

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Montana State Office
5001 Southgate Drive, P.O. Box 36800
Billings, Montana 59107-6800
<http://www.mt.blm.gov/>

In Reply To:
6600(923)P

April 23, 2003

EMAIL TRANSMISSION - 4/24/03
Information Bulletin No. MT-2003-043

To: Field Managers
Attention: Field Biologists

From: Deputy State Director, Division of Resources

Subject: Review and Comments on Fish, Wildlife, and Botany, Special Status
Species Program Evaluation - Final Report on Findings and
Recommendations for Action Plan Development **DD: 04/28/2003**

Attached for your review are Washington Office Instruction Bulletin 2003-087 and a copy of the **FY 2002 Fish, Wildlife, and Botany, Special Status Species (FWBSSS) National Program Evaluation - Final Report on Findings and Recommendations for Action Plan Development.**

The Executive Summary indicates several areas of positive performance as well as areas needing improvement. Seven specific items were identified as opportunities for improvement:

- 1) Many Resource Management Plans lack adequate objectives to provide for a proactive FWBSSS program;
- 2) The fish and botany programs lack emphasis relative to wildlife and special status species components of the overall FWBSSS program;
- 3) Overall, FWBSSS programs are understaffed, resulting in reactive rather than proactive programs;
- 4) Approximately one-third of the FWBSSS budget is coded to program elements not associated with FWBSSS programs;
- 5) Program Elements for describing the FWBSSS workload are problematic;
- 6) There is inconsistent data collection, storage, and use of inventory and monitoring data;
- 7) Implementation of the Endangered Species Act is variable across offices.

The Program Evaluation includes initial recommendations that will form the basis for an Action Plan to address: (1) Land Use Planning; (2) Staffing; (3) Funding; (4) Program Accountability; (5) Inventory, Monitoring, and Data; and (6) Endangered Species Act Implementation. Washington Office is seeking comments on their initial recommendations for each of these six sections. The findings and the resultant action plan will have important implications for each state's FWBSSS staffing, funding, and program implementation.

Please provide your comments via e-mail by April 28, 2001, to Roxanne Falise for compilation into a Statewide response. A copy of the compiled comments will be sent to each Field Office.

Signed by: Chun C. Wong for Thomas P. Lonnie

Authenticated by: Merry Prestridge (MT923)

1 Attachment

[1-WO IB-2003-087](#) including the FY 2002 Fish, Wildlife, and Botany, Special Status Species (FWBSSS) National Program Evaluation - Final Report on Findings and Recommendations for Action Plan Development (In its entirety)

Distribution

SOMT - 1

Asst. FM Havre - 1

Asst. FM Glasgow - 1