



File Code: 1920

Date: October 25, 2023

Route To:

Subject: Species of Conservation Concern for Development of the Lolo National Forest's Revised Land Management Plan

To: Forest Supervisor, Lolo National Forest

In coordination with the Lolo National Forest, and pursuant to my responsibilities and authority under the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.7(c)(3)), I have determined that the species identified in the tables below meet the criteria for species of conservation concern (SCC) as set forth in the 2012 Planning Rule and subsequent directives. This constitutes the SCC list for the Lolo National Forest and should be used to inform the land management development phase of the plan revision effort. The definition of SCC is found at 36 CFR 219.9(c), and direction for identifying SCC are outlined in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter 10, Section 12.52(c) and in Chapter 20, Section 21.22a.

Biologists, botanists, and other resource specialists from the Forest and regional office developed the SCC list together using the best available scientific information, including the expertise offered by tribes and other agencies. The documentation, rationale, and public outreach for potential SCC provided in the assessment phase have been vital to the process. All information, including that received by tribes, other agencies, and the public, was carefully reviewed and evaluated. From this, the best available scientific information was used to determine which species meet the SCC criteria (FSH 1909.12 Chapter 20, Section 21.22a(1)).

The 2012 Planning Rule requires the components in your revised forest plan to provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of each SCC within the plan area (36 CFR 219.9(b)(1)). If you determine it is beyond the authority of the Forest Service or not within the inherent capability of the plan area to provide such conditions, you must document the basis for this determination in your decision and include plan components to maintain or restore ecological conditions within the plan area to contribute to maintaining a viable population of the species within its range (36 CFR 219.9(b)(2)).

Please note that the identification of species of conservation concern is a dynamic process. New scientific information may prompt future changes in the list. We will continue to work with you and the planning team to evaluate new information and determine if adding or removing SCC is warranted, following the process described in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, section 21.22b.

Table 1. Plant Species of Conservation Concern for Development of the Lolo National Forest's Revised Land Management Plan.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Arctic Sweet Coltsfoot	<i>Petasites frigidus</i> var. <i>frigidus</i>
Hiker's Gentian	<i>Gentianopsis simplex</i>
Hollyleaf Clover	<i>Trifolium gymnocarpon</i>
Howell's Gumweed	<i>Grindelia howellii</i>
Idaho Barren Strawberry	<i>Waldsteinia idahoensis</i>
Lackschewitz' Fleabane	<i>Erigeron lackschewitzii</i>
Mission Mountain Kittentails	<i>Synthyris canbyi</i>
Oregon Bluebells	<i>Mertensia bella</i>
Sandweed	<i>Athysanus pusillus</i>
Scalegod	<i>Idahoia scapigera</i>

Table 2. Animal Species of Conservation Concern for Development of the Lolo National Forest's Revised Land Management Plan.

Common	Name
Bighorn Sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis</i>
Fisher	<i>Pekania pennanti</i>
Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>
Idaho Giant Salamander	<i>Dicamptodon aterrimus</i>
Mountain Goat	<i>Oreamnos americanus</i>
Western Pearlshell	<i>Margaritifera falcata</i>

I appreciate the assistance your staff provided during this process. I look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in conserving the diversity of species on the Forest.

/s/ Leanne M. Marten
 LEANNE M. MARTEN
 Regional Forester

cc: Timory Peel, Christopher Savage, Cara Staab