

APPENDIX F
BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION FORM

Short Form Biological Evaluation for Special Status Fish and Wildlife Species

Project:

| Step 1a. List of all Special Status Species that are known or suspected to occur on the DFO* | Step 1b. Current Management Status of the Species. | Step 1c. Does the species occur on this portion of the Field Office? | Step 2 Is the species or its habitat found in the greater Affected Area? | Step 3. Could this proposal have any effect? | Step 4. Are Irreversible or Irretrievable Resources involved? | Step 5. Alt 1 level of effect | Step 5. Alt 2 level of effect | Step 5. Alt 3 level of effect | Step 5. Alt 4 level of effect |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>) | Threatened (MT); up for delisting | | | | | | | | |
| Canada Lynx (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>) | Threatened | | | | | | | | |
| Gray Wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) | Threatened, experimental | | | | | | | | |
| Grizzly Bear (<i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i>) | Threatened (MT) | | | | | | | | |
| Fluvial arctic grayling (<i>Thymallus arcticus</i>) | Candidate | | | | | | | | |
| Fisher (<i>Martes pennanti</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| North American Wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Bog Lemming (<i>Synaptomys borealis</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Preble's Shrew (<i>Sorex preblei</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Pygmy Rabbit (<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Townsend's Big-eared Bat (<i>Plecotus townsendii</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |

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|--|---|---|---|---|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Baird's Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Black-backed Woodpecker (<i>Picoides arcticus</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Black Tern (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Boreal Owl (<i>Aegolius funereus</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cucularia</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (<i>Pedioecetes phasianellus</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Common Loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Canvasback duck (<i>Aythya valisneria</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Ferruginous Hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Flammulated Owl (<i>Otus flammeolus</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Great Gray Owl (<i>Strix nebulosa</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Hairy woodpecker (<i>Picoides villosus</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Harlequin Duck (<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |

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|--|---|---|---|---|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Long-billed Curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Mountain Plover (<i>Charadrius montanus</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>) | Sensitive (delisted) | | | | | | | | |
| Pileated Woodpecker (<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Sage Grouse (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Sage Sparrow (<i>Amphispiza belli</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Swainson's Hawk (<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Three-toed Woodpecker (<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Trumpeter Swan (<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| White-faced Ibis (<i>Plegadis chihi</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Spotted frog (<i>Rana pretiosa</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |
| Westslope cutthroat trout (<i>Onchorhynchus clarkii lewisii</i>) | Sensitive | | | | | | | | |

* A similar form and the list of Special Status Species Plants approved for Montana/Dakotas BLM will be used to consider SSS-Plants. No threatened or endangered plants are currently known to be located on BLM lands in the DFO.

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Step 6. Are there any specific recommendations to avoid significant effects (if any)? These are mitigation measures needed to avoid determinations of: LAA, LJ, WIFV. If so, state the location of the narrative describing these recommendations:

Step 7. Documentation: This short form is intended to follow a seven-step process to provide basic biological evaluations. Judgments must not be arbitrary but should be reasoned. This form provides a "road map" of that reasoning and assumes the judgments are drawn from numerous sources. Any species-specific impacts should be discussed in the NEPA document.

The signature below certifies that:

1. The wildlife biologist has reviewed the proposed action and its alternatives, but may or may not have provided input to alternative design, depending on the issues.
2. The wildlife biologist has an understanding of the specific conditions found in the affected area. Column 1a lists all possible Special Status Species in the Dillon Field Office. Column 1b identifies the species' current management status. Column 1c indicates whether there are no records (N/A), or whether the species is considered a Transient (T) or Resident (R) (for our purposes, resident includes migratory species that fulfill a portion of their life history here). Step 2 is satisfied by field visits (or enough knowledge of local conditions from previous visits) resulting in enough information to determine if the area is potential habitat for species listed in Step 1. Extensive surveys are not necessary if the conservative approach is taken that: "suitable habitat" means the potential for occupancy.
3. The wildlife biologist has an understanding of the species habitat needs and other attributes important to the determination. This can be a combination of literature review, professional experience, and consultation with others.
4. The wildlife biologist has assimilated the above information in making the "determinations" (i.e. final judgments about the scientific significance of the effects).

Signed _____ Date _____

Printed name and title: _____

Short Form Biological Evaluation - Page 5 of 5 - Definitions of Abbreviations

N/A – “Not Applicable.” Indicates this species does not occur in the project area or that the project would have no bearing on its potential habitat. These species were removed from detailed analysis after field review of existing and potential habitats and consideration of distribution records.

FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES

NE - No Effect

***LAA** - May Effect - Likely to Adversely Affect (formal consultation required)

NLAA - May Effect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect (informal consultation - concurrence with determination - required)

BE - Beneficial Effect (informal consultation - concurrence with determination - required)

SPECIES PROPOSED FOR LISTING

NE - No Effect

NLJ - Not likely to Jeopardize the continued existence of the species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat

***LJ** - Likely to Jeopardize the continued existence of the species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat

SENSITIVE SPECIES

NI - No Impact

MIH - May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but will not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species.

***WIFV** - Will Impact Individuals or Habitat with a consequence that the action may contribute to the need for federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species.

BI - Beneficial Impact

* triggers formal consultation process

revised 1/21/04