

### 3.3.6. Appendix F: Medford BLM Resource Advisor Reference

March 24, 2004



Reply To: 8330.02482 (04)  
File Name: MEDBLM.doc  
TS Number: 04-2055

## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### Memorandum

To: Tim Reuwsaat, District Manager, Medford District BLM, Medford, Oregon  
From: Craig A. Tuss, Field Supervisor, Roseburg Field Office, Roseburg, Oregon  
Subject: Emergency Consultation requirements of the Endangered Species Act

As the upcoming fire season approaches, I would like to take the opportunity to review the Emergency Consultation requirements of the Endangered Species Act. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) requires appropriate precautions be taken to minimize adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species during all federal actions, include the emergency consultation process. During an emergency, the Action Agency has a duty to meet their section 7(a)(2) and 7(d) obligations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Office (Service) recognizes that protection of human life and property are paramount in fire emergencies, and offers the attached recommendations for your consideration as a supplement to your agency specific mitigation measures when conducting suppression activities on federal lands administered by the Medford District BLM.

Please note the “federal action” during suppression actions refers to actual fire suppression activities, such as hand and dozer line construction, application of fire retardant, and backfire operations. These actions shall be analyzed independent of the effects of the fire itself. Information necessary for the completion of emergency consultation includes identification of highly impacted areas (by both fire and suppression actions) such as safety zone construction, spike camps, sanitation facilities, landings, etc), Hand-built fire line, machine-built fire line, new, re-opened or re-constructed roads and trails, water sources, retardant drop sites and location and approximate acres of backfire operations. Please refer to the attached recommendations for completing a biological assessment regarding emergency consultations (Attachment 1).

We encourage you to share the “general guidelines for all species” (Attachment 2) with fire staff, resource advisors and Interagency Fire Management Teams that may be required for suppression actions on public lands administered by your agency.

Service staff will review the attached list of guidelines, and make appropriate site-specific recommendations upon initiation of an emergency consultation. We are available to assist with the implementation and conclusion of Emergency Consultation requirements, and look forward to working with your staff. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact either myself at 541-957-3470, or Cynthia Donegan at (541) 957-3469. During a fire emergency, our staff may be contacted through the Umpqua National Forest Dispatch Office, at 541-957-3325

## **Aviation Management**

Aviation management includes all activities associated with providing aircraft support services for natural resource protection and management functions. Mission flights may be either routine or emergency, and may include such activities as leadplane, smokejumper/para-cargo, aerial photography, mobilization or demobilization of emergency support resources, reconnaissance, survey, and project support. Each Federal Jurisdiction designates a Unit Aviation Officer that administers aviation policy who reports to the Fire Staff Officer (see FSM 5700). ODF and aviation assets are managed by each Unit Forester's Office (see ODF Fire Aviation Procedures Manual).

Federally staffed aviation resources include the Siskiyou Rappellers and Medford air tanker base. ODF SW has contracted aerial retardant planes the past several fire seasons, which are stationed at the Medford Interagency Air Tanker Base and are budget dependent. Up to three helicopters aircraft used for recon and fire suppression activities are also staffed annually by ODF SW and are located throughout the Rogue valley.