

[Commented via e-mail on 12/31/13]

Dear Armand,

I am writing on behalf of The Xerces Society for Insect Conservation as part of our Bumble Bee Conservation Initiative. We are involved in a campaign to raise awareness about the plight of the bumble bee throughout North America, currently focusing on four species: the rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*), the yellow-banded bumble bee (*Bombus terricola*), the American bumble bee (*Bombus pensylvanicus* (inc. *Bombus pensylvanicus sonorus*)) and the western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*). Studies and reports have well documented the range restriction of all four of these species, and our evidence suggests that the rusty-patched bumble bee may be on the brink of extinction. Similarly, the western bumble bee seems to have disappeared from the western portion of its range and the American and yellow-banded bumble bees have experienced dramatic range restrictions.

Our records indicate that three of these species (the western, Franklin's and American bumble bees) have historical and/or current records in California and we are reaching out to strongly recommend that these species get added to the forthcoming revision of your State Wildlife Action Plan. I would be more than happy to provide additional supporting information, or further participate in the revision process. Meanwhile, here are important links to additional information about the status of bumble bees in North America.

[Here is a link](#) to a status review we wrote on three of these bumble bee species.

[Here is a link](#) to the findings of a study led by Sydney Cameron documenting a serious decline in all four of our target species.

[Here is a link](#) to the conservation strategy that we recently developed for North American bumble bees, in collaboration with the world's leading bumble bee scientists.

[Here is a link](#) to the Bumble Bee Conservation guidelines that we developed.

We are also in the process of using IUCN criteria to analyze the extinction risk of all North American bumble bees, and several California species appear to be in significant decline. These species include *Bombus crotchii* and *Bombus caliginosus*.

Please let me know if you need any additional information or if you have any questions about our concerns. If this email would be better directed at another person, would you please forward it on, and CC me on the email so I can update my contact information?

Thank you so much for your help!

Sincerely,

Rich Hatfield

Conservation Biologist

Endangered Species Program

Coming Soon: www.BumbleBeeWatch.org

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

*An international, nonprofit organization that protects wildlife
through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitat*

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