

# 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 <u>Key Conservation Issues</u> (see the <u>Oregon Conservation Strategy</u> (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 <u>Oregon Conservation Strategy</u> (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 <u>OCS Strategy Species</u> 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 <u>Oregon Conservation Strategy</u> website. For information on the legal status of invertebrate species, contact the <u>Oregon Department of Agriculture</u> and <u>Oregon Biodiversity Information Center</u>. For information on the legal status of plants, contact the <u>Oregon Department of Agriculture</u>.

#### 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 <a href="Data Gap Species">Data Gap Species</a> 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".

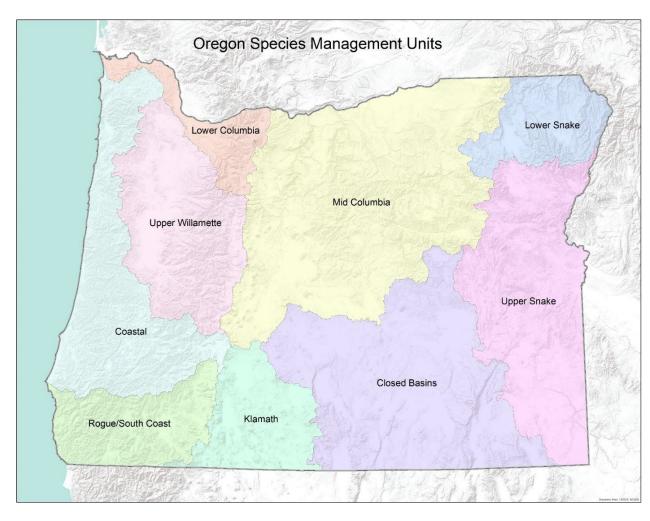


Figure 1. General location of Species Management Units (SMUs) used for determining status of fish. Note that actual SMU boundaries identified in the Sensitive Species List are species-specific and may vary between species or be at a smaller scale than indicated in this figure (especially in the Closed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

# **Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions**

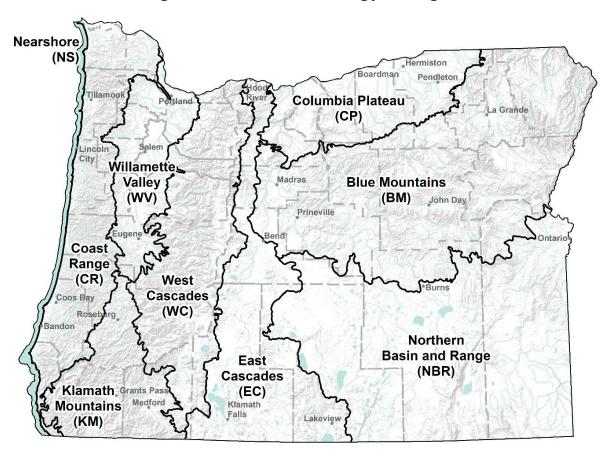


Figure 2. Ecoregions used for determining status of wildlife (i.e., amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals). More information about Oregon's ecoregions is available at <a href="http://www.oregonconservationstrategy.org/ecoregions/">http://www.oregonconservationstrategy.org/ecoregions/</a>. Map produced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



# Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife SENSITIVE SPECIES LIST

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	Siphateles alvordensis	Range-Wide (NBR)	
Borax Lake Chub	Gila boraxobius	Range-Wide (NBR)	
Bull Trout	Salvelinus confluentus	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	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	Mid-Columbia River SMU/ Deschutes ESU (BM, CP, EC)	Lower Columbia River SMU/ESU (CR, WC, WV, NS)
Chinook Salmon - Spring	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	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	Oncorhynchus keta		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	Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii	Lower Columbia SMU/ Southwestern Washington/Columbia River ESU (CR, WC, WV, NS)	
Coho Salmon	Oncorhynchus kisutch	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	Rhinichthys osculus robustus	Range-Wide (NBR)	
Goose Lake Sucker	Catostomus occidentalis lacusanserinus	Range-Wide (EC)	
Great Basin Redband Trout	Oncorhynchus mykiss newberrii	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	Acipenser medirostris	Northern DPS (CR, KM, NS)	
			Southern DPS (CR, KM, NS)
Miller Lake Lamprey	Entosphenus minimus	Range-Wide (EC)	
Millicoma Dace	Rhinichthys cataractae	Range-Wide (CR)	
Modoc Sucker	Catostomus microps	Range-Wide (EC)	
Oregon Chub	Oregonichthys crameri	Range-Wide (WC, WV)	
Pacific Brook Lamprey	Lampetra pacifica	Range-Wide (WV)	
Pacific Lamprey	Entosphenus tridentata	Range-Wide (CR, CP, EC, KM, WC, WV, NS)	
Pit Sculpin	Cottus pitensis	Range-Wide (EC, NBR)	
Steelhead - Summer / Coastal Rainbow Trout	Oncorhynchus mykiss / irideus	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	Oncorhynchus mykiss / gairdneri	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	Oncorhynchus mykiss / irideus	Willamette SMU/Upper Willamette River ESU (WC, WV)	Lower Columbia SMU/ESU (CR, WC, WV)
Umpqua Chub	Oregonichthys kalawatseti		Range-Wide (CR, KM, WC)
Western Brook Lamprey	Lampetra richardsoni	Range-Wide (BM, CR, CP, WC, WV)	
Western River Lamprey	Lampetra ayresii	Range-Wide (CR, CP, WV, NS)	
Westslope Cutthroat Trout	Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi		Range-Wide (BM, CP)
White Sturgeon	Acipenser transmontanus	Lower Columbia/Coastal Population (NS, CR, WV, WC)	

# **AMPHIBIANS**

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

# **REPTILES**

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

# **BIRDS**

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

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

# **MAMMALS**

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