

1.1 BLM Special-Status Species

1.1.1 Affected Environment

Sensitive Species

Table 4.5 presents BLM Sensitive species that may be affected by project implementation; however, the negative effects experienced by these species are expected to not be significant if project BMPs and identified mitigation measures are implemented.

Table 4-5. BLM Sensitive Species Potentially Occurring in the Proposed Action Area – Lower Truckee River Restoration Project

Common Name (Scientific Name)	General Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence
California floater (<i>Anodonta californiensis</i>)	Freshwater lakes and lake-like stream habitats with fish.	May be Present. Truckee River provides suitable habitat.
Wong springsnail (<i>Pyrgulopsis wongi</i>)	Freshwater lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams, etc.	May be Present. Truckee River provides suitable habitat.
Northern leopard frog (<i>Rana pipiens</i>)	Shoreline cover, submerged and emergent aquatic vegetation; cattail and sedge marshes, weedy ponds; 0-7,000 feet.	May be Present. Suitable habitat is limited; however, the species is known to occur in the Truckee River in the vicinity of McCarran Ranch.
Sierra alligator lizard (<i>Elgaria coerulea palmeri</i>)	Woodland and forest landscapes, grassland and brush habitat.	May be Present. Suitable habitat is present and the species has been recorded within 5 miles (Nevada Natural Heritage Program 2007).
Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	Occurs primarily in mountainous canyon land, rimrock terrain of open desert and grassland areas.	Absent as Breeder. Suitable nesting habitat not present. May occur as a forager.
Short-eared owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)	Large expanses of prairie and coastal grasslands, heathlands, shrub-steppe, and tundra.	May be Present. Shrub community provides suitable breeding and foraging habit.
Western burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia hypugea</i>)	Open grasslands and shrublands with perches and burrows.	May be Present. Suitable breeding and foraging habitat present.
Sage grouse (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>)	Closely associated with sagebrush ecosystems. Adapted to a mosaic of sagebrush habitats.	May be Present. Shrub community provides suitable breeding and foraging habitat.
Vaux's swift (<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>)	Forages over grasslands and water.	Absent as Breeder. Species does not breed in the area but may occur as a rare migrant.

Table 4-5. BLM Sensitive Species Potentially Occurring in the Proposed Action Area – Lower Truckee River Restoration Project

Common Name (Scientific Name)	General Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence
Black tern (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>)	Shallow freshwater marshes with emergent vegetation, occasionally river or island edges.	Absent as Breeder. Species does not breed in the area, but freshwater marshes provide suitable habitat for migrating birds.
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	Wintering habitat includes open forests and grasslands.	Absent as Breeder. Species does not nest in the project region, but may occur as a migrant.
Prairie falcon (<i>Falco mexicanus</i>)	Primarily associated with perennial grasslands, savannahs, rangeland, some agricultural fields, and desert scrub areas; requires ledges on rocky outcrops or cliffs for nesting.	Absent as Breeder. Suitable breeding habitat is not present in the Proposed Action area; however, the species may occur in the project area as a forager.
Loggerhead shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	Open habitats with sparse shrubs and trees, other suitable perches, bare ground and low or sparse herbaceous cover.	May be Present. Shrub community provides suitable breeding and foraging habitat.
Lewis's woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)	Open riparian woodland dominated by cottonwood, pinyon pine-juniper forests, and ranchland.	May be Present. Riparian community provides suitable breeding and foraging habitat.
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	Ocean shorelines, lake margins, and large, open river courses for both nesting and wintering habitat.	Absent as Breeder. Species is not known to breed in the area but may forage in the area.
Vesper sparrow (<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>)	Breeds in dry, open habitats with short, sparse, and patchy herbaceous vegetation; some bare ground; and low to moderate shrub or tall forb cover.	May be Present. Shrub community provides suitable breeding and foraging habitat are present.
Pallid bat (<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>)	Prefers rocky outcrops, cliffs, and crevices with access to open habitats for foraging; day roosts are in caves, crevices, mines, and occasionally in tree hollows and buildings; night roosts may be in more open sites, such as porches and open buildings.	May be Present. Suitable roosting and foraging habitat is present.
Pygmy rabbit (<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>)	Sagebrush, bitterbrush, and pinyon-juniper habitats; associated with tall, dense, large-shrub stages of big sagebrush, greasewood, and rabbitbrush.	May be Present. Suitable habitat is present.
Townsend's big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>)	Prefers mesic habitats; gleans from brush or trees or feeds along habitat edges; requires caves, tunnels, mines, buildings, or other human-made structures for roosting.	Absent as Breeder. Suitable roosting/breeding habitat is not present; however the species has been recorded within 5 miles of the Proposed Action area (Nevada Natural Heritage Program 2007) and may forage over the sites.

Table 4-5. BLM Sensitive Species Potentially Occurring in the Proposed Action Area – Lower Truckee River Restoration Project

Common Name (Scientific Name)	General Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence
Big brown bat (<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>)	Prefers to forage over open areas, water sources, or among trees in fairly open stands; uses buildings and other human-made structures for roosting to such an extent that natural roosting habits are poorly known.	Absent as Breeder. Suitable roosting/breeding habitat is not present; however, the species may forage over the sites.
Spotted bat (<i>Euderma maculatum</i>)	Prefers sites with adequate roosting habitat, such as cliffs; feeds over water and along washes; occasionally found in caves and buildings; cliffs provide optimal roosting habitat.	Absent as Breeder. Suitable roosting/breeding habitat is not present; however, the species may forage over the sites.
Hoary bat (<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>)	Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding; generally roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees in sites hidden from above, with few branches below.	May be Present. Suitable roosting and foraging habitat is present.
California myotis (<i>Myotis californicus</i>)	Prefers rock-walled canyons with open water, open woodlands, and forests, or brushy habitats for foraging; typically a crevice-roosting species in buildings, under bark, and in caves and mines.	May be Present. Suitable roosting and foraging habitat is present.
Western small-footed myotis (<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>)	Most common in pinyon-juniper forests. It also occurs in deserts, chaparral, riparian zones, and western coniferous forest. Roosts in cliff and rock crevices, buildings, concrete overpasses, caves, and mines.	Absent as Breeder. Suitable roosting/breeding habitat is not present; however, the species may forage over the sites.
Long-eared myotis (<i>Myotis evotis</i>)	Feeds along habitat edges, in open habitats, and over water; roosts in buildings, crevices, spaces under bark, and snags; caves are used primarily as night roosts.	May be Present. Suitable roosting and foraging habitat is present.
Little brown bat (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>)	Prefers to feed over water or open habitats; roosts in buildings, trees, under rocks or wood, or occasionally in caves; fairly common in sagebrush, bitterbrush, alkali desert scrub, wet meadow, and montane chaparral.	May be Present. Suitable roosting and foraging habitat is present.
Fringed myotis (<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>)	Uses open habitats, early successional stages, streams, lakes, and ponds as foraging areas; roosts in caves, mines, buildings, crevices, and snags.	May be Present. Suitable roosting and foraging habitat is present.

Table 4-5. BLM Sensitive Species Potentially Occurring in the Proposed Action Area – Lower Truckee River Restoration Project

Common Name (Scientific Name)	General Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence
Long-legged myotis (<i>Myotis volans</i>)	Feeds over water and over open habitats, using denser woodlands and forests for cover and reproduction; roosts in rock crevices, buildings, under tree bark, and in snags, mines, and caves.	May be Present. Suitable roosting and foraging habitat is present.
Yuma myotis (<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>)	Distribution is closely tied to bodies of water, which it uses as foraging sites and sources of drinking water; open forests and woodlands are optimal habitat; roosts in buildings, mines, caves, or crevices; also seen roosting in abandoned swallow nests and under bridges.	May be Present. Suitable roosting and foraging habitat is present.
Western pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus hesperus</i>)	Prefers rocky canyon walls and cliffs in arid habitats; roosts primarily in rock crevices, occasionally in mines and caves, and rarely in buildings; often found foraging over water, in rocky canyons, and along cliff faces.	Absent as Breeder. Suitable roosting/breeding habitat is not present; however, the species may forage over the sites.
Brazilian free-tailed bat (<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>)	Uses caves, crevices, and buildings for cover, foraging high over surrounding habitats and water; requires caves, mine tunnels, crevices, or buildings for roosting and hibernation.	Absent as Breeder. Suitable roosting/breeding habitat is not present; however, the species may forage over the sites.
River otter (<i>Lontra canadensis</i>)	Cover provided by thickets, tall wetland plants, hollow logs, stumps, snags, and burrows and other cavities	May be Present. Truckee River and adjacent riparian provide suitable habitat.

Migratory Birds

On January 11, 2001, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13186 (Land Bird Strategic Project) placing emphasis on conservation and management of migratory birds. These species are not protected under the Endangered Species Act, but most are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. BLM management for these species is conducted pursuant to Instruction Memorandum (IM) 2008-050 (December 18, 2007). Species of conservation concern in the proposed project region are listed in Table 4-6.

Game Species

On August 16, 2007, President George Bush signed Executive Order 13443 (Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation), which directs federal agencies that have programs and activities that have a measurable effect on public land management, outdoor recreation, and wildlife management to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat.

The proposed project complies with this order. Restoration of the lower Truckee River and associated habitats will improve recreational opportunities, including hunting where legal, on and adjacent to the proposed project sites. The Truckee River is outside all Sage Grouse Population Management Units; however, the Pah Rah Population Management Unit is located immediately to the north of the Truckee River. Proposed restoration activities would be anticipated to have only positive effects on sage grouse, as well as other game species, such as mule deer, pronghorn, and black bear. Bird species of conservation concern in the proposed project region are listed in Table 4-6.

Table 4-6. Migratory and Game Birds of Conservation Concern in the Project Region

Migratory Birds of Conservation Concern		
Greater sage grouse (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>)	Tricolored blackbird (<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>)	Northern harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)
American avocet (<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>)	Ferruginous hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>)	Olive-sided flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>)
American bittern (<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>)	Swainson's hawk (<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>)	Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)
Bendire's thrasher (<i>Toxostoma bendirei</i>)	Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	Prairie falcon (<i>Falco mexicanus</i>)
Black-throated gray warbler (<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>)	Gray vireo (<i>Vireo vicinior</i>)	Pinyon jay (<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>)
Virginia's warbler (<i>Vermivora virginiae</i>)	Lewis's woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)	Pygmy nuthatch (<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>)
Brewer's sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>)	White-headed woodpecker (<i>Picoides albolarvatus</i>)	Red-naped sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>)
Sage sparrow (<i>Amphispiza belli</i>)	Loggerhead shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	Williamson's sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>)
Flammulated owl (<i>Otus flammeolus</i>)	Long-billed curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)	Willet (<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>)
Burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)	Mountain plover (<i>Charadrius montanus</i>)	Wilson's phalarope (<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>)
Short-eared owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)	Snowy plover (<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>)	Yellow-billed cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>)
Spotted owl (<i>Strix occidentalis</i>)	Northern goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	

Table 4-6. Migratory and Game Birds of Conservation Concern in the Project Region

Game Birds of Conservation Concern		
Canvasback (<i>Aythya valisineria</i>)	Wood duck (<i>Aix sponsa</i>)	Northern pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)
Mourning dove (<i>Zenaida macroura</i>)	Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	
Ring-necked duck (<i>Aythya collaris</i>)	Band-tailed pigeon (<i>Columba fasciata</i>)	
