

**APPENDIX F**

BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FOR THE  
EAGLE BUTTE WEST COAL LEASE APPLICATION EIS

## **BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

BLM Wyoming has prepared a list of sensitive species to focus species management efforts towards maintaining habitats under a multiple use mandate. The authority for this policy and guidance comes from the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended; Title II of the Sikes Act, as amended; the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) (43 U.S.C. 1716); and the Department Manual 235.1.1A (BLM 2001).

The goals of the sensitive species policy are to:

- Maintain vulnerable species and habitat components in functional BLM ecosystems.
- Ensure sensitive species are considered in land management decisions.
- Prevent a need for species listing under the ESA.
- Prioritize needed conservation work with an emphasis on habitat.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Under the Proposed Action, BLM will hold a lease for the federal coal lands in the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract as applied for or Alternative 1 (see Figure 2-1 and the land descriptions in Section 2.1 of this EIS). It is assumed that the applicant for the tract, FCW, would be the successful bidder and that the tract would be mined as a maintenance lease for the existing Eagle Butte Mine. The surface estate on the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract includes all privately owned lands.

### **SPECIES OCCURRENCE AND HABITAT DESCRIPTIONS**

Sensitive species were listed for the BLM Buffalo Field Office within its range. Some sensitive species could or do occur within the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract. Specialized habitat requirements (i.e., caves, cliffs, calcareous rock outcrops) make occupation for other sensitive species unlikely. Table F-1 lists BLM sensitive species, summarizes their habitat requirements, and indicates if they have been observed on or around the tract. Additional information on occurrences of these species on the tract can be found in Section 3.10 of this EIS or in the supplemental information document for this EIS, which is available on request.

Appendix F

Table F-1. BLM Sensitive Species for the Buffalo Field Office and Habitat Requirements and Observations on Eagle Butte West LBA Tract.

<b>Common Name (scientific name)</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Observed on Eagle Butte West LBA Tract</b>
<b>Amphibians</b>		
Northern leopard frog ( <i>Rana pipiens</i> )	Beaver ponds, permanent water in plains and foothills	Yes, incidental siting during wildlife surveys
Spotted frog ( <i>Rana pretiosa</i> )	Ponds, sloughs, small streams	---- <sup>1</sup>
<b>Birds</b>		
Baird's sparrow ( <i>Ammodramus bairdii</i> )	Grasslands, weedy fields	No
Brewer's sparrow ( <i>Spizella breweri</i> )	Basin-prairie shrub	Common Breeder
Burrowing owl ( <i>Athene cunicularia</i> )	Grasslands, basin-prairie shrub	Recent Common Breeder
Ferruginous hawk ( <i>Buteo regalis</i> )	Basin-prairie shrub, grasslands, rock outcrops	Historic Breeder
Greater sage-grouse ( <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> )	Basin-prairie shrub, mountain-foothill shrub	Common Breeder
Loggerhead shrike ( <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> )	Basin-prairie shrub, mountain-foothill shrub	Yes, uncommon
Long-billed curlew ( <i>Numenius americanus</i> )	Grasslands, plains, foothills, wet meadows	No, rare spring migrant
Mountain Plover ( <i>Charadrius montanus</i> )	Shortgrass/midgrass grasslands, basin-prairie shrubs	No
Northern goshawk ( <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> )	Conifer and deciduous forests	---- <sup>1</sup>
Peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )	Cliffs	No, incidental siting during wildlife surveys at Eagle Butte Mine
Sage sparrow ( <i>Amphispiza billneata</i> )	Basin-prairie shrub, mountain-foothill shrub	No
Sage thrasher ( <i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i> )	Basin-prairie shrub, mountain-foothill shrub	No, rarely observed at the Eagle Butte Mine during wildlife surveys
Trumpeter swan ( <i>Cygnus buccinator</i> )	Lakes, ponds, rivers	---- <sup>1</sup>
White-faced ibis ( <i>Plegadis chihi</i> )	Marshes, wet meadows	---- <sup>1</sup>
Yellow-billed cuckoo ( <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> )	Open woodlands, streamside willow and alder groves	No

Table F-1. BLM Sensitive Species for the Buffalo Field Office and Habitat Requirements and Observations on Eagle Butte West LBA Tract (Continued).

<b>Common Name (scientific name)</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Observed on Eagle Butte West LBA Tract</b>
<b>Fish</b>		
Yellowstone cutthroat trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus clarki</i> )	Cold water streams and lakes	---- <sup>1</sup>
<b>Mammals</b>		
Black-tailed prairie dog ( <i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i> )	Shortgrass/midgrass grasslands	No prairie dog towns on tract
Fringed myotis ( <i>Myotis thysanodes</i> )	Conifer forests, woodland chaparral, caves and mines	---- <sup>1</sup>
Long-eared myotis ( <i>Myotis evotis</i> )	Conifer and deciduous forest, caves and mines	---- <sup>1</sup>
Spotted bat ( <i>Euderma maculatum</i> )	Cliffs over perennial water, basin-prairie shrub	---- <sup>1</sup>
Swift fox ( <i>Vulpes velox</i> )	Grasslands	No
Townsend's big-eared bat ( <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> )	Forests, basin-prairie shrub, caves and mines	---- <sup>1</sup>
<b>Plants</b>		
Porter's sagebrush ( <i>Artemisia porteri</i> )	Sparsely vegetated badlands of ashy or tufaceous mudstone and clay slopes; 5,300 to 6,500 ft	---- <sup>1</sup>
William's wafer parsnip ( <i>Cymopterus williamsii</i> )	Open ridgetops and upper slopes with exposed limestone outcrops or rockslides; 6,000 to 8,300 ft	---- <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Habitat generally lacking or very limited

**REFERENCES AND LITERATURE CITED**

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 2001, BLM Wyoming Sensitive Species Policy and List April 9, 2001, available on the Internet as of June 2005: <<http://www.blm.gov/nph/efoia/wy/2001im/Wy2001-040atch1.pdf>>.