

**APPENDIX B**  
**Special Status Species of Sandoval County**

## APPENDIX B

### Special Status Species (Plants/Wildlife) of Sandoval County

**Table B-1. Special Status Plants of Sandoval County**

Scientific Name	Family	Common Name	Distribution in New Mexico	Habitat	Agency Status			Likelihood of Occurrence at Project Site
					USFWS	State of NM	Sandia	
<i>Abronia bigelovii</i>	Nyctaginaceae	Tufted Sand Verbena	Sandoval, Santa Fe, and Rio Arriba Counties	Hills and ridges of gypsum in the Todilto Formation; 5,700–7,400 feet (1,750–2,250 m).		Species of Concern		Not Present
<i>Astragalus feensis</i>	Fabaceae	Santa Fe Milkvetch	Bernalillo, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Torrance, and Hidalgo Counties	Sandy benches and gravelly hillsides in piñon-juniper woodland or plains-mesa grassland; 5,100–6,000 feet (1,550–1,830 m).		Species of Concern		Not Present
<i>Astragalus knightii</i>	Fabaceae	Knight's Milkvetch	Sandoval County, found on Mesa Prieta	Rimrock ledges of Dakota Formation sandstone in piñon-juniper woodland; 5,700–5,900 feet (1,750–1,800 m).	Species of Concern	Species of Concern		Not Present
<i>Dalea scariosa</i>	Fabaceae	La Jolla Prairie Clover	Bernalillo, Sandoval, Socorro, and Valencia Counties in the central Rio Grande Basin	Open sandy clay banks and bluffs, often along roadsides, at about 4,750–4,900 feet (1,450–1,500 m).				Not Present
<i>Delphinium robustum</i>	Ranunculaceae	Robust Larkspur	Colfax, Rio Arriba, Sandoval and Taos Counties in the Sangre de Cristo Mts; adjacent south-central Colorado	Canyon bottoms and aspen groves in lower and upper montane coniferous forest; 7,200–11,200 feet (2,200–3,400 m).			Sensitive	Not Present
<i>Delphinium sapellonis</i>	Ranunculaceae	Sapello Canyon Larkspur	Bernalillo, Los Alamos, Mora, Sandoval, San Miguel, Santa Fe Counties; observed in Jemez, Sandia, and southern Sangre de Cristo Mts.	Canyon bottoms and aspen groves in lower and upper montane coniferous forest; 8,000–11,500 feet (2,450–3,500 m).		Species of Concern		Not Present
<i>Hackelia hirsuta</i>	Boraginaceae	New Mexico Stickseed	W Colfax, W Mora, E Rio Arriba, NE Sandoval, NW San Miguel, NE Santa Fe, and Taos Counties, in the Jemez, Canjilon, and S Sangre de Cristo Mts.	Dry sites of shaley or igneous soils in lower to upper montane coniferous forest, usually with Gambel oak; 7,700–10,200 feet (2,350–3,100 m).				Not Present
<i>Heuchera pulchella</i>	Saxifragaceae	Sandia Alumroot	Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Torrance Counties in the Sandia and Manzano Mts.	Limestone cliffs in lower and upper montane coniferous forest; 8,000–10,700 feet (2,450–3,260 m).		Species of Concern		Not Present

**Table B-1. Special Status Plants of Sandoval County (continued)**

Scientific Name	Family	Common Name	Distribution in New Mexico	Habitat	Agency Status			Likelihood of Occurrence at Project Site
					USFWS	State of NM	Sandia	
<i>Mentzelia springeri</i>	Loasaceae	Springer's Blazing Star	Los Alamos, NE Sandoval and northwestern Santa Fe Counties, only in the Jemez Mts.	Volcanic pumice and unconsolidated pyroclastic ash in piñon-juniper woodland and lower montane coniferous forest; 7,000–8,000 feet (2,150–2,450 m).		Species of Concern		Not Present
<i>Puccinellia parishii</i>	Poaceae	Parish's Alkali Grass	Catron, Cibola, Grant, Hidalgo, McKinley, Sandoval, and San Juan Counties; also found in California, Arizona, and Colorado	Alkaline springs, seeps, and seasonally wet areas that occur at the heads of drainages or on gentle slopes at 2,600–7,200 feet (800–2,200 m) range-wide.	Species of Concern	Endangered	Sensitive	Not Present
<i>Silene plankii</i>	Caryophyllaceae	Plank's Campion	Bernalillo, Doña Ana, Sandoval, Sierra, Socorro, and Torrance Counties; in the mountains near the Rio Grande; also in El Paso (TX)	Igneous cliffs and rocky outcrops; 5,000–9,200 feet (1,500–2,800 m).		Species of Concern		Not Present
<i>Townsendia gypsophila</i>	Asteraceae	Gypsum Townsend's Aster	Sandoval County, known only from White Mesa near San Ysidro along the western margin of the Nacimiento Mts.	Weathered gypsum outcrops of the Jurassic-age Todilto and overlying Morrison formations.	Species of Concern	Species of Concern		Not Present

**Table B-2. Special Status Wildlife of Sandoval County**

Species Name	Common Name	Distribution & Abundance in Sandoval County	Habitat and Diet Notes	Agency Status		Likelihood of Occurrence in Project Area
				USFWS*	NM	
<b>Birds</b>						
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk	Year-round resident in Sandoval County	Mature, closed canopy coniferous forests of high mountains and mesas; feeds on a variety of small mammals and birds.	Species of Concern	Sensitive	Unlikely. No suitable habitat present.
<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>	Baird's Sparrow	Rare migrant through Sandoval County	Inhabits Chihuahuan desert grasslands, shortgrass (breeding)/tallgrass prairie, mountain meadows up to 11,810 feet (3,600 m); agricultural lands and croplands. Eats seeds (especially grass) and insects.	Species of Concern	Threatened	Unlikely. No suitable habitat present.
<i>Athene cunicularia hypugea</i>	Western Burrowing Owl	Spring and summer resident in Sandoval County	Prairie dog towns or other burrows in open areas with sparse vegetation and bare ground. Feeds on a variety of arthropods and small mammals.	Species of Concern	Protected	Unlikely. No suitable habitat present.
<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	Uncommon in spring and summer	Lowland grasslands, especially with heavy grazing; agricultural fields; short vegetation and bare ground; playas; eats ants, beetles, crickets, and other ground-dwelling insects.	Species of Concern	Sensitive	Unlikely. No suitable habitat present.
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern	Possible summer resident	Breeds in prairie wetlands with some open water; Feeds on a variety of insects and amphibians.	Species of Concern	Protected	Unlikely. May use open water on river, but bosque provides no suitable habitat.
<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	Rare spring and fall migrant	Associated with lowland deciduous woodlands, willow and alder thickets, second-growth woods, deserted farmlands, and orchards	Candidate	Sensitive	Possible Habitat present. Has not been found during 4 years of surveys
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	Uncommon in spring, summer, and fall	Riparian or lacustrine habitats, especially those with thick willows or other vegetation, permanent water, and a multi-layered canopy.	Endangered (Proposed Critical Habitat)	Endangered	Possible Habitat present. Has not been found during 4 years of surveys
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American Peregrine Falcon	Spring and fall migrant and occasional winter resident.	Wide variety of open habitats including wetlands, riparian, montane, lowlands; nests on ledges, usually near water, elev. 3,500-9,000 feet (1,067–2,743 m); preys almost exclusively on live birds.	Species of Concern	Threatened	Unlikely. May pass through during migration, but no suitable habitat present.
<i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i>	Arctic Peregrine Falcon	Rare possible migrant through Sandoval County	Cliffs in wooded/forested habitats, with large "gulfs" of air nearby in which these predators can forage.	Species of Concern	Threatened	Unlikely. May pass through during migration, but no suitable habitat present.

**Table B-1. Special Status Plants of Sandoval County (continued)**

Species Name	Common Name	Distribution & Abundance in Sandoval County	Habitat and Diet Notes	Agency Status		Likelihood of Occurrence in Project Area
				USFWS*	NM	
<b>Birds (continued)</b>						
<i>Grus americana</i>	Whooping Crane	Extirpated from County. Formerly a winter resident and a spring and fall migrant	Foraging areas are generally agricultural fields and valley pastures, particularly where there is waste grain or sprouting crops. Roosts with sandhill cranes, typically on sand bars in the Rio Grande.	Endangered	Endangered	Local population has been extirpated.
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	Rare winter resident along lakes and larger rivers	Prefers lowland or montane riparian and wetland habitats (though not exclusively), especially with large trees; feeds on wide variety of live birds, mammals and fish, and carrion.	Threatened	Threatened	Is present during some seasons.
<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	Mexican Spotted Owl	Rare year-round resident	Upper elevation, mature, closed-canopy forests, riparian areas, especially those with multi-storied canopy, steep cliffs, permanent water; feeds on a variety of small to medium-sized mammals, birds.	Threatened (Designated Critical Habitat)	Sensitive	Unlikely. No suitable habitat present.
<b>Mammals</b>						
<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	Black-footed Ferret	Extirpated in Sandoval County, though it historically occurred here	Inhabits large prairie dog colonies nearly exclusively and feeds on variety of mammals, especially prairie dogs	Endangered	Sensitive	Not present in Bernalillo or Sandoval County.
<i>Ondatra zibethicus ripensis</i>	Pecos River Muskrat	Present in the Rio Grande, though not likely in Sandoval County	Permanent water sources such as riparian areas, lakes and ditches with cattails.	Species of Concern	Sensitive	Unlikely. Not known from Sandoval County.
<i>Plecotus townsendii pallescens</i>	Townsend's Pale Big-eared Bat	Known to occur in Sandoval County	Occurs in a variety of xeric to mesic habitats, including desert scrub, sagebrush, chaparral, deciduous and coniferous forests. Roosts and breeds in caves or abandoned mines; feeds on a variety of insects.	Species of Concern	Sensitive	Unlikely. No suitable habitat present.
<i>Zapus hudsonius luteus</i>	New Mexican Meadow Jumping Mouse	Year-round resident in Sandoval County	Often associated with a grass perennial forb community with at least 65% vegetative cover. They are usually found in marshes, moist meadows and riparian habitats in open prairie	Species of Concern	Threatened	Possibly present. No surveys have been done to date.

Species Name	Common Name	Distribution & Abundance in Sandoval County	Habitat and Diet Notes	Agency Status		Likelihood of Occurrence in Project Area
				USFWS*	NM	
<b>Fish</b>						
<i>Hybognathus amarus</i>	Rio Grande Silvery Minnow	Regular year-round resident in suitable habitat	Larger southwestern rivers that typically exhibit flashy or unpredictable flow, and seasonal (spring) spikes.	Endangered (Designated Critical Habitat)	Endangered	Is present in river.
<b>Other Taxa</b>						
<i>Comanchelus chihuanus</i>	Slate Millipede	Known from Bernalillo, though not Sandoval County	Present in the soil at the base of boulders and rock escarpments in and around Petroglyph National Monument.	Species of Concern	Sensitive	Unlikely. No suitable habitat present.

\* **Endangered:** Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. **Threatened:** Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. **Candidate:** Candidate Species (taxa for which the USFWS has sufficient information to propose that they be added to list of endangered and threatened species, but the listing action has been precluded by other higher priority listing activities). **Species of Concern:** Taxa for which further biological research and field study are needed to resolve their conservation status OR are considered sensitive, rare, or declining on lists maintained by natural heritage programs, state wildlife agencies, other federal agencies, or professional/academic scientific societies. Species of Concern are included for planning purposes only.