**USDA Forest Service - Region 4 - Salmon-Challis National Forest**

**Biological Evaluation**
**Pat-Ken Pipeline and Storage Tank Water Development For Livestock Project**

**3 February 2006**

**For the Following FS Region 4 Sensitive Terrestrial Species:**

North American Wolverine (*Gulogulo (luscus)*)
Fisher (*Martes pennanti*)
Western big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendi pallesceni*)
Spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*)
Pygmy rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis)*
Harlequin duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)
Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)
Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
Great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*)
Boreal owl (*Aegolius funereus*)
Flammulated owl (*Otus flammeoulus*)
Three-toed woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*)
Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus)*— **Management Indicator Species for Sage Steppe Habitat**
Columbia spotted frog (*Rana luteiuentris*)— **Management Indicator Species for Riparian Habitat**
Pink agoseris (*Agoseris lackschewitzii*)
Lemhi penstemon (*Penstemon lemhiensis*)
Flexible alpine collomia (*Collomia debilis camporum*)
Douglas' biscuitroot (Cymopterus douglassii)
Salmon twin bladderpod (*Physaria didymocarpa var. lyrata)*
Marsh's bluegrass (*Poa abbreviata marshii)*
Idaho range lichen (*Xanthoparmelia idahoensis)*

This is the final Biological Evaluation for terrestrial Region 4 Regional Forester Sensitive Species for the proposed Pat-Ken Pipeline and Storage Tank Water Development For Livestock Project. The Evaluation was prepared in accordance with Forest Service Manual direction to review all Forest Service activities to ensure that such activities do not contribute to a downward trend in population numbers or density of Sensitive species and/or a downward trend in habitat capability, either of which might ultimately result in the need for federal listing (FSM 2672.1 and 2672.4).

This project has been determined to have a finding of:

1. **No Impact** for Sensitive Species: pygmy rabbit, harlequin duck, peregrine falcon, flexible alpine collomia, Douglas' biscuitroot, Marsh's bluegrass, and Idaho range lichen.

2. **May Impact, but Not Likely to Adversely Impact and move towards federal listing** Sensitive Species: north american wolverine, boreal owl, flammulated owl, sage grouse, and Salmon twin bladderpod.

3. **May Impact, but Not Likely to Adversely Impact and move towards federal listing** Sensitive Species: fisher, western big-eared bat, spotted bat, northern goshawk, great gray owl, three-toed woodpecker, Columbia spotted frog, pink agoseris, and Lemhi penstemon, **with inclusion of Mitigation Measures for Adverse Project Impacts**.

The rationale for these determinations is as follows:

1. There is no known vital habitat for R4 Sensitive Species within or in close proximity to the Action Area, which if removed from their potential usage would cause a negative impact to these species

2. Habitat suitable for R4 Sensitive Species: north american wolverine, fisher, western big-eared bat, spotted bat, northern goshawk, great gray owl, boreal owl, flammulated owl, three-toed woodpecker, Columbia spotted frog, pink agoseris, Lemhi penstemon, and Salmon twin bladderpod, does occur within the project Action Area. But, as previously stated, no habitat vital to the survival of these species, which if removed from their usage would cause a negative impact to these species and result in a trend towards Federal listing, occurs within the Action Area.

3. No habitat suitable for R4 Sensitive Species: harlequin duck, peregrine falcon, flexible alpine collomia, Douglas' biscuitroot, Marsh's bluegrass, or Idaho range lichen occurs within the Action Area.

4. The presence of R4 Sensitive species: north american wolverine, western big-eared bat, spotted bat, pygmy rabbit, harlequin duck, peregrine falcon, boreal owl, flammulated owl, pink agoseris, Douglas' biscuitroot, Salmon twin bladderpod, Marsh's bluegrass, and Idaho range lichen has not been formally documented within the Action Area.

5. The presence of R4 Sensitive species: fisher, northern goshawk, great gray owl, three-toed woodpecker, and Lemhi penstemon, has been formally documented within the Action Area, or in close vicinity to the Action Area.

**Mitigation Measures Needed to Achieve No Impact or Not Likely to Adversely Impact Status on Sensitive Species for the Proposed Project:**

**Fisher-** If fisher activity is identified by future Winter Mammal Track Surveys to be in vicinity of this project Action Area, impacts of noise generated by the water-pump on fisher usage of the Action Area will be investigated. If it is determined that water-pump generated noise is causing fisher to avoid the Action Area, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed to address the situation. If a fisher den site is determined to be present in the vicinity of the proposed Project Site location prior to, or during, construction, then the decision to allow the project will be revisited by the Project Lead in conjunction with a SCNF North Zone Biologist

**Western Big-Eared Bat-** Small animal escape ramps will be installed in all watertroughs.

**Spotted Bat-** Small animal escape ramps will be installed in all watertroughs.

**Northern Goshawk-** If a northern goshawk nesting territory is determined to be present in the vicinity of the proposed Project Site location prior to, or during, construction, then the decision to allow the project will be revisited by the Project Lead in conjunction with a SCNF North Zone Biologist.

**Great Gray Owl-** If a great gray owl nesting territory is determined to be present in the vicinity of the proposed Project Site location prior to, or during, construction, then the decision to allow the project will be revisited by the Project Lead in conjunction with a SCNF North Zone Biologist

**Three-toed Woodpecker-** If a three-toed woodpeckerl nesting territory is determined to be present in the vicinity of the proposed Project Site location prior to, or during, construction, then the decision to allow the project will be revisited by the Project Lead in conjunction with a SCNF North Zone Biologist

**Columbia spotted frog-** A "closed pipeline" water system will be required. The water system design to include a float valve shut-off system within the supplemental storage tank, the final storage tank, and the watertroughs at the ends of the pipeline, that would retain water in the system, including spring sources, until a drop in water level at any of these pipeline components opens the system to refill the troughs.

**Pink Agoseris-** If Pink Agoseris is determined to be present in the vicinity of the proposed Project Site location prior to, or during, construction, then the decision to allow the project will be revisited by the Project Lead in conjunction with a SCNF North Zone Biologist/Botanist

**Lemhi Penstemon-** If Lemhi Penstemon is determined to be present in the vicinity of the proposed Project Site location prior to, or during, construction, then the decision to allow the project will be revisited by the Project Lead in conjunction with a SCNF North Zone Biologist/Botanist

**Prepared By:** Michael Steck
**Signature**:_____
**Title:** Salmon-Challis North Zone Interdisciplinary Biologist
Date:_____

## 2. Project Description

| | |
|---|---|
| **Project Name:** Pat-Ken Pipeline and Storage Tank Water Development for Livestock | **Type:** Range |
| **District:** Leadore | **Project Lead:** Joseph Robson- Leadore RD Range Conservationist |

**Project Purpose and Need**
To provide for more consistent water availability, and to improve livestock distribution and utilization of upland forage.
The additional water development is necessary to ensure adequate water is available on both Forest, and BLM pastures served by this system.

**Proposed Actions (see attached map)**
An existing developed spring source (Spring #1), about two hundred vertical feet below the existing Pat-Ken spring and pipeline in T.20 N, R.24 E, Sec 17 SESW, would be pumped to the upper spring (Spring #2) and piped into a storage tank to supplement the upper spring and pipeline system. This phase of the project would involve construction of approximately 400 yards of 1 ¼ inch pipeline and setting of the supplemental storage tank. Pumping of the water uphill would require seasonal use of a fueled (gas or diesel) mechanical pump. Season-of-Use would be from **June 1** to **October 31.** The proposed pipeline segment would be installed via a small bulldozer equipped with a pipe-layer tooth, to a depth of

approximately 18". Springs 1 and 2 would supply the existing pipeline, which is approximately 3 miles in length, and an existing storage tank on the ridge in section 24, of T.20 N, R.24 E. Four livestock watering troughs would be fed by the combined pipeline from Springs 1 and 2. The watertroughs would be floated to create a closed system. A total of 500 cow/calf pair of livestock would be served water by this system. The end overflow of the existing pipeline continues for 1 mile into the Railroad Tanker storage tank on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered land along the Warm Springs Wood Road at T. 20N, R. 24E Sec. 25. The BLM distributes water from this tank to multiple watertrough locations.

**Salmon-Challis National Forest Plan Direction**

The project is expected to meet the following Salmon National Forest LRMP Standards and Guidelines, and Management Area direction:

**LRMP Standards and Guidelines**.

- All applicable PACFISH standards and guidelines will be followed.
- All applicable Lynx Conservation Strategy standards and guidelines will be followed.

**Salmon NF LRMP Management Area 5B direction**.

- Management emphasis is on producing a medium level of commercial sawtimber production and utilization.
- Livestock production will not be increased based on anticipated increased forage production through logging.

**Agency/Kenney Watershed Assessment**

- The project area is included within the Agency / Kenney Watershed Assessment completed in 2003. This proposed project is consistent with specific recommendations made for enhancing riparian area recovery. The stock water troughs will improve livestock distribution and utilization and enable the proper timing and levels of livestock use to be managed in accordance with Forest Plan standards.

**Project Construction Length:** 2 weeks during summer 2006.
**Season of Use:** June 1 to October 31
**Project Effects Duration:** 30 years. 2006-2036.

**3. Description of Project Action Area**

**Project Action Area Location**
The Project Action Area extends from a point of beginning in T.20 N, R.24 E, Sec 17 SESW to a point of ending at T.20N, R. 4E Sec. 25 NESW, Boise Principle Meridian. The Action Area is located within the Pattee Creek Drainage (170602040805 HUC 6) of the Lemhi-Agency Subwatershed (HUC 5) of the Lemhi Watershed (HUC 4). The drainage encompasses 15838 acres. The Action Area encompasses approximately 900 acres of mixed dry-Douglas-fir/sagebrush/grass and sagebrush/grassland habitat on the south aspect valley slope of Pattee Creek Drainage upslope into mixed Douglas-fir/lodgepole pine/grass habitat surrounding spring 1 and 2. (See Attached Maps 1 and 2)

**Description of Project Cumulative Effects Terrestrial Wildlife Action Area to be Assessed. (see map)**
A total of approximately 900 acres of Action Area surrounding the proposed Project Site will be assessed for potential Cumulative Impacts from activities associated with the proposed project. The primary access route to be used to access the project area by construction forces is the Warm Springs Road (FR185). The Project Action Area is located in a National Forest Area With Road and Trail Restrictions. All motorized vehicles are prohibited from September 25 until May 15 except on designated routes shown on the Salmon NF Travel Map 1979. Restriction purposes are for big game security, erosion control, and elk migration protection. The Project Action Area is within the Pattee-Warm Springs Cattle and Horse Grazing Allotment. The Project Action Area does not encompass any old growth timber stands.

**Assessment of Project Cumulative Effects to the Action Area**
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), defines cumulative effects as "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR 1508.7).

A review of past activities, and proposed future activities, that affect this Action Area and Access Corridor; such as minerals withdrawal, prescribed fire, wildfire, water development, grazing intensity, road location change, road/stream crossing change, and road density change activities has been completed within the Action Area. This was done in order to assess the potential cumulative effects of past, and proposed future activities, on soil retention, water quality in action area streams, and on TES fish, plant, and wildlife species.

a. No minerals withdrawals are proposed for this Action Area by this project.
b. No proposals to prescribe burn or conduct fuels reduction actions are part of this project.
c. Current grazing usage of the Pattee-Warm Springs Cattle and Horse Allotment is 500 cow/calf pairs. No proposal to increase grazing intensity is part of this project, or will occur as a result of this project.
d. Road location changes and road/stream crossing changes have occurred in the past within the access corridor and Action Area. No changes are proposed as part of this project.
e. Road density in the Action Area will not be changed by the proposed project. No road construction, reconstruction, improvement, or decommissioning is needed as part of project activities. No temporary road construction, reconstruction,

improvement, or decommissioning is needed as part of project activities. No closed road systems would need to be re-opened as part of project activities.

The project action is not expected to contribute to long-term adverse effects to water or soil resources within the Action Area**. With inclusion of mitigation measures for wildlife and sensitive plants, the proposed project is not expected to contribute to long-term adverse effects to wildlife or sensitive plants within the Action Area.**

## 4. Sensitive Species- Terrestrial Vertebrates Habitat Descriptions

**North American Wolverine:** Suitable wolverine habitat includes tundra and coniferous forest zones at higher altitudes in summer, and at mid to lower elevations in winter. Wolverine is a rare, low-density, wide-ranging species. It is reclusive, primarily using high-elevation forests and cirque basins, and travels long distances in search of prey and other food. Wolverines prefer to hunt around small meadows, timbered thickets, cliffs, riparian, and ecotonal areas. Wolverines generally avoid large meadows and large clearcuts. Wolverine subsist on rabbit, hare, gopher, rats, mice, marmots, grouse, occasional songbirds, fruits, berries, insect larvae, and carrion of large game such as elk and deer.

**Fisher:** Suitable habitat for fisher include continuous-canopied mature to old-growth spruce-fir forests for denning, and areas with dense understories of young conifers, shrubs, and herbaceous cover for hunting and foraging. Fisher diet includes rabbit, hare, squirrel, chipmunk, mice, porcupine, raccoon, young Felidae spp., smaller mustelids, grouse, songbirds, hawks, reptiles, amphibians, insects, carrion, and berries and other fleshy fruits. Fisher usually avoid open areas such as large meadows, grasslands, and clearcuts.

**Western big-eared bat**: Western big-eared bat is consistently found in areas with canyons or cliffs. Western big-eared bats roost in exposed, open areas in cool, damp caves or mine tunnels, old buildings, and at rocky outcroppings. Western big-eared bat foraging habitat is comprised of juniper/pine forests, shrub steppe grasslands, deciduous forest, and mixed coniferous forests from sea level to 10,000 feet elevation. It forages near tree and shrub foliage for moths and other flying insects.

**Spotted bat:** Suitable reproductive habitats for spotted bat are crevices high up on steep cliff faces. Cracks and crevices in limestone or sandstone cliffs are critical roosting sites. Suitable foraging habitat for spotted bat includes open ponderosa pine and pinyon-juniper forests, open desert scrub shrubland, open pasture and hay fields.

**Harlequin duck**: Harlequin duck ground nests within 6 to 60 feet of water on islands, in stream bank recesses, under bushes or trees, in hollow trees or cavities among rocks all with overhead cover. It prefers cold, shallow, low gradient, meandering, mountain streams in forested areas. Harlequin duck consumes crustaceans and mollusks, stoneflies, other insects, and fish.

**Pygmy Rabbit:** Pygmy rabbit is a sagebrush obligate species of sagebrush habitat.

**Peregrine falcon:** Suitable reproductive habitat for peregrine falcon includes high cliff ledges, potholes or small caves. Nest sites also include old stick nests of ravens and hawks, and holes and stubs of large trees. Suitable foraging habitat includes high mountains and open forests, preferably where there are rocky cliffs overlooking rivers, lakes, or other open water. Peregrine falcon feeds on a variety of small to medium bird species, some mammals, and insects**.**

**Northern goshawk:** Preferred habitat includes mature to over-mature coniferous forest with a 75-80% intermediate -closed canopy, moderate (15-35%) slope, and northern aspect. Goshawk nests are normally found within stands of large trees with dense canopy and open understory. Foraging activities are conducted within intermediate-closed canopy, open-understory forest, and within small forest openings. Northern goshawk prey upon grouse, quail, pheasant, ducks smaller hawks and owls, hare, rabbit, squirrel, woodchuck, chipmunk, mice, and shrews.

**Great gray owl**: In the Intermountain Region suitable great gray owl habitat is composed of mixed lodgepole pine/Douglas fir/ and aspen forest usually bordering small openings or meadows. Optimum habitat for great gray owl is dense coniferous forest for roosting and nesting, near semi-open areas where small rodents are abundant. Nests are constructed on top of broken-topped snags, in abandoned nests of raptors or ravens, and on debris platforms formed by dwarf mistletoe. Great gray owls feed primarily on voles and pocket gophers, foraging along edges of clearings.

**Boreal owl:** Suitable reproductive habitat is composed of old woodpecker cavities in relatively high density, large diameter (12+" dbh) mixed coniferous, aspen, Douglas-fir, or spruce-fir forest with an open understory and multi-layered canopy. Suitable foraging habitat includes cool, high elevation spruce-fir forests. Boreal owl feeds primarily on small mammals such as red-backed vole, pocket gopher, flying squirrel, and shrew. They also will consume insects and small birds. Boreal owls avoid open areas, such as clearcuts and meadows, except for occasional use of the edges for foraging.

**Flammulated owl:** Preferred habitat is composed of mature ponderosa pine-Douglas-fir forests with open canopies. Flammulated owls have been found in mixed pine, spruce, and fir forests at high elevations, and in aspen and second growth ponderosa pine. Suitable reproductive habitat includes large diameter (20+" dbh) dead trees. Flammulated owls are almost exclusively insectivorous, feeding on moths, beetles, caterpillars, crickets, spiders, scorpions, and other arachnidea which they glean from tree branches, or hawk while flying. They avoid foraging in young, dense timber stands.

**Three-toed woodpecker**: Suitable habitat for three-toed woodpecker is mixed-coniferous forest containing spruce, fir, tamarack, lodgepole pine, and aspen, with abundant dead and decayed trees, between 4000 and 9000 feet elevation. Three-toed woodpecker is a snag-dependent species, which typically occurs at low endemic levels until abundant dead and decayed trees, in diseased and/or newly burned areas, become available. Nest cavities are excavated in trees with heartrot, while snags with the most bark and limbs remaining on are used for foraging on wood-boring larvae of moths and beetles, caterpillars, and ants. Snags are required for feeding, perching, nesting, and roosting.

**Sage grouse:** Sage grouse is a Salmon-Challis National Forest Management Indicator Species, which is also an obligate species, of sagebrush habitat.

**Columbia Spotted frog**: Suitable reproductive habitat is based around permanent water such as marshy edges of ponds or lakes, in algae-grown overflow pools of streams, near slow-moving water at streamside, or near springs with emergent vegetation. After breeding spotted frog may move considerable distances from water into mixed conifer and sub-alpine forest, grassland, or brushland of sage or rabbitbrush. Spotted frog is thought to hibernate in holes near springs or other areas where water remains unfrozen and is constantly renewed.

## Sensitive Species Habitat Descriptions- Plants

**Pink agoseris**: Suitable habitat for pink agoseris is restricted to perennially wet montane meadows on a variety of substrates, in which the soil is saturated throughout the agoseris growing season.

**Lemhi penstemon:** Suitable habitat for Lemhi penstemon is composed of open sagebrush and grassland-coniferous forest communities on stable to semi-disturbed sites, mostly in deep soils, between elevations of 4000-8000 feet.

**Flexible alpine collomia**: Suitable habitat for flexible collomia is comprised of stable rock talus and scree slopes that have a soil substrate.

**Douglas' biscuitroot**:

**Description:** A member of the parsley family, it is a low, tufted, herbaceous perennial. It grows long and tufted (4-15 cm tall) with a straight to curved (6-20 cm long) taproot. The crown has few to several branches, arising 1-3 cm below ground, which are enveloped by marcescent, papery leaf sheaths. Its leaves are oblong, 2-5 cm length, green to grayish-green, or strongly blueish-grey in color (glaucous). It has once-pinnate with entire leaflets, or with few to many unequally bilobed to pinnately 3-7 lobed or twice-pinnate (especially below) leaflets. The leaflets are in 3-5 opposite, elliptic, distinct pairs, which are crowded and greatly overlapping. The inflorescence consists of subcompact, compound umbels (3-8 mm in diameter). The flower stalk is 4-13 cm long and exceeds the leaves. Its 5-12 bractlets are entire, about equaling the flower length, and are thinly marginad. The flowers are yellow (fading pale) and the carpophore is bilobed. The fruit is broadly ovoid (3-4 mm long) dull to somewhat lustrous, prominent, corky, and winged. The seeds are slightly compressed dorsally. It flowers from mid-June to late July. It fruits from July to August.

**Habitat**: Occurs on alpine and sub-alpine ridges, slopes, and on moraines, colluvium, and outwash found in adjacent cirques. It occurs on all aspects and all slope declivities. It is most commonly found at elevations between 9,000- 10,500 feet, but has been found as high as 10,850 feet and as low as 8,000 ft. Location sites are largely devoid of trees. If trees are present, they are widely scattered individuals or krumholz. Habitat substrate is normally gravelly to rocky soil, consisting of frost-shattered fragments of carbonate. Sites where it is found are constantly subject to disturbance of the soil surface, either by wind erosion, water erosion, frost-heaving, or downslope soil movement. It occurs only in sparsely vegetated areas that have considerable amounts of bare ground. At the Sheep Mountain Proposed Research Natural Area in the Lemhi Mountain Range, on Leadore District, it occupies the highest, driest, and most exposed sites, and is the highest elevation plant collected. It is restricted to dolomite substrates, and is a minor, but consistent, component of the alpine Carex rupestris community. Most of the Sheep Mountain site was sparsely vegetated (35%), with most of the area being exposed mineral soil. In the Lost River Mountain Range, to the west of Leadore District, site locations have been characterized as alpine fellfield, talus (including scree), and spike-fescue (Leucopoa kingii) grassland.

**Salmon twin bladderpod**:

**Description**: A perennial member of the mustard family. It grows from a branching rootstock with 1 to several stems. Its basal leaves are numerous, 2-8 cm long, and varying in shape from toothed to (usually) lyrate. The stem leaves are reduced, mostly oblanceolate to entire. The sepals are green and the petals are yellow (9-12 mm long). It flowers from June to August, and produces a much inflated silicle (15-22 mm long).

**Habitat**: Elevation 4500-6800 ft. Rocky, sparsely vegetated, gentle to steep southerly slopes, only on stable substrates in Big Sagebrush (Artemisia tridentate) habitat. Vegetation cover is low and bare ground and rock coverage high. The substrate is dominated by rocks 1-3 inches in diameter, and can be loose, or more often fairly stable. It can be found in roadcuts, scabland, shale banks, talus slopes, and other sites subject to disturbance.

**Management Implications:** Frequent movement of the substrate is a hazard. Mining, ORV use, erosion, removal of gravel, roadside weed spraying, or major animal traffic could threaten the population. Steep slopes likely preclude significant livestock use at most sites. All populations of Salmon twin bladderpod in Lemhi Valley occur in drainages that have their headwaters on Salmon-Challis N.F. land. Suitable habitat generally occurs below the national forest boundary.

**Marsh's bluegrass:**

**Description:** Perennial grass. Culms 5-15 cm tall, slender, from small dense tufts with narrow bases, shoots intravaginal. Upper culm leaf sheath margins fused 1/10- ¼ the length; ligules 1-3 mm long, smooth; blades 1.0-1.5 mm side, folded and inrolled,

lacking papillae, abaxially smooth, adaxially scabrous on and between the veins. Panicles 2-5 cm long, lanceolate, the branches scabrous angled. Spikelets with 2-4 florets, 5-6 mm long; glumes subequal, 1-3 veined, the first slightly shorter, second frequently slightly exceeding the lower lemma; calluses of the lower lemmas webbed (sometimes minutely); lemmas 3.5-4.0 mm long, glabrous, smooth, palea keels scabrous; rachillas smooth. Flowers perfect; anthers 0.6-1.0 mm long. Subspecies marshii is distinguished from all other Poa abbreviata only in having entirely smooth, glabrous lemmas.

**Habitat:** High alpine rocky slopes, alpine fell-fields, and granite talus with strong cold winds, intense solar illumination, a growing season of 4-6 weeks, and killing frosts that are possible at any time. Idaho populations found in Butte county, Lemhi Range; Custer county, Lost River Mountains in Leatherman Pass; and in Blaine county, Sawtooth Mountains, 10,000 ft elevation on granite talus at head of Boulder Creek Canyon. California population found at 3840 m (12,600 ft) elevation in steep, north-facing cirque drainage near top of mountain.

**Management Implications:** The defense of the plant is its remote, steep location and high altitude.

**Idaho range lichen**:

**Description:**

**Habitat:** Heavy, bentonite clay-based, lake sediment soils.

**Management Implications:**

## 5. HABITAT/SPECIES DISTRIBUTION & DETERMINATION OF EFFECTS

| Terrestrial Sensitive Species | Survey Conducted | Species Present in Survey | Incidental Sighting in Action Area | Suitable ReproHabitat Present | Suitable ForageHabitat Present | Suitable MigrateHabitat Present | Impacts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Vertebrates** | ---------- | ---------- | ---------- | ---------- | ---------- | ---------- | ---------- |
| N. American Wolverine | 1994,1998,2000,2003,2004 | No | In Vicinity | No | Yes | Yes | C |
| Fisher | 1994,1998,2000,2003,2004 | No | In Vicinity | Yes | Yes | Yes | C |
| Western big-eared Bat | No | Unknown | No | No | Yes | Yes | C |
| Spotted Bat | No | Unknown | No | No | Yes | Yes | C |
| Pygmy Rabbit | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | A |
| Harlequin Duck | No | Unknown | No | No | No | No | A |
| Peregrine Falcon | No | No | No | No | No | No | A |
| Northern Goshawk | 1992,1994,1995,1996,1997,1998,1999,2001 | In Vicinity | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | C |
| Great Gray Owl | No | Unknown | 1989,1999,2002 | Yes | Yes | Yes | C |
| Boreal Owl | No | Unknown | No | Yes | No | Yes | C |
| Flammulated Owl | No | Unknown | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | C |
| Three-toed woodpecker | No | Unknown | In Vicinity | Yes | Yes | Yes | C |
| Sage Grouse | Agency Creek Lek 1968-2002 | 1968-1993 Yes 1994-2002 No | 2001 (2) | No | Yes | Yes | C |
| Columbia Spotted Frog | No | Unknown | No | No | Yes | Yes | C |
| **Plants:** | ---------- | ---------- | ---------- | ---------- | ---------- | ---------- | ---------- |
| Pink Agoseris | No | Unknown | No | Yes | - | - | C |
| Lemhi Penstemon | 1990 | 1990 | 1990 | Yes | - | - | C |
| Flexible Alpine Collomia | No | No | No | No | - | - | A |
| Douglas' Biscuitroot | No | No | No | No | - | - | A |
| Salmon Twin Bladderpod | No | Unknown | No | Yes | - | - | C |
| Marsh's Bluegrass | No | No | No | No | - | - | A |
| Idaho Range Lichen | No | No | No | No | - | - | A |

**Impacts Determinations for Regional Forest R4 Sensitive Species:**

A). "No impact

B). "Beneficial impact"

C). "May impact individuals but not likely to cause a trend to Federal listing or loss of viability"

* D). "May impact individuals and likely to result in a trend to Federal listing or loss of viability"

* Considered a trigger for a significant action

## 6. Mitigation Measures Needed to Achieve No Impact or Not Likely to Adversely Impact Status on Sensitive Species.

**Fisher-** If fisher activity is identified by future Winter Mammal Track Surveys to be in vicinity of this project Action Area, impacts of noise generated by the water-pump on fisher usage of the Action Area will be investigated. If it is determined that

water-pump generated noise is causing fisher to avoid the Action Area, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed to address the situation. If a fisher den site is determined to be present in the vicinity of the proposed Project Site location prior to, or during, construction, then the decision to allow the project will be revisited by the Project Lead in conjunction with a SCNF North Zone Biologist

**Western Big-Eared Bat-** Small animal escape ramps will be installed in all watertroughs.

**Spotted Bat-** Small animal escape ramps will be installed in all watertroughs.

**Northern Goshawk**- If a northern goshawk nesting territory is determined to be present in the vicinity of the proposed Project Site location prior to, or during, construction, then the decision to allow the project will be revisited by the Project Lead in conjunction with a SCNF North Zone Biologist.

**Great Gray Owl-** If a great gray owl nesting territory is determined to be present in the vicinity of the proposed Project Site location prior to, or during, construction, then the decision to allow the project will be revisited by the Project Lead in conjunction with a SCNF North Zone Biologist

**Three-toed Woodpecker-** If a three-toed woodpeckerl nesting territory is determined to be present in the vicinity of the proposed Project Site location prior to, or during, construction, then the decision to allow the project will be revisited by the Project Lead in conjunction with a SCNF North Zone Biologist

**Columbia spotted frog**- A “closed pipeline” water system will be required. The water system design to include a float valve shut-off system within the supplemental storage tank, the final storage tank, and the watertroughs at the ends of the pipeline, that would retain water in the system, including spring sources, until a drop in water level at any of these pipeline components opens the system to refill the troughs.

**Pink Agoseris**- If Pink Agoseris is determined to be present in the vicinity of the proposed Project Site location prior to, or during, construction, then the decision to allow the project will be revisited by the Project Lead in conjunction with a SCNF North Zone Biologist/Botanist

**Lemhi Penstemon**- If Lemhi Penstemon is determined to be present in the vicinity of the proposed Project Site location prior to, or during, construction, then the decision to allow the project will be revisited by the Project Lead in conjunction with a SCNF North Zone Biologist/Botanist

## 7. Criteria For Reaching a Determination of ``No Impact''

| Issue | Criteria | Yes/No |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Does the activity likely involve the 'direct taking' of species (including the capture, collection, harassment, or harm to individuals)? | No |
| 2. | Does the activity fail to comply with Forest Plan direction for management of federally listed or regionally sensitive species or their habitats? | No |
| 3. | Does the activity fail to comply with or violate any provisions of the Endangered Species Act? | No |
| 4. | Does the activity preclude or influence implementation of any current or foreseeable management strategies associated with recovery of any listed species or their habitats? | No |

NOTE: If all responses to the above criteria are "NO", the determination of effects of the described activity on Federally listed species (bald eagle, gray wolf, grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and Ute ladies’-tresses) is "NO EFFECT". **For FS sensitive species, if all responses are “No”, the determination is “No Impact” and the described activity will not cause a trend towards Federal listing for any of the species analyzed.**

### D. Comments Regarding Activity Or Responses

1. Any and all proposed projects subsequent to this decision will require separate and specific analyses for all applicable Federally listed or FS Sensitive species and will include completion of Biological Assessments and/or Biological Evaluations, as dictated by the proposed action(s).

2. Clauses will be added to the permit addressing refuse disposal (D-1), water pollution (D-2), removal and planting of vegetation and other resources (D-5), revegetation and surface restoration of ground cover (D-9), pollution (D-15), and pesticide use (D-23).

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