

SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN (SCC) IN PLAN REVISION AND PUBLIC INPUT

The 2012 Planning rule requires the Forest Service to identify potential species of conservation concern at the start of the planning process, as part of the assessment of current conditions. For each potential SCC that is identified, a determination rationale will be provided to the public along with any supporting information to be released with the assessment. The intent is to allow for engagement with the public regarding the SCC list early in the planning process.

If concerns about a particular species' capability to persist within the forest are identified, the revised Forest Plan must include components to provide for habitat conditions that will enable the species to persist on the Forest. Early identification of SCC will provide the public with critical information to inform their participation in the development of these plan components.

WHAT WILL THE FOREST SERVICE DO WITH YOUR INPUT ON THE SCC LIST?

The Forest Service will consider all input received. When reviewing the feedback, the Forest Service will determine if input offers valid scientific information that has not yet been considered. If so, species may be removed or added from the list based on valid scientific information received. Such changes will be documented in the SCC list released in either the draft land management plans or the final land management plans.

SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN RESOURCES

Forest Service - Species of Conservation Concern

www.fs.usda.gov/r06/umatilla/planning/species-conservation-concern

FAQs on the 2012 Planning Rule

www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/planning-rule/2012-planning-rule-faqs

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Visit our website by scanning the QR code below or by visiting

www.fs.usda.gov/r06/umatilla/planning/blue-mountains-forest-plan-revision

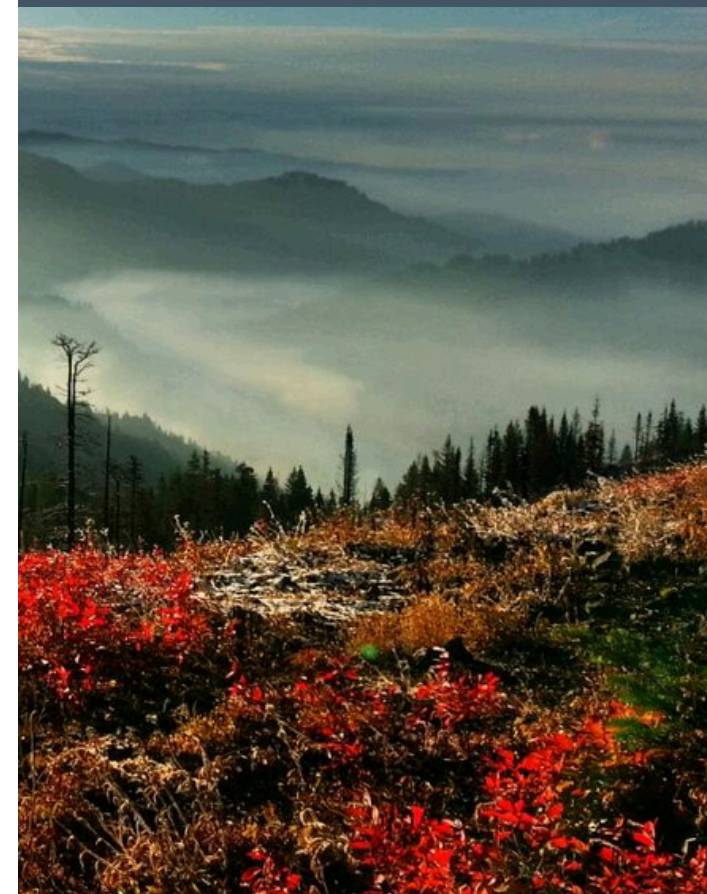


Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN

Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision

Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests



WHAT IS A SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN (SCC)?

A species of conservation concern (SCC) is a plant or animal that the agency identifies based on concerns about that species' ability to remain on the landscape over the long term. Each land management plan has its own SCC list.

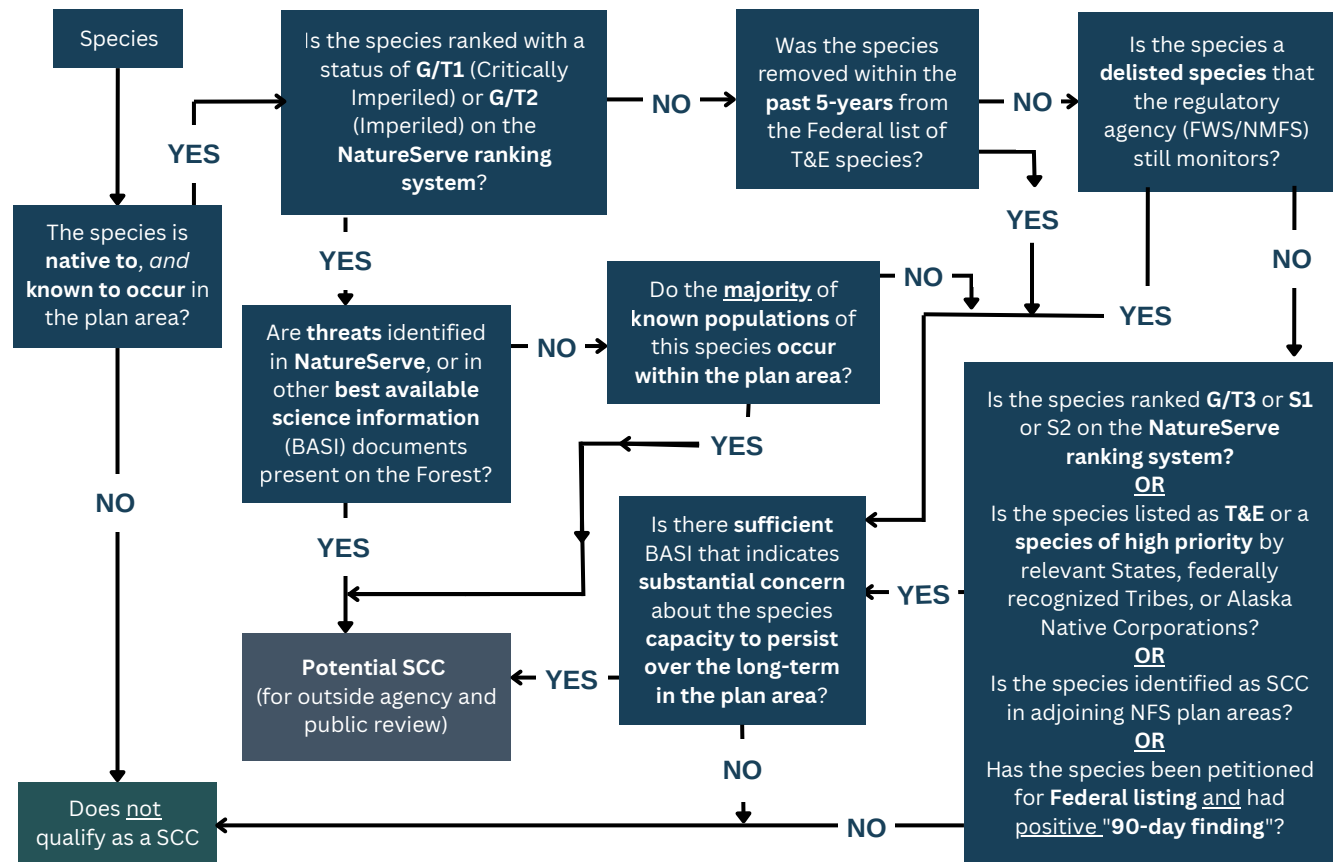
HOW DO SCCS INFLUENCE PLAN REVISIONS?

Revised Plans must be designed to sustain or restore habitat for SCC populations and ensure, to the extent possible, that these species can remain on the landscape over the long term. Stated simply, land management plans help us maintain conditions that provide SCCs with the habitat they need to persist in the Plan area. For instance, each Plan will have certain components, including standards and guidelines, to sustain or restore ecosystem diversity and habitats. These elements are considered “coarse” filter plan components. If the coarse filter plan components do not provide for the habitat conditions each SCC population requires to persist on the Forest, additional species-specific plan components must be developed to provide the specific habitat conditions those species require. This second set of species-specific components are known as “fine” filter plan components.

HOW ARE SCC SELECTED & IS IT A FINAL DECISION?

Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) are selected using multiple criteria such as:

- Whether the species is native to the planning unit
- The Global and State status of each species
- Whether those species occurrences are accidental or transient
- Whether the species is established or becoming established on the planning unit
- The distribution, abundance, and trend of the species on the planning unit
- Threats and risks the species faces on the planning unit
- Habitat requirements of the species
- Finally, if a species is present on the planning unit, whether there is substantial concern that it will be able to persist there over the long term



*Species rankings are taken from NatureServe's global conservation status system. NatureServe is the directive-based process used by the Forest Service for determining species of conservation concern. For species ranking definitions visit <https://www.natureserve.org/>