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Oregon State Ranking Assessment for Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)

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Natural Heritage Ranking Form - Oregon State Rank

Oregon Ranking Form Lewis's woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)

Oregon Biodiversity Information Center

SPECIES ASSESSED

Scientific Name	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	ELCODE	ABNYF04010
Common Name	Lewis's woodpecker	Element ID	6564

American Ornithologists' Union (AOU). 1998. Check-list of North American birds. Seventh edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C. [as modified by subsequent supplements and corrections published in *The Auk*]. Also available online: <http://www.aou.org/>.

CONSERVATION STATUS RANK

Assigned Rank	S3B,S2?N		
Rank Assignment Author	Nelson, Misty	Rank Review Date	3/05/2019
Rank Factors Author	Nelson, Misty	Rank Factors Date	10/20/2023
Calculated Rank	S3	Rank Change Date	01/08/2024
Rank Methodology Used	Rank calculation - Biotics v2		

Assigned Rank Reasons

Population declines and habitat loss are primary drivers of conservation status.

RANGE/DISTRIBUTION

Range Extent

Rating	200,000-2,500,000 square km (about 80,000-1,000,000 square miles)		
Estimate	219146	Unit Used for Estimate	Square Kilometer s
Comments	Nearly statewide. Range extent based on PODs, EO, and Fauna data = 219,146 sq km.		

Area of Occupancy

Grid Cell Size	4 km ² Grid Cells		
Rating (as Number of 4 km² Grid Cells)	G = 501-2,500		
Comments	974 4-sq-km grid cells based on EOs, PODs, and Fauna data.		

ABUNDANCE AND CONDITION

Rating	81 - 300
Estimate	116
Comments	116 EOs in Biotics; 250 Research Grade observations in iNaturalist (search date 10/20/2023), all with observation date of 2010 or later.

Rating	1000 - 100,000 individuals
Estimate	11000
Comments	Partners in Flight 2019 Breeding Bird Survey data estimates Oregon population at 11,000 individuals with 95% boundaries of 1,800 to 27,000.

Number of Occurrences with Good Viability/Ecological Integrity

Rating Many (41-125)

Estimate 47

Comments

47 EOs with observation date of 2000 or later

THREATS

<u>Threat Category</u>	<u>Calculated Impact</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Severity</u>	<u>Timing</u>	<u>Comments</u>
7 Natural system modifications	B = High	Large: Affects most (31-70%) of the total population or occurrences or extent	Serious: Likely to seriously degrade/reduce affected occurrences or habitat, or reduce population 31-70%	High: Continuing	Loss of lowland oak and open Ponderosa pine habitat.
8 Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases	D = Low	Restricted: Affects some (11-30%) of the total population or occurrences or extent	Moderate: Likely to moderately degrade/reduce affected occurrences or habitat, or reduce population 11-30%	High: Continuing	Competition for nest holes from European Starling
9 Pollution	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		Agricultural pesticides have been cited as a threat, but scope and severity are unknown.

Calculated Overall Threat Impact B = High

Assigned Overall Threat Impact B = High

Overall Threat Impact Comments

Loss of oak woodland and open Ponderosa pine habitat due to land use changes, and reduced habitat suitability overall, including fewer nest and forage trees, are believed to be primary drivers of population declines. Competition for nest holes with European Starlings is likely also a factor. Agriculture pesticides are cited as having negative effects, but scope and severity are unclear.

TRENDS

Short-Term Trend

Rating E = Decline of 30-50%

Long-Term Trend

Rating DE = Decline of 30-70%

Comments

Formerly common, has experienced large declines since the early twentieth century.

ADDITIONAL SPECIES INFORMATION

Oregon Habitat Comments

Nests in open woodlands with large dead or dying trees. Most often found in oak, ponderosa pine and riparian woodlands. Defends nest areas during the breeding season and acorn storage trees during the fall and winter. Will use burned or logged forests with some standing snags and regeneration of brush. Also uses orchards, riparian forests. In winter more associated with oak, cottonwood, and riparian forests.

RANKING REFERENCES

<u>Short Citation</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
Galen		2003	Galen, C. 2003. Lewis's Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>). In <i>Birds of Oregon: A General Reference</i> . D.B. Marshall, M.G. Hunter, and A. L. Contreras, eds. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR.
NatureServe		2013	NatureServe. 2013. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available http://www.natureserve.org/explorer .
ORBIC		2019	Oregon Biodiversity Information Center. 2019. Point Observation Database (PODs). Unpublished species point observations collated from many sources across Oregon.
ORBIC		2019	Oregon Biodiversity Information Center. 2019. Oregon Biotics Rare Species Database. Maintained by ORBIC at Portland State University, Portland, OR.
PIF		2012	Partners in Flight. 2012. Avian Conservation Assessment Database, version 2014. Available at http://pif.birdconservancy.org/ACAD .
Partners In Flight		2007	Partners In Flight. 2007. Landbird Population Estimates Database. http://rmbo.org/pif_db/laped/default.aspx
Vierling		2013	Vierling, Kerri T., Victoria A. Saab and Bret W. Tobalske. 2013. Lewis's Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>). <i>The Birds of North America Online</i> (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/284

RESOURCES

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Additional ORBIC species ranking forms posted at
<https://inr.oregonstate.edu/orbic/rare-species/ranking-documentation>

Information on Natural Heritage ranking methodology is available at
<http://www.natureserve.org/biodiversity-science/publications/natureserve-conservation-status-assessments-methodology-assigning>

The Conservation Rank Calculator is developed and maintained by NatureServe and is available from
<http://www.natureserve.org/conservation-tools/conservation-rank-calculator>

ASSESSMENT CITATION

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