

Plant List Revision Process And Timeline

Enclosed is a one page plant evaluation and documentation form that is required for species considered in this update process. These completed forms will serve as the documentation and rationale for species determined to require management as Forest Service sensitive. These forms will also serve as the official record for the public to review our process.

Submit all completed forms (hard copy or electronically) to this office no later than 60 days from the receipt of this letter. Jim Shevock and Anne Bradley will review all forest submissions, update the list and then forward out the revised draft sensitive plant list for field comment.

Sensitive species will be identified if they have any of the following rankings AND they are on NFS lands in the region or are highly likely to occur on Forest lands based on habitat and range information AND there is enough information to make a determination regarding effects of management activities. A compelling case must be made not to add these species to the list using the forms provided, otherwise they will be included.

- USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service federal candidates; or
- Natural Heritage global ranking of G1(T1), G2(T2), or G3(T3); or
- Natural Heritage national ranking or N1, N2, or N3 (for animals)

In addition, species that do not meet the criteria above, may be added to the sensitive list if a compelling case regarding the species biology, rarity, or management concerns is made.

STEP 1. Validate the current sensitive plant list of 1990.

Each species on the current list needs to be reevaluated to determine if sensitive species designation is still appropriate. Start first with those plants endemic to your forest. The second step is to coordinate with other forests within a species range and assign a botanist to complete the documentation and evaluation form for that species. Consensus should be reached among units.

STEP 2. Evaluate plants with Global Ranks of 1-3.

For rare plants currently not on the existing sensitive species list, review all plants with global Ranks of 1-3 where plants are known to occur on NFS lands or occurrences are adjacent to the forests where suitable habitat exists. Coordinate among units when a species' range extends beyond a single forest.

STEP 3. Evaluate plants that are listed as rare, threatened, or endangered officially by the State of California.

Several plants are listed under The California Endangered Species Act. Evaluate to determine if sensitive species management is warranted for these taxa.

STEP 4. Evaluate plants that could be more effectively managed through provisions of NFMA via the forest plans.

Several forests currently have a watch list, a list of plant species of concern or other designation in the existing forest plans. These plants may include locally rare, disjunct, or special interest species. The intent here is to manage species to retain biodiversity. These species should be addressed through provisions in the Forest Land Management plans and addressed as appropriate in the NEPA process. Biological Evaluations would not be written for these species. Once the species evaluation process is completed, Forests that do not have watch lists or other mechanisms for management should consider developing one.