

STATE OF COLORADO

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DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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*For Wildlife-
For People*

Colorado Threatened and Endangered Species List Update
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Why does Colorado have an endangered and threatened species list?

The Colorado endangered and threatened species list was established by the Colorado Nongame, Endangered, or Threatened Species Conservation Act (CRS 33-2-101). The purpose of the endangered and threatened species list is to identify individual species in need of conservation and help the Division of Wildlife focus activities on priority species. Possession or sale of listed species is subject to criminal penalties including fines and imprisonment. The state endangered species list does not impose restrictions on land use or other activities.

How does the state endangered and threatened species list relate to the federal endangered species list?

Under the federal Endangered Species Act, the US Fish and Wildlife Service maintains lists of endangered and threatened species. Federal law mandates a variety of regulatory and management requirements for these species. If a species is federally listed as threatened or endangered, this status will be taken into consideration for the state list, but it will not necessarily dictate state threatened or endangered status. The state status is determined based on the documented condition of the species in Colorado.

How does the state endangered and threatened species list relate to the Colorado Wildlife Action Plan?

The Colorado Wildlife Action Plan was developed to prevent at-risk wildlife from becoming endangered. The wildlife action plan is targeted at species of greatest conservation need. This group of species includes state-listed species as well as many others that merit conservation attention but are not yet threatened or endangered.

Why is the Wildlife Commission making changes to the state endangered and threatened species list?

The Colorado Nongame, Endangered, or Threatened Species Conservation Act (CRS 33-2-101) requires the Wildlife Commission to review the endangered and threatened species list every five years and determine whether any species should be removed, added, or changed in status. Although the Wildlife Commission has made individual changes to the list in recent years, the last comprehensive review occurred in 1998.

How is the Wildlife Commission making changes to the list?

The Wildlife Commission will consider changes to the endangered and threatened species list based on recommendations developed by Division of Wildlife staff. These recommendations will be considered in draft form at their March 2010 meeting. Final changes to the list will be adopted in May 2010.

How do I propose that a species be added to or removed from the list?

If you would like to propose that a species be added to the endangered or threatened species list, removed from the list, or have its status changed, please provide a written proposal to Tom Nesler at 6060 Broadway Denver, CO 80216 or via e-mail at tom.nesler@state.co.us. by February 5, 2010.

Your proposal should include documented information on the species' condition and trends. The determination of each species' status is made based on the most reliable scientific documentation. Non-quantitative data will be considered if quantitative information is lacking. Your proposal should cover the following information:

1. DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

A. Historical (pre-1970)

- Literature Review
- Agency Records
- Other records (e.g. verbal reports from reliable sources)

B. Recent (post-1970)

- Summary of inventory work
- Agency records
- Other (e.g. verbal reports)

C. Geographic Range

- Current distribution and status within Colorado

2. HABITAT

A. Requirements

- Physical
- Chemical
- Biological

B. Habitat Status

- Trends in important habitats

If you are proposing that a species be delisted or downlisted, please also provide additional documentation to show the achievement of the criteria outlined in any relevant species recovery plan.

What will the Division of Wildlife do with my proposal to list/delist/downlist a species?

Division of Wildlife staff will carefully review individual species proposals along with other data to develop a package of proposed changes to the endangered and threatened species list. This package of changes will be submitted to the Wildlife Commission for their consideration in March 2010.