



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **FEDS DROP APPEAL OF JUDGE'S SLICKSPOT RULING**

(BOISE) – Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter today welcomed the Obama administration's decision to drop its appeal of a judge's decision against the federal listing of slickspot peppergrass as a "threatened species."

Chief U.S. Magistrate Candy Dale refused in December 2012 to reconsider her ruling the previous August that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's process for listing the plant under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was fatally flawed. The Obama administration appealed her decision to the 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, but today it voluntarily asked the appellate court to dismiss that appeal.

Governor Otter was a member of Congress in 2003 when he took part in developing a State conservation plan aimed at preventing an ESA listing for slickspot peppergrass. Despite that effort, the Obama administration listed the species as threatened in 2009. That prompted Governor Otter and his Office of Species Conservation to challenge the listing in federal court.

"It took a while, but the feds apparently have figured out that collaborating and finding common ground is more effective than forcing a wrongheaded listing down our throats," Governor Otter said. "The 'critical habitat' designations that would have followed a threatened species listing could have been devastating for farmers, ranchers and recreational land users in southwestern Idaho. We remain committed to our management plan that focuses on protecting both the plant and the people."

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