

APPENDIX F

**BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FOR THE
MAYSDORF 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 Maysdorf LBA Tract as applied for or Alternatives 2 or 3 (see Figure 2-1 and the land descriptions in Section 2.1 of this EIS). It is assumed that the applicant for the tract, CMC, would be the successful bidder and that the tract would be mined as a maintenance lease for the existing Cordero Rojo Mine. The surface estate on the Maysdorf LBA Tract includes federal and 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 Maysdorf 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, based on the annual wildlife surveys conducted by the mine and reported in the Cordero Rojo Mine WDEQ/LQD permit documents. Additional information on occurrences of these species on the tract can be found in Section 3.10 of the Maysdorf Coal Lease Application EIS or in the supplemental information document, which is available upon request.

Appendix F

Table F-1. BLM Sensitive Species for the Buffalo Field Office and Habitat Requirements and Observations on Maysdorf LBA Tract¹.

Common Name (scientific name)	Habitat	Historical Sitings on or near the Maysdorf LBA Tract
Amphibians		
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	---- ²
Birds		
Baird's sparrow (<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>)	Grasslands, weedy fields	None
Brewer's sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>)	Basin-prairie shrub	Common Breeder
Burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)	Grasslands, basin-prairie shrub	Uncommon Breeder
Ferruginous hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>)	Basin-prairie shrub, grasslands, rock outcrops	Common 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	Uncommon - Occasional Breeder
Long-billed curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)	Grasslands, plains, foothills, wet meadows	Uncommon Breeder
Northern goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	Conifer and deciduous forests	---- ²
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Cliffs	None
Sage sparrow (<i>Amphispiza billineata</i>)	Basin-prairie shrub, mountain-foothill shrub	None
Sage thrasher (<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>)	Basin-prairie shrub, mountain-foothill shrub	None
Trumpeter swan (<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>)	Lakes, ponds, rivers	---- ²
White-faced ibis (<i>Plegadis chihi</i>)	Marshes, wet meadows	---- ²
Yellow-billed cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>)	Open woodlands, streamside willow and alder groves	None

Table F-1. BLM Sensitive Species for the Buffalo Field Office and Habitat Requirements and Observations on Maysdorf LBA Tract¹ (Continued).

Common Name (scientific name)	Habitat	Historical Sitings on or near the Maysdorf LBA Tract
Fish		
Yellowstone cutthroat trout (<i>Oncorhynchus clarki</i>)	Cold water streams and lakes	---- ²
Mammals		
Fringed myotis (<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>)	Conifer forests, woodland chaparral, caves and mines	---- ²
Long-eared myotis (<i>Myotis evotis</i>)	Conifer and deciduous forest, caves and mines	---- ²
Spotted bat (<i>Euderma maculatum</i>)	Cliffs over perennial water, basin-prairie shrub	---- ²
Swift fox (<i>Vulpes velox</i>)	Grasslands	None
Townsend's big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>)	Forests, basin-prairie shrub, caves and mines	---- ²
Plants		
Porter's sagebrush (<i>Artemisia porteri</i>)	Sparsely vegetated badlands of ashy or tufaceous mudstone and clay slopes; 5,300 to 6,500 ft	---- ²
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	---- ²

¹ Source: BLM Wyoming Sensitive Species Policy and List, September 20, 2002

² Habitat generally lacking or very limited

REFERENCES AND LITERATURE CITED

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 2002, BLM Wyoming Sensitive Species Policy and List September 20, 2002, available on the Internet as of February 2007:
<<http://www.wy.blm.gov/wildlife/02species.pdf>>.