

**NEWCASTLE FIELD OFFICE  
WILDLIFE SURVEY CRITERIA**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>PROTECTED ACTIVITY</b>	<b>HABITAT</b>	<b>SURVEY DISTANCE</b>	<b>SURVEY DATES</b>
<b>Blowout Penstemon</b> <i>(Listed as Endangered under ESA)</i>	Occurrence	Sand dunes and blowouts	Disturbance area	15 June – Aug 15
<b>Ute Ladies'-tresses Orchid</b> <i>(Listed Threatened under ESA)</i>	Occurrence	Moist soils bordering perennial water	Disturbance area and habitat downstream of discharge points within project area.	July 15 – Sept. 15 dates may vary (see foot note 1)
<b>Mountain Plover</b> <i>(Proposed for listing under ESA)</i>	Nesting	Flat, shortgrass prairie	0.25 MI.	May 1 – June 15
<b>Greater Sage-grouse (Core/Key Areas)</b> <i>(Candidate Species under ESA)</i>	Breeding Sites	Openings within sagebrush	4.0 MI.	April 1 – May 7
Any new locations of displaying male grouse identified during the surveys should be visited 3 times on the ground (time and access permitting*) to get an accurate count of sage-grouse attending the lek and to verify the location. Existing leks that fall within the project survey area should be counted on the ground (dependent on access*) at least one time.				
<b>Greater Sage-grouse (Outside Core)</b> <i>(Candidate Species under ESA)</i>	Breeding Sites	Openings within sagebrush	2.0 MI.	April 1 – May 7
Any new locations of displaying male grouse identified during the surveys should be visited 3 times on the ground (time and access permitting*) to get an accurate count of sage-grouse attending the lek and to verify the location. Existing leks that fall within the project survey area should be counted on the ground (dependent on access*) at least one time.				
<b>Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse</b>	Breeding Sites	High points within grasslands	2.0 MI.	April 1 – May 7
Any new locations of displaying male grouse identified during the surveys should be visited 3 times on the ground (time and access permitting*) to get an accurate count of sharp-tailed grouse attending the lek and to verify the location. Existing leks that fall within the project survey area should be counted on the ground (dependent on access*) at least one time.				
<b>Black-tailed prairie dog</b>	Prairie dog colonies	Prairie habitats with deep, firm soils.	Colonies within project area	Year-round
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	Nesting	Mature trees	1.0 MI.	April 15 – June 15
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	Winter Roosting	Stands of mature trees	1.0 MI.	Dec. 1 – Feb. 28
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>	Nesting	Ponderosa pine forests	0.5 MI	Mar 15 – Sept 1
<b>Burrowing Owl</b>	Nesting	Burrows, prairie dog colonies, short-grass prairie	0.5 MI	May 1 – July 15
The first survey should be conducted during times when burrowing owls may be nesting or incubating (May 1- May 31), the second survey should be when most owls have young nestlings (June 1-15), and a third survey when nestlings are above ground (June 16 – July 15). Surveys should be separated by at least one week. Surveys should be conducted for any activities occurring between 15 April and 1 September.				
<b>Other Raptors</b>	Nesting	Nesting Substrates: outcrops, cliffs, stream banks, ridges, knolls, trees, etc.	0.5 MI.	April 15 – June 15

Proponents should try to provide surveys for the species listed above prior to submitting an application, an APD or Special Use Permit. Depending on habitat, surveys for all species above may not be necessary. Complete protocols are available on the Newcastle Field Office Website.

1- Precise annual dates depend on blooming period identified by regional monitoring. Contact the NFO prior to initiating any surveys.

**\*The BLM is not responsible for providing access to leks on private surface. Operators and consultants are responsible for contacting private landowners and requesting access across private surface. Please respect the rights of private land owners.**