



File Code: 1920
Route To:

Date: October 24, 2018

Subject: Species of Conservation Concern List for the Flathead National Forest's Revised Forest Plan

To: Forest Supervisor, Flathead National Forest

Following the release of the draft Record of Decision (ROD) for the Flathead National Forest's revised forest plan, I received several objections regarding the identification of the Forest's species of conservation concern (SCC). Objectors felt that additional species should be identified as SCC, due in part to differences in their interpretation of the 2012 planning rule. These objections were reviewed by Associate Deputy Chief Christopher French, representing the Chief of the Forest Service Victoria Christenson.

The Associate Deputy Chief formed a team to review the objection issues and the planning record related to the identification of SCC. This team found I had appropriately considered Regional Forester's Sensitive Species and had identified the Forest's SCC using the best available scientific information. Although they found the associated documentation supports my November 28, 2017 findings, I did receive instruction to clarify the rationale for not including several specific species.

Resource specialists in the Regional Office have reviewed the existing documentation and added additional information where needed to clarify why a species does or does not meet the definition of a SCC found at 36 CFR 219.9(c). As a result of this review, rationale documents were amended to include additional information clarifying how NatureServe rankings and broad-scale threats were considered. A habitat map for bighorn sheep was also added to the record.

I reviewed this additional documentation to determine if any changes were warranted and found that the expanded documentation further supports my previous findings.

Please note that the identification of SCC is a dynamic process. New scientific information may prompt future changes in the SCC list, which would be completed following the process described in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, chapter 20, section 21.22b.

I look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in conserving the diversity of species on the Flathead National Forest.

LEANNE M. MARTEN
Regional Forester

cc: Julie Schaefers, Erin Swiader





File Code: 1920
Route To:

Date: November 28, 2017

Subject: Species of Conservation Concern List for the Flathead National Forest's Final Revised Forest Plan

To: Flathead National Forest Supervisor

After consideration of public input provided for the Flathead National Forest's Assessment and Plan Revision, a careful review of scientific information, and discussions with research scientists and other specialists, I have determined that the species identified in the enclosed list meet the criteria for species of conservation concern as defined by the 2012 planning rule and its implementing directives.

As Regional Forester, I am responsible for determining the best way to achieve the objectives for the conservation of at-risk species (Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2670.44). As your revised plan provides direction to maintain and restore the ecological conditions necessary to support long-term persistence of all native species using the coarse filter/fine filter approach of the 2012 Planning Rule, I find the plan is sufficient to meet the sensitive species objectives of FSM 2670. Once the revised plan is in effect, the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species list no longer applies to the Flathead National Forest.

Please note that the identification of species of conservation concern is a dynamic process. New scientific information may prompt changes in the species of conservation concern list over time. My staff will continue to work with you and your staff to evaluate new information and determine if adding or removing species from the list for the plan area is warranted.

I would like to acknowledge that some stakeholders may express concerns regarding the species that have been removed from the list that was previously provided for the draft environmental impact statement. One example includes the westslope cutthroat trout, which the State of Montana considers a Species of Concern. Although the westslope cutthroat trout is secure in the plan area and therefore cannot be a Forest Service species of conservation concern, I am cognizant of the species population trends across its range. I plan to continue the Forest Service's participation in statewide conservation efforts under the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Montana and other partners. Also, I find the aquatic and riparian habitat plan components in the Flathead National Forest Revised Plan contribute to the species persistence across the broader landscape.

Updated information regarding the evaluation and scientific information used to determine species included and excluded as species of conservation concern for the Flathead National Forest can be found on the [Northern Region webpage](#). This includes updates to the evaluation process and the evaluation spreadsheets, and a new question and answer document addressing questions we've heard regarding species of conservation concern identification for all Northern Region forest plan revision efforts.



I appreciate the expertise and assistance of your staff during this process. I look forward to continuing to work together, along with our stakeholders, to ensure the diversity of species on the Flathead National Forest.



LEANNE M. MARTEN
Regional Forester

cc: Julie Schaefers, Christine Dawe

Species of Conservation Concern for the Flathead National Forest's Final Revised Plan

Animal SCC	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Black swift	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>
Clark's nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>
Flammulated owl	<i>Otus flammeolus</i>

Plant SCC	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Roundleaf orchid	<i>Amerorchis rotundifolia</i>
Peculiar moonwort	<i>Botrychium paradoxum</i>
Stalked moonwort	<i>Botrychium pedunculosum</i>
Creeping sedge	<i>Carex chordorrhiza</i>
Lake-bank Sedge	<i>Carex lacustris</i>
Jelly lichen	<i>Collema curtisporum</i>
Pale corydalis	<i>Corydalis sempervirens</i>
Clustered lady's-slipper	<i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i>
Sparrow's-egg Lady's-slipper	<i>Cypripedium passerinum</i>
Slenderleaf sundew	<i>Drosera linearis</i>
Crested shieldfern	<i>Dryopteris cristata</i>
Beaked spikerush	<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i>
Giant helleborine	<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>
Slender cottongrass	<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>
Britton's dry rock moss	<i>Grimmia brittoniae</i>
Howell's gumweed	<i>Grindelia howellii</i>
Scalepod	<i>Idahoa scapigera</i>
Loesel's twayblade	<i>Liparis loeselii</i>
Northern bog clubmoss	<i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>
Meesia moss	<i>Meesia triquetra</i>
Short-flowered monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus breviflorus</i>
Arctic sweet coltsfoot	<i>Petasites frigidus</i> var. <i>frigidus</i>
Scorpidium moss	<i>Scorpidium scorpioides</i>
Magellan's peatmoss	<i>Sphagnum magellanicum</i>
Hudson's Bay bulrush	<i>Trichophorum alpinum</i>
Tufted club-rush	<i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i>