#### ZAYO PRINEVILLE-TO-RENO FIBER OPTIC PROJECT

Attachment C USFWS Consultation Letters

## Attachment C USFWS CONSULTATION LETTERS





### United States Department of the Interior

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Klamath Falls Fish And Wildlife Office 1936 California Avenue Klamath Falls, OR 97601 Phone: (541) 885-8481 Fax: (541) 885-7837



In Reply Refer To: June 09, 2020

Consultation Code: 08EKLA00-2020-SLI-0008

Event Code: 08EKLA00-2020-E-00226

Project Name: Zayo Fiber Optic

Subject: Updated list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed

project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

#### To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, as well as designated and proposed critical habitat that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). For anadromous fish species (i.e., salmon), please contact the National Marine Fisheries Service at <a href="http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected\_species\_list/species\_lists.html">http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected\_species\_list/species\_lists.html</a>.

Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat. These provisions apply to non-Federal lands when there is a Federal nexus (e.g., funding or permits).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*; <a href="http://www.fws.gov/midwest/eagle/protect/laws.html">http://www.fws.gov/midwest/eagle/protect/laws.html</a>). The Service developed the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (<a href="http://www.fws.gov/mortheast/ecologicalservices/eaglenationalguide.html">http://www.fws.gov/mortheast/ecologicalservices/eaglenationalguide.html</a>) to provide guidance on measures that may be used to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to bald eagles. Projects affecting bald or golden eagles may require development of an eagle conservation plan (<a href="http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle\_guidance.html">http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle\_guidance.html</a>). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<a href="http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/">http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/</a>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds, including bald and golden eagles, and bats.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712; <a href="http://www.fws.gov/midwest/eagle/protect/laws.html">http://www.fws.gov/midwest/eagle/protect/laws.html</a>) implements protections for migratory birds. Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <a href="http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/">http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/</a> CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm; <a href="http://www.tws.gov/migratorybirds/">http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/</a> CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

For projects in California, the office shown in the letterhead may not be the lead office for your project. Table 1 below provides lead Service field offices by county and land ownership/project type for northern California. Please refer to this table when you are ready to contact the field office corresponding to your project; a map and contact information for the Pacific Southwest Region field offices is located here: <a href="http://www.fws.gov/cno/es/">http://www.fws.gov/cno/es/</a>.

Table 1: Lead Service offices by County and Ownership/Program in Northern California

County	Ownership/Program	Office Lead*
Lassen	Modoc National Forest	KFFWO
	Lassen National Forest	SFWO
	Toiyabe National Forest	RFWO
	BLM Surprise and Eagle Lake Resource Areas	RFWO
	BLM Alturas Resource Area	KFFWO
	Lassen Volcanic National Park	SFWO
	All other ownerships	By jurisdiction

		(see map)
Modoc	Modoc National Forest	KFFWO
	BLM Alturas Resource Area	KFFWO
	Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex	KFFWO
	BLM Surprise and Eagle Lake Resource Areas	RFWO
	All other ownerships	By jurisdiction
		(see map)
Shasta	Shasta Trinity National Forest except Hat Creek Ranger District	YFWO
	(administered by Lassen National Forest)	
	Hat Creek Ranger District	SFWO
	Whiskeytown National Recreation Area	YFWO
	BLM Alturas Resource Area	KFFWO
	Caltrans	SFWO/ AFWO
	Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park	SFWO
	All other ownerships	By jurisdiction
		(see map)
Siskiyou	Klamath National Forest	YFWO
	(except Ukonom District)	
	Six Rivers National Forest and Ukonom District of Klamath National Forest	AFWO
	Shasta Trinity National Forest	YFWO
	Lassen National Forest	SFWO
	Modoc National Forest	KFFWO

Lava Beds National Volcanic Monument KFFWO

BLM Alturas Resource Area KFFWO

Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex KFFWO

All other ownerships

By jurisdiction

(see map)

All FERC-ESA By

jurisdiction

(see map)

\*Office Leads:

AFWO=Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office

BDFWO=Bay Delta Fish and Wildlife Office

KFFWO=Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Office

RFWO=Reno Fish and Wildlife Office

YFWO=Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office

#### Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

### **Official Species List**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

#### Klamath Falls Fish And Wildlife Office

1936 California Avenue Klamath Falls, OR 97601 (541) 885-8481

This project's location is within the jurisdiction of multiple offices. Expect additional species list documents from the following office, and expect that the species and critical habitats in each document reflect only those that fall in the office's jurisdiction:

#### **Reno Fish And Wildlife Office**

1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234 Reno, NV 89502-7147 (775) 861-6300

### **Project Summary**

Consultation Code: 08EKLA00-2020-SLI-0008

Event Code: 08EKLA00-2020-E-00226

Project Name: Zayo Fiber Optic

Project Type: \*\* OTHER \*\*

Project Description: The proposed project would install fiber optic cable underground within

the Caltrans right-of-way along US 395 in California from the Oregon border to the Nevada border. The one area that does not follow US 395 is a short bypass along Lassen County Route A3 near Standish. The

proposed project's anticipated construction date would be 2021.

#### **Project Location:**

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/40.83306057610048N120.41541405286637W">https://www.google.com/maps/place/40.83306057610048N120.41541405286637W</a>



Counties: Lassen, CA | Modoc, CA | Sierra, CA

### **Endangered Species Act Species**

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

#### **Mammals**

NAME STATUS

#### Gray Wolf Canis lupus

Endangered

Population: U.S.A.: All of AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, IN, IL, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, VA,

VT, WI, and WV; and portions of AZ, NM, OR, UT, and WA. Mexico.

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4488

#### North American Wolverine *Gulo gulo luscus*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5123">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5123</a>

Proposed Threatened

#### **Birds**

NAME STATUS

#### Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus

Threatened

Population: Western U.S. DPS

There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911</a>

### **Flowering Plants**

NAME STATUS

Greene's Tuctoria *Tuctoria greenei* 

Endangered

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1573">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1573</a>

Slender Orcutt Grass Orcuttia tenuis

Threatened

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1063

### **Conifers and Cycads**

NAME STATUS

Whitebark Pine Pinus albicaulis

Candidate

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1748">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1748</a>

#### **Critical habitats**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

# USFWS National Wildlife Refuge Lands And Fish Hatcheries

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the <u>National Wildlife Refuge</u> system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

The following FWS National Wildlife Refuge Lands and Fish Hatcheries lie fully or partially within your project area:

FACILITY NAME ACRES

Modoc National Wildlife Refuge Modoc National Wildlife Refuge P.O. Box 1610

Alturas, CA 96101-1610 (530) 233-3572

https://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=81690

6,860

### **Migratory Birds**

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>1</sup> and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described <u>below</u>.

- 1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
- 2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
- 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the <u>USFWS</u> <u>Birds of Conservation Concern</u> (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ <u>below</u>. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the <u>E-bird data mapping tool</u> (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a>	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Brewer's Sparrow <i>Spizella breweri</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds May 15 to Aug 10

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9291

Event Code: 08EKLA00-2020-E-00226

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Clark's Grebe <i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Jan 1 to Dec 31
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680</a>	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Green-tailed Towhee <i>Pipilo chlorurus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9444">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9444</a>	Breeds May 1 to Aug 10
Lewis's Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9408">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9408</a>	Breeds Apr 20 to Sep 30
Long-billed Curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5511">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5511</a>	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
Marbled Godwit <i>Limosa fedoa</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9481">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9481</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914</a>	Breeds May 20 to Aug 31
Pinyon Jay <i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9420">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9420</a>	Breeds Feb 15 to Jul 15
Sage Thrasher <i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9433">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9433</a>	Breeds Apr 15 to Aug 10
Tricolored Blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3910">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3910</a>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 10

**BREEDING** NAME **SEASON** White Headed Woodpecker *Picoides albolarvatus* Breeds May 1 to This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions Aug 15 (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9411 Willet *Tringa* semipalmata Breeds Apr 20 This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA to Aug 5 and Alaska. Williamson's Sapsucker Sphyrapicus thyroideus Breeds May 1 to This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions Jul 31 (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8832 Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii* Breeds May 20 This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions to Aug 31 (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3482

### **Probability Of Presence Summary**

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

#### **Probability of Presence (**■**)**

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

- 1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
- 2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence

in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

#### **Breeding Season** (

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

#### Survey Effort (|)

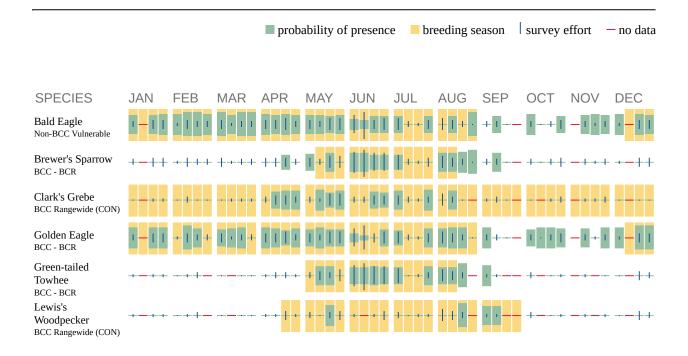
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

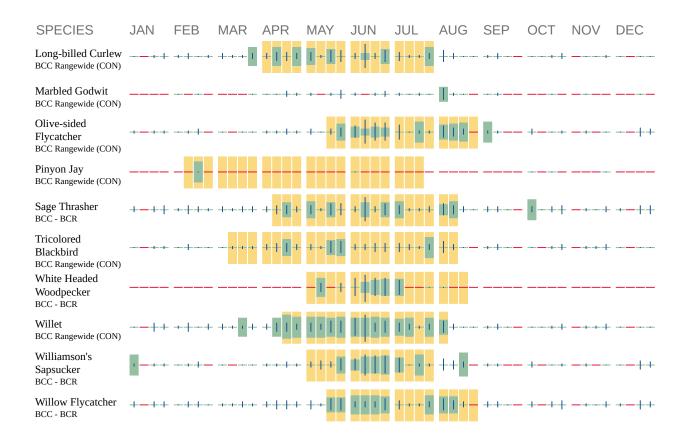
#### No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

#### **Survey Timeframe**

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern <a href="http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/">http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/</a> birds-of-conservation-concern.php
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <a href="http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php">http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php</a>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <a href="http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf">http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf</a>

### **Migratory Birds FAQ**

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures and/or

<u>permits</u> may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

# What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS <u>Birds of Conservation Concern</u> (<u>BCC</u>) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. The AKN data is based on a growing collection of <u>survey</u>, <u>banding</u>, <u>and citizen science datasets</u> and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (<u>Eagle Act</u> requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the <u>AKN Phenology Tool</u>.

# What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. This data is derived from a growing collection of <u>survey</u>, <u>banding</u>, <u>and citizen science datasets</u>.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

# How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide, or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

#### What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

- 1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are <u>Birds of Conservation Concern</u> (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
- 2. "BCC BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
- 3. "Non-BCC Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the <a href="Eagle Act">Eagle Act</a> requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

#### Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the <a href="Northeast Ocean Data Portal">Northeast Ocean Data Portal</a>. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the <a href="NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling">NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling</a> and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic <a href="Outer Continental Shelf">Outer Continental Shelf</a> project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the <u>Diving Bird Study</u> and the <u>nanotag studies</u> or contact <u>Caleb Spiegel</u> or <u>Pam Loring</u>.

#### What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to <u>obtain a permit</u> to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

#### Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In

contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

### Wetlands

Impacts to <u>NWI wetlands</u> and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local <u>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District</u>.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

#### FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1A
- PEM1C
- PEM1Fx
- PEM1Ax
- PEM1Ch
- PEM1Cx
- PEM1F
- PEM1B

#### FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PSSA
- PSSC
- PFOC
- PSSCh
- PSSCx

#### FRESHWATER POND

- PABFh
- PABF
- PABFx
- PUSC

#### **RIVERINE**

- R4SBC
- R5UBFx
- R4SBCx
- R2ABFx
- R5UBF

- <u>R2ABF</u>
- <u>R2ABH</u>
- <u>R3ABH</u>
- <u>R3UBH</u>
- <u>R4SBA</u>
- R2UBH



### United States Department of the Interior

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Reno Fish And Wildlife Office 1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234 Reno, NV 89502-7147

Phone: (775) 861-6300 Fax: (775) 861-6301 http://www.fws.gov/nevada/



In Reply Refer To: June 09, 2020

Consultation Code: 08ENVD00-2020-SLI-0044

Event Code: 08ENVD00-2020-E-01298

Project Name: Zayo Fiber Optic

Subject: Updated list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed

project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

#### To Whom It May Concern:

The attached species list indicates threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species and designated or proposed critical habitat that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), for projects that are authorized, funded, or carried out by a Federal agency. Candidate species have no protection under the ESA but are included for consideration because they could be listed prior to the completion of your project. Consideration of these species during project planning may assist species conservation efforts and may prevent the need for future listing actions. For additional information regarding species that may be found in the proposed project area, visit <a href="http://www.fws.gov/nevada/es/ipac.html">http://www.fws.gov/nevada/es/ipac.html</a>.

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or

designated or proposed critical habitat. Guidelines for preparing a Biological Assessment can be found at: <a href="http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/section7/ba\_guide.html">http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/section7/ba\_guide.html</a>.

If a Federal action agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species, and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this species list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally, as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation, for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the attached list.

The Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office (NFWO) no longer provides species of concern lists. Most of these species for which we have concern are also on the Animal and Plant At-Risk Tracking List for Nevada (At-Risk list) maintained by the State of Nevada's Natural Heritage Program (Heritage). Instead of maintaining our own list, we adopted Heritage's At-Risk list and are partnering with them to provide distribution data and information on the conservation needs for at-risk species to agencies or project proponents. The mission of Heritage is to continually evaluate the conservation priorities of native plants, animals, and their habitats, particularly those most vulnerable to extinction or in serious decline. In addition, in order to avoid future conflicts, we ask that you consider these at-risk species early in your project planning and explore management alternatives that provide for their long-term conservation.

For a list of at-risk species by county, visit Heritage's website (<a href="http://heritage.nv.gov">http://heritage.nv.gov</a>). For a specific list of at-risk species that may occur in the project area, you can obtain a data request form from the website (<a href="http://heritage.nv.gov/get\_data">http://heritage.nv.gov/get\_data</a>) or by contacting the Administrator of Heritage at 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5002, Carson City, Nevada 89701-5245, (775) 684-2900. Please indicate on the form that your request is being obtained as part of your coordination with the Service under the ESA. During your project analysis, if you obtain new information or data for any Nevada sensitive species, we request that you provide the information to Heritage at the above address.

Furthermore, certain species of fish and wildlife are classified as protected by the State of Nevada (<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NAC/NAC-503.html">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NAC/NAC-503.html</a>). You must first obtain the appropriate license, permit, or written authorization from the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to take, or possess any parts of protected fish and wildlife species. Please visit <a href="http://www.ndow.org">http://www.ndow.org</a> or contact NDOW in northern Nevada (775) 688-1500, in southern Nevada (702) 486-5127, or in eastern Nevada (775) 777-2300.

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (<a href="http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/">http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/</a> eagle guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the Service's wind energy guidelines (<a href="http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/">http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/</a>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

The Service's Pacific Southwest Region developed the *Interim Guidelines for the Development of a Project Specific Avian and Bat Protection Plan for Wind Energy Facilities* (Interim Guidelines). This document provides energy facility developers with a tool for assessing the risk of potential impacts to wildlife resources and delineates how best to design and operate a bird-and bat-friendly wind facility. These Interim Guidelines are available upon request from the NFWO. The intent of a Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy is to conserve wildlife resources while supporting project developers through: (1) establishing project development in an adaptive management framework; (2) identifying proper siting and project design strategies; (3) designing and implementing pre-construction surveys; (4) implementing appropriate conservation measures for each development phase; (5) designing and implementing appropriate post-construction monitoring strategies; (6) using post-construction studies to better understand the dynamics of mortality reduction (*e.g.*, changes in blade cut-in speed, assessments of blade "feathering" success, and studies on the effects of visual and acoustic deterrents) including efforts tied into Before-After/Control-Impact analysis; and (7) conducting a thorough risk assessment and validation leading to adjustments in management and mitigation actions.

The template and recommendations set forth in the Interim Guidelines were based upon the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee's Avian Protection Plan template (<a href="http://www.aplic.org/">http://www.aplic.org/</a>) developed for electric utilities and modified accordingly to address the unique concerns of wind energy facilities. These recommendations are also consistent with the Service's wind energy guidelines. We recommend contacting us as early as possible in the planning process to discuss the need and process for developing a site-specific Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy.

The Service has also developed guidance regarding wind power development in relation to prairie grouse leks (sage-grouse are included in this). This document can be found at: <a href="http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/Oklahoma/documents/te\_species/wind%20power/">http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/Oklahoma/documents/te\_species/wind%20power/</a> <a href="prairie%20grouse%20lek%205%20mile%20public.pdf">prairie%20grouse%20lek%205%20mile%20public.pdf</a>.

Migratory Birds are a Service Trust Resource. Based on the Service's conservation responsibilities and management authority for migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended (MBTA; 16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*), we recommend that any land clearing or other surface disturbance associated with proposed actions within the project area be timed to

avoid potential destruction of bird nests or young, or birds that breed in the area. Such destruction may be in violation of the MBTA. Under the MBTA, nests with eggs or young of migratory birds may not be harmed, nor may migratory birds be killed. Therefore, we recommend land clearing be conducted outside the avian breeding season. If this is not feasible, we recommend a qualified biologist survey the area prior to land clearing. If nests are located, or if other evidence of nesting (*i.e.*, mated pairs, territorial defense, carrying nesting material, transporting food) is observed, a protective buffer (the size depending on the habitat requirements of the species) should be delineated and the entire area avoided to prevent destruction or disturbance to nests until they are no longer active.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects involving communications towers (*e.g.*, cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <a href="http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers.htm">http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html.</a>

If wetlands, springs, or streams are are known to occur in the project area or are present in the vicinity of the project area, we ask that you be aware of potential impacts project activities may have on these habitats. Discharge of fill material into wetlands or waters of the United States is regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended. We recommend you contact the ACOE's Regulatory Section regarding the possible need for a permit. For projects located in northern Nevada (Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, Storey, and Washoe Counties) contact the Reno Regulatory Office at 300 Booth Street, Room 3060, Reno, Nevada 89509, (775) 784-5304; in southern Nevada (Clark, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties) contact the St. George Regulatory Office at 321 North Mall Drive, Suite L-101, St. George, Utah 84790-7314, (435) 986-3979; or in California along the eastern Sierra contact the Sacramento Regulatory Office at 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-200, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 557-5250.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

The table below outlines lead FWS field offices by county and land ownership/project type. Please refer to this table when you are ready to coordinate (including requests for section 7 consultation) with the field office corresponding to your project, and send any documentation regarding your project to that corresponding office. Therefore, the lead FWS field office may not be the office listed above in the letterhead.

#### Lead FWS offices by County and Ownership/Program

County Ownership/Program Species Office Lead\*

Alameda	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to Bays	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
Alameda	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
Alpine	Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest	All	RFWO
Alpine	Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit	All	RFWO
Alpine	Stanislaus National Forest	All	SFWO
Alpine	El Dorado National Forest	All	SFWO
Colusa	Mendocino National Forest	All	AFWO
Colusa	Other	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
Contra Costa	Legal Delta (Excluding ECCHCP)	All	BDFWO
Contra Costa	Antioch Dunes NWR	All	BDFWO
Contra Costa	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to Bays	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
Contra Costa	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
Del Norte	All	All	AFWO
El Dorado	El Dorado National Forest	All	SFWO
El Dorado	LakeTahoe Basin Management Unit		RFWO
Glenn	Mendocino National Forest	All	AFWO
Glenn	Other	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
Humboldt	All except Shasta Trinity National Forest	All	AFWO

Humboldt	Shasta Trinity National Forest	All	YFWO
Lake	Mendocino National Forest	All	AFWO
Lake	Other	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
Lassen	Modoc National Forest	All	KFWO
Lassen	Lassen National Forest	All	SFWO
Lassen	Toiyabe National Forest	All	RFWO
Lassen	BLM Surprise and Eagle Lake Resource Areas	All	RFWO
Lassen	BLM Alturas Resource Area	All	KFWO
Lassen	Lassen Volcanic National Park	All (includes Eagle Lake trout on all ownerships)	SFWO
Lassen	All other ownerships	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
Marin	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to Bays	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
Marin	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
Mendocino	Russian River watershed	All	SFWO
Mendocino	All except Russian River watershed	All	AFWO
Modoc	Modoc National Forest	All	KFWO
Modoc	BLM Alturas Resource Area	All	KFWO
Modoc	Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex	All	KFWO
Modoc	BLM Surprise and Eagle Lake Resource Areas	All	RFWO

Modoc	All other ownerships	All	By jurisdiction (See map)
Mono	Inyo National Forest	All	RFWO
Mono	Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest	All	RFWO
Napa	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
Napa	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to San Pablo Bay	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
Nevada	Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest	All	RFWO
Nevada	All other ownerships	All	By jurisdiction (See map)
Placer	Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit	All	RFWO
Placer	All other ownerships	All	SFWO
Sacramento	Legal Delta	Delta Smelt	BDFWO
Sacramento	Other	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
San Francisco	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to San Francisco Bay	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
San Francisco	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
San Mateo	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to San Francisco Bay	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
San Mateo	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
San Joaquin	Legal Delta excluding San Joaquin HCP	All	BDFWO

San Joaquin	Other	All	SFWO
Santa Clara	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to San Francisco Bay	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
Santa Clara	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
Shasta	Shasta Trinity National Forest except Hat Creek Ranger District (administered by Lassen National Forest)	All	YFWO
Shasta	Hat Creek Ranger District	All	SFWO
Shasta	Bureau of Reclamation (Central Valley Project)	All	BDFWO
Shasta	Whiskeytown National Recreation Area	All	YFWO
Shasta	BLM Alturas Resource Area	All	KFWO
Shasta	Caltrans	By jurisdiction	SFWO/AFWO
Shasta	Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park	Shasta crayfish	SFWO
Shasta	All other ownerships	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
Shasta	Natural Resource Damage Assessment, all lands	All	SFWO/BDFWO
Sierra	Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest	All	RFWO
Sierra	All other ownerships	All	SFWO
Siskiyou	Klamath National Forest (except Ukonom District)	All	YFWO
Siskiyou	Six Rivers National Forest and Ukonom District	All	AFWO
Siskiyou	Shasta Trinity National Forest	All	YFWO

Siskiyou	Lassen National Forest	All	SFWO
Siskiyou	Modoc National Forest	All	KFWO
Siskiyou	Lava Beds National Volcanic Monument	All	KFWO
Siskiyou	BLM Alturas Resource Area	All	KFWO
Siskiyou	Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex	All	KFWO
Siskiyou	All other ownerships	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
Solano	Suisun Marsh	All	BDFWO
Solano	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to San Pablo Bay	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
Solano	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
Solano	Other	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
Sonoma	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to San Pablo Bay	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
Sonoma	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
Tehama	Mendocino National Forest	All	AFWO
Tehama	Shasta Trinity National Forest except Hat Creek Ranger District (administered by Lassen National Forest)	All	YFWO
Tehama	All other ownerships	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
Trinity	BLM	All	AFWO
Trinity	Six Rivers National Forest	All	AFWO
Trinity	Shasta Trinity National Forest	All	YFWO

Trinity	Mendocino National Forest	All	AFWO
Trinity	BIA (Tribal Trust Lands)	All	AFWO
Trinity	County Government	All	AFWO
Trinity	All other ownerships	All	By jurisdiction (See map)
Yolo	Yolo Bypass	All	BDFWO
Yolo	Other	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
All	FERC-ESA	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
All	FERC-ESA	Shasta crayfish	SFWO
All	FERC-Relicensing (non-ESA)	All	BDFWO

#### \*Office Leads:

**AFWO=Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office** 

**BDFWO=Bay Delta Fish and Wildlife Office** 

KFWO=Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Office

RFWO=Reno Fish and Wildlife Office

YFWO=Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office

#### Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

### **Official Species List**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

#### **Reno Fish And Wildlife Office**

1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234 Reno, NV 89502-7147 (775) 861-6300

This project's location is within the jurisdiction of multiple offices. Expect additional species list documents from the following office, and expect that the species and critical habitats in each document reflect only those that fall in the office's jurisdiction:

#### Klamath Falls Fish And Wildlife Office

1936 California Avenue Klamath Falls, OR 97601 (541) 885-8481

### **Project Summary**

Consultation Code: 08ENVD00-2020-SLI-0044

Event Code: 08ENVD00-2020-E-01298

Project Name: Zayo Fiber Optic

Project Type: \*\* OTHER \*\*

Project Description: The proposed project would install fiber optic cable underground within

the Caltrans right-of-way along US 395 in California from the Oregon border to the Nevada border. The one area that does not follow US 395 is a short bypass along Lassen County Route A3 near Standish. The

proposed project's anticipated construction date would be 2021.

#### **Project Location:**

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/40.83306057610048N120.41541405286637W">https://www.google.com/maps/place/40.83306057610048N120.41541405286637W</a>



Counties: Lassen, CA | Modoc, CA | Sierra, CA

### **Endangered Species Act Species**

There is a total of 3 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an
office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of
Commerce.

#### **Fishes**

NAME STATUS

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3964

Species survey guidelines:

https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/guideline/survey/population/233/office/14320.pdf

#### **Insects**

NAME STATUS

Carson Wandering Skipper *Pseudocopaeodes eunus obscurus* 

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/674">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/674</a>

#### Flowering Plants

NAME STATUS

Webber's Ivesia Ivesia webberi

Threatened

Endangered

Threatened

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4682

### **Critical habitats**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

# **USFWS National Wildlife Refuge Lands And Fish Hatcheries**

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the <u>National Wildlife Refuge</u> system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

### **Migratory Birds**

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>1</sup> and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described <u>below</u>.

- 1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
- 2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
- 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the <u>USFWS</u> <u>Birds of Conservation Concern</u> (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ <u>below</u>. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the <u>E-bird data mapping tool</u> (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a>	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Brewer's Sparrow <i>Spizella breweri</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions	Breeds May 15 to Aug 10

(BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9291

Event Code: 08ENVD00-2020-E-01298

**BREEDING** NAME **SEASON** Cassin's Finch *Carpodacus cassinii* Breeds May 15 This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA to Jul 15 and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9462 Clark's Grebe *Aechmophorus clarkii* Breeds Jan 1 to This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA Dec 31 and Alaska. Breeds Dec 1 to Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions Aug 31 (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680 Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus* Breeds May 1 This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions to Aug 10 (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9444 Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes Breeds This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA elsewhere and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679 Breeds Apr 20 Lewis's Woodpecker *Melanerpes lewis* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA to Sep 30 and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9408 Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus* Breeds Apr 1 to This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA Jul 31 and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5511 Breeds Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA elsewhere and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9481 Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* Breeds May 20 This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA to Aug 31 and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914 Breeds Feb 15 Pinyon Jay *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA to Jul 15 and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9420

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Rufous Hummingbird <i>selasphorus rufus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8002">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8002</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Sage Thrasher <i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9433">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9433</a>	Breeds Apr 15 to Aug 10
Tricolored Blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3910">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3910</a>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 10
White Headed Woodpecker <i>Picoides albolarvatus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9411">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9411</a>	Breeds May 1 to Aug 15
Willet <i>Tringa semipalmata</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 5
Williamson's Sapsucker <i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8832">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8832</a>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31

### **Probability Of Presence Summary**

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

#### **Probability of Presence (■)**

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

- 1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
- 2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
- 3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

#### **Breeding Season** (**•**)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

#### Survey Effort (|)

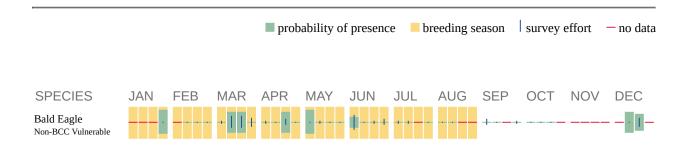
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

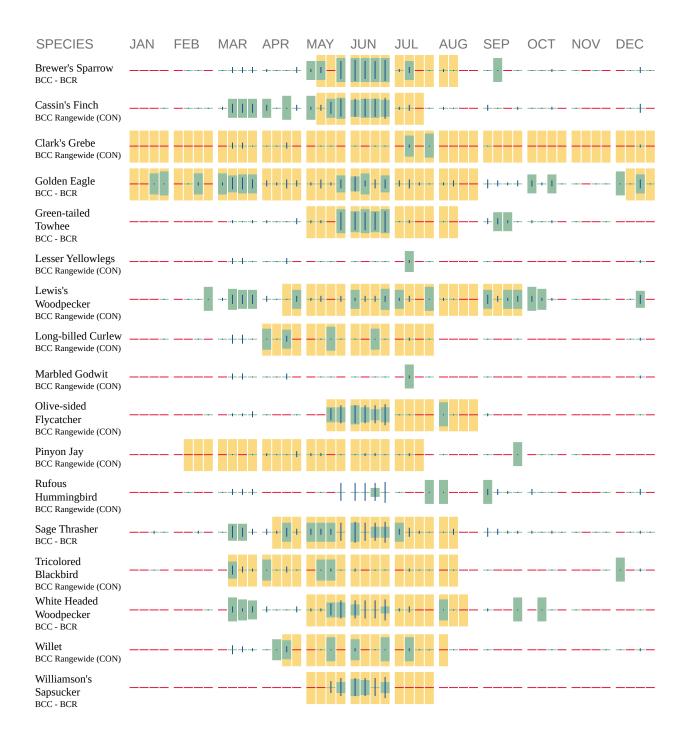
#### No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

#### **Survey Timeframe**

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.





#### Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern <a href="http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php">http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php</a>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <a href="http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php">http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php</a>

Nationwide conservation measures for birds <a href="http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf">http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf</a>

#### **Migratory Birds FAQ**

# Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures and/or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

# What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS <u>Birds of Conservation Concern</u> (<u>BCC</u>) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. The AKN data is based on a growing collection of <u>survey</u>, <u>banding</u>, <u>and citizen science datasets</u> and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (<u>Eagle Act</u> requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the <u>AKN Phenology Tool</u>.

# What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the <u>Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)</u>. This data is derived from a growing collection of <u>survey</u>, <u>banding</u>, <u>and citizen science datasets</u>.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide, or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

#### What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

- 1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are <u>Birds of Conservation Concern</u> (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
- 2. "BCC BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
- 3. "Non-BCC Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the <a href="Eagle Act">Eagle Act</a> requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

#### Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the <a href="Northeast Ocean Data Portal">Northeast Ocean Data Portal</a>. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the <a href="NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling">NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling</a> and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic <a href="Outer Continental Shelf">Outer Continental Shelf</a> project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the <u>Diving Bird Study</u> and the <u>nanotag studies</u> or contact <u>Caleb Spiegel</u> or <u>Pam Loring</u>.

#### What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to <u>obtain a permit</u> to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

#### Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

### Wetlands

Impacts to <u>NWI wetlands</u> and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local <u>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District</u>.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

#### FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1A
- <u>PEM1B</u>
- PEM1C
- PEM1F
- PEM1Ch
- PEM1Cx

#### FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PSSA
- PSSC
- PFOC
- PSSCh
- PSSCx

#### FRESHWATER POND

- PABF
- PABFx
- PUBF
- PUBFx
- PUSC
- PABFh
- PABKx
- PUSCh
- PUSCx
- PUSKx
- PABGh

#### RIVERINE

- <u>R3USC</u>
- R4SBC
- R5UBFx
- <u>R4SBJ</u>
- <u>R5UBF</u>
- <u>R3UBH</u>
- <u>R4SBA</u>
- R4SBCx
- R4SBAx