

**BLM DILLON FIELD OFFICE**  
**Biological Evaluation for Special Status Fish and Wildlife Species**  
**Revised July 2004**

Project: Red Rock/Lima Watershed E.A.

Step 1a.	Step 1b.	Step 1c.	Step 2	Step 3.	Step 4.	Step 5.	Step 5.	Step 5.	Step 5.
List of all Special Status Species that are known or suspected to occur on the DFO.	Current Management Status of the Species.	Does the species occur on this portion of the Field Office?	Is the species or its habitat found in the surrounding area?	Could this proposal have any effect?	Are Irreversible or Irrecoverable Resources involved?	Alt A level of effect	Alt B level of effect	Alt C level of effect	Alt D level of effect
Canada Lynx ( <i>Lynx canadensis</i> )	Threatened	N	Y	N					
<b>Mammals</b>									
Fisher ( <i>Martes pennanti</i> )	Sensitive	N	N						
Great Basin pocket mouse ( <i>Perognathus parvus</i> )	Sensitive	N	N						
Gray Wolf ( <i>Canis lupus</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	Y	N	MIH	MIH	MIH	MIH
Grizzly Bear ( <i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i> )	Sensitive	N	Y	N					
North American Wolverine ( <i>Gulo gulo luscus</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	N					
Pygmy Rabbit ( <i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	Y	N	MIH	BI	BI	BI
Fringed myotis ( <i>Myotis thysanodes</i> )	Sensitive	N	N						
Long-eared Myotis ( <i>Myotis evotis</i> )	Sensitive	N	Y	N					
Long-legged Myotis ( <i>Myotis volans</i> )	Sensitive	N	Y	N					

(cont.) List of all Special Status Species that are known or suspected to occur on the DFO.	Current Management Status of the Species.	Does the species occur on this portion of the Field Office?	Is the species or its habitat found in the surrounding area?	Could this proposal have any effect?	Are Irreversible or Irretrievable Resources involved?	Alt A level of effect	Alt B level of effect	Alt C level of effect	Alt D level of effect
Townsend's Big-eared Bat ( <i>Plecotus townsendii</i> )	Sensitive	N	N						
<b>Birds</b>									
Bald Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	N					
Black Tern ( <i>Chlidonias niger</i> )	Sensitive	N	N						
Burrowing Owl ( <i>Athene cunicularia</i> )	Sensitive	Y-migrant	Y	N					
Common Loon ( <i>Gavia immer</i> )	Sensitive	Y-Migrant	Y-Migrant	N					
Ferruginous Hawk ( <i>Buteo regalis</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	N					
Flammulated Owl ( <i>Otus flammeolus</i> )	Sensitive	N	N						
Franklin's Gull ( <i>Larus pipixcan</i> )	Sensitive	Y-migrant	N	N					
Golden Eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	N					
Great Gray Owl ( <i>Strix nebulosa</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	N					
Greater Sage Grouse ( <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	Y	N	MIH	BI	BI	BI
Harlequin Duck ( <i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i> )	Sensitive	Y-Migrant	N	N					
Loggerhead Shrike ( <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	N					

<b>(cont.) List of all Special Status Species that are known or suspected to occur on the DFO.</b>	<b>Current Management Status of the Species.</b>	<b>Does the species occur on this portion of the Field Office?</b>	<b>Is the species or its habitat found in the surrounding area?</b>	<b>Could this proposal have any effect?</b>	<b>Are Irreversible or Irretrievable Resources involved?</b>	<b>Alt A level of effect</b>	<b>Alt B level of effect</b>	<b>Alt C level of effect</b>	<b>Alt D level of effect</b>
Marbled Godwit ( <i>Limosa fedoa</i> )	Sensitive	N	N						
McCown's longspur ( <i>Calcarius mccownii</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	N					
Mountain Plover ( <i>Charadrius montanus</i> )	Sensitive	N	N						
Northern Goshawk ( <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	Y			MIH		
Long-billed Curlew ( <i>Numenius americanus</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	N					
Peregrine Falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	N					
Sage thrasher ( <i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	N					
Baird's Sparrow ( <i>Ammodramus bairdii</i> )	Sensitive	N	N						
Brewer's sparrow ( <i>Spizella breweri</i> )	Sensitive	N	N						
Sage Sparrow ( <i>Amphispiza belli</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	N					
Sedge Wren ( <i>Cistothorus platensis</i> )	Sensitive	N	N						
Swainson's Hawk ( <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	N					
Trumpeter Swan ( <i>Cygnus buccinator</i> )	Sensitive	Y-Migrant	Y	N					
White-faced Ibis ( <i>Plegadis chihi</i> )	Sensitive	N	N						

(cont.) List of all Special Status Species that are known or suspected to occur on the DFO.	Current Management Status of the Species.	Does the species occur on this portion of the Field Office?	Is the species or its habitat found in the surrounding area?	Could this proposal have any effect?	Are Irreversible or Irretrievable Resources involved?	Alt A level of effect	Alt B level of effect	Alt C level of effect	Alt D level of effect
Willet ( <i>Cataprophorus semipalmatus</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	N					
Wilson's phalarope ( <i>Phalaropus tricolor</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	N					
Black-backed Woodpecker ( <i>Picoides arcticus</i> )	Sensitive	Y	N	N			MIIH		
Three-toed Woodpecker ( <i>Picoides tridactylus</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	Y			MIIH		
<b>Amphibian/reptiles</b>									
Boreal/Western toad ( <i>Bufo boreas</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	Y			BI	BI	
Northern leopard frog ( <i>Rana pipiens</i> )	Sensitive	Y	Y	Y			BI	BI	
<b>Fish</b>									
Westslope cutthroat trout ( <i>Onchorhynchus clarkii lewisi</i> )	Sensitive	N	Y	N					
Fluvial arctic grayling ( <i>Thymallus arcticus</i> )	Sensitive	N	N						

Step 6. Are there any specific recommendations to avoid significant effects (if any)? These are mitigation measures needed to avoid determinations of: LAA, LJ, WIFV. If so, state the location of the narrative describing these recommendations:

Step 7. Documentation: This short form is intended to follow a seven-step process to provide basic biological evaluations. Judgments must not be arbitrary but should be reasoned. This form provides a “road map” of that reasoning and assumes the judgments are drawn from numerous sources. Any species-specific impacts should be discussed in the NEPA document.

The signature below certifies that:

1. The wildlife biologist has reviewed the proposed action and its alternatives, but may or may not have provided input to alternative design, depending on the issues.
2. The wildlife biologist has an understanding of the specific conditions found in the affected area. Column 1a lists all possible Special Status Species in the Dillon Field Office. Column 1b identifies the species' current management status. Column 1c indicates whether there are no records (N/A), or whether the species is considered a Transient (T) or Resident (R) {for our purposes, resident includes migratory species that fulfill a portion of their life history here}. Step 2 is satisfied by field visits (or enough knowledge of local conditions from previous visits) resulting in enough information to determine if the area is potential habitat for species listed in Step 1. Extensive surveys are not necessary if the conservative approach is taken that: “suitable habitat” means the potential for occupancy.
3. The wildlife biologist has an understanding of the species habitat needs and other attributes important to the determination. This can be a combination of literature review, professional experience, and consultation with others.
4. The wildlife biologist has assimilated the above information in making the “determinations” (i.e. final judgments about the scientific significance of the effects).

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name and Title:** Paul Hutchinson, Fish and Wildlife Biologist

**N/A** – “Not Applicable.” Indicates this species does not occur in the project area or that the project would have no bearing on its potential habitat. These species were removed from detailed analysis after field review of existing and potential habitats and consideration of distribution records.

### **FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES**

**NE** - No Effect

\***LAA** - May Effect - Likely to Adversely Affect (formal consultation required)

**NLAA** - May Effect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect (informal consultation - concurrence with determination - required)

**BE** - Beneficial Effect (informal consultation - concurrence with determination - required)

### **SPECIES PROPOSED FOR LISTING**

**NE** - No Effect

**NLJ** - Not likely to Jeopardize the continued existence of the species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat

\***LJ** - Likely to Jeopardize the continued existence of the species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat

### **SENSITIVE SPECIES**

**NI** - No Impact

**MIH** - May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but will not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species.

\***WIFV** - Will Impact Individuals or habitat with a consequence that the action may contribute to the need for federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species.

**BI** - Beneficial Impact

\* triggers formal consultation process

revised 8/2/04

NARRATIVE of POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Gray Wolf:

All grazing permits in the RRLW will be modified to state that livestock depredations may occur from gray wolves. Since the delisting of the gray wolf, MT FWP is proposing a hunting season which also has the potential to reduce livestock depredation in the future. Actions proposed under any alternatives would not result in the destruction or adverse modification of existing habitat.

Pygmy rabbit:

Pygmy rabbit are widely dispersed across the RRLW and habitat fragmentation may further isolate small disjunct populations. Site specific Actions proposed under alternative B, C and D would have a beneficial impact (BI) to pygmy rabbit habitat over current management (alternative A).

Greater sage grouse:

Improved riparian condition, juniper removal, and increased availability of succulent forage with improved riparian and upland conditions would enhance brood-rearing habitat for sage grouse. Actions proposed under alternative B, C and D would have a beneficial impact (BI) to sage grouse.

Northern goshawk:

Loss of denser Douglas-fir canopy would reduce availability of potential nesting sites for goshawk. However opening these canopies could enhance foraging opportunities. Actions proposed under alternative B may impact individuals or habitat (MIIH), but will not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species.

Black-backed, and three toed woodpecker:

Increasing availability of dead and dying Douglas-fir canopy, and opening of remaining canopy, would enhance foraging and nesting opportunities. Actions proposed under alternative B may impact individuals or habitat (MIIH), but will not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species.

Western toad and northern leopard frog:

Improved riparian habitat conditions that would allow for expansion of beaver would increase the available habitat for amphibians. Alternatives B and C would likely result in a beneficial impact (BI) to amphibian habitat.