



May 29, 2024

Mike Morrill
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RE: Environmental Compliance, Larimer County Parcel Numbers 8709400003, 8709400045

Mr. Morrill:

The following documentation was prepared to satisfy the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requested documentation of compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements for Conditional Letter of Map Revision for Greager Farm.

The endangered Species Act of 1973 protects threatened and endangered species by preserving the ecosystems in which they live. The ESA prohibits any actions by communities, developers, private citizens, etc., from “taking” or “harming” endangered wildlife. This includes actions with potential to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct to threatened and endangered species.

Habitat and life cycle requirements of the threatened, endangered or candidate species were compared with available habitat at the subject property. Likewise, habitat requirements of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 were evaluated in relation to habitat at the subject property. The following report identifies the potential for “take” of these species and the respective justification for each determination.

It is the opinion of Blue Mountain Environmental Consulting that the proposed floodplain revision has no potential for “take” of any threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate species identified in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service IPaC Resource List dated May 31, 2024. Analysis was conducted by Sheila Webber, Ornithologist with Blue Mountain Environmental Consulting, LLC. This report does not represent formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Wetlands and nesting birds were not observed at the property. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Matt Tobler

Matt Tobler, Certified Ecologist

BLUE MOUNTAIN



Environmental Consulting LLC

Blue Mountain Environmental Consulting, LLC

1.0 Location of the Proposed Project

The Greager Farm site is a 5.48-acre commercial lot located northwest of Centro Way and Colorado Highway 14 in Fort Collins, Colorado (Parcel numbers 8709400003 and 8709400045). The project site address is 3624 East Mulberry Street, Fort Collins, Colorado.

- Parcel 1 tract of land located in the SE Quarter of Section 9, Township 7 North, Range 68 West of the 6th P.M., County of Larimer, State of Colorado.
- Parcel 2 tract of land located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 9, Township 7 North, Range 68 West of the 6th P.M. of Larimer County, Colorado.



Figure 1. Vicinity map of Greager Farm provided by Front Range Stormwater and Floodplain Consulting, LLC.

2.0 Description of the Property and Project Area

The study site is currently undeveloped, with commercial lots containing businesses to the east and northeast of the project site. Properties to the west and northwest of the project site are

currently undeveloped. Colorado Highway 14 (East Mulberry Street) borders the project site on the south (Figure 1).

The property is denuded of native vegetation. The prominent vegetation on the project site consists of smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and kochia (*Bassia scoparia*). Tree species occurring on the site include plains cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*) and mulberry (*Morus alba*). Nine species of bird were observed on the project site during the site visit. Site photos taken May 25, 2024, by Blue Mountain Environmental Consulting are provided at the end of this document in Appendix A.

3.0 Methodology

Blue Mountain Environmental Consulting conducted a database search and site assessment to evaluate habitat conditions and the potential occurrence of special status-species. A list of threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species with potential to be impacted by the proposed project was obtained from the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) webpage (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2024). Species listed in the report appear in Table 1 below. (The list does not represent formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

A site visit and analysis were conducted by Sheila Webber (Ornithologist) and Matt Tobler (Certified Ecologist) with Blue Mountain Environmental Consulting on May 25, 2024, and included the evaluation of all habitats and potential breeding birds within the project area.

4.0 Specially Valued and Sensitive Species

Habitat and life cycle requirements of the threatened, endangered or candidate species on the IPaC list were compared with available habitat at the subject property. Likewise, habitat requirements of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 were evaluated in relation to habitat at the subject property. Table 1 identifies the potential for “take” of these species and the respective justification for each determination. Barn owl (*Tyto alba*) or bat species could potentially be residing in the abandoned building on the property.

It is the opinion of Blue Mountain Environmental Consulting that the proposed project has no potential for “take” of any threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate species identified in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service IPaC Resource List dated May 31, 2024.

Table 1. Potential for “take” of threatened and endangered species that may occur on the property and justification for determination.

SPECIES	POTENTIAL FOR “TAKE”	JUSTIFICATION
Mammals		
Gray wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species inhabits temperate forests, mountains, tundra, taiga and grasslands. ¹ No suitable habitat surrounding the property due to development to the east and south.
Prebles meadow jumping mouse (<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species occurs in riparian habitat and adjacent wet meadows. During summer, dense shrub, grass and forb cover are preferred. ¹ No suitable habitat due to lack of vegetation cover requirements.
Tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species occurs in forested areas in spring, summer and fall. During winter they are found in caves and abandoned mines ¹ . No suitable habitat due to lack of forested area, caves and mines.
Birds		
Eastern black rail (<i>Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species requires dense overhead cover and is primarily associated with herbaceous, persistent, emergent wetland plants. ¹ No suitable habitat on the property.
Piping plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species requires sand spits, small islands, tidal flats, shoals and sandbars for foraging. ¹ No suitable foraging habitat exists on the property.
Whooping crane (<i>Grus americanus</i>)	No	<u>Not in range</u> : Property does not occur within breeding habitat, wintering habitat or migratory range. ¹
Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species requires forested areas adjacent to large bodies of water, typically avoiding highly developed areas when possible. ²
Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species occurs in open and semi-open country featuring native vegetation and avoids developed areas. ²
Broad-tailed hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species breeds in meadows and open woodlands, especially pinyon-juniper, pine-oak, evergreen and montane scrub. They migrate through meadows with abundant flowers. ³
Chestnut-collared longspur	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species breeds in shortgrass and mixed-grass prairies, preferring areas where

(<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>)		grasses are shorter than one foot. Usually not abundant in mowed areas. ³
Chimney swift (<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species will use chimneys for nest sites and roosting. ³ No chimneys exist on the abandoned building on the property.
Clark's grebe (<i>Aechmophorus</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species nests on freshwater lakes and marshes and winters on lakes and rivers. ³ No bodies of water occur on the property.
Ferruginous hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species breeds in grassland, sagebrush and edges of pinyon juniper woodlands. Winters in grasslands and deserts with abundant prey. ³ These habitat requirements do not exist on the property.
Grasshopper sparrow (<i>Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species occurs in grasslands, prairies, hayfields and open pastures with little to no scrub cover and often with some bare ground. ³ The property contains non-native plant species that undergo mowing operations.
Lesser yellowlegs (<i>Tringa flavipes</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species migrates through and winters on a variety of fresh and brackish wetlands, preferring vegetated wetlands to bare wetlands. Breeding occurs in open to semi-open woodlands and wet meadows. ³
Lewis's woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species breeds in open ponderosa pine forests and burned forests with an abundance of snags. During migration, they occur in forests along streams, orchards and pinyon-juniper habitat. ³
Long-billed curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species spends summers in shortgrass prairie, mixed-grass prairies and agricultural fields. ³
Long-eared owl (<i>Asio otus</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species roosts in dense vegetation, foraging in open grassland and shrublands. ³
Northern harrier (<i>Circus hudsonius</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species is most abundant in large undisturbed tracts of wetlands and grasslands. ³
Pectoral sandpiper (<i>Calidris melanotos</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species nests in wet coastal tundra. During migration they use the same wet, grassy habitats for foraging. ³
Pinyon jay (<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species occupies pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, scrub-oak, chaparral and ponderosa pine habitats year-round. ³
Red-headed woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species breeds in deciduous woodlands, farmland and grassland with scattered trees with snags available for cavity nesting. ³
Fishes		

Greenback Cutthroat Trout (<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii stomias</i>)	No	<u>Not in range</u> : Species inhabit- cold water streams and cold-water lakes with adequate spawning habitat during the spring. Water quality and quantity are important, and they generally require clear, cold, well-oxygenated water. ¹
Pallid sturgeon (<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>)	No	<u>No impact</u> : Species is obligated to large rivers and is bottom-oriented, inhabiting the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and some tributaries from Montana to Louisiana. ¹ No water depletion is proposed for this project. Per correspondence with Mark Pegg, Fish Ecologist, any changes in the hydrology surrounding this project would not be likely to be detected further downstream in pallid sturgeon habitat. ^{1,4}
Insects		
Monarch butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species requires milkweed and flowering plants for food sources and breeding. ¹ No milkweed plants were detected on the property during the site visit.
Flowering plants		
Ute ladies-tresses (<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>)	No	<u>Not habitat</u> : Mesic habitat associated with wetlands, seeps, riparian areas, sub-irrigated meadows, moist meadows, floodplains or river terraces do not exist on the property.
Western prairie fringed Orchid (<i>Platanthera praeclara</i>)	No	<u>No habitat</u> : Species is restricted to west of the Mississippi River and currently occurs in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and in Manitoba, Canada. Occurs principally in the North American tall-grass prairie and is found most often on unplowed, calcareous prairie and sedge meadows. ¹

¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (2023). *Environmental Conservation Online System*. <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/>

² U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (2023). *Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act*. <https://www.fws.gov/law/bald-and-golden-eagle-protection-act>

³ Cornell University. (2023). All About Birds. The Cornell Lab. <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/>

⁴ Mark Pegg, Fish Ecologist, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska, mpegg2@unl.edu, 402-472-6824

Appendix A: Site Photos

Greager Farm
Threatened and Endangered Species Compliance

Location	
SE Corner	
Photo Direction	
North	
Looking north.	

Location	
SE Corner	
Photo Direction :	
West	
Looking west.	

Greager Farm
Threatened and Endangered Species Compliance

Location	
NE Corner	
Photo Direction	
South	
Looking south.	

Location	
NE Corner	
Photo Direction :	
West	
Looking west.	

Location	
NW Corner	
Photo Direction	
East	
Looking east.	

Location	
NW Corner	
Photo Direction	
South	
Looking south.	

Location	
SW Corner	
Photo Direction	
North	
Looking north.	

Location	
SW Corner	
Photo Direction	
East	
Looking east.	

