Terrestrial Ecology Component Assessment for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project[TWS]

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The Terrestrial Science Staff of the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project analyzed the historical and current status of plants and animals, particularly their habitats; identified areas of species rarity, endemism, and biodiversity ("hot spots"); evaluated the broad-scale biogeography of species (major biophysical reasons for species distributions); assessed the contribution of natural areas to species and ecosystems conservation; analyzed ecological functions of species; identified species of interest to American Indian tribes; evaluated the status and conditions of threatened, endangered, candidate, and sensitive species and their habitats; evaluated the role of key ecological functions of individual species and species groups in maintaining ecosystem diversity, productivity, and sustainability; and identified further information needs for inventory, monitoring, and research. Species included in the assessment were rare fungi, lichens, bryophytes, and vascular plants; selected invertebrates, including insects and other arthropods, mollusks, soil micro-organisms, and species functional groups; and vertebrates, including all amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.