



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

SENSITIVE SPECIES LIST

Frequently Asked Questions

It is Oregon's policy "to prevent the serious depletion of any indigenous species" (ORS 496.012). The Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) for threatened and endangered species (OAR 635-100-0080 to 0194) are intended to help implement this policy. In accordance with these rules, species can be classified as "threatened" (any native species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout any significant part of its range within the state) or "endangered" (any native species determined to be in danger of extinction). However, recovering species when their populations are severely depleted can be difficult and expensive. In addition, designation of such species can be socially and economically divisive.

To provide a positive, proactive approach to species conservation, a "sensitive" species classification was created under Oregon's Sensitive Species Rule (OAR 635-100-0040). The Sensitive Species List focuses fish and wildlife conservation, management, and research and monitoring activities on species that need conservation attention. It serves as an early warning system for biologists, land managers, policy makers, and the public. It helps to ensure that conservation actions are prioritized, cost-efficient, and effective. Although the intent of the Sensitive Species List is to prevent species from declining to the point of qualifying as threatened or endangered, this list is not used as a "candidate" list for species to be considered for listing on Oregon's State List of Threatened and Endangered Species (OAR 635-100-0125).

What is a "Sensitive Species"?

"Sensitive" refers to fish and wildlife that are facing one or more threats to their populations and/or habitats. Consistent with OAR 635-100-0040(2), "Sensitive Species" are defined as having small or declining populations, are at-risk, and/or are of management concern. Implementation of appropriate conservation measures to address existing or potential threats may prevent them from declining to the point of qualifying for threatened or endangered status.

For the purpose of the Sensitive Species List, "species" refers to any group (taxon) of fish or wildlife that interbreeds and is substantially reproductively isolated. This interpretation of the term "species" may include species, subspecies, or a geographically-specific population grouping of a species or subspecies.

What factors are considered in designating a "Sensitive Species"?

The factors considered for designating a "Sensitive Species" include: declining population; imminent or active deterioration of primary habitat; populations impacted by [Key Conservation Issues](#) (see the [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#) (2016) for details), disease, predation, contaminants, and other natural or human-caused factors; over-utilization; inadequate existing state or federal programs for management or conservation of species and/or primary habitats; and naturally limited range or rare occurrence.

What does the "Sensitive-Critical" designation mean?

The Sensitive Species List consists of two categories, "Sensitive" and "Sensitive-Critical". Species or taxa with a "Sensitive-Critical" sub-designation are Sensitive Species of particular conservation

concern. “Sensitive-Critical” species have current or legacy threats that are significantly impacting their abundance, distribution, diversity, and/or habitat. They may decline to the point of qualifying for threatened or endangered status if conservation actions are not taken.

Are species on the list considered “Sensitive” statewide?

Species are designated as “Sensitive” by geographic groupings of population segments or habitats, or by ecoregion, depending on the taxa. Species Management Units (SMU) are the listing unit for fish (Figure 1; per the Native Fish Conservation Policy; OAR 535-007-0504(6)). Ecoregions are the listing unit for amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals (Figure 2). Oregon has nine [ecoregions](#), including the: Blue Mountains, Coast Range, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Klamath Mountains, Northern Basin and Range, West Cascades, Willamette Valley, and Nearshore. A species may be designated as both “Sensitive” and “Sensitive-Critical” in different SMUs or ecoregions, depending on the regional level of conservation concern.

How is the Sensitive Species List used?

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) uses the Sensitive Species List, in conjunction with the Oregon Conservation Strategy, to promote and guide conservation actions. These actions are also designed to encourage voluntary efforts that will improve species’ status. Once threats to species are identified, conservation opportunities and strategies can be developed. These actions may include:

- monitoring populations to detect either positive or negative changes in populations;
- conducting further research to identify threats and methods to address the threats;
- educating people about what these species need to persist and what actions people can take to assist in species’ conservation.
- partnering with land management agencies to maintain, improve, and restore habitat;
- providing technical expertise, incentives, and recognition to landowners who provide habitat;
- creating cooperative agreements with assurances for private landowners who provide habitat;
- cooperatively incorporating species’ needs into activities that could negatively affect them; and
- bringing together land managers, researchers, and other people to share information.

Although the Sensitive Species List is primarily a non-regulatory tool, it is referenced in the Department’s Chemical Process Mining Consolidated Application and Permit Review Standards (OAR 635 Division 420) and In-Water Blasting Permits (OAR 635 Division 425). Also, the Department’s biologists provide reviews of a variety of proposed land and water management actions based, in part, on Oregon Conservation Strategy Strategy Species and Sensitive Species list priorities. Being included on the Sensitive Species List also provides additional regulatory oversight, landowner incentives, and public records limits with other state agencies, which reference them in their Oregon Administrative Rules. These agencies include the Columbia River Gorge Commission, Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council, Department of Forestry, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Department of Land Conservation and Development, Department of State Lands, Parks and Recreation Department, State Marine Board, and Water Resources Department.

How does the Sensitive Species List relate to the Oregon Conservation Strategy?

The [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#) (OCS) is the state’s overarching strategy for conserving fish and wildlife, and provides a shared set of priorities for addressing Oregon’s conservation needs. It serves as the official State Wildlife Action Plan for Oregon and is a requirement of the federal State Wildlife Grant Program. The OCS brings together the best available scientific information, and presents a menu of recommended voluntary actions and tools for all Oregonians to define their own conservation role. The goals of the OCS are to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations by maintaining and restoring

functioning habitats, preventing declines of at-risk species, and reversing declines in these resources where possible. The [OCS Strategy Species](#) are species of greatest conservation need that include wildlife (i.e., amphibians, birds, mammals, and reptiles), fish, invertebrates, plants, and algae.

The Sensitive Species List is, for the most part, a subset of the species identified in the OCS. Although very similar in purpose, there are some important distinctions between the OCS Strategy Species List and the Sensitive Species List. The OCS Strategy Species List has a broader scope and is not limited by ODFW's management authorities. The Sensitive Species List is limited to fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals; it does not include: 1) invertebrates, plants, algae, or fish and marine mammals that occur only in the nearshore ecoregion, that are identified in the OCS or 2) species already listed by the state as threatened or endangered.

For more information on the special needs, limiting factors, data gaps, recommended conservation actions, and resources available for each OCS Strategy Species, visit the [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#) website. For information on the legal status of invertebrate species, contact the [Oregon Department of Agriculture](#) and [Oregon Biodiversity Information Center](#). For information on the legal status of plants, contact the [Oregon Department of Agriculture](#).

What if there is not enough information to determine whether a species should be “Sensitive”?

The status of some species cannot be determined because basic information on distribution, abundance, and/or habitat associations is not known. This basic information is needed before population status or threats can be evaluated. These species are identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy as [Data Gap Species](#) and are listed by ecoregion.

How is the Sensitive Species List updated?

The Sensitive Species List is reviewed and updated every five years. Each taxonomic group of animals is reviewed by ODFW biologists and scientific experts from other agencies, universities, and private organizations. The scientists are asked to consider new and historical information on species distribution, population trends, and biological needs; changes in threats; gaps in knowledge and data; recent conservation actions; and state and federal programs or regulations. The scientists may propose to remove, add, or re-classify species based on this information. The draft list is then peer-reviewed by state, federal, university, and consulting biologists. The Sensitive Species List is an administrative list and is not formally adopted through a rule-making process.

In addition, any person may request that a species be added to or removed from the Sensitive Species List through a written request that outlines the status of the species and how its condition meets the criteria cited in OAR 635-100-0040(6).

Why are species that are “threatened” or “endangered” under the federal Endangered Species Act included on the Sensitive Species List?

The State of Oregon and the federal government maintain separate lists of threatened and endangered species under different federal and state laws. Some species are listed as threatened or endangered under federal law but not under state law and may be included as state “Sensitive Species”.

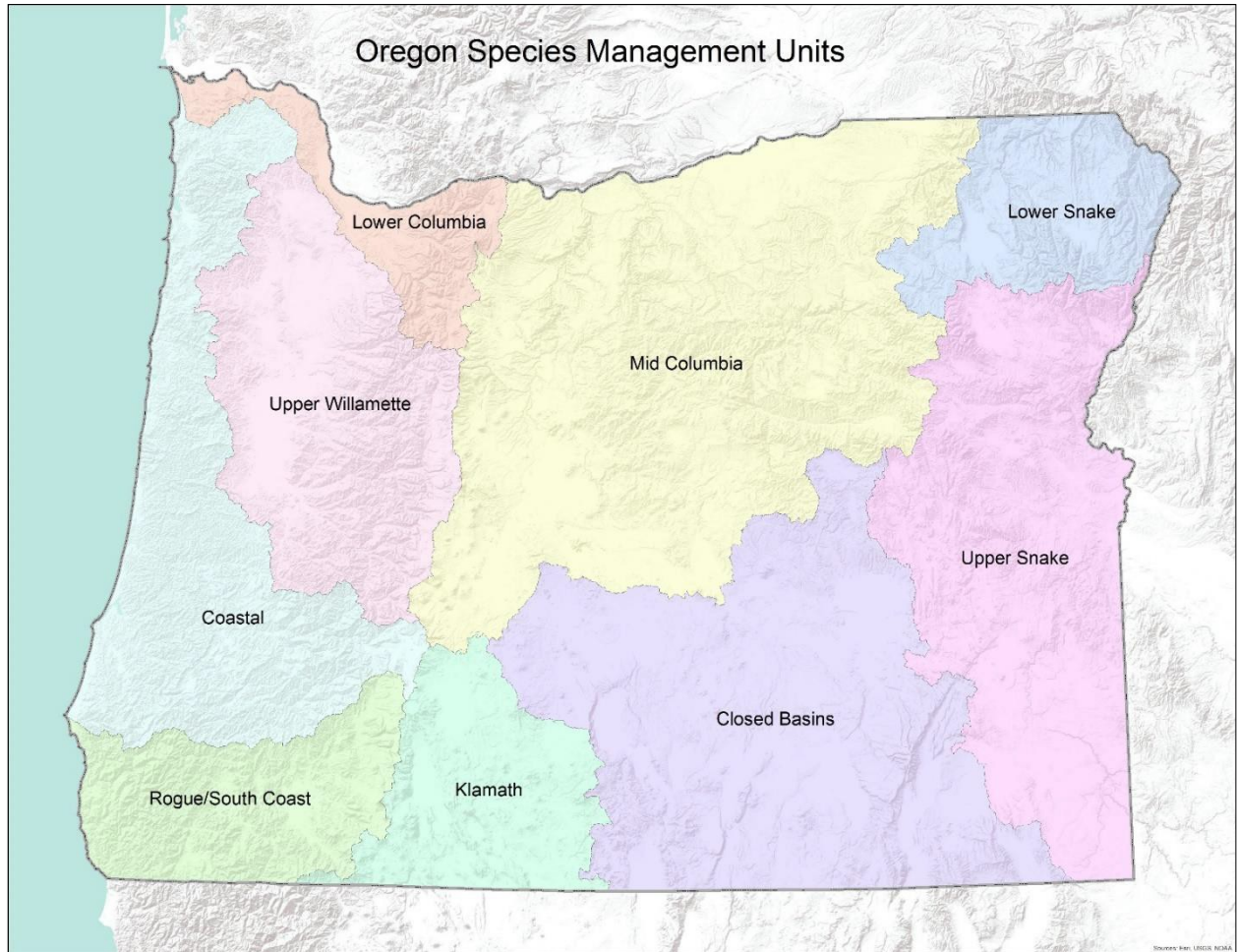


Figure 1. General location of Species Management Units (SMUs) used for determining status of fish. Note that actual SMU boundaries identified in the Sensitive Species List are species-specific and may vary between species or be at a smaller scale than indicated in this figure (especially in the Closed Basins SMU, which encompasses numerous smaller SMUs identified on the list).

Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions

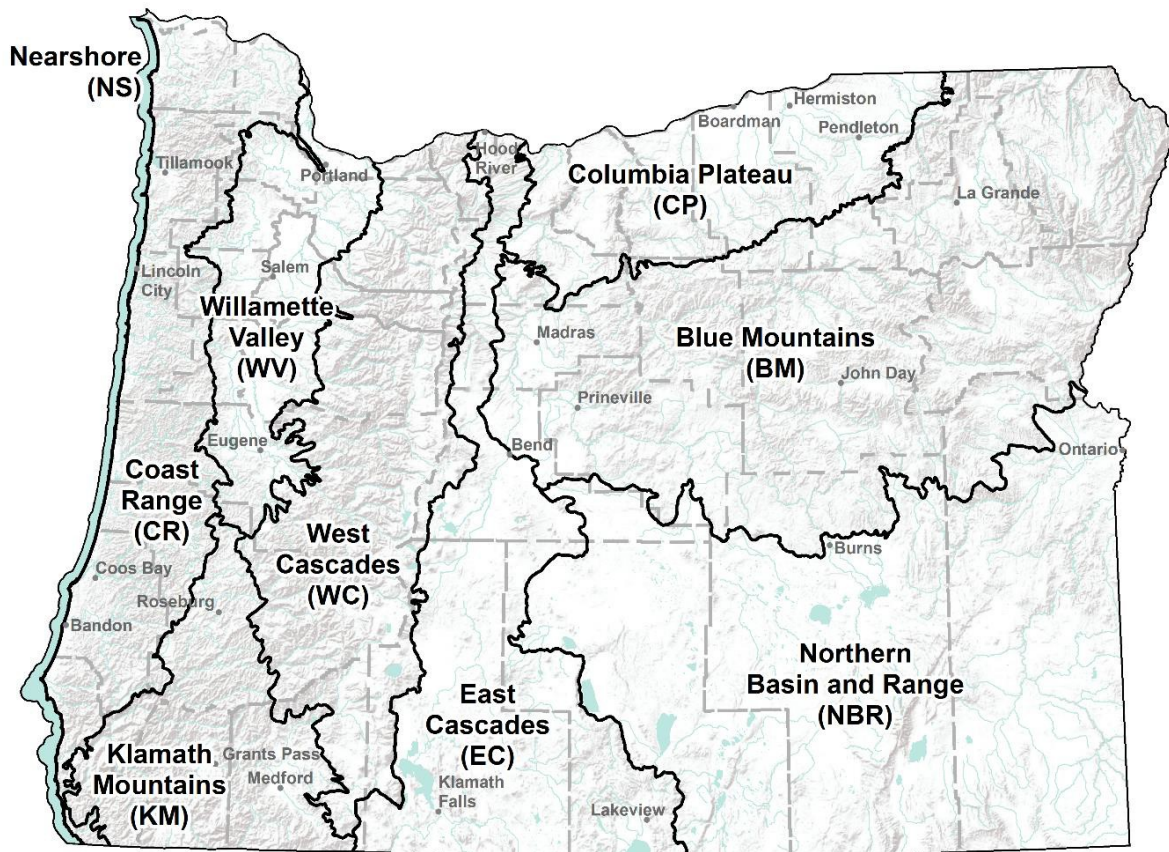


Figure 2. Ecoregions used for determining status of wildlife (i.e., amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals). More information about Oregon's ecoregions is available at <http://www.oregonconservationstrategy.org/ecoregions/>. Map produced by ODFW, Oregon Conservation Strategy GIS Analyst. Data sources: ODFW, Oregon Biodiversity Information Center, ESRI, USGS.



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The 2021 Sensitive Species List has 152 taxa, including 95 wildlife taxa (32 “Sensitive-Critical”, 71 “Sensitive”) and 58 fish taxa (17 “Sensitive-Critical”, 41 “Sensitive”). Note that some species may be designated as “Sensitive” in one ecoregion and “Sensitive-Critical” in another ecoregion. Refer to the table below (organized by taxon) for more information.

FISH

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sensitive	Sensitive-Critical
Alvord Chub	<i>Siphateles alvordensis</i>	Range-Wide (NBR)	
Borax Lake Chub	<i>Gila boraxobius</i>	Range-Wide (NBR)	
Bull Trout	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	Deschutes SMU (BM, EC, WC)	Hells Canyon SMU (BM)
		Grande Ronde SMU (BM)	John Day SMU (BM, CP)
		Hood River SMU (WC)	Klamath Lake SMU (EC, WC)
		Imnaha SMU (BM)	Malheur River SMU (BM, NBR)
		Walla Walla SMU (BM)	Odell Lake SMU (EC, WC)
		Willamette SMU (WC, WV)	Umatilla SMU (BM, CP)
Chinook Salmon - Fall	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Mid-Columbia River SMU/ Deschutes ESU (BM, CP, EC)	Lower Columbia River SMU/ESU (CR, WC, WV, NS)
Chinook Salmon - Spring	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Coastal SMU/ESU (CR, KM, WC, NS)	Lower Columbia River SMU/ESU (WC, WV, NS)
		Middle Columbia SMU/ESU (BM, CP, EC, NS)	Willamette SMU/Upper Willamette River ESU (WC, WV, NS)
		Rogue SMU/Southern Oregon/Northern California Coasts ESU (CR, KM, WC, NS)	
Chum Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>		Coastal SMU/Pacific Coast ESU (CR, NS)
			Lower Columbia SMU, Columbia River ESU (CR, WV, NS)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sensitive	Sensitive-Critical
Coastal Cutthroat Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii</i>	Lower Columbia SMU/ Southwestern Washington/Columbia River ESU (CR, WC, WV, NS)	
Coho Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	Coastal Coho Salmon SMU/Oregon Coast ESU (CR, NS)	
		Klamath SMU/Southern Oregon/Northern California Coasts ESU (EC, KM, NS)	
			Rogue SMU/Southern Oregon/ Northern California Coasts ESU (CR, KM, WC, NS)
Foskett Speckled Dace	<i>Rhinichthys osculus robustus</i>	Range-Wide (NBR)	
Goose Lake Sucker	<i>Catostomus occidentalis lacusanserinus</i>	Range-Wide (EC)	
Great Basin Redband Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss newberrii</i>	Catlow Valley SMU (NBR)	
		Chewaucan SMU (NBR)	
		Fort Rock SMU (NBR)	
		Goose Lake SMU (EC)	
		Malheur Lakes SMU (BM, NBR)	
		Upper Klamath Basin SMU (EC, WC)	
		Warner Lakes SMU (NBR)	
Green Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>	Northern DPS (CR, KM, NS)	
			Southern DPS (CR, KM, NS)
Miller Lake Lamprey	<i>Entosphenus minimus</i>	Range-Wide (EC)	
Millicoma Dace	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>	Range-Wide (CR)	
Modoc Sucker	<i>Catostomus microps</i>	Range-Wide (EC)	
Oregon Chub	<i>Oregonichthys crameri</i>	Range-Wide (WC, WV)	
Pacific Brook Lamprey	<i>Lampetra pacifica</i>	Range-Wide (WV)	
Pacific Lamprey	<i>Entosphenus tridentata</i>	Range-Wide (CR, CP, EC, KM, WC, WV, NS)	
Pit Sculpin	<i>Cottus pitensis</i>	Range-Wide (EC, NBR)	
Steelhead - Summer / Coastal Rainbow Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss / irideus</i>	Coastal SMU/Oregon Coast ESU (CR, KM, WC)	Lower Columbia SMU/ESU (CR, WC, WV)
		Rogue SMU/Klamath Mountains Province ESU (CR, KM, WC)	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sensitive	Sensitive-Critical
Steelhead - Summer / Columbia Basin Rainbow Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss / gairdneri</i>	Lower Snake SMU/Snake River Basin ESU (BM)	Middle Columbia SMU/ESU (BM, CP, EC)
		Upper Snake SMU/Snake River Basin ESU (BM)	
Steelhead - Winter / Coastal Rainbow Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss / irideus</i>	Willamette SMU/Upper Willamette River ESU (WC, WV)	Lower Columbia SMU/ESU (CR, WC, WV)
Umpqua Chub	<i>Oregonichthys kalawatseti</i>		Range-Wide (CR, KM, WC)
Western Brook Lamprey	<i>Lampetra richardsoni</i>	Range-Wide (BM, CR, CP, WC, WV)	
Western River Lamprey	<i>Lampetra ayresii</i>	Range-Wide (CR, CP, WV, NS)	
Westslope Cutthroat Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi</i>		Range-Wide (BM, CP)
White Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>	Lower Columbia/Coastal Population (NS, CR, WV, WC)	

AMPHIBIANS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sensitive	Sensitive-Critical
Cascade Torrent Salamander	<i>Rhyacotriton cascadae</i>	WC, WV	
Cascades Frog	<i>Rana cascadae</i>	EC, WC	
Clouded Salamander	<i>Aneides ferreus</i>	CR, KM, WC, WV	
Coastal Tailed Frog	<i>Ascaphus truei</i>	CR, KM, WC	
Columbia Spotted Frog	<i>Rana luteiventris</i>		BM, NBR
Columbia Torrent Salamander	<i>Rhyacotriton kezeri</i>	CR, WV	
Cope's Giant Salamander	<i>Dicamptodon copei</i>	CR, EC, WC	
Del Norte Salamander	<i>Plethodon elongatus</i>	CR, KM	
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog	<i>Rana boylei</i>		CR, KM, WC, WV
Larch Mountain Salamander	<i>Plethodon larselli</i>		WC
Northern Red-legged Frog	<i>Rana aurora</i>	CR, KM, WC, WV	
Oregon Slender Salamander	<i>Batrachoseps wrighti</i>	WC, WV	
Oregon Spotted Frog	<i>Rana pretiosa</i>		EC, WC
Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog	<i>Ascaphus montanus</i>	BM	
Siskiyou Mountains Salamander	<i>Plethodon stormi</i>		KM
Southern Torrent Salamander	<i>Rhyacotriton variegatus</i>	CR, KM, WV	
Western Toad	<i>Anaxyrus boreas</i>	BM, CR, EC, KM, NBR, WC	

REPTILES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sensitive	Sensitive-Critical
California Mountain Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis zonata</i>	CR, CP, EC, KM, WC	
Northern Sagebrush Lizard	<i>Sceloporus graciosus graciosus</i>	CP	
Western Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta bellii</i>		BM, CR, CP, EC, WC, WV
Western Pond Turtle	<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>		CR, EC, KM, WC, WV
Western Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus oreganus</i>		WV

BIRDS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sensitive	Sensitive-Critical
Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	KM, WV	
American Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides dorsalis</i>	BM, EC	
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	EC, NBR	
Black Brant	<i>Branta bernicla nigricans</i>	CR, NS	
Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>	NS	
Black Swift	<i>Cypseloides niger borealis</i>	WC	
Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	BM, EC	
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	NBR	
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	BM, NBR	
Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri breweri</i>	CP	
Burrowing Owl (Western)	<i>Athene cunicularia hypugaea</i>	NBR	BM, CP
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	CR, EC, NBR, NS	
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	WV	
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus</i>		BM
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	CP, KM	WV
Dusky Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis occidentalis</i>	WV	
Ferruginous Hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	BM, NBR	CP
Flammulated Owl	<i>Psilosops flammeolus</i>	BM, EC, KM, WC	
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma furcata</i>	NS	
Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	NBR	
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus</i>	CP, KM	WV
Great Gray Owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	BM, EC, KM, WC	
Greater Sage-Grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	NBR	BM
Greater Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis tabida</i>	EC, NBR, WC	
Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	CR, WC	
Juniper Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus ridgwayi</i>	NBR	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sensitive	Sensitive-Critical
Leach's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa</i>	NS	
Lewis's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>		BM, CP, EC, KM, WC
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	BM, CP	
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	BM, EC, NBR	CP
Mountain Quail	<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>	NBR	
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis atricapillus</i>	EC, WC	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	BM, CR, WC, WV	EC
Oregon Vesper Sparrow	<i>Poocetes gramineus affinis</i>		KM, WV
Peregrine Falcon (American)	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	CR, NBR	
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	BM	
Purple Martin (Western)	<i>Progne subis arboricola</i>		CR, KM, WC, WV
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>		EC
Rock Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ptilocnemis tschuktschorum</i>	NS	
Sagebrush Sparrow	<i>Artemisiospiza nevadensis</i>		CP
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus flammeus</i>	WV	
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	NBR	
Streaked Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris strigata</i>		WV
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	BM, CP, EC, NBR	
Trumpeter Swan	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	BM, EC, NBR	
Tufted Puffin	<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>		CR, NS
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>		BM
Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	WV	
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>		WV
White-breasted (Slender-billed) Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis aculeata</i>	WV	
White-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides albolarvatus</i>		BM, EC, KM
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	NBR	WV
Yellow Rail	<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis noveboracensis</i>		EC
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens auricollis</i>		KM, WV

MAMMALS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sensitive	Sensitive-Critical
American Pika	<i>Ochotona princeps</i>	BM, EC, NBR, WC	
California Myotis	<i>Myotis californicus</i>	BM, CR, EC, KM, NBR, WC, WV	
Columbian White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus leucurus</i>		CR, WV
Fisher	<i>Pekania pennanti</i>		CR, KM, WC
Fringed Myotis	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	BM, CR, EC, KM, NBR, WC, WV	
Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	BM, CR, CP, EC, KM, NBR, WC, WV	
Long-legged Myotis	<i>Myotis volans</i>	BM, CR, EC, KM, NBR, WC	
Pacific Marten	<i>Martes caurina</i>	BM, CR, EC, KM, WC	
Pallid Bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	BM, CP, EC, KM, NBR	
Pygmy Rabbit	<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>	NBR	
Red Tree Vole	<i>Arborimus longicaudus</i>	CR, KM, WC	
Ringtail	<i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	CR, KM, WC	
Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis canadensis</i>	BM	
Sierra Nevada Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i>	EC, KM, WC	
Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	BM, CR, CP, EC, KM, NBR, WC, WV	
Spotted Bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	BM, CP, EC, KM, NBR	
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>		BM, CR, CP, EC, KM, NBR, WC, WV
Western Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus griseus</i>	WV	
White-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	NBR	

Ecoregions: BM: Blue Mountains, CR: Coast Range, CP: Columbia Plateau, EC: East Cascades, KM: Klamath Mountains, NBR: Northern Basin and Range, WC: West Cascades, WV: Willamette Valley, NS: Nearshore