

APPENDIX A

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES UPDATE

Appendix A

Special Status Species Updates

Since the original Task 3D Report for the Powder River Basin Coal Review Cumulative Environmental Effects (with errata) was submitted in December 2005, one additional plant species has been federally listed, and there have been several updates to the federally listed and candidate wildlife species addressed in that document. These species are identified below.

Blowout Penstemon. Since submittal of the original Task 3D report, one additional plant species potentially occurring in the Wyoming PRB study area, the blowout penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*), has been federally listed as endangered (FR 73 FR 58261 58262, October 6, 2008). Within Wyoming, the blowout penstemon is a regional endemic to the Great Divide Basin in Carbon County, Wyoming, known from three occurrences on federal and state lands. The species is restricted to sparsely vegetated, early successional, shifting sand with crater-like blowout depressions created by wind erosion. Within this habitat, the species primarily is found on the rim and lee slopes, and associated steep side slopes deposited at the base of foothills, at elevations between 5,860 and 7,440 feet above mean sea level. Although trends appear to be stable or increasing slightly, the species is vulnerable to habitat loss and degradation from sand mining, water development, energy development, off-road vehicle use, and associated destabilization, as well as the spread of non-native species (USFWS 2009). Based on the species' known range, distribution, and habitat associations, it is unlikely that the species would occur within the Wyoming PRB cumulative effects study area (BLM 2009b).

Mountain Plover. The mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*) has been withdrawn from consideration for federal protection (50 CFR Part 17, September 2003). This species is not listed as a special status species by the BLM, FS, or WGFD.

Bald Eagle. On August 8, 2007, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was removed from the List of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife (72 FR 37345, July 9, 2007). The species continues to be afforded protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, supplemented 1972, (16 U.S.C. 703-712). The bald eagle is listed as threatened by the WGFD.

Greater Sage-grouse. The greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) continues to be evaluated for potential federal listing under the ESA, and core area management requirements currently are being developed by the BLM. Based on preliminary draft GIS information provided by the BLM (2009b), a total of 391 greater sage-grouse lek sites and three partial and three complete core areas occur in the Wyoming PRB study area. Seven lek sites are located within the 2006 coal mine-related disturbance areas (BLM 2009a), and 36 lek sites are located within 2 miles of the 2006 coal mine-related disturbance areas. **Table A-1** presents a summary of this information by county.

Black-footed Ferret. The black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) continues to be listed as a federally endangered species (USFWS 1970). However, the species has been block-cleared in the PRB study area, negating the need for surveys prior to proposed development activities (USFWS 2004).

Appendix A

Table A-1
Greater Sage-grouse Lek Sites and Preliminary BLM Core Management Areas by County

| County | Number of Greater Sage-grouse Lek Sites | Preliminary BLM Greater Sage-grouse Core Management Areas |
|---------------|--|--|
| Campbell | 188 | 2 partial/2 complete |
| Converse | 37 | 2 partial |
| Johnson | 133 | 1 partial/1 complete |
| Sheridan | 33 | 0 |

Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse. The Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) was removed from Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection in Wyoming on July 10, 2008 (73 FR 39789-39838). This species is not listed as a special status species by the WGFD, BLM, or FS.

Boreal Toad. The Southern Rocky Mountain population of the boreal toad (*Bufo boreas boreas*) has been withdrawn from consideration for protection under the ESA (70 FR 56880, September 29, 2005).