



**F. Correspondence with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and
US Fish and Wildlife Service**

For

Williams Creek Generating Station



September 28, 2026

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Southeast Regional Office
4255 Sinton Rd
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

**RE: Environmental Review and Consultation Request
Williams Creek Generating Station
El Paso County, CO**

To Whom It May Concern:

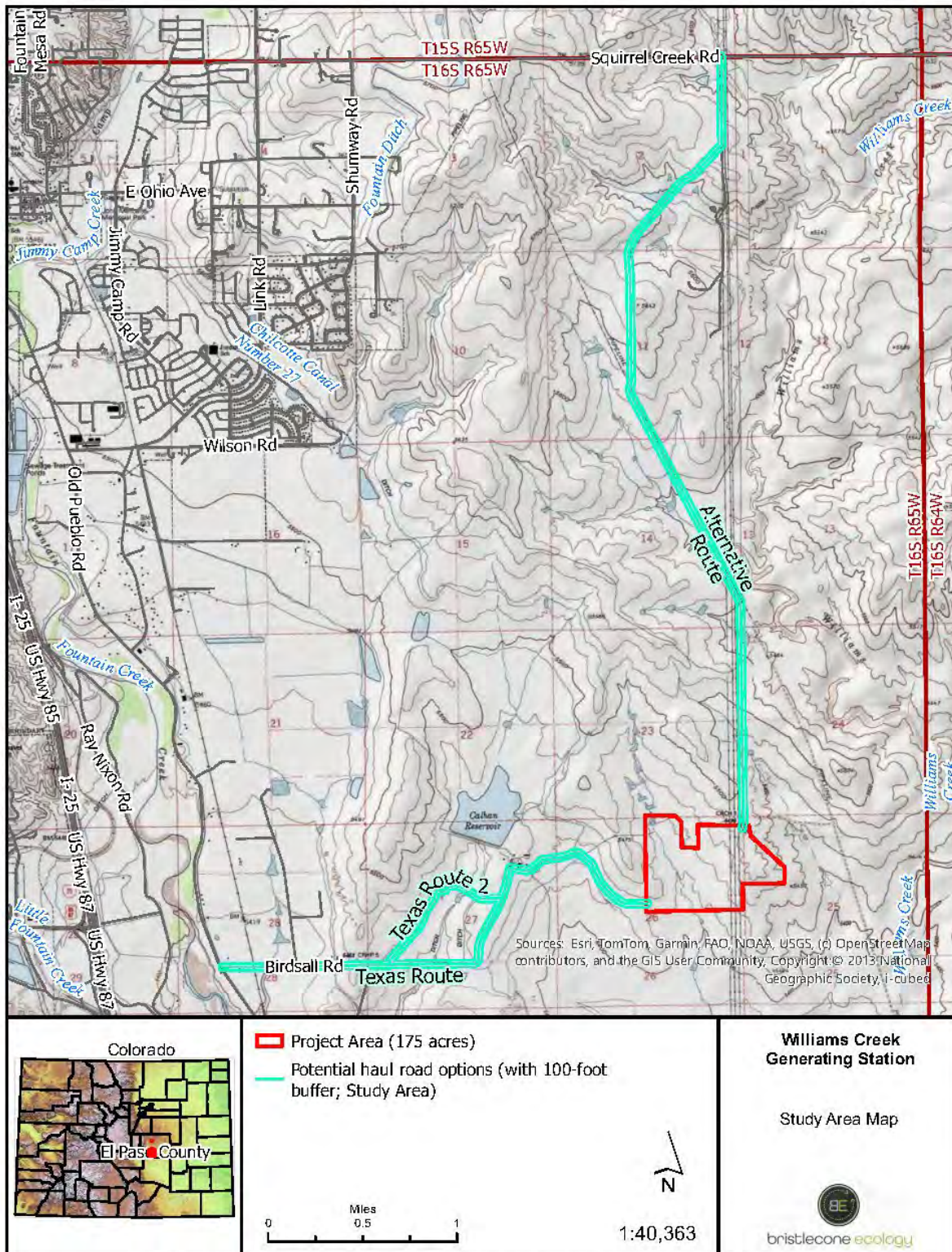
On August 9th, 2026, Bristlecone Ecology, LLC (B.E.) completed a development review and environmental survey of the proposed Williams Creek Generating Station (“Project”) in El Paso County, Colorado. In accordance with 4 CCR 723-3-3668, B.E. is requesting consultation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to ensure that the Project is developed in accordance with state renewable energy standards and regulations. The environmental standards at 4 CCR 723-3-3668(c), which describe the conditions of commercial operation of energy resources larger than two megawatts (MW), require site specific wildlife surveys (“Environmental Surveys”) and submission of a summary report to CPW. This letter describes the Project, the Environmental Surveys that have been conducted, and the management plans of the Project to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate adverse environmental impacts to:

- state and federally listed species
- species of special concern,
- migratory birds,
- critical habitat,
- important ecosystems,
- and areas where birds and other wildlife are highly concentrated and are considered at risk.

Colorado Springs Utilities (“CSU” or “Proponent”) is planning to construct a generating station (“Project”), north of Irradiance Drive and east of Calhan Reservoir in El Paso County, Colorado (**Figure 1: Site Location Map**). The Project will occur on approximately 175 acres within El Paso County Parcel No. 5600000123. The Project will consist of the construction of a generating station control building, wastewater treatment facility, substation and tie-in, and associated facilities and infrastructure (storm water control, roads, site security, fence, etc.). The Project will also require improvements to existing roadways for a haul route. Because Section 9 restrictions always apply for listed species, B.E. has reviewed the site for potential habitat that could support listed species as identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation portal (IPaC).

Following review of the site, Bristlecone Ecology, LLC (“B.E.”) has prepared this request for technical assistance for listed species with the potential to be affected by the proposed Project. The proposed design for the Project is attached for reference (**Attachment A: Preliminary Site Plan**). Supporting information is provided in the following sections, including a description of the Project and anticipated environmental impact area (EIA) for federally listed species, state listed species, species of concern, and other wildlife concentrated at the site, and their respective habitats.

Figure 1. Site Location Map



9/25/2026 D:\Data\GIS\Projects\Project Folders\26_011_WilliamsCreekGeneratingStation\26_011_WilliamsCreekGeneratingStation\26_011_WilliamsCreekGeneratingStation.aprx

Federally Listed Species Reviewed

B.E. reviewed the official species list of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species/critical habitat provided by the USFWS' IPaC tool (ECOSphere Project Code: 2026-0131207; **Attachment B: Official IPaC Resource List**). IPaC identified six species as having the potential to occur at the site or be affected by development of the site. One of these species – piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) – is listed under a conditional effects analysis and only needs to be considered if a project will involve water depletions in the N. Platte, S. Platte, or Laramie River basins. The Project is located in the Upper Arkansas River basin and thus will not affect this species. Another species – Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) – is listed as federally threatened and needs to be taken into consideration if the site has a perennial flowing water source. The four remaining species listed in the IPaC query were the federally threatened Eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis* ssp. *jamaicensis*), and Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis* or ULTO); and two species proposed for listing as threatened and endangered, respectively – monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) and Suckley's cuckoo bumblebee (*Bombus suckleyi*). Each species is discussed individually in the table below (**Table 1**). Those species potentially affected or those requiring additional information are discussed in detail below.

Table 1. Federally Listed T&E Species Potentially Impacted by the Project (USFWS 2026a)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Requirements and Likelihood of Impacts	Federal Status ¹
Insects (cont.)			
Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus suckleyi</i>	Suckley's cuckoo bumblebee is a social parasite that relies entirely on other species of bumblebees as hosts. The last confirmed sighting in the U.S. was in 2016 in Oregon (USFWS 2026a). May be found anywhere robust bumblebee colonies are present. While there are no requirements until a listing decision is made, due diligence is encouraged. Likelihood of impacts: Very unlikely; site development is unlikely to affect bumblebee host colonies.	PE
Mammals			
Preble's meadow jumping mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>	Inhabits well-developed riparian corridors with a nearby water source and adjacent, relatively undisturbed grassland communities. Riparian habitat includes a dense combination of grasses, forbs, and shrubs; a taller shrub and tree canopy may be present. Has been found to regularly use uplands at least as far as 100 meters beyond the 100-year floodplain. Likelihood of impacts: None. There is no suitable habitat for this species as the site does not contain a perennial water source or riparian corridor.	FT

¹FE= Federally Endangered; FT=Federally Threatened; ST=State Threatened; C=Candidate for Listing; PT= Proposed Threatened; PE=Proposed Endangered

Table 1. Federally Listed T&E Species Potentially Impacted by the Project (USFWS 2026a)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Requirements and Likelihood of Impacts	Federal Status ¹
Birds			
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Listed under a conditional effects analysis for water depletions in the N. Platte, S. Platte and Laramie River Basins, which may affect listed species in Nebraska. Likelihood of impacts: None; the Project is located in the Arkansas River Basin.	FT
Eastern black rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i> ssp. <i>jamaicensis</i>	Subspecies of black rail that occurs east of the Rocky Mountains in North America. Black rails are small, cryptic marsh/wetland specialists, and depend entirely upon these habitats to support their resource needs. Requires dense overhead cover (usually cattails [<i>Typha</i> spp.] or bulrushes [<i>Schoenoplectus</i> / <i>Scirpus</i> spp.]) and moist to saturated soils. Eastern black rails have been expanding their range in Colorado. Likelihood of impacts: Unlikely if Project is designed to avoid marshes along the haul route. There is no suitable habitat available onsite for Eastern black rail. There is, however, limited marsh habitat available south of Calhan Reservoir that may support the species. Should impacts to this marsh occur during the construction of the haul road, impacts could be possible. If avoided, impacts are very unlikely.	FT
Flowering Plants			
Ute ladies'-tresses orchid	<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Primarily occurs along seasonally flooded river terraces, sub-irrigated or spring-fed abandoned stream channels, and lakeshores. May also occur along irrigation canals, berms, levees, irrigated meadows, gravel pits, borrow pits, and other human-modified wetlands. There are no known populations in El Paso County and there are no suitable habitats on the site. Likelihood of impacts: Unlikely, there are no known populations in EPC and there is no suitable habitat for the species on the site. Wet areas along the haul route options are marshy and generally not viable habitat. In addition, this species has been proposed for delisting and the USFWS is finalizing their decision to delist.	FT
Insects			
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch butterflies require milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.) as a host plant. Caterpillars consume the plant, and adults lay their eggs on milkweed. Monarch butterfly is a Proposed Threatened species for listing under the ESA. While there are no requirements until a listing decision is made, a 4(d) Rule has been proposed and due diligence is encouraged. Likelihood of impacts: Possible, there were milkweed plants observed on the site. This species is discussed further below.	PT

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Eastern black rail

Eastern black rail requires dense wetland vegetation, typically cattails and bulrushes, that allow for concealed movement under the canopy (USFWS, n.d.). Black rails less often inhabit shrub-scrub wetlands, as there is a lower ability for the species to move on the ground below the canopy (USFWS, n.d.). In Colorado, this species most often uses shallow wetlands dominated by cattail (*Typha spp.*), hardstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*), and soft-stemmed bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*), and only occurs in wetlands with standing water (USFWS, n.d.). There is no Designated Critical Habitat for the species.

At the Project site, there is no suitable habitat for black rails. The site is entirely composed of high plains grasslands; there are no riparian or wetland ecosystems, nor a perennial water source or any standing water. There is, however, suitable marsh habitat for Eastern black rail along Birdsall Road, where one haul route alignment is proposed. There is a wetland complex associated with the outlet of the Calhan Reservoir, which is located to the northwest of the Project site, that supports vegetation and hydrologic conditions suitable for Eastern black rail. There is a wetland located just north of Birdsall Road that is dominated by narrowleaf cattails (*Typha angustifolia*) and is within the larger wetland complex associated with Calhan Reservoir. Additionally, during the site survey, a Virginia rail (*Rallus limicola*), which utilizes similar, though slightly wetter habitat to Eastern black rail, was detected in these wetlands. Construction of the Project and the haul road have been recommended to avoid this wetland area completely, instead expanding the roadway to the south where no marshes exist. Thus, impacts to this species are unlikely as long as the proposed haul road design avoids impacts to marsh wetlands.

Monarch butterfly

Monarch butterflies inhabit a wide range of habitats, such as roadsides, urban gardens, and open areas. They require milkweed species for reproduction, as the caterpillars can only eat species of this genus (USFWS, 2025). The adults feed on the nectar of many species of flowering plants. There is no Designated Critical Habitat for the species, and the species is a Proposed Threatened species. Because the species is Proposed for listing, they are not protected by the take prohibitions of Section 9, consistent with any protective regulations finalized under section 4(d) of the ESA, until the rule to list is finalized. There are a few milkweed plants present within the Project area and along the proposed haul routes. Thus, impacts to this species are possible, though unlikely. Constructing outside of the reproduction season (March – August) would avoid any direct impacts to Monarch butterflies that could be using these plants.

State Listed Species Reviewed

The Project site provides habitat for some grassland wildlife, including birds, mammals, and reptiles. Haul route options may provide some low-to-moderate quality wetland habitat for additional wildlife. Development of the site would inevitably affect some wildlife habitat. Those species that could be affected were identified first by referencing CPW's Species Activity Mapping (SAM) spatial data to assess the likelihood of occurrence for state T&E species, state species of concern (SC), and other general wildlife, including big game species (CPW 2023). The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (2024) also provides species status data from tracked natural animal and plant communities in the state. The review indicated that there is potential for the occurrence of 13 mammals, 18 reptiles, and 19 birds, including one SC mammal, one state and federally threatened mammal, and one state threatened bird (**Table 2: SAM Wildlife Potential for Occurrence**).

Table 2. SAM Wildlife Potential for Occurrence (CPW 2023; CNHP 2024)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Type of Occurrence	Status ^{1,2}
Mammals			
Big brown bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Overall range	n/a
Black-tailed prairie dog	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	Overall range	SC, S3
Hoary bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Overall range	n/a
Little brown myotis	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Overall range	n/a
Mountain lion	<i>Puma concolor</i>	Overall range Peripheral range	n/a
Mule deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Overall range	n/a
Olive-backed pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus fasciatus</i>	Overall range	G5, S3
Preble's meadow jumping mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>	Overall range	FT, ST
Pronghorn	<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	Overall range	n/a
Red bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	Overall range	G3G4, S2S3B
Silver-haired bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Overall range	n/a
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Overall range	n/a
White-tailed jackrabbit	<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	Overall range	n/a
Reptiles and Amphibians			
Bullsnake	<i>Pituophis catenifer sayi</i>	Overall range	n/a
Coachwhip	<i>Masticophis flagellum</i>	Overall range	n/a
Common lesser earless lizard	<i>Holbrookia maculata</i>	Overall range	n/a
Hernandez short-horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma hernadesi</i>	Overall range	n/a
Milksnake	<i>Lampropeltis elapsoides</i>	Overall range	n/a
North American racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Overall range	n/a
Ornate box turtle	<i>Terrapene ornata ornata</i>	Overall range	n/a
Prairie lizard	<i>Sceloporus consobrinus</i>	Overall range	n/a
Prairie rattlesnake*	<i>Crotalus viridis</i>	Overall range	n/a
Plateau fence lizard	<i>Sceloporus tristichus</i>	Overall range	n/a
Plains gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis radix</i>	Overall range	n/a
Plains hog-nosed snake	<i>Heterodon nasicus</i>	Overall range	G5, S4
Six-lined Racerunner	<i>Aspidoscelis sexlineata</i>	Overall range	n/a
Smooth greensnake	<i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>	Overall range	n/a
Snapping turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	Overall range	n/a
Terrestrial garter snake	<i>Thamnophis elegance</i>	Overall range	n/a
Variable skink / many lined skink	<i>Plestiodon multivirgatus</i>	Overall range	n/a
Western rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus oreganus</i>	Overall range	n/a

¹FT=Federally Threatened; ST=State Threatened; SC=State Species of Concern; BGEPa=Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

²State (S) or Global (G) CNHP Status: 1=Critically Imperiled; 2=Imperiled; 3=Vulnerable; 4=Apparently Secure, but Cause for Long Term Concern; 5=Demonstrably Secure; B=Breeding; N=Non-breeding

*Species observed during the site visit are shown in bold

Table 2 (cont.). SAM Wildlife Potential for Occurrence (CPW 2023; CNHP 2024)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Type of Occurrence	Status ^{1,2}
Birds			
Brewer's sparrow*	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	Breeding range	S4B
Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Breeding range	ST
Cassin's sparrow	<i>Peucaea cassinii</i>	Breeding range	n/a
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Breeding and Winter range	n/a
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Breeding range	BGEPA, S3S4B
Grasshopper sparrow*	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Breeding range	S3S4B
Lark bunting	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>	Breeding range	S4
Lazuli bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>	Breeding range	S5B
Lewis' woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Breeding range	G4S4
McCown longspur	<i>Rhynchophanes mccownii</i>	Breeding range	G4, S2B
Mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Breeding range	G3, S2B, SC
Northern harrier*	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	Breeding range	S3B
Prairie falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Breeding range	S4B, S4N
Rufous hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	Migration range	n/a
Sandhill crane	<i>Antigone canadensis tabida</i>	Breeding range	G5T5, S2B, S4N
Scaled quail	<i>Callipepla squamata</i>	Breeding range	G5, S4
Swainson's hawk*	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Breeding range	S5B
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Breeding range	G5, S3B
Virginia's warbler	<i>Leiothlypis virginiae</i>	Breeding range	n/a

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²State (S) or Global (G) CNHP Status: 1=Critically Imperiled; 2=Imperiled; 3=Vulnerable; 4=Apparently Secure, but Cause for Long Term Concern; 5=Demonstrably Secure; B=Breeding; N=Non-breeding

*Species observed during the site visit are shown in bold

In general, sensitive wildlife species and Colorado SC do not receive statutory protections. Some of the species listed in the SAM data have additional designations that may afford them additional protections. The Project area does not intersect with big game migratory routes, though it does intersect with overall and peripheral range for mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), and overall range for mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*; CPW 2023). The Project area is within the overall range for black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*), which is a Colorado SC, and whose colonies can provide nesting habitat for the state threatened burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). The Project area is within the breeding range of burrowing owls, as well as the overall range for the state and federally threatened Preble's meadow jumping mouse (CPW 2023).

Following the review of the SAM data, a site reconnaissance was performed to field-verify the information provided in the data and to conduct a general wildlife survey. The proposed development may have varying impacts on wildlife depending on habitat quality across the site. The majority of the site is composed of undisturbed grasslands, which provides fairly uniform, moderate quality upland habitat.

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In terms of sensitive species, some of the species listed in the SAM data are likely to occur on the site, though only five of the species listed were observed. The majority are either not expected to occur or may occur only infrequently based on available habitat. Prairie rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*), Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), and Northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*) were the only sensitive species for which CPW has mapped ranges that were observed in the Project area. Other species such as mule deer, white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), common lesser earless lizard (*Holbrookia maculata*), plains garter snake (*Thamnophis radix*), prairie lizard (*Sceloporus consobrinus*), and lark bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), are species in the SAM data that could reasonably be expected to occur on-site in the appropriate seasons in the available habitat.

Golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), which nest mostly on cliffs in mountainous areas, and bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), which are typically associated with large bodies of water, receive federal protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). Golden eagles may occasionally nest in large trees (primarily cottonwoods) on Colorado's Eastern Plains. There are no cliffs or large cottonwoods within the Project area, though there is a line of roadside cottonwoods within the Study Area, near the wetlands south of Calhan Reservoir along the Texas Route. These trees were surveyed for raptor nests, and the only potential nest site was a cavity that could support American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). The closest body of water within the vicinity of the site is Calhan Reservoir, but it is unlikely that bald eagles would occur within the Project area except accidentally. Raptor species may utilize the site for hunting. Northern harrier, a ground-nesting raptor species which was observed during the site visit, could nest in the wetlands south of Calhan Reservoir. No nests were observed within the main Project area, and no other nests were observed in any of the trees on or surrounding the site during the site visit.

The Project area may also provide habitat for additional wildlife not listed in CPW's sensitive species list. Mammals, including rodents, ungulates, and carnivores likely utilize the site. No mammals were observed during the site reconnaissance, but mammal species may be expected to occur, including coyotes (*Canis latrans*), pronghorn, gray foxes (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), and small fossorial mammals (*Geomidae* family).

No prairie dog (*Cynomys* spp.) colonies were present within the Project area, and no other burrows or dens were observed that would suggest nesting or roosting habitat for the state threatened burrowing owls. The Project area is within burrowing owl breeding range, and thus, burrowing owls could migrate through the area. However, the lack of nesting and roosting resources suggest burrowing owls are unlikely to use the site even in migration. The Project area does not have any suitable habitat for the state and federally threatened Preble's meadow jumping mouse, thus impacts to the species are not likely.

Several species of migratory birds were observed during the site visit, including horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), vesper sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*), orchard oriole (*Icterus spurius*), lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and American robin (*Turdus migratorius*). These species all have the potential to breed on or use the Project site regularly. Additional non-breeding migratory bird species observed during the site visit included Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), clay-colored sparrow (*Spizella pallida*), and Wilson's warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*).



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No amphibians were observed during the survey, and it is unlikely any would occur except in the vicinity of W1, W2, and W3, which may support small open water areas within them where amphibian breeding could occur.

Conclusions

After considering the effects of the proposed activity within the anticipated EIA, a qualified ecologist with B.E. has determined that species warranting protection under the ESA are unlikely to occur on the site and that any direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on listed species and their habitats can be avoided entirely or kept to a negligible level through Project design and avoidance, minimization, or mitigation (AMM). There is no suitable habitat for any of the federally listed species identified in the IPaC data, including Eastern black rails, ULTO, monarch butterflies, Suckley's cuckoo bumblebees, and Preble's meadow jumping mouse, within this Project area, other than the proposed threatened species, monarch butterfly. Proposed threatened species are not protected by the take prohibitions of section 9, consistent with any protective regulations finalized under section 4(d) of the ESA, until the rule to list is finalized.

There is limited suitable habitat for Eastern black rail along the haul road, however. Impacts are not expected as long as the marsh wetlands along the route are avoided. Therefore, no impacts to any federally listed species are anticipated from site development. B.E. has requested concurrence from the USFWS that site development is 'not reasonably certain to affect' listed species.

B.E. also assessed the Project site for potential habitat to support state-listed and state sensitive species, as identified in the SAM data. There is suitable habitat for some of the species listed in the SAM data, though sensitive species are not expected to be impacted more than any other species. Some wildlife will inevitably be affected by development of the Project. Open, undisturbed grasslands are expected to be reduced overall, and no open space areas or tree plantings are planned as part of the Project. Since grasslands are the dominant habitat type, grassland species are expected to experience the greatest adverse impacts. Deer, foxes, bears, and coyotes may experience adverse effects from the increase in development in close proximity to wildland areas. State SC black-tailed prairie dogs were not present, and thus the state-threatened burrowing owl is also not anticipated to be present on the Project site. There was no habitat present for the state-threatened Preble's meadow jumping mouse or the state SC mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*).

Recommendations

B.E. assessed the Project site for potential habitat to support state and federally listed threatened and endangered species, state species of concern, state sensitive species, and other wildlife species that may be using the site. The following recommendations have been made to ensure that the Project has developed the design, construction plans, and management plans to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate adverse environmental impacts to these species to the greatest extent practicable.

B.E. recommends vegetation clearing/grubbing/grading of the site occur outside of the nesting season (March 15th to July 31st) to avoid disturbing nesting migratory birds. If such timing restrictions are not possible, B.E. recommends conducting a nesting migratory bird survey during the nesting season to ensure impacts to nesting birds do not occur. In particular, ground-nesting songbirds are expected to use the available grasslands at the site and surveys should be conducted to avoid disturbance.



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There is potential for other wildlife to occur within the site. However, no big game migratory routes traverse the Project. The most likely game animals to be present are pronghorn and possibly mule deer.

In terms of construction recommendations, the Project may include security fencing, which should follow the recommendations in CPW's *Fencing with Wildlife in Mind*, which includes the use of a smooth top of the fence (i.e. no barbed wire or exposed metal rods) to prevent wildlife from impaling themselves (Hanophy, 2009). Additionally, the facility should be checked regularly for fenced in animals if wildlife exclusion fencing is installed (Hanophy, 2009). Security lighting should be designed to minimize light pollution and reduce impacts to wildlife, particularly migratory birds and bats that may be attracted to lights at night. As much as possible, lights should be concealed or shielded to reduce collisions. Transmission lines are recommended to follow existing infrastructure corridors whenever possible to minimize habitat fragmentation, though some new lines will need to be constructed for the Project.

Overall, B.E.'s desktop review, development review, and on-site environmental survey concluded that development of the Project is unlikely to significantly affect any state or federally listed threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, state species of concern, state sensitive species, or their respective habitats. Recommendations have been made that will reduce impacts, and the Project design will include AMM to ensure that impacts to wildlife are minimized. B.E. solicits input from CPW on the recommendations provided here and requests additional recommendations and input on how to reduce impacts and make the Project as friendly to wildlife as practicable. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Bristlecone Ecology, LLC

Daniel Maynard
Owner/Ecologist

References

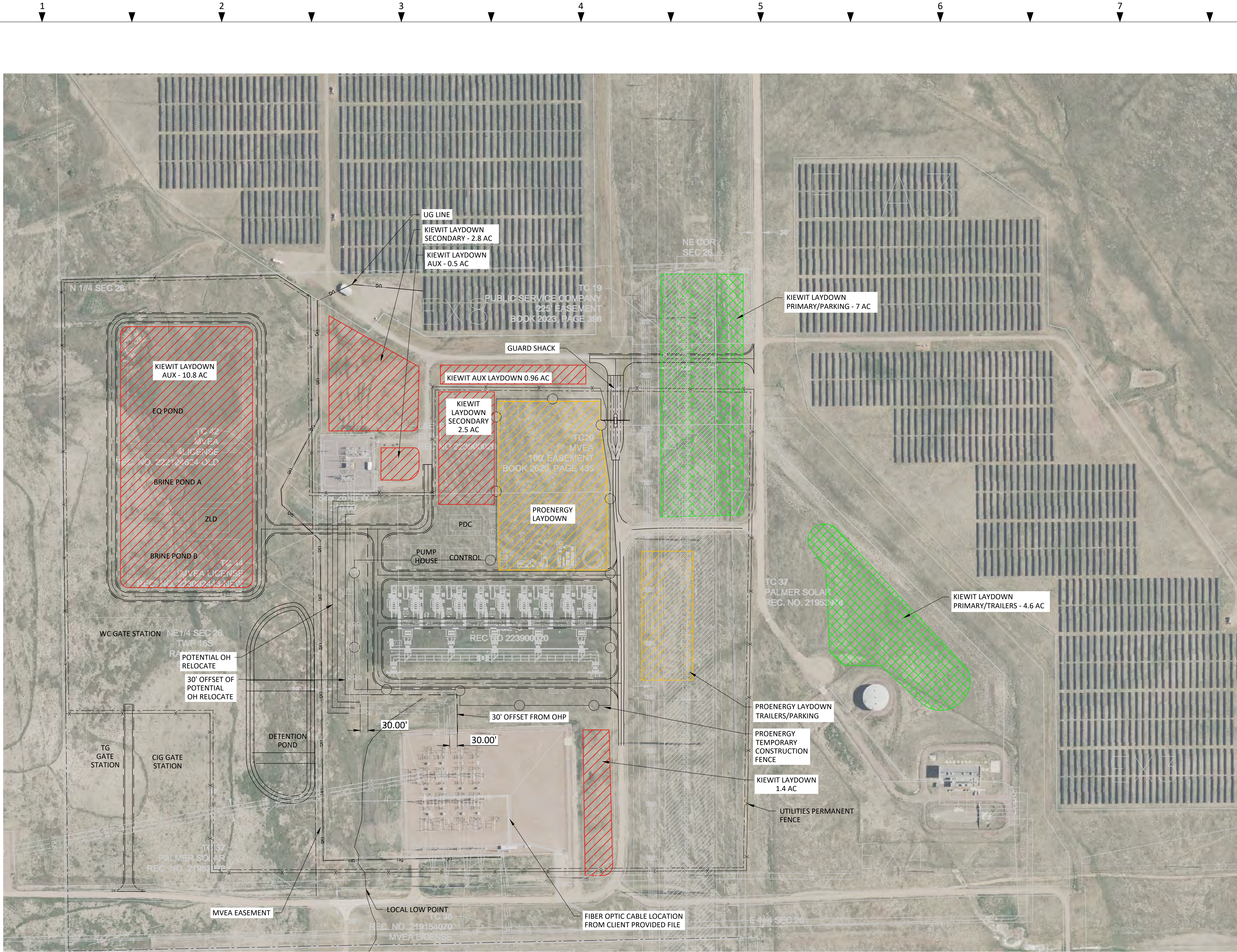
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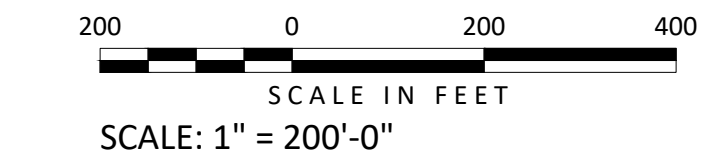
Environmental Review and Consultation Request
Williams Creek Generating Station
El Paso County, Colorado

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ATTACHMENT A:
PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN



- NOTES:
1. THE LOCATIONS OF UTILITIES DEPICTED ARE APPROXIMATE AND HAVE BEEN COMPILED FROM EXISTING RECORDS. NO GUARANTEE IS MADE AS TO THEIR ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS. FIELD VERIFICATION IS REQUIRED.



- PRELIMINARY -
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

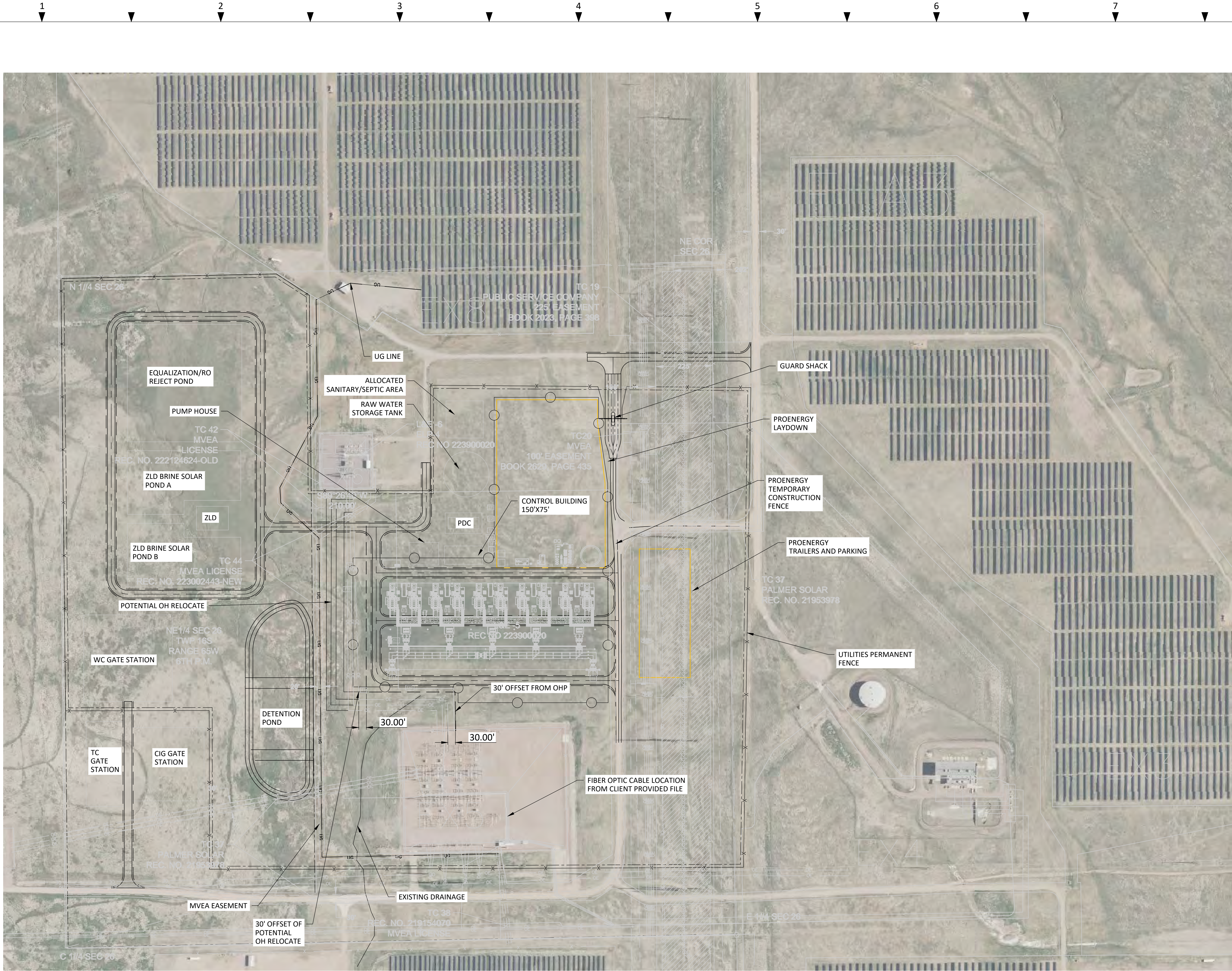
OPEN	CONCEPTUAL EXHIBIT		
REV	R. GROTANS	J. ROWLAND	07-10-26
	DESIGN BY	CHECKED BY	DATE

COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES
WILLIAMS CREEK

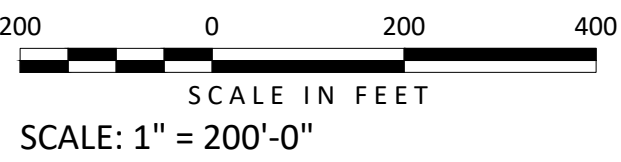


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CIVIL LAYDOWN EXHIBIT		
ENGINEER/DESIGN ORIGINATOR	R. GROTANS	DRAWING NUMBER
LEAD ENG	J. ROWLAND	EXH-CIV-LD-001
ENG MGR	D. DUBOSE	
PROJ MGR	T. ROARK	



- NOTES:
- THE LOCATIONS OF UTILITIES DEPICTED ARE APPROXIMATE AND HAVE BEEN COMPILED FROM EXISTING RECORDS. NO GUARANTEE IS MADE AS TO THEIR ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS. FIELD VERIFICATION IS REQUIRED.



- PRELIMINARY -
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

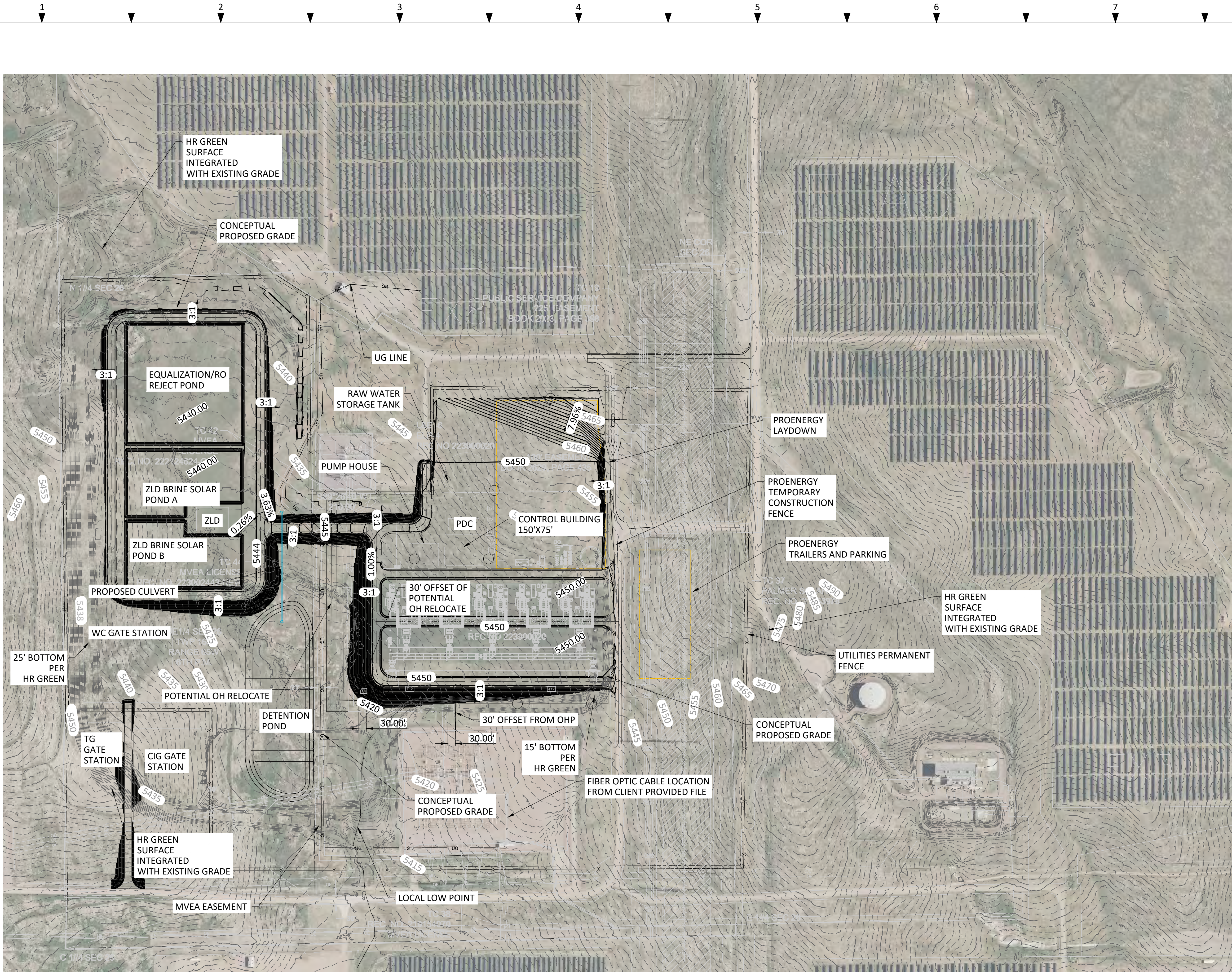
OPEN	CONCEPTUAL EXHIBIT		
	R. GROTHANS	J. ROWLAND	07-10-26
REV	DESIGN BY	CHECKED BY	DATE

COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES
WILLIAMS CREEK

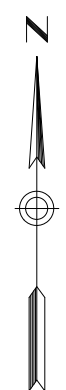
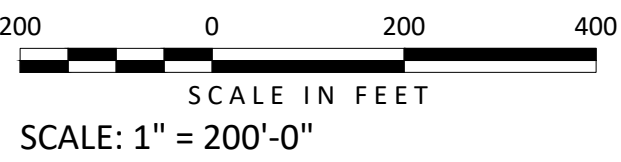


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CIVIL SITE EXHIBIT		
ENGINEER/DESIGN ORIGINATOR	R. GROTHANS	DRAWING NUMBER
LEAD ENG	J. ROWLAND	EXH-CIV-SITE-001
ENG MGR	D. DUBOSE	
PROJ MGR	T. ROARK	



- NOTES:
1. THE LOCATIONS OF UTILITIES DEPICTED ARE APPROXIMATE AND HAVE BEEN COMPILED FROM EXISTING RECORDS. NO GUARANTEE IS MADE AS TO THEIR ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS. FIELD VERIFICATION IS REQUIRED.



- PRELIMINARY -
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

OPEN	CONCEPTUAL EXHIBIT		
REV	R. GROTHANS DESIGN BY	J. ROWLAND CHECKED BY	07-10-26 DATE

COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES
WILLIAMS CREEK



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CIVIL TOPO EXHIBIT

ENGINEER/DESIGN ORIGINATOR	R. GROTHANS	DRAWING NUMBER
LEAD ENG	J. ROWLAND	EXH-CIV-TOP-001
ENG MGR	D. DUBOSE	
PROJ MGR	T. ROARK	



Environmental Review and Consultation Request
Williams Creek Generating Station
El Paso County, Colorado

September 28, 2026

ATTACHMENT B:
OFFICIAL IPAC RESOURCE LIST



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25486
Denver, CO 80225-0486
Phone: (303) 236-4773 Fax: (303) 236-4005



In Reply Refer To:

08/12/2026 21:42:09 UTC

Project Code: 2026-0131207

Project Name: Williams Creek Generating Station

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to these species or critical habitats ([Colorado Ecological Services Field Office](#)). Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. We recommend verification be completed by visiting the [IPaC](#) website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the [IPaC](#) system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the ESA and its implementing regulations ([50 CFR 402](#)), Federal agencies are required to use their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation like a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends Federal agencies also address proposed species and proposed critical habitat within the consultation (see Conferencing below) and consider candidate species. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at: <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>.

Projects and activities without a Federal nexus (e.g., without Federal funding, permit, or authorization) should be evaluated for the potential to "take" listed wildlife. Take does not apply to listed plants and to designated critical habitat. The term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct ([ESA Section 3, Definitions](#)). Harm in the definition of "take" in the ESA means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering ([50 CFR 17.3](#)).

Conferencing: Conferencing for species proposed for Federal listing or for proposed critical habitat is only required if a proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a species or will result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (50 CFR 402.10). If an action agency determines that their action would not jeopardize the continued existence of the proposed species and/or would not result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat, the determination should be saved in the agency's project record. Agencies may request a voluntary conference to address adverse effects; however, at this time the Colorado Field Office intends to not conduct voluntary conferences for the species discussed in this cover letter.

For purposes of ESA section 7 consultation, we treat experimental populations (e.g., gray wolf in Colorado) as if they are proposed for listing, except on National Park Service and National Wildlife Refuge system lands, where they are treated as threatened. Evaluations for proposed species are completed under the regulations for conferencing ([50 CFR 402.10](#)).

Gray Wolf: On November 8, 2023, the Service promulgated an ESA section 10(j) (i.e., nonessential experimental population or NEP) rule (10(j) rule) for gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) within the State of Colorado ([88 FR 77014](#)). In the 10(j) rule, the Service determined that the loss of the Colorado NEP would not be likely to appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival of the species in the wild and that the establishment of the NEP would benefit recovery by increasing redundancy and representation. Furthermore, it is unlikely that typical agency actions in Colorado, especially those with temporary impacts to habitat, will result in any adverse effects to the gray wolf. Agencies may consider implementing voluntary conservation measures near active dens and rendezvous sites. See Conferencing above.

Colorado River Fish, Platte River Species, & Depletions: Formal interagency consultation under section 7 of the ESA is required for projects that may lead to depletions of water from any system that is a tributary to the Colorado River. Federal agency actions resulting in water depletions to the Colorado River system may affect the endangered bonytail (*Gila elegans*), Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), and the threatened humpback chub (*Gila cypha*), and their designated critical habitats. Similarly, formal consultation is required for projects that may lead to depletions of water from the Platte River, affecting the endangered pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), threatened western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*) the endangered whooping crane (*Grus americana*), and the whooping crane's designated critical habitat. Additional information on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program is available here: <https://www.fws.gov/media/federal-depletions-plan-platte-river-recovery-implementation-program>.

Water depletions include evaporative losses and consumptive use of surface or groundwater within the affected basin, often characterized as diversions minus return flows. Project elements that could be associated with depletions include, but are not limited to: ponds, lakes, and reservoirs (e.g., detention, recreation, irrigation, storage, stock watering, municipal storage, and power generation); drilling, hydraulic fracturing and completion of oil and gas wells; hydrostatic testing of pipelines; water wells; dust abatement; diversion structures; and water treatment facilities. Any actions that may result in water depletions should be identified. An analysis of the water depletion should include: an estimate of the amount and timing of the average annual water use (both historic and new uses) and methods of arriving at such estimates; location of water use or where diversion occurs, as specifically as possible; if and when the water will be returned to the system; and the intended use of the water. Depending on Project details, the Service may have more specific questions regarding the potential consumptive use of the water.

The Service, in accordance with the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (<https://coloradoriverrecovery.org/uc/>), adopted a [de minimis policy](#), which states that water-related activities in the Upper Colorado River Basin that result in less than 10 acre-foot per year of depletions in flow have no effect on the Colorado River endangered fish species and their critical habitat, and thus do not require consultation for potential effects on those species and critical habitat. While no section 7 consultation is needed, the Service requests Federal agencies notify the Upper Colorado Fishes Coordinator of depletions between 0.1 and 10 acre-feet per year with the approximate location of the project (e.g., reference to the most proximate surface water or tributary), the water use (e.g., agricultural, oil and gas, energy), and the timing of and depletion amount. Similarly, detention basins designed to detain runoff for less than 72 hours, and temporary withdrawals of water outside of critical habitat (e.g., for hydrostatic pipeline testing) that return all the water to the same drainage basin within 30 days, are considered to have no effect and do not require consultation.

Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee: On December 17, 2024, Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*) (Suckley's) was proposed for listing as an endangered species (89 FR 102074). Suckley's is an obligate social parasite of social bumble bees in the genus *Bombus*. Suckley's cannot successfully reproduce without the availability of suitable host colonies. It is a semi-specialist parasite and confirmed to usurp nests of Western bumble bee (*Bombus*

occidentalis) and Nevada bumble bees (*Bombus nevadensis*) (Service 2024). Based on the best available information, no Suckley's have been observed in Colorado since 2014 despite ongoing surveys. The Species Status Assessment (SSA) shows observations since 2018 occur only in northern latitudes, primarily in Canada ([Service 2024](#)), but the species may persist in high quality upper elevation habitats in western States.

While Suckley's is proposed for listing, there is no prohibition of "take" under Section 9 of the ESA; therefore, projects without a federal nexus, do not need to engage with the Service to exempt take under the ESA. However, we encourage everyone to incorporate conservation measures benefiting pollinators and pollinator habitat into projects. Examples include retaining suitable foraging (diversity and abundance of native floral resources), nesting (suitable host colony above or below ground), and overwintering habitat (loose substrates such as leaf litter, duff, rotting logs); maintaining habitat for host bumble bees by avoiding impacts to abandoned underground holes (rodent burrows); and revegetation efforts that include native seed mixes with a diversity of nectar plants (<https://www.xerces.org/monarchs/monarch-nectar-plant-guides>) to promote an abundance and diversity of native floral resources. Additionally, we recommend supporting and conducting general bumble bee and pollinator surveys. You may also consider tools that offer regulatory assurances should Suckley's become a listed species. For example, on January 22, 2026, the Service [Proposed a Nationwide Conservation Benefit Agreement for Bumble Bees](#).

At this time, the Colorado Field Office will not be participating in voluntary conferences for the species. Nationally, the Service is developing range-wide consultation guidance and streamlining tools for the Suckley's, and we will share these as they become available.

Monarch Butterfly: The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) was proposed threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on December 12, 2024 (89 FR 100662). The proposed listing rule, including a special 4(d) rule, and proposed critical habitat in the California winter range, are available on the species webpage: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743> and at <https://www.fws.gov/species/monarch-danaus-plexippus>. Two monarch butterfly populations occupy North America – the eastern population which is east of the Rocky Mountains, and the western population which is west of the Rocky Mountains. The eastern population supports well over 90% of the monarchs in North America. Colorado supports both populations. In Colorado, monarch butterfly habitat consists of grasslands, prairies, riparian areas, and urban gardens that support milkweed and a variety of nectar plants. We recommend agencies include proactive conservation measures into their projects such as restoring disturbed areas with local seed mixes with a diversity of nectar plants (<http://www.xerces.org/monarch-nectar-plants/>) and evaluating the full impact of their action (including conservation measures) when considering whether their project will jeopardize the species.

While the monarch butterfly is proposed for listing, there is no prohibition of "take" under Section 9 of the ESA; therefore, projects without a federal nexus, do not need to engage with the Service to exempt take under the ESA. However, we encourage everyone to include conservation measures to benefit monarch butterflies and other pollinators into projects. You may also consider tools that offer regulatory assurances should the monarch become a listed species such

as Conservation Benefit Agreements (CBAs), or you may qualify to enroll into the [Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Monarch Butterfly](#).

At this time, the Colorado Field Office will not be participating in voluntary conferences for the species. It is unlikely that typical localized actions in Colorado, especially those with temporary impacts in migratory or breeding habitat, will jeopardize the species. Nationally, the Service continues to develop range-wide consultation guidance and streamlining tools for the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators.

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the ESA, there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the ESA. Please include the Consultation Code found in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office at ColoradoES@fws.gov.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds

- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Colorado Ecological Services Field Office

Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25486
Denver, CO 80225-0486
(303) 236-4773

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2026-0131207
Project Name: Williams Creek Generating Station
Project Type: Power Gen - Other
Project Description: Power generation station
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@38.630180949999996,-104.6296701840619,14z>



Counties: El Paso County, Colorado

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 1 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Preble's meadow jumping mouse <i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4090 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/XJNQWM5B2NGUFMWCLWXVUG22KY/documents/generated/10776.pdf	Threatened

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/XJNQWM5B2NGUFMWCLWXVUG22KY/documents/generated/10809.pdf	Threatened
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: Project includes water-related activities and/or use in the N. Platte, S. Platte, and Laramie River Basins which may affect listed species in Nebraska. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/XJNQWM5B2NGUFMWCLWXVUG22KY/documents/generated/10810.pdf	Proposed Threatened
Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee <i>Bombus suckleyi</i> Population: No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10885	Proposed Endangered

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Ute ladies'-tresses <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Threatened

NAME	STATUS
No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2159 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/XJNQWM5B2NGUFMWCLWXVUG22KY/documents/generated/10712.pdf	

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

-
1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Oct 15 to Jul 31
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#), specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

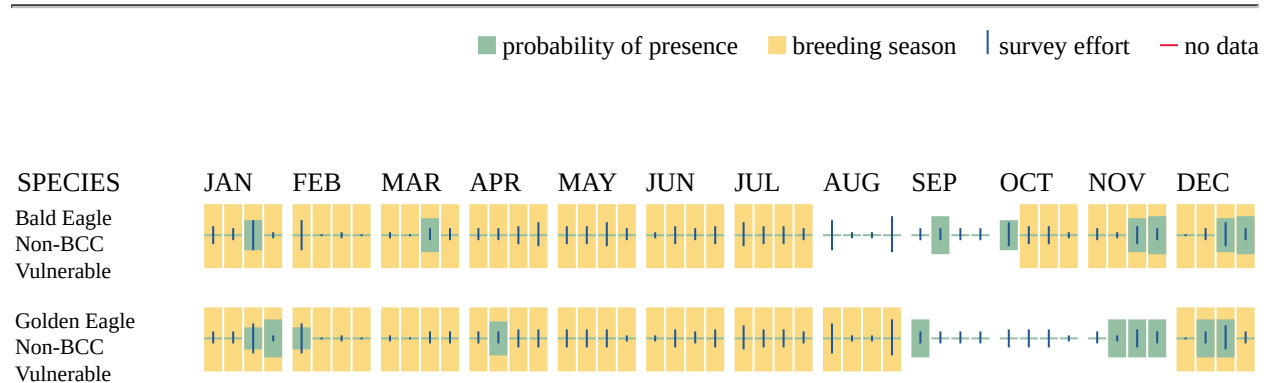
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

-
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Oct 15 to Jul 31
Broad-tailed Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus platycercus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11935	Breeds May 25 to Aug 21
Chestnut-collared Longspur <i>Calcarius ornatus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9437	Breeds May 1 to Aug 10
Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Ferruginous Hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6038	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 15
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8329	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 20
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere
Lewis's Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9408	Breeds Apr 20 to Sep 30

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Long-billed Curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5511	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
Long-eared Owl <i>asio otus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3631	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
Northern Harrier <i>Circus hudsonius</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8350	Breeds Apr 1 to Sep 15
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

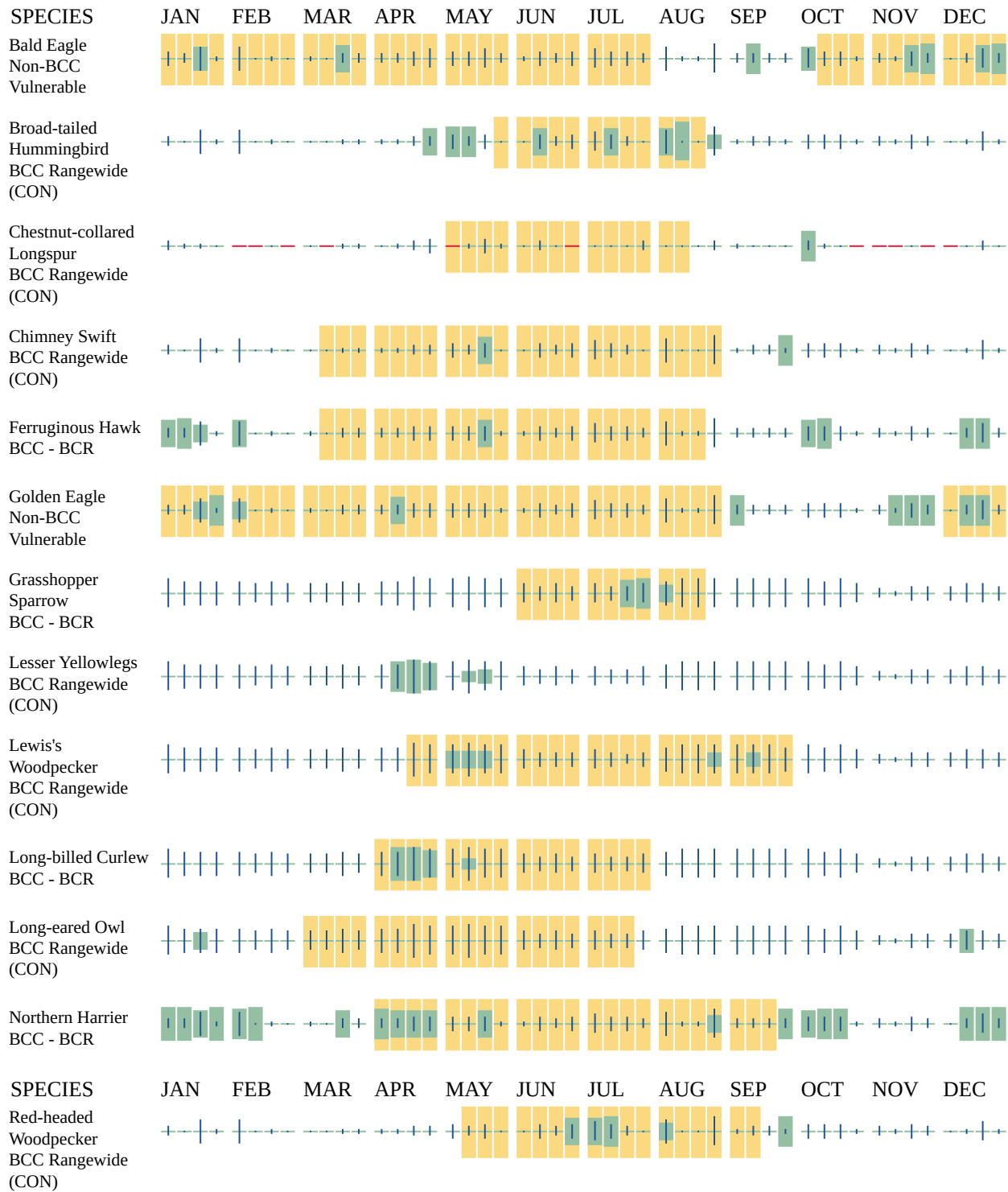
Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

■ probability of presence ■ breeding season | survey effort — no data



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>

- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

RIVERINE

- R5UBH
- R4SBC
- R5UBFx

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1A
- PEM1Ah

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Daniel Maynard
Address: 2023 W. Scott Pl.
City: Denver
State: CO
Zip: 80211-1527
Email: dmaynard@bristleconeecology.com
Phone: 9712373906



Environmental Review and Consultation Request
Williams Creek Generating Station
El Paso County, Colorado

September 28, 2026

ATTACHMENT C:
PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG



Photo 1 – View facing north of the marsh wetlands dominated by cattails along the Texas Route proposed haul road alignment, north of Birdsall Road. There is limited suitable habitat for Eastern black rail in this marsh and the greater wetland complex to the north, near Calhan Reservoir.

September 28, 2026



Photo 2 – Photo showing the main swale on the site, which is no more than a minor erosional feature. This swale does not have a perennial water source or riparian ecosystem and is therefore not suitable for Preble’s meadow jumping mouse.



Photo 3 – Overview of the vegetation typical of the site, which generally consists of short- to mid-story plains grasslands. There are no wetlands or riparian areas within the main Project site, and these grasslands are the only habitat type on the property.



September 23, 2026

U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
134 Union Boulevard, Suite 670
Lakewood, CO 80228

RE: Technical Assistance / Effects Determination Concurrence Request
ECOSphere Project Code: 2026-0131207
Williams Creek Generating Station
El Paso County, Colorado

To Whom It May Concern:

This request for technical assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is being submitted in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which prohibits the take of federally listed species and their habitats, and defines such take as “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct” (16 U.S.C. § 1538). Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU or “Proponent”) is planning to construct a 400-megawatt generating station (“Project”), north of Irradiance Drive and east of the Calhan Reservoir in El Paso County, Colorado (**Attachment A: Site Location Map**). The Project will occur on approximately 173 acres within El Paso County Parcel No. 5600000123. The Project will consist of the construction of a generating station, control building, wastewater treatment facility, substation and tie-in, and associated facilities and infrastructure storm water control, roads, site security, fence, etc.). The Project will also require improvements to existing roadways for a haul route. Because Section 9 restrictions always apply for listed species, B.E. has reviewed the site for potential habitat that could support listed species as identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation portal (IPaC).

Following review of the site, Bristlecone Ecology, LLC (“B.E.”) has prepared this request for technical assistance for listed species with the potential to be affected by the proposed Project. The proposed design for the Project is attached for reference (**Attachment B: Preliminary Site Plan**). Supporting information is provided in the following sections, including a description of the Project and anticipated environmental impact area (EIA) for federally listed species and their respective habitats.

B.E. reviewed the official species list of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, as well as critical habitat, provided by the USFWS’ IPaC tool (ECOSphere Project Code: 2026-0131207). After considering the effects of the proposed activity within the anticipated EIA, B.E. has determined that species warranting protection under the ESA are unlikely to be affected by the subject activity for the following reasons:

- A qualified ecologist with B.E. has determined based on the official species list produced by IPaC that federally protected species are unlikely to occur on the site.

- A qualified ecologist with B.E. has determined that any direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on listed species and their habitats can be avoided entirely or kept to a negligible level through Project design and avoidance, minimization, or mitigation (AMM).

Listed Species Reviewed

B.E. reviewed the USFWS' IPaC database for information regarding the potential for threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species to occur at the Project site (**Attachment C: Official IPaC Resource List**). IPaC identified six species as having the potential to occur at the site or be affected by development of the site. One of these species – Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) – is listed under a conditional effects analysis and only needs to be considered if a project will involve water depletions in the N. Platte, S. Platte, or Laramie River basins. The Project is located in the Upper Arkansas River basin and thus will not affect this species. Another species – Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) is listed as federally threatened and needs to be taken into consideration if the site has a perennial flowing water source. The four remaining species listed in the IPaC query were the federally threatened Eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis* ssp. *jamaicensis*), and Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis* or ULTO); and two species proposed for listing as threatened and endangered, respectively – monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) and Suckley's cuckoo bumblebee (*Bombus suckleyi*). Each species is discussed individually in the table below (**Table 1**). Those species potentially affected or those requiring additional information are discussed in detail below.

Table 1. Federally Listed T&E Species Potentially Impacted by the Project (USFWS 2026a)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Requirements and Likelihood of Impacts	Federal Status ¹
Birds			
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Listed under a conditional effects analysis for water depletions in the N. Platte, S. Platte and Laramie River Basins, which may affect listed species in Nebraska. Likelihood of impacts: None; the Project is located in the Arkansas River Basin.	FT
Eastern black rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i> ssp. <i>jamaicensis</i>	Subspecies of black rail that occurs east of the Rocky Mountains in North America. Black rails are small, cryptic marsh/wetland specialists, and depend entirely upon these habitats to support their resource needs. Requires dense overhead cover (usually cattails [<i>Typha</i> spp.] or bulrushes [<i>Schoenoplectus</i> / <i>Scirpus</i> spp.]) and moist to saturated soils. Eastern black rails have been expanding their range in Colorado. Likelihood of impacts: Unlikely. There is no suitable habitat available on the site. There is, however, suitable habitat along one of the haul road options. This species is discussed further below.	FT

¹FE= Federally Endangered; FT=Federally Threatened; ST=State Threatened; C=Candidate for Listing; PT= Proposed Threatened; PE=Proposed Endangered

Table 1 Continued. Federally Listed T&E Species Potentially Impacted by the Project (USFWS 2026a)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Requirements and Likelihood of Impacts	Federal Status ¹
Flowering Plants			
Ute ladies'-tresses orchid	<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Primarily occurs along seasonally flooded river terraces, sub-irrigated or spring-fed abandoned stream channels, and lakeshores. May also occur along irrigation canals, berms, levees, irrigated meadows, gravel pits, borrow pits, and other human-modified wetlands. There are no known populations in El Paso County, and there are no suitable habitats onsite. Likelihood of impacts: Unlikely. There are no known populations in EPC and there is no suitable habitat for the species on the site. Wet areas along the haul route options are marshy and generally not viable habitat. In addition, this species has been proposed for delisting.	FT
Insects			
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch butterflies require milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.) as an obligate host plant. Caterpillars consume the plant, and adults lay their eggs on the milkweed. Monarch butterfly is a Proposed Threatened species for listing under the ESA. While there are no requirements until a listing decision is made, a 4(d) Rule has been proposed and due diligence is encouraged. Likelihood of impacts: Possible, there were milkweed plants observed on the site and along the haul route options. This species is discussed further below.	PT
Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus suckleyi</i>	Suckley's cuckoo bumblebee is a social parasite that relies entirely on other species of bumblebees as hosts. The last confirmed sighting in the U.S. was in 2016 in Oregon (USFWS 2026a). May be found anywhere robust bumblebee colonies are present. While there are no requirements until a listing decision is made, due diligence is encouraged. Likelihood of impacts: Very unlikely. Site development is unlikely to affect bumblebee host colonies.	PE
Mammals			
Preble's meadow jumping mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>	Preble's meadow jumping mouse is associated with riparian ecosystems along perennial streams. Critical habitat for Preble's meadow jumping mice includes approximately 411 miles of rivers and streams across Eastern Colorado; these lands are designated as critical under federal, state, and local government along with private ownership. Suitable habitats must include well developed riparian ecosystems, a perennial water source, and adjacent grassland community with shrubs. Likelihood of impacts: None. The site does not include a perennial water source or riparian corridors.	FT

¹FE= Federally Endangered; FT=Federally Threatened; ST=State Threatened; C=Candidate for Listing; PT= Proposed Threatened; PE=Proposed Endangered

September 23, 2026

Eastern black rail

Eastern black rail requires dense wetland vegetation, typically cattails and bulrushes, that allow for concealed movement under the canopy (USFWS, n.d.). Black rails less often inhabit shrub-scrub wetlands, as there is a lower ability for the species to move on the ground below the canopy (USFWS, n.d.). In Colorado, this species most often uses shallow wetlands dominated by cattail (*Typha spp.*), hardstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*), and soft-stemmed bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*), and only occurs in wetlands with standing water (USFWS, n.d.). There is no Designated Critical Habitat for the species.

At the Project site, there is no suitable habitat for black rails. The site is entirely composed of high plains grasslands; there are no riparian or wetland ecosystems, nor a perennial water source or any standing water. There is, however, suitable marsh habitat for Eastern black rail along Birdsall Road, where one haul route alignment is proposed. There is a wetland complex associated with the outlet of the Calhan Reservoir, which is located to the northwest of the Project site, that supports vegetation and hydrologic conditions suitable for Eastern black rail. There is a wetland located just north of Birdsall Road that is dominated by narrowleaf cattails (*Typha angustifolia*) and is within the larger wetland complex associated with Calhan Reservoir. Additionally, during the site survey, a Virginia rail (*Rallus limicola*), which utilizes similar, though slightly wetter habitat to Eastern black rail, was detected in these wetlands. Construction of the Project and the haul road have been recommended to avoid this wetland area completely, instead expanding the roadway to the south where no marshes exist. Thus, impacts to this species are unlikely as long as the proposed haul road design avoids impacts to marsh wetlands.

Monarch butterfly

Monarch butterflies inhabit a wide range of habitats, such as roadsides, urban gardens, and open areas. They require milkweed species for reproduction, as the caterpillars can only eat species of this genus (USFWS, 2025). The adults feed on the nectar of many species of flowering plants. There is no Designated Critical Habitat for the species, and the species is a Proposed Threatened species. Because the species is Proposed for listing, they are not protected by the take prohibitions of Section 9, consistent with any protective regulations finalized under section 4(d) of the ESA, until the rule to list is finalized. There are a few milkweed plants present within the Project area and along the proposed haul routes. Thus, impacts to this species are possible, though unlikely. Constructing outside of the reproduction season (March – August) would avoid any direct impacts to Monarch butterflies that could be using these plants.

Conclusions

B.E. assessed the Project site for potential habitat to support Eastern black rails, ULTO, monarch butterflies, Suckley's cuckoo bumblebees, and Preble's meadow jumping mouse. There was no habitat present for many of the species listed in the IPaC query, except for the proposed threatened monarch butterfly, whose host milkweed plants are present sporadically onsite, and Eastern black rail, which could find suitable habitat along the southern haul route option. Habitat for Eastern black rail is only present along the haul road alignment, and there is no suitable habitat for the species within the main Project area. Suitable habitat along the haul route will be avoided if any road improvements/expansion is needed. The Project will thus not affect any potential habitat for listed species.

B.E.'s desktop review and on-site habitat assessment concluded that development of the Project is unlikely to affect any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, or their respective



Technical Assistance / Effects Determination Concurrence Request
Williams Creek Generating Station
El Paso County, Colorado

September 23, 2026

habitats. As such, it is B.E.'s professional opinion that development of the Project is not reasonably certain to result in the take of listed species and requests USFWS' concurrence. Should you disagree with this assessment, please do not hesitate to contact Bristlecone Ecology. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Bristlecone Ecology, LLC



September 23, 2026

References

USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service). 2026a. Information for Planning and Conservation Online System. Accessed June 2026.

<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/location/O7BJLKCFTRF27DJWK3NZ2VLM3A/resources>

USFWS. 2026b. Critical Habitat Portal. Accessed August 2026.

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USFWS. 2025. Monarch Conservation Measures.

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USFWS. n.d. *Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*.

<https://www.fws.gov/species/eastern-black-rail-laterallus-jamaicensis-jamaicensis>

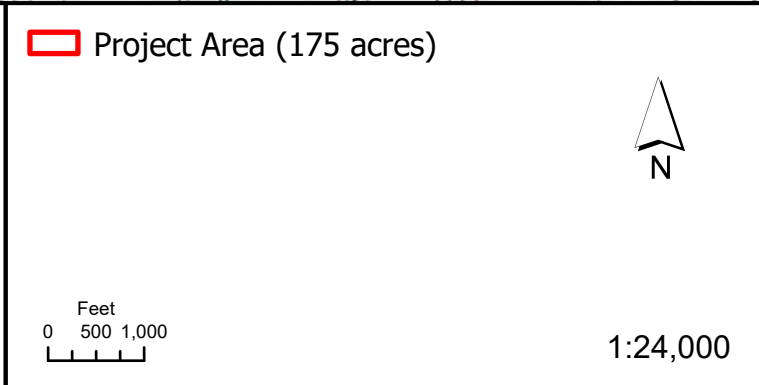
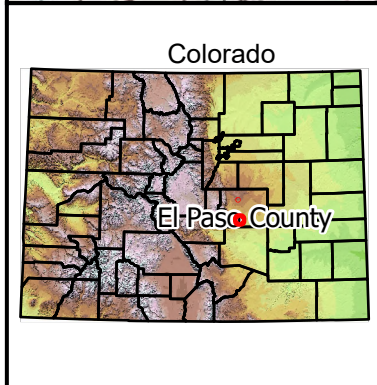
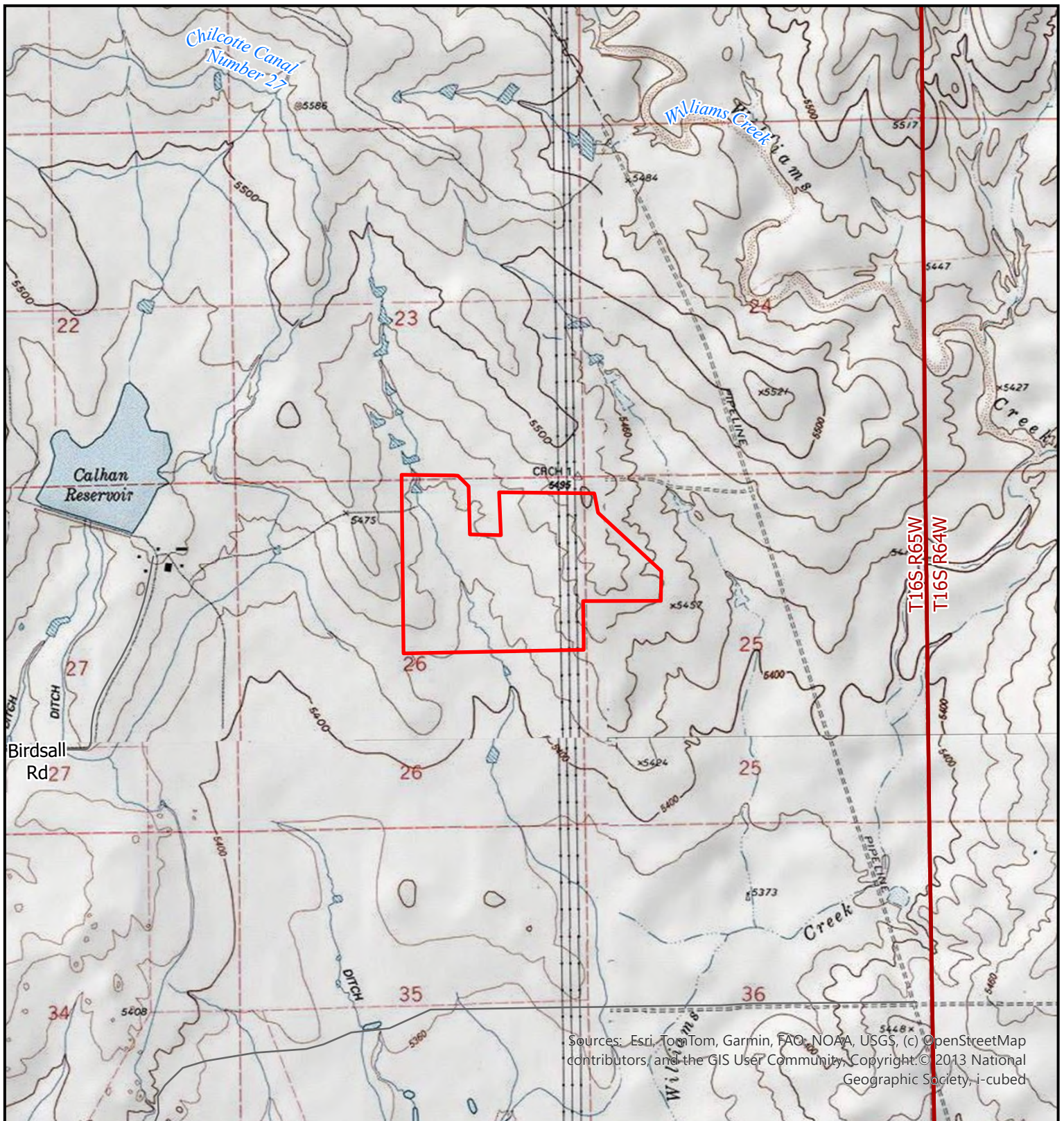
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, *Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (Zapus Hudsonius Preblei)* | Accessed June 2026. www.fws.gov/species/prebles-meadow-jumping-mouse-zapus-hudsonius-preblei



Technical Assistance / Effects Determination Concurrence Request
Williams Creek Generating Station
El Paso County, Colorado

September 23, 2026

ATTACHMENT A:
SITE LOCATION MAP



**Williams Creek
Generating Station**

Site Location Map



bristlecone ecology



Technical Assistance / Effects Determination Concurrence Request
Williams Creek Generating Station
El Paso County, Colorado

September 23, 2026

ATTACHMENT B:
PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN



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Williams Creek Generating Station
El Paso County, Colorado

September 23, 2026

ATTACHMENT C:
OFFICIAL IPAC RESOURCE LIST



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25486
Denver, CO 80225-0486
Phone: (303) 236-4773 Fax: (303) 236-4005



In Reply Refer To:

08/12/2026 21:42:09 UTC

Project Code: 2026-0131207

Project Name: Williams Creek Generating Station

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to these species or critical habitats ([Colorado Ecological Services Field Office](#)). Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. We recommend verification be completed by visiting the [IPaC](#) website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the [IPaC](#) system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the ESA and its implementing regulations ([50 CFR 402](#)), Federal agencies are required to use their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation like a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends Federal agencies also address proposed species and proposed critical habitat within the consultation (see Conferencing below) and consider candidate species. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at: <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>.

Projects and activities without a Federal nexus (e.g., without Federal funding, permit, or authorization) should be evaluated for the potential to "take" listed wildlife. Take does not apply to listed plants and to designated critical habitat. The term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct ([ESA Section 3, Definitions](#)). Harm in the definition of "take" in the ESA means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering ([50 CFR 17.3](#)).

Conferencing: Conferencing for species proposed for Federal listing or for proposed critical habitat is only required if a proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a species or will result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (50 CFR 402.10). If an action agency determines that their action would not jeopardize the continued existence of the proposed species and/or would not result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat, the determination should be saved in the agency's project record. Agencies may request a voluntary conference to address adverse effects; however, at this time the Colorado Field Office intends to not conduct voluntary conferences for the species discussed in this cover letter.

For purposes of ESA section 7 consultation, we treat experimental populations (e.g., gray wolf in Colorado) as if they are proposed for listing, except on National Park Service and National Wildlife Refuge system lands, where they are treated as threatened. Evaluations for proposed species are completed under the regulations for conferencing ([50 CFR 402.10](#)).

Gray Wolf: On November 8, 2023, the Service promulgated an ESA section 10(j) (i.e., nonessential experimental population or NEP) rule (10(j) rule) for gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) within the State of Colorado ([88 FR 77014](#)). In the 10(j) rule, the Service determined that the loss of the Colorado NEP would not be likely to appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival of the species in the wild and that the establishment of the NEP would benefit recovery by increasing redundancy and representation. Furthermore, it is unlikely that typical agency actions in Colorado, especially those with temporary impacts to habitat, will result in any adverse effects to the gray wolf. Agencies may consider implementing voluntary conservation measures near active dens and rendezvous sites. See Conferencing above.

Colorado River Fish, Platte River Species, & Depletions: Formal interagency consultation under section 7 of the ESA is required for projects that may lead to depletions of water from any system that is a tributary to the Colorado River. Federal agency actions resulting in water depletions to the Colorado River system may affect the endangered bonytail (*Gila elegans*), Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), and the threatened humpback chub (*Gila cypha*), and their designated critical habitats. Similarly, formal consultation is required for projects that may lead to depletions of water from the Platte River, affecting the endangered pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), threatened western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*) the endangered whooping crane (*Grus americana*), and the whooping crane's designated critical habitat. Additional information on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program is available here: <https://www.fws.gov/media/federal-depletions-plan-platte-river-recovery-implementation-program>.

Water depletions include evaporative losses and consumptive use of surface or groundwater within the affected basin, often characterized as diversions minus return flows. Project elements that could be associated with depletions include, but are not limited to: ponds, lakes, and reservoirs (e.g., detention, recreation, irrigation, storage, stock watering, municipal storage, and power generation); drilling, hydraulic fracturing and completion of oil and gas wells; hydrostatic testing of pipelines; water wells; dust abatement; diversion structures; and water treatment facilities. Any actions that may result in water depletions should be identified. An analysis of the water depletion should include: an estimate of the amount and timing of the average annual water use (both historic and new uses) and methods of arriving at such estimates; location of water use or where diversion occurs, as specifically as possible; if and when the water will be returned to the system; and the intended use of the water. Depending on Project details, the Service may have more specific questions regarding the potential consumptive use of the water.

The Service, in accordance with the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (<https://coloradoriverrecovery.org/uc/>), adopted a [de minimis policy](#), which states that water-related activities in the Upper Colorado River Basin that result in less than 10 acre-foot per year of depletions in flow have no effect on the Colorado River endangered fish species and their critical habitat, and thus do not require consultation for potential effects on those species and critical habitat. While no section 7 consultation is needed, the Service requests Federal agencies notify the Upper Colorado Fishes Coordinator of depletions between 0.1 and 10 acre-feet per year with the approximate location of the project (e.g., reference to the most proximate surface water or tributary), the water use (e.g., agricultural, oil and gas, energy), and the timing of and depletion amount. Similarly, detention basins designed to detain runoff for less than 72 hours, and temporary withdrawals of water outside of critical habitat (e.g., for hydrostatic pipeline testing) that return all the water to the same drainage basin within 30 days, are considered to have no effect and do not require consultation.

Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee: On December 17, 2024, Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*) (Suckley's) was proposed for listing as an endangered species (89 FR 102074). Suckley's is an obligate social parasite of social bumble bees in the genus *Bombus*. Suckley's cannot successfully reproduce without the availability of suitable host colonies. It is a semi-specialist parasite and confirmed to usurp nests of Western bumble bee (*Bombus*

occidentalis) and Nevada bumble bees (*Bombus nevadensis*) (Service 2024). Based on the best available information, no Suckley's have been observed in Colorado since 2014 despite ongoing surveys. The Species Status Assessment (SSA) shows observations since 2018 occur only in northern latitudes, primarily in Canada ([Service 2024](#)), but the species may persist in high quality upper elevation habitats in western States.

While Suckley's is proposed for listing, there is no prohibition of "take" under Section 9 of the ESA; therefore, projects without a federal nexus, do not need to engage with the Service to exempt take under the ESA. However, we encourage everyone to incorporate conservation measures benefiting pollinators and pollinator habitat into projects. Examples include retaining suitable foraging (diversity and abundance of native floral resources), nesting (suitable host colony above or below ground), and overwintering habitat (loose substrates such as leaf litter, duff, rotting logs); maintaining habitat for host bumble bees by avoiding impacts to abandoned underground holes (rodent burrows); and revegetation efforts that include native seed mixes with a diversity of nectar plants (<https://www.xerces.org/monarchs/monarch-nectar-plant-guides>) to promote an abundance and diversity of native floral resources. Additionally, we recommend supporting and conducting general bumble bee and pollinator surveys. You may also consider tools that offer regulatory assurances should Suckley's become a listed species. For example, on January 22, 2026, the Service [Proposed a Nationwide Conservation Benefit Agreement for Bumble Bees](#).

At this time, the Colorado Field Office will not be participating in voluntary conferences for the species. Nationally, the Service is developing range-wide consultation guidance and streamlining tools for the Suckley's, and we will share these as they become available.

Monarch Butterfly: The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) was proposed threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on December 12, 2024 (89 FR 100662). The proposed listing rule, including a special 4(d) rule, and proposed critical habitat in the California winter range, are available on the species webpage: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743> and at <https://www.fws.gov/species/monarch-danaus-plexippus>. Two monarch butterfly populations occupy North America – the eastern population which is east of the Rocky Mountains, and the western population which is west of the Rocky Mountains. The eastern population supports well over 90% of the monarchs in North America. Colorado supports both populations. In Colorado, monarch butterfly habitat consists of grasslands, prairies, riparian areas, and urban gardens that support milkweed and a variety of nectar plants. We recommend agencies include proactive conservation measures into their projects such as restoring disturbed areas with local seed mixes with a diversity of nectar plants (<http://www.xerces.org/monarch-nectar-plants/>) and evaluating the full impact of their action (including conservation measures) when considering whether their project will jeopardize the species.

While the monarch butterfly is proposed for listing, there is no prohibition of "take" under Section 9 of the ESA; therefore, projects without a federal nexus, do not need to engage with the Service to exempt take under the ESA. However, we encourage everyone to include conservation measures to benefit monarch butterflies and other pollinators into projects. You may also consider tools that offer regulatory assurances should the monarch become a listed species such

as Conservation Benefit Agreements (CBAs), or you may qualify to enroll into the [Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Monarch Butterfly](#).

At this time, the Colorado Field Office will not be participating in voluntary conferences for the species. It is unlikely that typical localized actions in Colorado, especially those with temporary impacts in migratory or breeding habitat, will jeopardize the species. Nationally, the Service continues to develop range-wide consultation guidance and streamlining tools for the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators.

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the ESA, there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the ESA. Please include the Consultation Code found in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office at ColoradoES@fws.gov.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds

- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Colorado Ecological Services Field Office

Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25486
Denver, CO 80225-0486
(303) 236-4773

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2026-0131207
Project Name: Williams Creek Generating Station
Project Type: Power Gen - Other
Project Description: Power generation station
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@38.630180949999996,-104.6296701840619,14z>



Counties: El Paso County, Colorado

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 1 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Preble's meadow jumping mouse <i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4090 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/XJNQWM5B2NGUFMWCLWXVUG22KY/documents/generated/10776.pdf	Threatened

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/XJNQWM5B2NGUFMWCLWXVUG22KY/documents/generated/10809.pdf	Threatened
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: Project includes water-related activities and/or use in the N. Platte, S. Platte, and Laramie River Basins which may affect listed species in Nebraska. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/XJNQWM5B2NGUFMWCLWXVUG22KY/documents/generated/10810.pdf	Proposed Threatened
Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee <i>Bombus suckleyi</i> Population: No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10885	Proposed Endangered

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Ute ladies'-tresses <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Threatened

NAME	STATUS
No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2159 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/XJNQWM5B2NGUFMWCLWXVUG22KY/documents/generated/10712.pdf	

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

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1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Oct 15 to Jul 31
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#), specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

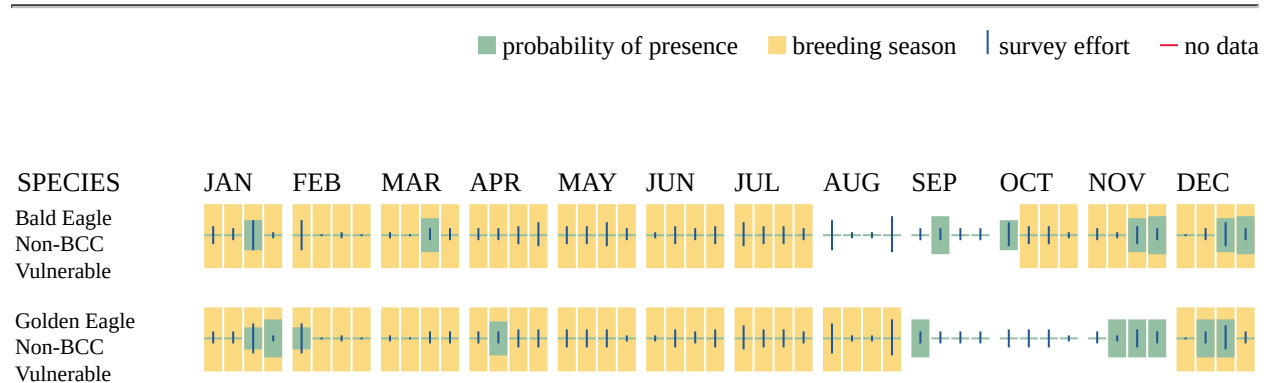
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

-
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Oct 15 to Jul 31
Broad-tailed Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus platycercus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11935	Breeds May 25 to Aug 21
Chestnut-collared Longspur <i>Calcarius ornatus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9437	Breeds May 1 to Aug 10
Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Ferruginous Hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6038	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 15
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8329	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 20
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere
Lewis's Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9408	Breeds Apr 20 to Sep 30

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Long-billed Curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5511	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
Long-eared Owl <i>asio otus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3631	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
Northern Harrier <i>Circus hudsonius</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8350	Breeds Apr 1 to Sep 15
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

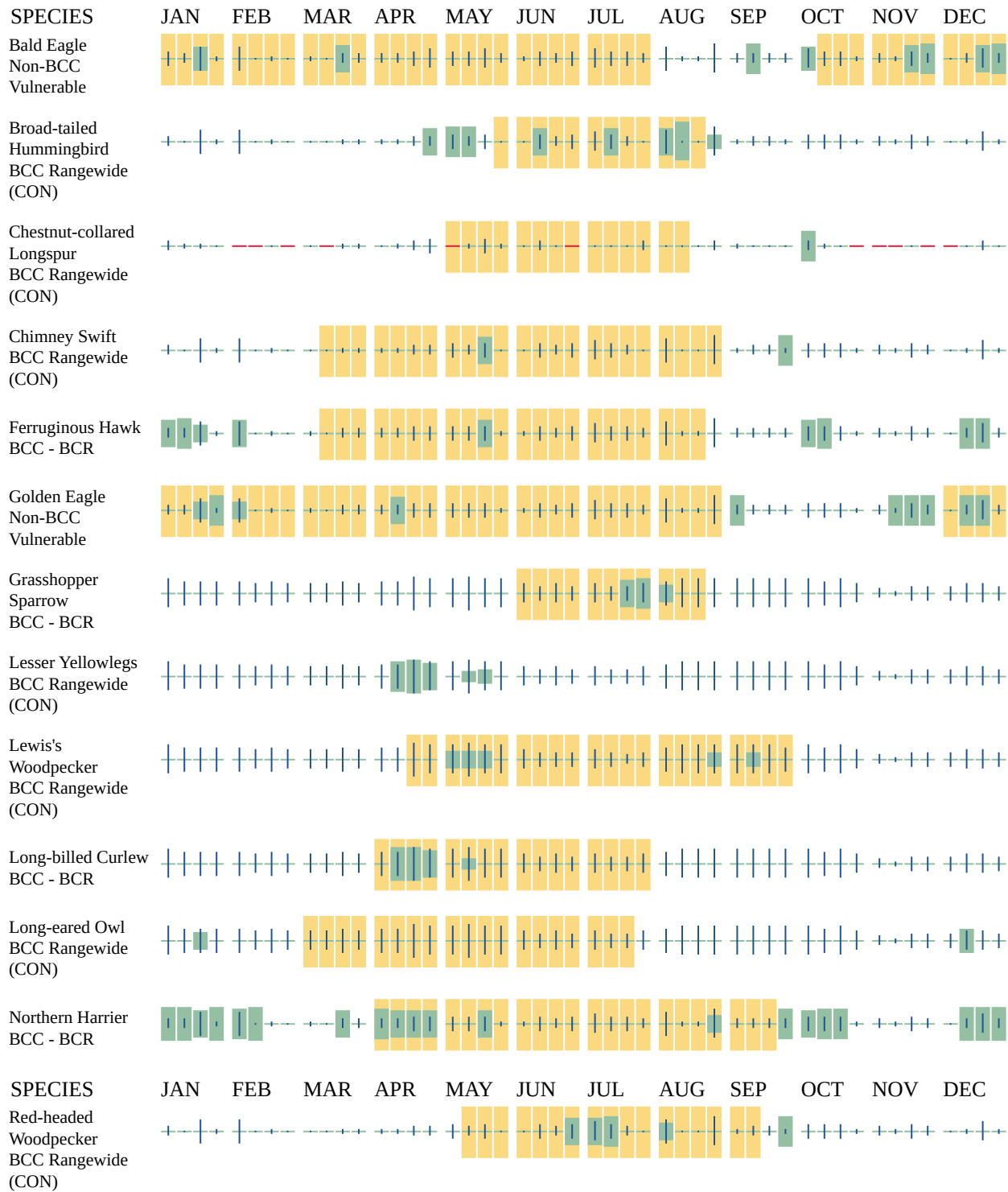
Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

■ probability of presence ■ breeding season | survey effort — no data



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>

- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

RIVERINE

- R5UBH
- R4SBC
- R5UBFx

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1A
- PEM1Ah

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Daniel Maynard
Address: 2023 W. Scott Pl.
City: Denver
State: CO
Zip: 80211-1527
Email: dmaynard@bristleconeecology.com
Phone: 9712373906



Technical Assistance / Effects Determination Concurrence Request
Williams Creek Generating Station
El Paso County, Colorado

September 23, 2026

ATTACHMENT D:
PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG



Photo 1 – View facing north of the marsh wetlands dominated by cattails north of Birdsall Road. There is suitable, though limited, habitat for Eastern black rail within this marsh and the greater wetland complex to the north, near Calhan Reservoir. This marsh will be avoided during haul road improvements/expansion.

September 23, 2026



Photo 2 – Photo showing a swale on the site. This was the most prominent swale on the site, which is no more than an erosional feature. The site does not have a perennial water source or riparian ecosystem; it is not suitable for Preble’s meadow jumping mouse, ULTO, or Eastern black rail.

September 23, 2026



Photo 3 – Overview of the vegetation typical of the site, which generally consists of short- to mid-story plains grasslands. There are no wetlands or riparian areas within the main Project site, and these grasslands are not suitable habitat for any of the listed species.