

State of Utah Department of Natural Resources



Species Protection Account – Recovery Programs Office

The purpose of the Species Protection Account is “to protect any plant or animal species identified as sensitive by the state or as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973” (Utah Code 63-34-14). Our vision is to eliminate the need for federal intervention and oversight associated with the Endangered Species Act by recovering listed species and preventing new federal listings.

- REQUEST 1: Management of Rare Plant Data**
Amount Requested: \$40,000 – FY18 one-time
- REQUEST 2: ESMF Program: Increasing Effectiveness**
Amount Requested: \$250,000 – FY19 ongoing

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Recovery Programs, Water Development and Deliveries

The State of Utah’s funding commitments to the June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program, the Virgin River Resource Management and Recovery Program, the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fishes Recovery Implementation Program is provided through the Species Protection Account (also known as the Endangered Species Mitigation Fund). These three recovery Programs provide Endangered Species Act compliance thereby ensuring efficient water development, operations and deliveries by making sufficient progress toward the recovery of the federally listed species within their scope.

June Sucker Recovery	Virgin River Program	Upper Colorado River Program
-carp decrease >80% since 2012	-red shiner eradication maintained	-nonnative predator control efforts
-Provo River Delta Restoration Project	-Virgin River Gorge barrier modification	-downlisting consideration discussions
-downlisting June sucker initiated	-successful woundfin stocking survival	-post-2023 planning initiated
-northern pike research	-good local cooperation on mitigation	- successful bonytail recruitment

Listed Species Status Reviews

The Recovery Programs Office has been instrumental in establishing an ESA Listed Species Status Review Group. Through this partnership a staff position at the local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was funded to focus solely on the regulatory process of delisting and downlisting. Currently, the June sucker is being evaluated for a downlisting from Endangered to Threatened status, the Desert Milkvetch has been proposed for delisting, the Kanab Ambersnail and Ute Ladies’-Tresses are being reviewed for de-listing consideration, and other species are in the queue for future consideration. Due to limited staff at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, these status reviews would not be moving without the funding commitments and direction provided by ESA Listed Species Status Review Group.

ESA Listing Decisions

There were no new federal listings for Utah species in the past year. Boreal toad, white-tailed prairie and byfid duct pyrg were found not warranted for listing in the past year. Conservation actions funded through the Species Protection Account played a major role in these not warranted findings.





Utah ESA Listing Workplan (Fish and Wildlife Service National Listing Workplan - September 2016)

Species Name	Action	FY	Range
Boreal toad (Eastern population)	12M	FY17	CO, ID, NM, NV, UT, WY
White-tailed prairie dog	12M	FY17	CO, MT, UT, WY
Byfid duct pyrg	12M	FY17	NV, UT
Frisco buckwheat	PLD	FY18	UT
Frisco clover	PLD	FY18	UT
Ostler's peppergrass	PLD	FY18	UT
Wolverine	FLD	FY18	CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY
Joshua tree	12M	FY18	AZ, CA, NV, UT
Monarch butterfly	12M	FY19	UT and 47 states
Hamlin Valley pyrg	12M	FY20	NV, UT
Longitudinal gland pyrg	12M	FY20	NV, UT
Sub-globose gland pyrg	12M	FY20	UT
Southern white-tailed ptarmigan	12M	FY20	CA, CO, ID, MT, NM, UT, WA, WY
Great Basin silverspot	12M	FY21	AZ, CO, NM, UT
Virgin River spinedace	12M	FY21	AZ, NV, UT
Arizona toad	12M	FY22	AZ, CA, NM, NV, UT
Cisco milkvetch	12M	FY22	UT
Isley milkvetch	12M	FY22	UT
Little brown bat	SSA	FY23	UT and 45 states
Western bumble bee	12M	FY23	UT and 13 states

ISSUES

Plants, Insects and Mollusks – There are no state agencies with management authority over rare plants and most insects; and until recently, mollusks have received little management attention. Based on the current U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listing workplan, listing determinations for 6 plants, 3 insects and 3 mollusks that occur in Utah will be made by 2023.

REQUEST 1: Management of Rare Plant Data

Amount Requested: \$40,000 – FY18 one-time

Description: Develop database that will reduce rare plant data request response time from 2-3 weeks to less than 3 days, and deliver up to date and accurate rare plant information used to inform land management decisions.

REQUEST 2: ESMF Program: Increasing Effectiveness

Amount Requested: \$250,000 – FY19 ongoing

Description: Requested funding will be used immediately to begin to address insect, mollusk and plant species on the listing workplan and future listing petitions as they arise.