

3.15 SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

3.15.1 Regional Overview

3.15.1.1 Federally-listed Species

Special status species include those plant and animal species federally listed as threatened, endangered, proposed and/or candidate, as well as BLM and State of Utah sensitive plant and animal species. The Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (Public Law 93 - 205, as amended), provides protection to federally-listed threatened, endangered and candidate species from actions that may jeopardize their existence. This could occur through direct harm, activities resulting in increased stress during critical life history stages such as nesting, migration or wintering, loss or degradation of critical habitat, or loss or degradation of occupied or potential habitat.

Table 3.15.1 identifies all threatened, endangered, and candidate species occurring within the VPA area of influence which includes Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah, and the northern portion of Grand County, Utah as of February 26, 2004.¹ The information regarding the status and habitats of federally-listed species in Table 3.15.1 is from data provided by the BLM and FWS status data current as of February 26, 2004. Definitions of terms used in Table 3.15.1 are provided below.

Endangered Species – Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Threatened Species – Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Candidate Species – Any species for which substantial biological information exists to support the biological appropriateness of proposing to list the species as endangered or threatened.

Critical Habitat – Specific areas that contain physical or biological features essential for the conservation of a listed species and that may require special management considerations or protection.

Experimental Population – A population that has been reintroduced outside of its current range but within its historical range.

Recovery Plan – A plan prepared by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for threatened and endangered species that establishes objectives and methods to ensure the survival of the species and recover it sufficiently so that the species can be delisted or removed from the threatened and endangered species list.

There are 15 listed and 1 candidate species within the VPA. All of these species are both known to occur and have additional potential habitat in the VPA. Of these 16 species, there are 5 wildlife, 4 fish, and 7 plant species. Slightly more than half of the species are upland species, dependent on specific soil or geologic formations for suitable habitat, such as white calcareous shale or steep rocky canyons. These species include the Mexican spotted owl, horseshoe milkvetch, Graham's beardtongue, White River beardtongue, clay reed-mustard, shrubby reed-mustard, and the Uintah Basin hookless cactus. The black-footed ferret is an upland species that

¹ Only those species that have a known occurrence in the small portion of Grand County within the VPA are represented.

requires large contiguous blocks of active prairie dog colonies. The ferret is an endangered species that has been reintroduced to northeast Utah as an experimental population. The ferret reintroduction site was Coyote Basin, in Uintah County, a BLM-managed area within the VPA, but the FWS considers all of Uintah and Duchesne Counties to be within the experimental population area. The Canada lynx is an upland species that is dependent on a montane coniferous forest link in the Diamond Mountain area between lynx habitat in the Uintah Mountains to that in the Colorado Rockies.

The remaining seven listed species are species that rely predominantly on the Green River, its tributaries, and the associated riparian habitats up to 100-year floodplain limit. These species include the bald eagle, yellow-billed cuckoo, bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, razorback sucker, and the Ute ladies'-tresses.

Draft or final recovery plans have been prepared for all threatened and endangered species except the Canada lynx.

Critical habitat has been designated for the four Colorado River fish species (bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, razorback sucker) and the Mexican spotted owl. Critical habitat for the Colorado River fish species occurs along portions of the Green River downstream of its junction with the Yampa River to the Colorado River, and including sections of the Green River in the VPA within Uintah and Grand Counties. Critical habitat has also been established along the lower portion of the Duchesne River. The critical habitat designation includes the 100-year floodplain.

Critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl has been designated in portions of Carbon and Grand Counties, immediately adjacent to, but just outside of the VPA. Substantial suitable canyon habitat occurs in the adjacent Books Cliffs area.

There are numerous activities (generally referred to as “threats”) that have resulted in the listing of these species. These include grazing, oil and gas development, loss of prey bases, habitat fragmentation, agricultural development, forestry practices, changes in natural flow and sediment transport regimes as a result of dam operations, flow depletions from irrigation, loss of riparian and wetland habitat, introduction of non-native species, and loss of habitat within specific soil and geologic formation types. The potential continued threats to these species and how the alternative management strategies for the RMP could change these threats are described in Section 4.17.

3.15.1.2 Federally Endangered, Threatened, Candidate, and Proposed Species

TABLE 3.15.1. FEDERALLY-LISTED THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE VPA.			
Common Name Scientific Name	Protection (Federal/ State)	Preferred Habitat	Potential for Occurring on BLM Lands
Black-footed ferret <i>Mustela nigripes</i>	Endangered/ Experimental	Grasslands with active prairie dog towns.	Two hundred and fifteen (215) ferrets have been successfully reintroduced into the Coyote Basin since 1999. All active prairie dog towns, or a complex of towns large enough to support ferrets (at least 100 acres) within Duchesne and Uintah Counties, are considered potential black-footed ferret habitat.
Canada lynx <i>Lynx Canadensis</i>	Threatened	Montane coniferous forest.	The range of the Canada lynx extends from Canada and Alaska south to Maine, the Rocky Mountains, and the Great Lakes region. Although sightings of the Canada lynx in Utah over the past twenty years have been very rare, the Diamond Mountain area provides a linkage area between lynx habitat in the Uintah Mountains to that in the Colorado Rockies.
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Threatened	Riparian areas with tall trees.	Migratory bald eagles winter throughout the state in riparian, low-elevation forest, and desert habitats. There are several winter roosts along the Duchesne, Green and White Rivers and one nest on the White River a few miles upstream of the Colorado/Utah border. The species is recovering across its range, and it was recently proposed that the species be delisted. However, the number of nesting pairs in Utah has remained extremely low.
Mexican spotted owl <i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	Threatened	Steep rocky canyons; substantial suitable habitat is present, though no critical habitat is present.	The Mexican spotted owl (MSO) ranges from southern Utah and Colorado through the mountains of Arizona, New Mexico, and West Texas into the mountains of Central Mexico. They typically prefer old growth mixed conifer ponderosa pine, or evergreen oak forest, and associated deciduous riparian forests. In Utah, MSOs are a permanent resident that nests in the deep, sheer-walled, sandstone or rocky canyons of the Green and Colorado River basins. There have been two reports of MSOs in the Book Cliffs.
Yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Candidate (State-listed threatened)	Dense lowland riparian habitat at 2,500 to 6,000 feet elevation; usually found within 300 feet of water.	The yellow-billed cuckoo is a neotropical migrant that nests in localized riparian valleys throughout Utah. The Ouray Wildlife Refuge and other locations along the Green River sustain the largest breeding population of yellow-billed cuckoo in the state of

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<i>occidentalis</i>			Utah with an estimated 10 to 20 pairs.
Bonytail <i>Gila elegans</i>	Endangered	The habitat requirements of the bonytail are not well known because the species was extirpated from most of its historic range prior to extensive fishery surveys. Critical habitat has been designated along the Green River in Uintah and Grand Counties.	The bonytail was historically common to abundant in warm-water reaches of larger rivers in the Colorado River Basin from Mexico to Wyoming. It is currently a very rare species in the Colorado River Basin, with only a few individuals having been found in the last decade. Very low numbers of bonytail still occur in the Upper Colorado River basin in Gray Canyon of the Green River and at Black Rocks on the Colorado River and at the confluences of the Green and Yampa rivers and the Green and Colorado rivers. The majority of bonytail are being held in culture facilities and reintroduction efforts are under way. Several thousand hatchery-reared bonytails have recently been reintroduced in the Colorado River near Moab and in the Green River at the confluence with the Yampa River.
Colorado pikeminnow <i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>	Endangered	Adult Colorado pikeminnow use a variety of habitat types, depending on time of year, but primarily use shoreline runs, eddies, backwater habitats, seasonally flooded bottoms, and side canyons. Critical habitat has been designated for Colorado pikeminnow along the Green River in Uintah, Carbon, Emery, and Grand counties. This critical habitat includes the 100-year floodplain.	This species' range is restricted to the Upper Colorado River basin, upstream of Glen Canyon Dam. They are most abundant in the Upper Green River (between the mouth of the Yampa River and head of Desolation Canyon) and Lower Green River (between the Price and San Rafael rivers). Other concentration areas include the Yampa River, the lower 21 miles of the White River, the Ruby and Horsethief Canyon area between Westwater, Utah and Loma, Colorado, and in the San Juan River between Lake Powell and Shiprock, New Mexico.
Humpback chub <i>Gila cypha</i>	Endangered	Suitable habitat for this species is characterized by a wide variety of riverine habitats, especially canyon areas with fast currents, deep pools, and boulder habitat. Adults require eddies and sheltered shoreline habitats	This species originally inhabited the mainstem of the Colorado River from what is now Lake Mead to the canyon areas of the Green and Yampa River basins. Currently, it appears restricted in the Upper Basin to the Colorado River at Black Rocks and at Westwater and Cataract Canyons, in the Yampa River at Yampa Canyon, and in the Green River at Desolation/Gray Canyons. In the Lower Basin, humpback chub are only found in the mainstem

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		maintained by high spring flows. Young require low-velocity shoreline habitats, including eddies and backwaters, that are more prevalent under base-flow conditions.	Colorado River in Marble and Grand Canyons and in the Little Colorado River. Critical habitat has been designated along the Green River in Uintah and Grand counties.
Razorback sucker <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	Endangered	Habitats required by adults include rivers with deep runs, eddies, backwaters, and flooded off-channel environments in the spring; runs and pools often in shallow water associated with submerged sandbars in summer; and low-velocity runs, pools, and eddies in winter. Young require nursery environments with quiet, warm, shallow water such as tributary mouths, backwaters, or inundated floodplain habitats in rivers, and coves or shorelines in reservoirs. Critical habitat for this species is the same as that of the Colorado pikeminnow.	Historically, the razorback sucker were widely distributed in warm-water reaches of larger rivers of the Colorado River Basin from Mexico to Wyoming, but is currently found in small numbers in the Green River, upper Colorado River, and San Juan River subbasins; lower Colorado River between Lake Havasu and Davis Dam; reservoirs of Lakes Mead and Mohave; in small tributaries of the Gila River Subbasin (Verde River, Salt River, and Fossil Creek); and in local areas under intensive management such as Cibola High Levee Pond, Achii Hanyo Native Fish Facility, and Parker Strip. The largest population of razorback sucker in the Upper Basin is found in the low-gradient, flat-water reaches of the middle Green River between the Duchesne River and Yampa River. Known spawning sites are located in the lower Yampa River and in the Green River near Escalante Ranch between river km 492 and 501.
Horseshoe milkvetch <i>Astragalus equisolensis</i>	Candidate/ NA	Occurs in sagebrush, shadscale, horsebrush, salt desert shrub, and mixed desert shrub communities at 4,691 to 5,167 feet elevation on river terrace sands and gravels overlying the Duchesne River Formation, and on sandy-silty soils weathered directly from it.	Horseshoe milkvetch is currently only known to occur at 98 sites along the Green River (9,004 acres) in Uintah County, Utah.

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Graham beardtongue <i>Penstemon grahamii</i>	Candidate/ NA	Occurs in pinyon-juniper woodlands within East Duchesne and Uintah Counties, Utah, at elevations between 4,691 and 6,758 feet elevation. It grows in gravelly clay soils on semi-barren knolls of white calcareous shale in sparsely vegetated desert shrub and pinyon-juniper communities.	Graham Beardtongue is currently only known to occur at 80 sites (1,287 acres) within East Duchesne and Uintah Counties, Utah.
White River beardtongue <i>Penstemon scariosus</i> var. <i>albifluvis</i>	Candidate/ NA	Occurs in pinyon-juniper, desert shrub, and mixed desert shrub communities at elevations ranging from 5,000 to 6,680 feet elevation. Found at the lower members of the Green River Formation, growing on sparsely vegetated shale slopes.	White River beardtongue is currently known to occur at only 14 sites (714 acres) in Duchesne and Uintah counties, Utah.
Clay reed-mustard <i>Schoenocrambe argillacea</i>	Threatened/ NA	Found on the contact zone between the upper Uintah and lower Green River, typically at elevations ranging from 4,800 to 5,800 feet elevation. It inhabits mixed desert shrub communities of Indian ricegrass and pygmy sagebrush on the shale slopes of the Evacuation Creek Member of the Green River Formation. Plants may be found growing in exposed and protected sites on, north-facing slopes.	The clay-reed-mustard is currently known to occur in only three extant populations remain, each with fewer than 10,000 individuals, in the Book Cliffs, Uintah County, Utah. There are 75 sites (1,541 acres) along the Green River from Willow Creek to Sand Wash where these populations are found. All three populations are found within a range that is only 15 mi x 8 mi (24 km x 12 km).
Shrubby reed-mustard <i>Schoenocrambe</i>	Endangered/ NA	Found on the Evacuation Creek Member of the Green River Shale Formation on calcareous shales	The shrubby reed-mustard is currently known to occur at 38 sites (3,150 acres) along the Green River from Willow Creek to Sand Wash.

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<i>suffrutescens</i>		in pygmy sagebrush, mountain mahogany, juniper, and mixed desert shrub communities from 5,400 to 6,000 feet elevation.	
Uintah Basin hookless cactus <i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i> (= <i>S. brevispinus</i> for listing)	Threatened/ NA	Occurs on Quaternary and Tertiary alluvium soils in cold desert shrub and pinyon-juniper communities along river benches, valley slopes, and rolling hills of the Duchesne River, Green River, and Mancos formations. The soils are typically xeric and fine textured, overlain with cobbles and pebbles. All five Utah populations are found at elevations ranging from 4,461 to 6,561 feet elevation.	At the time of listing, there were five known populations of Uintah Basin hookless cactus within Utah (all within the Uintah Basin in Duchesne and Uintah counties) and 96 occurrences of this species within Colorado.
Ute Ladies'-tresses <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Threatened/ NA	Wet meadow and other riparian habitats that are subject to fluvial erosion and deposition. May also be found near springs, seeps, and lakeshores where there is sufficient ground water. This plant can be found on various substrates in riparian habitats between 4,265 and 6,800 feet elevation.	Ute ladies'-tresses is found in sporadic locations throughout the interior western United States. Within the Uintah Basin, the Ute ladies'-tresses occurs along the Green River in Brown's Park (UT), Browns' Park (CO), Dinosaur National Monument, and near the confluence with the Yampa River. The species also occurs on Ashley Creek, within Ashley Valley, along Big Brush Creek, the upper Duchesne River, and tributaries to the Duchesne River.

3.15.1.3 State-listed Wildlife Species and BLM-listed Sensitive Plant Species

Both the BLM and State of Utah maintain lists of sensitive plant and animal species. The restricted distributions, specialized habitat requirements, and population pressures (human induced and natural) facing special status species contribute to a high potential for federal listing, thus, their populations are of conservation interest. The BLM Manual 6840 specifies that they will manage State-listed plants and animals “to the extent that they are consistent with other Federal laws“. BLM policy for BLM-listed sensitive species is to manage the species as if they were candidate species for federal listing so that they do not become listed, while also fulfilling other federal law mandates. The BLM has a policy of entering into conservation agreements and other conservations measures to protect both State- and BLM-listed species.

There are 28 other special status species in the VPA that are listed in Table 3.15.2. This includes 13 wildlife, 4 fish, and 12 plant species. Of the 12 plant species, 11 species are soil endemics, which means that they are restricted to specific soil types. The dependence of these species on locally unique geological formations and soil parent materials make them particularly susceptible to habitat loss.

There are three bird, four fish, and one plant species that are dependent upon streams, rivers and associated wetlands. The remaining species are primarily upland species that have a variety of habitat requirements including grasslands, desert shrub, woodland, mature forest, and caves within forested areas.

Threats to sensitive species that could result in their listing as federally threatened or endangered species are similar to the threats experienced by listed species. These threats include sensitivity to human disturbance, poisoning, changes in flow regimes, loss of riparian wetlands, timber harvesting, restriction to unique soil or geologic formations, competition from non-native species, overgrazing, and habitat degradation or loss due to agricultural practices, oil and gas development, and/or urban encroachment.

TABLE 3.15.2. STATE-LISTED AND BLM-LISTED SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE VPA.			
Common Name	Protection*	Preferred Habitat	Potential for Occurring on BLM Lands
Scientific Name			
<i>State-listed and BLM-listed Special Status Mammal Species</i>			
Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	SP/SD	Forested areas; roosts and hibernates in caves, mines, and buildings.	The Townsend's big-eared bat is found throughout much of western North America including areas in the Uintah Mountains and the Book Cliffs. It is a cave-roosting species that move into man-made caves such as mines and buildings. Unlike many other bats, they are unable to crawl into crevices and usually roost in enclosed areas where they are vulnerable to disturbance. The Townsend's big-eared bat is quite sensitive to human disturbance, and this appears to be the primary cause of population decline for this species. This bat is colonial during the maternity season, when compact clusters of up to 200 individuals might be found. Maternity roosts form in the spring and remain intact during the summer. Site fidelity is high, and if undisturbed, the bats will use the same roost for many generations.
White-tailed prairie dog <i>Cynomys leucurus</i>	SP	Grasslands	White-tailed prairie dogs form colonies in parts of northeastern Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. The white-tailed prairie dog is the main food source of the Utah population of the endangered black-footed ferret that were reintroduced to northeastern Utah. Major threats to the white-tailed prairie dog include habitat loss, poisoning, and disease.
<i>State-listed and BLM-listed Special Status Bird Species</i>			
American white pelican <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	SD	Marshes, lakes, and rivers.	American white pelicans summer in the interior of North America around major water bodies and winter along the shore of the Gulf Coast and Baja California. The species is extremely sensitive to human disturbance on its nesting grounds and is adversely impacted by loss of foraging habitat, environmental contaminants, and water level fluctuations. As many as 200 American white pelicans can be found between Pariaette, Pelican Lake, and the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge during the spring and summer.
Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	SP/SD	Wet meadow, wet grassland, and irrigated agricultural areas.	The bobolink was historically common but is now a rare nester in flooded grasslands and wet meadows of northern Utah. It summers in the northern regions of North America and winters in

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<i>oryzivorus</i>			South America. Most of the birds migrate east of the Great Plains. The range of the bobolink has decreased, in Utah and across its entire range, because of habitat loss from drought and agricultural practices such as early season hay cutting, grassland conversion, and overgrazing. Habitat for the bobolink occurs in the mid elevations of the VPA in the Uintah Mountains and the Book Cliffs and has been observed at the Pariette wetlands.
Burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	SP	Open grassland and prairies.	Burrowing owls are neotropical migrants, nest underground in burrows, and are typically found in open desert grassland and shrubland areas that are level and well drained. They depend on burrowing mammals for nest sites and are often associated with prairie dog colonies. The decline of the owl's population across its range appears to be due primarily to agricultural practices, use of pesticides, and the decline of prairie dog colonies. Habitat for burrowing owls occurs throughout the lower elevations of the Uintah Basin. Many of the areas where burrowing owls are nesting have been identified and mapped by VFO personnel.
Ferruginous hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i>	Threatened	Grasslands, agriculture lands, sagebrush/saltbush/greasewood shrub lands, and at the periphery of pinyon-juniper forests. Nests in juniper trees, cliffs, buttes, and creek banks.	The ferruginous hawk is a neotropical migrant breeding from southwestern Canada to central Arizona, New Mexico, and northern Texas, and wintering in California to northern Mexico. It is a year-round resident from Nevada through western and southern Utah, northern Arizona, and New Mexico, to eastern Colorado and South Dakota. In Utah, the ferruginous hawk nests at the edge of juniper habitats and open, desert, and grassland habitats in the western, northeastern, and southeastern portions of the state. Ferruginous hawks are highly sensitive to human disturbance and are also threatened by habitat loss from oil and gas development, agricultural practices, and urban encroachment. They have experienced a decline across much of their range and have been extirpated from some of their former breeding grounds in Utah. Habitat for ferruginous hawk occurs in the lower and mid elevations of the VPA in the Uintah Mountains and the Book Cliffs and many of the active nest sites in the VPA have been identified and mapped. There are 271 known nesting sites in the VPA, 34 of

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			which are currently active. Eighty-eight (88) percent of these active and inactive nest sites have roads and pipelines within the ½ mile buffer established for these nest sites meant to limit surface disturbing activities in close proximity to these nests.
Grasshopper sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	SP/SD	Dry grasslands; characterized by short to mid-height clumps of grass with few to no shrubs.	The grasshopper sparrow is a neotropical migrant was considered to be historically abundant in the State of Utah; however, there are currently only a few known breeding sites in the grasslands of northern Utah. The grasshopper sparrow ranges over most of the United States during the summer and in the south and in Mexico during the winter. Much of this species' former habitat has been lost to agricultural and urban encroachment and overgrazing. These birds nest in semi-colonial groups in dry grasslands, characterized by short to mid-height clumps of grass with few to no shrubs. Habitat for grasshopper sparrow occurs in the grasslands of the Uintah Basin although there has been no documented occurrences in the VPA.
Greater sage grouse <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	SP/SD	Sagebrush plains, foothills, and mountain valleys.	Greater sage grouse are found in the sagebrush foothills and plains of the Intermountain Region. Since 1967, the abundance of male grouse on known breeding grounds in Utah has declined approximately 50 percent. Brood counts and harvest data show a similar downward trend. Habitat loss and fragmentation from agricultural encroachment, urbanization, and overgrazing are the primary threats to the greater sage grouse. Habitat for greater sage grouse occurs in the mid elevations of the VPA in the Uintah Basin and the Book Cliffs. Many studies have been conducted on sage grouse in Utah and in the Uintah Basin. One of the strongest populations in the State of Utah has been shown to occur on Diamond Mountain. Many of the active leks and nesting areas in the VPA have been identified and mapped.
Lewis' woodpecker <i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	SP/SD	Burned-over Douglas fir, mixed conifer, pinyon-juniper, riparian, and oak woodlands, but is also found in the fringes of pine and juniper stands, and deciduous	The Lewis' woodpecker is a year-round resident to western North America and, in Utah, is occasionally found in the riparian habitats of the Uintah Basin and along the Duchesne and Green Rivers. They breed in open Ponderosa Pine forests and cottonwood dominated riparian bottoms and winter primarily along low-

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		(cottonwood) forests. Dead trees and stumps are required for nesting. Wintering grounds are over a wide range of habitats, but oak woodlands are preferred.	elevation cottonwood dominated riparian bottoms. Nests have been found on the Green River, Lake Fork River, and in Ponderosa Pine forests on the Uintah Mountains. Formerly common in several areas of the state, the species distribution is currently reduced, and the species is experiencing a range-wide decline. This woodpecker usually feeds on flying insects in open areas interspersed with trees in the spring and summer. It feeds primarily on fruits and nuts in the fall and winter. It is adversely affected by loss of habitat from water development and agricultural practices and may be increasingly affected by competition for nest cavities from non-native bird species.
Long-billed curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i>	SP/SD	Uncultivated rangelands and pastures near water.	The long-billed curlew is a neotropical migrant that summers in the upland meadows and rangelands of western North America. It forages in moist meadow wetlands and upland habitats. The curlew is adversely affected by human disturbance and habitat loss from agricultural practices. Habitat for long-billed curlew occurs in the mid elevations of the Uintah Mountains and the Book Cliffs and it has been observed in the VPA.
Northern goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	CS	Mature mountain forest and riparian zone habitats.	The northern goshawk is a neotropical migrant that occurs across the northern regions of North America in scattered populations primarily in mature mountain forest and valley cottonwood habitats. The species is adversely affected by loss of habitat from timber harvest and development in riparian areas. Because goshawks occur in low-density populations, they are particularly susceptible to population loss. Goshawk populations appear to have declined across their range, particularly in the Colorado Plateau ecoregion. Areas of potentially suitable nesting habitat for northern goshawk consist of coniferous forest and mixed-aspen forest types, dominated by spruce, fir, pine, and aspen. Populations of northern goshawk have been identified in the mid elevations of the VPA in the Uintah Mountains and the Book Cliffs.
Three-toed woodpecker <i>Picoides</i>	SD	Coniferous forests, generally above 7,800 feet elevation.	The three-toed woodpecker nests and winters in northern coniferous forest and mixed-aspen forest types dominated by spruce, fir, pine, and aspen, usually above 7,800 feet elevation, in

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<i>tridactylus</i>			the northern regions of North America and the Rocky Mountains. Small populations have been located along the highest elevations of the Book Cliffs and possibly Diamond Mountain. The species is negatively affected by forest management practices such as clear cutting and fire suppression.
<i>State-listed and BLM-listed Special Status Reptile Species</i>			
Smooth greensnake <i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>	SP/SD	Moist grassy areas and meadows.	The smooth greensnake typically inhabits meadows, grassy marshes, and moist grassy fields along forest edges. Its distribution ranges from northeastern Utah into central Colorado and northern New Mexico, and into the Northern Plains from the Canadian border south to Kansas and Missouri.
<i>State-listed and BLM-listed Special Status Fish Species</i>			
Bluehead sucker <i>Catostomus discobolus</i>	SP	Fast flowing water in high gradient reaches of mountain rivers.	The bluehead sucker are typically associated with fast flowing rocky riffles in higher gradient reaches of small to large rivers in the Colorado River drainage including the Green, White, and Duchesne rivers and their tributaries as well as in the Bonneville and Snake River basins. Flow alteration, habitat loss/alteration, and the introduction of non-native fish species have been identified as significant causes of the decline of this species.
Colorado River cutthroat trout <i>Oncorhynchus clarki pleuriticus</i>	CS	Cool, clear water of high-elevation streams and lakes.	There are 20 known populations of purestrain Colorado River cutthroat trout in northeastern Utah. Most existing populations of this species are restricted to areas above 7,000 feet elevation. These populations are being managed by the State of Utah under a multiagency conservation agreement aimed a reducing or eliminating the threats to this species (CRCT Task Force 2001). Habitat alteration and the introduction of non-native fish species have been identified as the primary threats to this species. UDWR currently has plans to reestablish Colorado River cutthroat trout in the Bitter Creek and Upper Willow Creek areas of the Book Cliffs. Habitat restoration activities have been ongoing and these areas will be chemically treated prior to reintroduction of Colorado River cutthroat trout to remove non-native fish species. The only existing population of Colorado River cutthroat trout on BLM lands in the

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Common Name Scientific Name	Protection*	Preferred Habitat	Potential for Occurring on BLM Lands
			VPA is found in Sears Creek (water code: II BQ).
Flannelmouth sucker <i>Catostomus latipinnis</i>	SP	Large rivers, where they are often found in deep pools of slow-flowing, low-gradient reaches.	Flannelmouth sucker are typically associated with rocky pools and slow flowing, low-gradient reaches in the large rivers of the Colorado River drainage including the Green, White, and Duchesne rivers. Flow alteration, habitat loss/alteration, and the introduction of non-native fish species have been identified as significant causes of the decline of this species.
Roundtail chub <i>Gila robusta</i>	Threatened	Large rivers, and is most often found in murky pools near strong currents.	Roundtail chub are found in moderate-sized rivers in the Colorado River drainage including the Green and Duchesne rivers. Adults are generally associated with pools and eddies with overhead cover, often congregating below rapids while juveniles generally inhabit shallower habitats than adults. Roundtail chubs are also found in large reservoirs in the drainage. They are carnivorous, opportunistic feeders, taking terrestrial and aquatic insects, especially midges, mayflies, and caddis flies, as well as snails, crustaceans, fish, and sometimes-filamentous algae. This fish was once much more common throughout the Colorado River system than it is today. Habitat modification (e.g., stream channelization, damming, removal of riparian vegetation) and establishment of non-native predators are probably the primary factors contributing to the decline of this species.
<i>State-listed and BLM-listed Special Status Plant Species</i>			
Park rockcress <i>Arabis vivariensis</i>	Sensitive	Occurs on the Webber Formation sandstone and limestone outcrops in mixed desert shrub and pinyon-juniper communities at 5,000 to 6,000 feet elevation.	The park rockcress is found in Dinosaur National Monument and on three sites (30 acres) on adjacent BLM lands.
Hamilton milkvetch <i>Astragalus hamiltonii</i>	Sensitive	Occurs on the Duchesne and Wasatch formation soils in pinyon-juniper and desert shrub communities at 5,240 to 5,800 feet elevation.	The Hamilton milkvetch is currently known from only 19 sites (329 acres) between Lapoint and Vernal, Utah.

TABLE 3.15.2. STATE-LISTED AND BLM-LISTED SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE VPA.			
Common Name Scientific Name	Protection*	Preferred Habitat	Potential for Occurring on BLM Lands
Owenby's thistle <i>Cirsium owenbyii</i>	Sensitive	Occurs on the east flank of the Uintah Mountains in the sagebrush, juniper, and riparian communities at 5,500 to 6,200 feet elevation.	The Owenby's thistle is currently known from only one site (53 acres) Brown's Park.
Untermann daisy <i>Erigeron untermanii</i>	Sensitive	Occurs in the pinyon-juniper communities on calcareous shales and sandstones of the Uintah and Green River formations at 7,000 to 7,800 feet elevation.	The Untermann daisy is an endemic to Duchesne and Uintah counties, Utah.
Alcove bog-orchard <i>Habenaria zothecina</i>	Sensitive	Occurs on moist stream banks, seeps, hanging gardens in mixed-desert shrub, pinyon-juniper, and oakbrush vegetation communities at 4,000 to 6,200 feet elevation.	The alcove bog-orchid is an endemic to Emery, Garfield, Grand, San Juan, and Uintah counties, Utah.
Rock hymenoxys <i>Hymenoxys lapidicola</i>	Sensitive	Occurs on rock crevices in the pinyon-juniper vegetation community at 6,000 to 8,000 feet elevation.	The rock hymenoxys is an endemic to Uintah County, Utah.
Huber's pepperweed <i>Lepidium huberi</i>	Sensitive	Rock crevices, eroding parent material and alluvial soils of the Moenkopi, Navajo, Chinle and Formations in the Uintah and Green River Formation in the Book Cliffs. 5,000-8,000 ft.	Huber's pepperweed grows in Big Brush Creek Gorge in the Uintah Mountains.
Stemless penstemon <i>Penstemon acaulis</i>	Sensitive	Occurs on semi-barren substrates in pinyon-juniper and sagebrush-grass communities at 5,840 to 7,285 feet elevation.	The stemless penstemon is currently known from eight sites in Brown's Park, Daggett County, Utah.
Flowers penstemon <i>Penstemon</i>	Sensitive	Occurs on clay badlands in shadscale and desert vegetation communities at 5,000 to 5,400	No populations known on BLM lands but populations do occur on nearby private and Tribal lands near Myton, Roosevelt, and Randlett.

TABLE 3.15.2. STATE-LISTED AND BLM-LISTED SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE VPA.			
Common Name Scientific Name	Protection*	Preferred Habitat	Potential for Occurring on BLM Lands
<i>Penstemon flowersii</i>		feet elevation.	Randlett.
Gibbons penstemon (Gibbons beardtongue) <i>Penstemon gibbensii</i>	Sensitive	Occurs on sandy and shaley (Green River Shale) bluffs and slopes with juniper, thistle, Eriogonum, Elymus, serviceberry, rabbitbrush, and Thermopsis at 5,500 to 6,400 feet elevation.	Gibbons penstemon is currently known at only one site (6 acres) in Brown's Park, Daggett County, Utah.
Goodrich penstemon (Goodrich beardtongue) <i>Penstemon goodrichii</i>	Sensitive	Occurs on the Duchesne River Formation on blue-gray to reddish bands of clay badlands at 5,590 to 6,215 feet elevation.	Goodrich penstemon is currently known at only five sites in the Lapoint-Tridell-Whiterocks area.
<p>*Protection:</p> <p>CS: A species of concern being managed under a multi agency conservation agreement with the goal to keep the species from being federally listed.</p> <p>Sensitive: Listed by the State of Utah, or BLM for plants, as a species sensitive to disturbance.</p> <p>SD: Listed by the State of Utah as a species of special concern due to its limited distribution within the state.</p> <p>SP: Listed by the State of Utah as a species of special concern due to declining population sizes within the state.</p> <p>Threatened: Listed by the State of Utah as a species faced with substantial risk of extinction.</p>			