

# 5.2

## BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Special Status Plant/Animals*

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The BLM Carson City District (CCD) is developing the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carson City District planning area. The Carson City RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's multiple use mandate.

**SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES** are (1) species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and (2) species requiring special management consideration to promote their conservation and reduce the likelihood and need for future listing under the ESA, which are designated as BLM sensitive by the State Director. All Federal candidate species, proposed species, and delisted species in the 5 years following delisting are considered BLM sensitive species (e.g., bald eagle).

### Primary Cause of Species Decline

Habitat loss, competition, predation, disease and other factors can contribute to species decline and imperilment. Habitat loss and modification due to human activities are primary threats to ecosystems, particularly for species that are adapted to specific ecological niches. BLM land management practices are intended to sustain and promote wildlife and plants while allowing for other authorized land use activities.



Burrowing Owls (BLM Sensitive Species)

### A Focus on Habitat

While our partners from other federal and state agencies primarily focus on population status and trends, the BLM's efforts are focused on habitat management for wildlife and plants. This management concentrates on habitat conditions that will help ensure self-sustaining populations and a natural abundance and diversity of wildlife and plants.

### Protecting Federally Listed Species

The ESA mandates the protection of species listed as threatened or endangered of extinction and their habitats. Section 7 of the ESA clarifies the responsibility of federal agencies to carry out programs for the conservation of listed species. In addition, federal agencies must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by an agency is "...not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species..."

Six Federally protected plant and animal species occur in the planning area. Four are listed as endangered and 2 as threatened. No Critical Habitat currently exists in the planning area.

BLM

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## A Shared Goal with State and Federal Agencies

Federally listed threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitat are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in cooperation with other federal agencies, with the ultimate goal of species recovery and viability. Management objectives regarding BLM special status species are:

- 1) To conserve and/or recover ESA listed species and the ecosystems on which they depend so that ESA protections are no longer needed for these species.
- 2) To initiate proactive conservation measures that reduce or eliminate threats to BLM sensitive species to minimize the likelihood of and need for listing of these species under the ESA.



Swainson's Hawk (BLM Sensitive Species)

## Other Non-Listed, Non-Status Species (e.g., Big Game, Migratory Birds, Game Fish)



Mule Deer in Prime Habitat

In addition to Special Status Species, the BLM is responsible for managing fish and wildlife habitat quantity and quality that supports a diverse array of species including native and non-native fish, birds, small mammals, big game, carnivores, and reptiles. Habitat condition and quality is based on key plant community and riparian attributes. Population data on game, and increasingly for key non-game species, is tracked by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). The BLM assists the NDOW with collection of this information for certain species. Within this framework, the BLM focuses on prominent animal species and their habitat due to their economic value, regulatory status, high public interest, or other qualities.

## ***The BLM wants your input...***

What areas do you think are important for plant and wildlife species? How can these areas and species be better protected or managed?

Does the CCD need more protected areas (such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern or Wildlife Management Areas) within the planning area? For what species and where?

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**CCD Planning Webpage:**  
[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson\\_city\\_field.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html)

**Comments can also be mailed to:**  
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