

OFFICE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION

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State of Idaho commends U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to not list three species under the Endangered Species Act.

If you weren't paying attention you may have missed it. This fall the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) determined that three Idaho species: the Southern Idaho ground squirrel, Goose Creek milkvetch, and Columbia spotted frog do not warrant listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Since sage-grouse has commanded the most media attention, these otherwise significant decisions have largely gone unnoticed and unpraised.

As a result of years of collaboration, which includes federal, state, and private interests, these species will remain a part of Idaho's landscape and continue to be managed by the State. "The not warranted findings are a direct result of interested stakeholders coming together to develop proactive solutions that provide for the long-term needs of the species while also continuing to allow for working landscapes," said Dustin Miller, Idaho Office of Species Conservation Administrator. The State is very pleased with the Service's determination to remove these species from the ESA Candidate list and will look to these efforts as a model when dealing with future species issues.

