

APPENDIX F. DETERMINATION ON SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

Table F-1. Determination on Special Status Species

Resource	Determination and Summary of Rationale					
	Alternative A (Proposed Action)	Alternative B (Reduced)	Alternative C (Full)	Alternative D (No Action)	Alternative E (Directional)	Alternative F (Agency Preferred)
Clay Reed-mustard	NLAA No development proposed in known habitat. No direct impacts to clay reed-mustard habitat or plants would occur due to applicant-committed measures. Limited indirect impacts are unlikely to be measurable within the 95 acres of known habitat within the project area, which is approximately 6% of the species' total habitat.					
Shrubby Reed-mustard	LAA Surface disturbance would directly affect <u>up to 2.5%</u> of this species' habitat in the project area and one of three known areas where the species occurs. Applicant-committed measures (Appendix B) would effectively eliminate direct impacts to individual plants or occupied habitat. Indirect impacts would likely occur over <u>108–296</u> acres (less than <u>23%</u>) of the species' habitat in the project area and would largely be eliminated by applicant-committed measures. Applicant-committed measures to inventory and treat noxious weeds along all project-related disturbance areas and control dust that could impact special status plants would further reduce this risk. However, because this alternative would disturb known (but unoccupied) suitable habitat and increase the risk of noxious weeds that could render this habitat unsuitable, it is likely to reduce the suitable habitat available for the species' recovery.		NLAA Surface disturbance would directly affect approximately 0.01% of this species' habitat in the project area. Applicant-committed measures (Appendix B) would effectively eliminate direct impacts to individual plants or occupied habitat. Indirect impacts would likely occur over only 1 acre of the species' habitat in the project area, and would largely be eliminated by applicant-committed measures.		LAA Same rationale as Alternatives A, B, and C.	

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Pariette Cactus	<p>NLAA</p> <p>No direct impacts to occupied habitat. Direct impact to 0 to 27 acres of the 2,1010 acres of potential habitat. Indirect impacts to approximately 600 acres of potential habitat within 300 feet of roads. No direct impacts to 2009 core conversation areas. Minimal indirect impacts to 2009 core conservation areas (24 acres within 300 feet of roads under all alternatives)</p> <p>Indirect impacts and the risk of direct impacts outside of known habitat areas would be effectively mitigated by applicant-committed measures.</p>					
Uinta Basin Hookless Cactus	<p>LAA</p> <p>Potential for direct and indirect adverse impacts to individuals, habitat, pollinators, and seed dispersers in spite of applicant-committed mitigation and conservation measures. An estimated 778–7,535 plants (6,379 under the Proposed Action) would require avoidance measures to prevent direct impacts by project-related disturbances. However, a number of cacti that could not be avoided operationally would be directly impacted. This number, as identified through consultation with USFWS, would not reach a level that would imperil the species. In addition, impacts that could not be avoided, as identified through consultation, would be mitigated though transplantation or other appropriate measures. The total estimate of plants that may be directly affected (by removal and transplantation) would represent less than 1–2% of the total estimated population of 30,000 individuals.</p>					
Graham’s Beardtongue	<p>NLJ</p> <p>Less than half a percent of the available habitat for the species in the project area would be directly impacted. The project area encompasses only a small (<5%) portion of the far west side of the Graham's beardtongue's known habitat.</p>					
Ute Ladies’-tresses	<p>NLAA</p> <p>Ute ladies'-tresses are not known to occur in the project area, and less than 11 acres of potential (riparian) habitat would be impacted under all alternatives. Site-specific surveys and 100% avoidance of occupied habitat would occur under all alternatives.</p>					
Mexican Spotted Owl	<p>NLAA</p> <p>Although up to 62 acres of “good” MSO habitat (17 acres under the Proposed Action) and up to 10 acres of "fair" habitat (0 acres under the Proposed Action) would be impacted, this constitutes a small percentage of “good” and "fair" habitat available throughout the range for this species. Applicant-committed measures and mitigation would minimize direct impacts to suitable habitat to a negligible level and eliminate direct impacts to individual birds during the nesting season.</p>					

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Greater Sage-grouse	NLCL Although up to 841 acres surface disturbance within 2.0 miles of an inactive lek and 3,048 of potential brooding habitat would be directly impacted, this constitutes a small percentage of these habitats available throughout the range for this species. Applicant-committed measures and mitigation would minimize direct impacts to suitable habitat and eliminate direct impacts to individual birds during the nesting season.					
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo	NLCL Impact to habitat constitutes a small percentage of suitable habitat available throughout the range for this species. Applicant-committed measures and mitigation would minimize direct impacts to suitable habitat and eliminate direct impacts to individual birds during the nesting season.					
Colorado River Endangered Fish (Bonytail Chub, Colorado Pikeminnow, Humpback Chub, and Razorback Sucker)	LAA 1) <u>Green River depletions:</u> Because of the cumulative impacts of incrementally small water depletions in the Colorado River basin, the USFWS views any depletion as likely to adversely impact all of the Colorado River endangered fish considered. 2) <u>Risk of spills from wells and pipelines in the Green River floodplain:</u> A) May affect fish due to increased risk of condensate spill from wells within Green River floodplain and is likely to adversely affect fish because of the risk of a spill exceeding toxic concentrations in the Green River. However, applicant-committed BMPs for the site-specific use of centralized condensate tank facilities would reduce the spill risk from tanks grouped outside of the floodplain. B) May affect fish due to increased risk of condensate spill from pipelines within Green River floodplain or tributaries, but is unlikely to adversely affect fish because of the negligible risk of a spill exceeding toxic concentrations in the Green River. 3) <u>Impacts to critical habitat:</u> May affect critical habitat of the Colorado Pikeminnow and the razorback sucker due to wells and associated roads and pipelines proposed within the 100-year floodplain for the Green River. These wells would lie directly adjacent to designated critical habitat for the Colorado Pikeminnow and the razorback sucker. Unlikely to adversely affect critical habitat because applicant BMPs including shut-off valves and pipe burial would mitigate the risk of a spill exceeding toxic concentrations in the Green River. 4) <u>Sedimentation:</u> May affect Colorado River fish due to slight increase in sedimentation and sediments containing selenium and boron, but is unlikely to adversely affect these fish because of the minimal increase in the sediment load of the Green River.					

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Untermann Daisy	<p>NLCL</p> <p>Direct impacts to the Untermann daisy's habitat would total less than 4.7% of the potential habitat available in the project area (3.7% under the Proposed Action); considerable additional habitat exists beyond the project area.</p>					
Sterile Yucca	<p><u>NLCL</u></p> <p>Direct impacts under the action alternatives to sterile yucca habitats would total less than 3.5% of the potential habitat available in the project area (2.5% under the Proposed Action; Site-specific surveys and a 150-foot avoidance buffer would be required where deemed appropriate by the AO.</p> <p>Direct impacts under the No Action Alternative would be 3.16 acres (36.4% of habitat within the project area); however, considerable habitat exists outside the project area. Site-specific surveys and a 150-foot avoidance buffer would be required where deemed appropriate by the AO.</p>					
<u>Graham's Catseye</u>	<p><u>NLCL</u></p> <p>Although Graham's catseye has been observed in the project area, acreages of the potential or suitable habitats have not been mapped or determined and additional habitat exist beyond the project area. Site-specific surveys and a 150-foot avoidance buffer would be required where deemed appropriate by the AO.</p>					
<u>Barneby's Catseye</u>	<p><u>NLCL</u></p> <p>This species has not been documented in the project area, but has potential to occur based on project area vegetation communities and elevational ranges. Additional habitats exist beyond the project area. Site-specific surveys and a 150-foot avoidance buffer would be required where deemed appropriate by the AO.</p>					
<u>Goodrich's Blazingstar</u>	<p><u>NLCL</u></p> <p>This species has not been documented in the project area, but has potential to occur based on project area vegetation communities and elevational ranges. Additional habitats exist beyond the project area. Site-specific surveys and a 150-foot avoidance buffer would be required where deemed appropriate by the AO.</p>					
<u>Goodrich's Columbine</u>	<p><u>NLCL</u></p> <p>This species has not been documented in the project area, but has potential to occur based on project area vegetation communities and elevational ranges. Additional habitats exist beyond the project area. Site-specific surveys and a 150-foot avoidance buffer would be required where deemed appropriate by the AO.</p>					
<u>Uinta Greenthread</u>	<p><u>NLCL</u></p> <p>This species has not been documented in the project area, but has potential to occur based on project area vegetation communities and elevational ranges. Additional habitats exist beyond the project area. Site-specific surveys and a 150-foot avoidance buffer would be required where deemed appropriate by the AO.</p>					

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White-tailed Prairie Dog	NLCL Direct adverse impacts would total 176–982 acres (1.1–6.3%) of the white-tailed prairie dog habitat available in the project area (481 acres under the Proposed Action). Large additional habitat areas exist beyond the project area.					
Big Free-tailed Bat	NLCL The probability of adverse impacts is relatively low based on the percentage of potential roosting (<4.1%) and foraging (<5.3%) habitats of these wide-ranging bats that would be disturbed during the life of the project.					
Spotted Bat	NLCL The probability of adverse impacts is relatively low based on the percentage of potential roosting (<4.1%) and foraging (<4.9%) habitats of these wide-ranging bats that would be disturbed during the life of the project.					
Burrowing Owl	NLCL A small percentage of suitable habitat available throughout the range for this species would be directly impacted. Applicant-committed measures and mitigation would minimize direct impacts to suitable habitat and eliminate direct impacts to individual birds during the nesting season.					
Ferruginous Hawk	NLCL A small percentage of suitable habitat available throughout the range for this species would be directly impacted. Applicant-committed measures and mitigation would minimize direct impacts to suitable habitat and eliminate direct impacts to individual birds during the nesting season.					
Bald Eagle	NLCL Although <u>up to</u> 91 acres of bald eagle winter roosting habitat within 0.5 mile of known winter roosting areas and up to 11 acres of potentially suitable winter roosting habitat would be directly impacted, this constitutes a small percentage of suitable habitat available throughout the range for this species. Applicant-committed measures and mitigation would minimize direct impacts to suitable habitat and eliminate direct impacts to individual birds during the nesting season.					
Golden Eagle	NLCL Although up to 558 acres of surface disturbance within 0.5 mile of a known golden eagle nest would be directly impacted, this constitutes a small percentage of suitable habitat available throughout the range for this species. Applicant-committed measures and BMPs would minimize direct impacts to suitable habitat and eliminate direct impacts to individual birds during the nesting season.					

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Short-eared Owl	NLCL Although up to 7,534 acres of potential suitable short-eared owl habitat would be directly impacted (5,958 acres under the Proposed Action), this constitutes a small percentage of these habitats available throughout the range for this species. Applicant-committed measures and BMPs would minimize direct impacts to suitable habitat and eliminate direct impacts to individual birds during the nesting season.					
Lewis' Woodpecker	NLCL Although up to 1,740 acres of potential suitable Lewis' woodpecker habitat would be directly impacted (1,174 acres under the Proposed Action), this constitutes a small percentage of these habitats available throughout the range for this species. Applicant-committed measures and mitigation would minimize direct impacts to suitable habitat and eliminate direct impacts to individual birds during the nesting season.					
Mountain Plover	NLCL Although up to 1,326 acres of potential suitable Mountain Plover habitat would be directly impacted (720 acres under the Proposed Action), this constitutes a small percentage of these habitats available throughout the range for this species. Applicant-committed measures and mitigation would minimize direct impacts to suitable habitat and eliminate direct impacts to individual birds during the nesting season.					
Colorado River Sensitive Fish (Roundtail Chub, Bluehead Sucker, and Flannelmouth Sucker)	NLCL Due to the cumulative impacts of incrementally small water depletions in the Colorado River basin, water usage may affect all of the Colorado River sensitive fish considered. However, the Proposed Action would constitute no more than a <u>0.005%</u> incremental depletion, and is therefore unlikely to contribute to the need for federal listing. Increased risk of condensate spill within Green River floodplain or tributaries is unlikely to lead to federal listing because of the low risk of a spill exceeding toxic concentrations in the Green River due to applicant-committed spill prevention measures including pipeline burial under stream crossings and the use of shut-off valves. A slight increase in sedimentation and sediments containing selenium and boron is unlikely to lead to the listing of these fish because of the minimal (0.03%) increase in the sediment load of the Green River.					

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Raptors	NLCL Although up to 1,745 acres of crucial raptor nesting habitat would be directly impacted by the Proposed Action, this constitutes a small percentage of these habitats available throughout the range for this species. Applicant-committed measures and mitigation would minimize direct impacts to suitable habitat and eliminate direct impacts to individual birds during the nesting season.					
Migratory Birds	NLCL None of the migratory birds considered are proposed for listing under the ESA or included on the BLM sensitive species list. Although impacts within the project area could adversely affect local populations or individuals, a relatively small percentage of each species' habitat within their entire range would be impacted by the Proposed Action. In addition, no more than 5% of each species' habitat within the project area would be directly impacted under any alternative.					

Threatened and Endangered Species:

NE = No effect

NLAA = May affect, not likely to adversely affect

LAA = May affect, likely to adversely affect

NLJ = Not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species, and not likely to destroy or adversely modify proposed critical habitat

Candidate and Sensitive Species:

NI = No impact

NLCL = May impact, but is not likely to contribute to the need to become listed

LCL = May impact, likely to contribute to the need to become listed

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