluegrass	<i>Poa abbreviata</i> R.Br. ssp. <i>marshii</i> R.J. Soreng	S	MIIH
Plant	Cottam cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla cottami</i> N. Holmgren	S	MIIH
Plant	Wholeleaf goldenweed Bugleg haplopappus	<i>Pyrocoma insecticuris</i> L.F. Hend	S	MIIH
Plant	Stanley thlaspi	<i>Thlaspi idahoense</i> var. <i>aileeniae</i> Rollins	S	MIIH

³ T= Federally listed as a threatened species; C=Federally listed as a candidate species; S=Regional Forester sensitive species; DCH=federally designated critical habitat; EFH=essential fish habitat

⁴ LAA = May affect, likely to adversely affect. MIIH = May impact individuals or habitat, but is not likely to contribute to a trend toward federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species.



United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

Idaho Fish And Wildlife Office

1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368

Boise, Idaho 83709

Telephone (208) 378-5243

<http://www.fws.gov/idaho>



RECEIVED APR 26 2011
APR 27 2011
SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST

Rebecca Nourse
Forest Supervisor
Sawtooth National Forest
2647 Kimberly Road East
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Subject: Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan
Addendum Incorporating a Wildlife Conservation Strategy for Forested
Habitats—Multiple Counties, Idaho—Technical Assistance
CONS 100a 14420-2011-TA-0146

Dear Ms. Nourse:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your addendum to the 2003 Sawtooth National Forest Plan Biological Assessment (BA) and Biological Evaluation (BE) for the Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) on April 11, 2011. The purpose of the Addendum is to analyze potential effects of amending direction in the 2003 LRMP to incorporate a Wildlife Conservation Strategy (WCS) for the Sawtooth National Forest (Forest). In your addendum, you note that the WCS will result in new direction for forested habitats, but will not result in a change to potential effects of management activities on aquatic habitats or non-forested habitats. We agree with this conclusion. Resource considerations and an analysis of alternatives are documented in your Environmental Impact Statement on the subject matter.

As analyzed in your addendum to the BA/BE, incorporation of the WCS and proposed new management direction should result in greater beneficial effects and either no change in, or reduced, negative effects to species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), within forested habitats. The Federal action is expected to result in effects that are within the range of effects analyzed in the 2003 Forest Plan BA/BE and our subsequent biological opinion (Reference #I-4-03-F-0526). Because the range of alternatives analyzed in the BA/BE did not present any changes in effects to listed species outside of those considered during the 2003 LRMP consultation, we agree that reinitiation of consultation is not warranted. The new direction for forested habitats is expected to have lesser effects on species listed under the Act than those analyzed during the original LRMP consultation.



During WCS discussions, the Service discussed with your staff the need to confirm your 2003 conference biological opinion for bull trout critical habitat as a biological opinion in the near-term. We look forward to working with you on this and receiving continued updates on the WCS through the Level 1 Team process. Please retain this letter in your files to document continued compliance with the Act regarding this LRMP amendment. Thank you for your continued interest in the conservation of threatened and endangered species. Please contact Allyson Turner at (208) 685-6952 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



for

Brian T. Kelly, State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office

cc: SNF SO, Twin Falls (Bandolin, Chatel, Filbert)
NMFS, Salmon (Fealko)
BNF, Boise (Hayman)