

ADDENDUM

Several errors and/or omissions were identified in the subject Environmental Assessment subsequent to the printing and binding thereof and this addendum will correct those deficiencies in the original document. This addendum will be attached to the Finding of No Significant Impact to be prepared for the document and will become a part of the administrative record of the analysis for the eight horizontal wells proposed by Southwestern Production Corporation in the Hornbuckle Field in Converse County Wyoming. Additions and/or corrections to the Environmental Assessment will be made by Chapter and Section as appropriate.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.7.3 Raptor Species

Action: clarify that the ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*) nest located in the SW¹/₄SE¹/₄SE¹/₄ of Section 13 in Township 37 North, Range 73 West is considered to be in very good condition with a well defined nest cup and that, based on the condition of the nest and evidence around the nest, it should be classified as having been active within the last three years.

3.7.4 Threatened and Endangered Species

Action: remove Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) from Section 3.7.4.

On July 10, 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed Endangered Species Act protections for Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) populations in Wyoming and amended the listing for Preble's to indicate the subspecies remains protected as a threatened species in the Colorado portion of its range.

Action: add Blowout penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*), Colorado butterfly plant (*Gaura neomexicana* spp. *coloradensis*) and Whooping crane (*Grus americana*) to Section 3.7.4, with the whooping crane added to the list of North Platte River species.

Those T/E species which may potentially occur within the general area (BLM 2006, BLM 2008a, BLM 2008b) include:

- Blowout penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*) - Status: Endangered.
- Colorado butterfly plant (*Gaura neomexicana* spp. *coloradensis*) - Status: Threatened.
- North Platte River Species (those species which may occur in the downstream riverine habitats of the North Platte River in Nebraska and that could be adversely affected by water

depletions in the North Platte River system resulting from project-related activities) including:

- 5) Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) - Status: Endangered.
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4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.5 WILDLIFE

4.5.1.4 Threatened and Endangered Species

Action: revise Table 4.3 to include blowout penstemon, Colorado butterfly plant and whooping crane and include discussion of these species in the text of the document. Remove Preble's meadow jumping mouse from Table 4.3.

- Blowout penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*). Blowout penstemon is a potential resident in "blowouts" - sparsely vegetated depressions in active sand dunes created by wind erosion which typically form on windward sandy slopes where the vegetation has been removed or disturbed (Fertig 2000b, Heidel 2005). In Wyoming, the only known populations of blowout penstemon are located at the eastern end of the Ferris sand dune system at the head of Schoolhouse Creek and the west side of Bradley Peak in Carbon County (BLM 2005). Considering that there are no active sand dunes within the overall Hornbuckle Field project area, impacts to blowout penstemon are not expected due to a lack of suitable habitat.
- Colorado butterfly plant (*Gaura neomexicana* spp. *coloradensis*). The Colorado butterfly plant is a potential resident on sub-irrigated soils on level or slightly sloping floodplains and drainage bottoms at elevations of 5,000 to 6,400 feet. Plant colonies are often found in low depressions or along bends in wide meandering stream channels. Most populations are found a short distance from the actual channel and may even occur at the base of low, alluvial ridges at the interface between riparian meadows and drier grasslands (Fertig 2000c). Known populations of this species have been identified in Laramie and Platte Counties, Wyoming, Larimer and Weld Counties, Colorado and Kimball County in western Nebraska within the drainages of both the North and South Platte Rivers (BLM 2005). The closest population to the proposed project area is located on Teepee Ring Creek in Platte County, Wyoming approximately 100 miles south/southeast of the APE. Considering that the proposed project area is not within the expected area of occurrence (the drainages of either the North or South Platte Rivers) and that suitable habitat (as described above) does not exist within the APE, impacts to the Colorado butterfly plant area not expected.

Table 4.3

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species and Their Potential Occurrence within the Hornbuckle Field APE

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ¹	Potential Occurrence Within the APE ²
MAMMALS			
Black-footed ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	E	X
BIRDS			
Interior least tern ³	<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	E	X
Piping plover ³	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	T	X
Eskimo curlew ³	<i>Numenius borealis</i>	E	X
Whooping crane ³	<i>Grus americana</i>	E	X
FISH			
Pallid sturgeon ³	<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>	E	X
PLANTS			
Blowout penstemon	<i>Penstemon haydenii</i>	E	X
Colorado butterfly plant	<i>Gaura n. spp. coloradensis</i>	T	X
Ute ladies'-tresses	<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	T	X
Western prairie fringed orchid ³	<i>Plantanthera praeclara</i>	T	X

¹ Federal status: E = listed as federally endangered.
T = listed as federally threatened.

² Species occurrence:

- O = occasional; this species may occur in the HQPA during specific times of the year and may be locally common when suitable food is available; generally not present for extended periods.
- R = rare; species may occur in the HQPA for just a few days or hours (e.g., stopping over during migration), or the species has only occasionally or rarely been sighted in the HQPA. Encounters during the proposed action are very unlikely.
- X = unlikely; there has been no recent historical record of the species' occurrence in the HQPA; probability of encountering the species during project-related activity is very unlikely.

³ North Platte River species.

- North Platte River Species. Those five North Platte species identified in Section 3.7.4 (including interior least tern, piping plover, pallid sturgeon, Eskimo curlew, western prairie fringed orchid and whooping crane) that may occur in the downstream riverine habitats of the North Platte River in Nebraska could be adversely affected by surface water depletions (consumption) in the North Platte River system resulting from project-related activities. As stated in Section 2.1.2.1 and Table 3.2, water to be used in drilling operations would be obtained from local sources not connected to the North Platte River. As a consequence, no depletions would result in the North Platte River system and the downstream riverine habitats of these species would not be affected by the Proposed Action.

Action: Revise information to indicate that the closest population of Ute ladies'-tresses is located approximately five miles to the northwest of the project area on Stinking Water Creek in the SE¹/₄NE¹/₄ of Section 34, Township 39 North, Range 74 West.

Action: Add a Consultation and Coordination section to the end of Chapter Four to identify the primary participants in the preparation and review of the subject Environmental Assessment.

4.9 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The Hornbuckle Field Eight Well Environmental Assessment was prepared by Anderson Environmental Consulting (AEC), an independent environmental consulting firm, with the guidance, participation and independent evaluation of the BLM. A list of the personnel responsible for document preparation and review are provided in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6
Document Preparation and Review

Name	Agency/ Company Affiliation	Responsibility
Robert M. Anderson	Anderson Environmental Consulting	Project Manager, EA Preparation
Jim Bauer	BLM Physical Scientist	Document Review
John A. Bettridge	SWPC Operations Manager	Review of Proposed Action
James M. Brechtel	James Enterprises, Inc.	Cultural Resource Inventories/Reports
Jeff Garrard	Uintah Engineering & Land Surveying	Map Preparation
Shane Gray	BLM Wildlife Biologist	Document Review
Patrick Moore	BLM Asst. Field Office Manager	Document Review and Approval

Action: add references for additional information contained in this Addendum.

5.0 REFERENCES

Fertig, W. 2000b. Status of blowout penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*) in Wyoming. Report prepared for the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming. Laramie, Wyoming.

- Fertig, W. 2000c. Status of Colorado butterfly plant (*Gaura neomexicana* spp. *coloradensis*) in Wyoming. Report prepared for the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming. Laramie, Wyoming.
- Heidel, B. 2005. *Penstemon haydenii* (blowout penstemon) in Wyoming - 2004. Prepared for the Casper and Rawlins Field Offices, Bureau of Land Management. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming. Laramie, Wyoming.