

APPENDIX D

POTENTIAL THREATENED AND ENDANGERED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES FOR BONNY RESERVOIR

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus Leucocephalus*) Listed Threatened

The bald eagle is a member of the family Accipitridae, and was initially listed on February 14, 1978, as an endangered species throughout the lower 48 states. On July 12, 1995, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the bald eagle would be reclassified from endangered to threatened in the lower 48 states. Those states where the species was already listed as threatened remained classified that way. The characteristic adult plumage consists of a white head and tail with a dark brown body. Juvenile eagles are completely dark brown and do not fully develop the majestic white head and tail until the fifth or sixth years. The bald eagle historically ranged throughout North America except extreme northern Alaska and Canada, and central and southern Mexico.

Black-Footed Ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) Listed Endangered

The black-footed ferret is an endangered carnivore with a black face mask, black legs, and a black-tipped tail. Black-footed ferrets are nearly 60 centimeters (2 feet) in length and weigh up to 1.1 kilograms. It is the only ferret species native to North America. The black-footed ferret has historically been associated with the range of prairie dogs. The black-footed ferret was first listed on March 11, 1967. Changes in land use practices over the last century have reduced prairie dogs to a fraction of their former number and distribution. As a result, all active prairie dog towns, or complex of towns large enough to support ferrets, are considered potential black-footed ferret habitat. The study area occurs within the general historic range of the black-footed ferret. No black-footed ferret sightings have been confirmed in Colorado in recent years.

American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*); Artic peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*)

Peregrine falcons are about the size and weight of a crow - females are larger and more powerful than males. Adults have slate dark blue-gray wings and backs barred with black, pale undersides, white faces with a black stripe on each cheek, and large, dark eyes. Their wings are long and pointed. The American peregrine falcon appears in northeastern Colorado as occasional migrants. Any sightings of the Artic peregrine falcon in northeastern Colorado are considered to be an accidental occurrence. The presence of cliffs is a basic component of their nesting habitat. Favored cliff sights are often extremely high and frequently overlook water, permitting an extensive view of the surrounding country side. Reclamation personnel have conducted surveys of potential peregrine habitat at Bonny Reservoir. It was determined that no suitable nesting habitat was available. However, Bonny Reservoir provides suitable stopover habitat for spring and fall migrating American peregrine falcons.

White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

The white pelican primarily inhabits inland lakes. This huge bird reaches heights of 55-70 inches. It is white with a long, flat, bright orange bill and black tipped wings. During the breeding season a short, yellowish crest appears on the back of the head and a horny plate appears on the upper mandible. Breeding habitats consists of isolated and sparsely vegetated islands in lakes or reservoirs. There is currently a breeding colony at Riverside Reservoir in Weld County, Colorado. Bonny Reservoir is used by migrant birds and occasionally by nonbreeders in the summer.

Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanochos cupido pinnatus*) State Special Concern

This increasingly rare bird was once common over a large area of North America. Male and female birds look similar, but females have barred tail feathers and smaller neck sacs. Prairie chickens feed on plant matter, such as leaves, fruit and grain, and in the summer they catch insects, particularly grasshoppers. Male birds perform spectacular courtship displays, inflating their orange neck feathers. They give booming calls and stamp their feet as they posture, to make the display even more impressive. The Colorado range

Bonny Reservoir's Integrated Pest Management Plan

of the prairie chicken has decreased 92 percent since the 1800s. Optimum habitat for prairie chickens consists of mid-to tall-grass prairies for nesting and wintering cover interspersed with lower seral stages for feeding and brooding cover. Although there have been no recent confirmed sightings of prairie chickens at Bonny Reservoir, there are occasional reports of single birds in southern Yuma County.

Plains Orange Throat Darter (*Ethoestoma spectabile pulchellum*) State Special Concern

This darter is characteristic of small clear creeks and often found over a gravelly or rocky bottom, or sluggish riffles, or in pools having enough current to prevent silt deposit. The orange throat darter inhabits suitable habitats in the drainage system in and around Bonny Reservoir.

Rare Plant Species and Plant Communities

No federally protected plants have been identified from Bonny Lake, and it is unlikely that any occur there. However, two plant species that are considered to be rare by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program are known to inhabit the park, the Prairie moonwort (*Botrychium campestre*) and Prairie gentian (*Eustoma grandiflorum*). The moonwort is very small, inconspicuous, and very difficult to find. It is known from only two locations in Colorado (Spackman et al. 1997). A species assessment of the prairie moonwort is being written by Dave Anderson of Colorado Natural Heritage Program under contract with the US Forest Service, Region 2. It should be completed in 2002 (D. Anderson, pers. comm.). In addition, there are no other rare plant species, as well as no other rare plant communities, that are known to occur within ten miles of the park (Table 3.3).

Prairie moonwort is an inconspicuous rare plant growing to about 4 inches tall.



Source: www.colorado-mall.com/.../Loess_Prairie/loessPrairie.html

Prairie moonwort lives in the little bluestem loess prairie in the Bonny Prairie Natural Area.



Source: Pat Murphy, 2002

The complete list of all the Element Occurrence Records for special interest species found within 20 miles of Bonny Lake State Park, along with a description of the ranking system is provided in the appendix. There are 2 species and 7 relevant special interest plant associations within this 20 mile zone. The most significant plant associations are the Little Bluestem Loess Prairie and the Plains Cottonwood Riparian Forest.

Bonny Reservoir's Integrated Pest Management Plan

Table 1. Rare plant species and communities in and near Bonny Lake. Information from the Colorado State Park Stewardship Plan for Bonny Reservoir August 2003

Plant species	CNHP Rank
Prairie moonwort (<i>Botrychium campestre</i>)	G3S1
Prairie gentian (<i>Eustoma grandiflorum</i>)	G5S3
Dwarf milk weed (<i>Asclepias uncialis</i>)	G1G2/S1S2
Plant Communities	CNHP Rank
Little bluestem loess prairie (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>)	G3? S1?
Thread-leaf sagebrush/ tallis bluestem (<i>Artemisia filifolia/Andropogon halli</i>)	G3? S2
Big bluestem Indian grass – prairie cordgrass (<i>Andropogon gerardii- Sorghastrum nutans- Spartivia pectinata</i>)	G2 S1S2
Plains cottonwood/ switchgrass (<i>Populus deltoids ssp. monilitera / Panicum virgatum</i>)	G2 S1
Coyote willow/ mesic graminoid (<i>salix exigua / mesic graminoid</i>)	G5 S5
Spike rush (<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>)	G5 S4
Scottstem bulrush- hardstem bulrush (<i>Scripus tabernaemontani- Scirpus acutus</i>)	G3 S2S3

Source: Colorado Natural Heritage Program 2002

Rare Plant Species

Populations of the two rare plant species, Prairie moonwort, and Prairie gentian, are not expected to change much in the next five years. If the current drought continues, it is possible that the wetlands that support the prairie gentian will dry out to some degree, with possibly reduced recruitment of new plants or increased death of established plants.