

JOHN SPELLMAN
Governor



FRANK LOCKARD
Director

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF GAME

600 North Capitol Way, GJ-11 • Olympia, Washington 98504 • (206) 753-5700

June 21, 1982

50-460

Mr. Ronald L. Ballard, Chief
Environmental Engineering Branch
Division of Engineering
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: Nuke on Hanford Reservation

Dear Mr. Ballard:

We have completed a review of our files for information on significant natural features in the study area. The result of this review is presented in the enclosed material, which summarizes the occurrence of special animals reported within or adjacent to the study area. The Washington Natural Heritage Program will mail under separate cover project area information concerning special plants and plant communities.

We hope this presentation will be useful to you. This response is provided for your information only and is not to be construed as an official Department of Game environmental review of your project. For official Department review and comment, mail environmental impact documents to: Washington Department of Game, Environmental Affairs Program, 600 No. Capitol Way, Olympia, Washington, 98504.

In order to ensure the protection of the special species occurring in the study area, we recommend that the specific locational information presented here not be published or distributed.

If your office should publish or distribute general information from the enclosed material, please provide the Nongame Wildlife Program with a draft of any document in which information from the Natural Heritage Data System is incorporated or referenced, and cite the System as follows:

Natural Heritage Data System
Washington Natural Heritage Program and
Department of Game - Nongame Wildlife Program
c/o The Evergreen State College
3109 Seminar Building, TA-00
Olympia, Washington 98505

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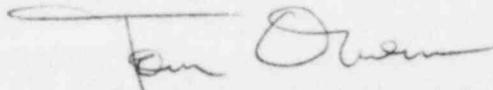
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The information provided in Enclosure 1 is not to be taken as a complete inventory of the project area and does not eliminate the need or responsibility to conduct more thorough research.

If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at (206) 754-1449.

Very truly yours,

THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Owens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Tom E. Owens, Supervisor
Nongame Data Systems

TEO:h1
Enclosure

ELEMENT OCCURRENCE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Natural Heritage Data System was established by the State of Washington and the Washington Natural Heritage Program of The Nature Conservancy. It is currently maintained by the Heritage Program under contract to the Washington Department of Natural Resources and by the Nongame Wildlife Program of the Washington Department of Game.

The data base is comprised of "element occurrences". An "element" is a natural feature of particular interest because it is exemplary, unique, or endangered on a statewide or national basis. An element can be a plant community, special plant species, or special animal species. An "element occurrence" is a reported or confirmed locality of a native vegetation community, or of significant habitat for a plant or animal species of concern. Information on element occurrences in the state is collected from herbarium and museum specimens, scientific literature, knowledgeable individuals, and field investigations. This information is compiled in the Natural Heritage Data System for use in land-use planning and evaluating the status of Washington's natural features.

This enclosure summarizes the special animal occurrences reported within or adjacent to the study area and catalogued in the Natural Heritage Data System. The Washington Natural Heritage Program manages similar information concerning special plants and plant communities.

Format

The Element Occurrence Summary table lists those special animals that have been reported to occur in or adjacent to the area specified in your information request.

- The first column lists the U. S. Geological Service (USGS) topographic quadrangle.
- The second column lists the township, range, and section.
- The third column, entitled "conf." (confirmation), lists a code indicating the specificity of the locations recorded for each element occurrence.

Confirmation Codes

- C = The location of the element occurrence is known within a 1/4 mile radius. In addition, the locality has been confirmed by the Heritage Program.
- U = The location of the element occurrence is known within a 1/4 mile radius, but at this time has not been confirmed.
- N = The location of the element occurrence is known within a 1 mile radius. This information was derived from secondary sources.
- G = The element occurrence is locatable only to a general area, usually denoted by a geographic name. This information was derived from secondary sources.

- The next column contains federal and state status information.

Status Codes for Special Animals

<u>Code</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
FE	<u>Federal Endangered</u> - A species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
FT	<u>Federal Threatened</u> - A species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future.
FP	<u>Proposed Federal Threatened or Endangered Species</u> - Those species which have been proposed for listing with supporting data in the Federal Register and are therefore legally recognized under the Endangered Species Act.

The state status given in the second column under "Element Status" is based on status evaluations conducted by the Washington Department of Game, Nongame Program.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
SE	<u>State Endangered</u> - A species which is seriously threatened with extirpation throughout all or a significant portion of its range within Washington.
SS	<u>State Sensitive</u> - A species that could become endangered within Washington in the foreseeable future without active management or removal of threats.
SC	<u>State Concern</u> - Species of concern because of uniqueness, rarity, scientific value, or vulnerability to human disturbance or land management, such as timber, range, or wildlife habitat management practices. Examples: effects of logging on cavity nesters, range reseeding on ground nesters, disturbance on waterbird colonies, etc.
SU	<u>State Status Unknown</u> - Information is inadequate for evaluation of population status. A focus for future monitoring, inventory, or study.

- In the fourth column, the animal species is named.

- The fifth column, entitled "Crit." (Criteria), lists codes that indicate the specific criterion/criteria used to evaluate whether a habitat location is significant to the species.

Element Occurrence Criteria Codes for Special Animals

IO	Individual occurrence. Any record of the species constitutes a special animal occurrence.
HC	Herptile concentration. Five or more individuals present in the same location.
HO	Haul-out area for marine mammals.
CR	Colonial roosts.

- B Evidence of breeding: nest, young or eggs, adult visiting probable nest site, nest building activity (i.e., carrying nest material), breeding display, agitated behavior and distraction display (e.g., feigning injury).
- RI Regular individual occurrences at same location. Observations of less than 10 individuals that have been made during at least three different years, not necessarily consecutive.
- RSC Regular small concentrations, 10-70 individuals, in the same location during any season for three years, not necessarily consecutive.
- RLC Regular large concentrations, during migration, breeding or winter seasons, of over 70 individuals, that have been made during at least three different years, not necessarily consecutive.

Comments

The enclosed information represents the reported element occurrences currently catalogued in the Natural Heritage Data System. The Data System is constantly updated as more current and historic information on element occurrences in the state are reported. Consequently, some of the element occurrences reported to occur historically within the study area may no longer be present. Likewise, areas within the study boundary for which element occurrences have not yet been reported, nevertheless, may support special animal species.

Finally, if information is needed on specific plant community or special plant occurrences within the study area, please contact the Washington Natural Heritage Program, (206) 753-2449. For additional information on specific special animal occurrences, please contact the Washington Department of Game, Nongame Wildlife Program, (206) 754-1449.

ELEMENT OCCURRENCE SUMMARY - SPECIAL ANIMALS

FOR: Nuke on Hanford Reservation

Quad Name	T	R	S	Conf.	Status		Element Name	Crit.	No.	
					Fed.	State				
Hanford	15	12N	28E	*	N		SC	<u>Masticophis taeniatus</u> (striped whipsnake)	IO	002
		12N	28E	*	N		SC	<u>Athene cunicularia</u> (burrowing owl)	B	032
		12N	28E	*	N		SC	<u>Numerius americanus</u> (long-billed curlew)	B, RSC	018
		13N	28E	*	U		SC	<u>Buteo swainsoni</u> (Swainson's hawk)	B	042
		13N	27E	24	N		SC	<u>Nycticorax nycticorax</u> (black-crowned night heron)	B, RSC	009
		13N	27E	24	G	FT	SS	<u>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</u> (bald eagle)	B,RSC,CR	546
		13N	27E	*	U		SC	<u>Buteo swainsoni</u> (Swainson's hawk)	B	041
		14N	27E	*	G		SC	<u>Spermophilus townsendii</u> (Townsend's ground squirrel)	IO	002
		14N	27E	*	G		SC	<u>Acipenser transmontanus</u> (white sturgeon)	IO	003
		14N	27E	*	G		SC	<u>Lanx nuttalli</u> (giant Columbia River limpet)	IO	001
		14N	27E	*	G		SC	<u>Papilio oregonius</u> (Oregon swallowtail)	IO	001
Wooded Island	7.5	12N	28E	*	U		SC	<u>Larus californicus</u> (California gull)	B	001
		12N	28E	*	U		SC	<u>Larus californicus</u> (California gull)	B	008
		11N	28E	*	G	FT	SS	<u>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</u> (bald eagle)	B,RSC,CR	546
		11N	28E	*	U		SC	<u>Catostomus platyrhincus</u> (mountain sucker)	IO	001
		11N	28E	*	U		SC	<u>Percopsis transmontana</u> (sand roller)	IO	002
Horn Rapids Dam		12N	27E	*	N		SC	<u>Amphispiza belli</u> (sage sparrow)	B	005
		12N	27E	*	N		SC	<u>Numerius americanus</u> (long-billed curlew)	B, RSC	033

*Reported to occur in the general vicinity of the project area.

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