

Thunder Basin National Grassland 2020 Plan Amendment

Final Environmental Impact Statement:

ERRATA

October 2020



Table of Contents

Table of Contents1
Introduction.....2
Corrections or Additions to the FEIS.....2
 FEIS Chapter 12
 FEIS Chapter 22
 FEIS Chapter 33
 FEIS References.....12
 FEIS Appendix C12
 FEIS Appendix D13
 FEIS Appendix E.....17
 FEIS Appendix F.....40

Introduction

This document lists the corrections (known as errata) to the Thunder Basin National Grassland 2020 Plan Amendment Final Environmental Impact Statement, including appendices. Errata are listed by chapter and page number from the Final Environmental Impact Statement, published in May 2020.

Corrections or Additions to the FEIS

Errata are listed by chapter, page number, and specific page location.

FEIS Chapter 1

Page 8, second paragraph

Correct the reference in the sentence:

Building on the foundation of the National Forest Management Act, the 2012 Planning Rule also states that ecosystem plan components, and, when necessary, species-specific plan components must be in place to provide the ecological conditions to contribute to the recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species (36 CFR 219.9(2)(b)).

With the following:

Building on the foundation of the National Forest Management Act, the 2012 Planning Rule also states that ecosystem plan components, and, when necessary, species-specific plan components must be in place to provide the ecological conditions to contribute to the recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species (36 CFR 219.9(b)(1)).

FEIS Chapter 2

Page 29, first paragraph under “Density Control”

Correct the sentence:

Nonlethal forms of density control such as translocation (figure 7) are allowed at any time in categories 1, 2, and 3 and management area 3.63 at the discretion of the responsible official.

With the following:

Nonlethal forms of density control such as translocation (figure 7) are allowed at any time in categories 1, 2, and 3 and management area 3.63 at the discretion of the responsible official or district ranger.

Page 32, last sentence under “Thresholds for Rodenticide Use”

Correct the sentence:

The identification of situations warranting the use of lethal control when the total colony acreage in management area 3.67 is less than 10,000 acres and greater than 7,500 acres is at the discretion of the responsible official.

With the following:

The identification of situations warranting the use of lethal control when the total colony acreage in management area 3.67 is less than 10,000 acres and greater than 7,500 acres is at the discretion of the responsible official or district ranger.

Page 43, sentence under “Density Control”

Correct the sentence:

Nonlethal forms of density control are allowed at any time in categories 1 and 2 at the discretion of the responsible official.

With the following:

Nonlethal forms of density control are allowed at any time in categories 1 and 2 at the discretion of the responsible official or district ranger.

Page 47, sentence under “Thresholds for Rodenticide Use”

Correct the sentence:

The identification of situations warranting the use of lethal control when the total colony acreage in management area 3.67 is less than 10,000 acres and greater than 7,500 acres is at the discretion of the responsible official.

With the following:

The identification of situations warranting the use of lethal control when the total colony acreage in management area 3.67 is less than 10,000 acres and greater than 7,500 acres is at the discretion of the responsible official or district ranger.

FEIS Chapter 3

Pages 125-127, Table 29

Correct the table:

Table 1. Summary of effects of all alternatives for endangered species, Forest Service sensitive species, and species that meet minimum criteria for consideration as potential species of conservation concern (SCC)

Class	Common Name	Status*	Determination for all alternatives
Amphibian	Northern leopard frog	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Bald eagle	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Brewer’s sparrow	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment

Class	Common Name	Status*	Determination for all alternatives
Bird	Burrowing owl	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	California gull	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Chestnut-collared longspur	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Dickcissel	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Ferruginous hawk	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Flammulated owl	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Golden eagle	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Grasshopper sparrow	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Greater sage-grouse	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Lewis's woodpecker	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Loggerhead shrike	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Long-billed curlew	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	McCown's longspur	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Merlin	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Mountain plover	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Northern goshawk	Sensitive	No impact

Class	Common Name	Status*	Determination for all alternatives
Bird	Northern harrier	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Olive-sided flycatcher	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Peregrine falcon	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Ring-billed gull	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Sagebrush sparrow	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Sage thrasher	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Short-eared owl	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Swainson's hawk	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Upland sandpiper	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Fish	Finescale dace	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Flathead chub	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Mountain sucker	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Plains minnow	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Plains topminnow	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Sturgeon chub	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Monarch butterfly	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Ottoe skipper	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Regal fritillary	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Western bumblebee	Sensitive	No impact
Mammal	Black-footed ferret	Endangered	No impact
Mammal	Black-tailed prairie dog	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Mammal	Fringed myotis	Sensitive	No impact
Mammal	Hoary bat	Sensitive	No impact
Mammal	Northern long-eared bat	Threatened	No impact
Mammal	Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep	Sensitive	No impact

Class	Common Name	Status*	Determination for all alternatives
Mammal	Swift fox	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Mammal	Thirteen-lined ground squirrel	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Mammal	Townsend's big-eared bat	Sensitive	No impact
Reptile	Plains hog-nosed snake	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Reptile	Prairie rattlesnake	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment

*Species listed here as Potential SCC have not been officially recommended to the Regional Forester as species of conservation concern. They have been found to meet the minimum criteria for consideration as potential species of conservation concern for this analysis.

With the following:

Table 2. Summary of effects of all alternatives for endangered species, Forest Service sensitive species, and species that meet minimum criteria for consideration as potential species of conservation concern (SCC)

Class	Common Name	Status ¹	Determination for all alternatives ²
Amphibian	Northern leopard frog	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Bald eagle	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Brewer's sparrow	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Burrowing owl	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	California gull	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Chestnut-collared longspur	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Dickcissel	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.

Class	Common Name	Status¹	Determination for all alternatives²
Bird	Ferruginous hawk	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Flammulated owl	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Golden eagle	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Grasshopper sparrow	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Greater sage-grouse	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Lewis's woodpecker	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Loggerhead shrike	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Long-billed curlew	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	McCown's longspur	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Merlin	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Mountain plover	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Northern goshawk	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Northern harrier	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Olive-sided flycatcher	Sensitive	No impact

Class	Common Name	Status¹	Determination for all alternatives²
Bird	Peregrine falcon	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Ring-billed gull	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species in the plan area.
Bird	Sagebrush sparrow	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Sage thrasher	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Short-eared owl	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Swainson's hawk	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Upland sandpiper	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Fish	Finescale dace	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Flathead chub	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Mountain sucker	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Plains minnow	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Plains topminnow	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Sturgeon chub	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Monarch butterfly	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Ottoo skipper	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Regal fritillary	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Western bumblebee	Sensitive	No impact
Mammal	Black-footed ferret	Endangered	No impact
Mammal	Black-tailed prairie dog	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Mammal	Fringed myotis	Sensitive	No impact
Mammal	Hoary bat	Sensitive	No impact
Mammal	Northern long-eared bat	Threatened	No impact
Mammal	Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep	Sensitive	No impact

Class	Common Name	Status ¹	Determination for all alternatives ²
Mammal	Swift fox	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Mammal	Thirteen-lined ground squirrel	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Mammal	Townsend's big-eared bat	Sensitive	No impact
Reptile	Plains hog-nosed snake	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Reptile	Prairie rattlesnake	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.

¹ Sensitive = Forest Service sensitive species; Potential SCC = Potential species of conservation concern. Species listed here as Potential SCC have not been officially recommended to the Regional Forester as species of conservation concern. They have been found to meet the minimum criteria for consideration as potential species of conservation concern for this analysis.

² Determinations for sensitive species follow policy at FSM 2672.41. Determinations for potential SCC follow planning regulations at 36 CFR 219.9(b)(1).

Page 128, below 1 under “Framework of Analysis of Species Persistence”

Correct the paragraph:

Note: The proposed plan amendment will not result in an official designation of species of conservation concern on the Thunder Basin National Grassland by the Rocky Mountain Regional Forester. Because the plan amendment will not fully revise the grassland plan, the existing grassland plan will continue to be guided by the older planning rule under which it was originally written. This means that the Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species list will remain in place and environmental analysis of the proposed plan amendment will analyze effects to sensitive species.

With the following:

Note: The proposed plan amendment will not result in an official designation of species of conservation concern on the Thunder Basin National Grassland by the Rocky Mountain Regional Forester. Because the plan amendment will not fully revise the grassland plan, the Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species list will remain in place and environmental analysis of the proposed plan amendment will analyze effects to sensitive species.

Page 129, paragraph under “Species Viability and Persistence”

Correct the paragraph:

Determinations regarding effects to sensitive species and a species that meet the minimum criteria for consideration as potential species of conservation concern are dependent on several definitions laid out in Forest Service planning regulations and the Forest Service Manual. For sensitive species, the 1982 Planning Rule applies and a determination is made about the species’ viability in the planning area or possible trends toward Federal listing.

With the following:

Determinations regarding effects to sensitive species and a species that meet the minimum criteria for consideration as potential species of conservation concern are dependent on several definitions laid out in Forest Service planning regulations and the Forest Service Manual. For sensitive species, a determination is made about the species' viability in the planning area or possible trends toward Federal listing (FSM 2672.41).

Page 129, paragraph under “Regional Forester Sensitive Species and the 1982 Planning Rule”

Replace the paragraph:

Regional Forester Sensitive Species and the 1982 Planning Rule

Specific direction concerning viability is provided in the National Forest Management Act implementing regulations from 1982 (“1982 Planning Rule”) at 36 CFR 219.19:

"Fish and wildlife habitat shall be managed to maintain viable populations of existing native and desired non-native vertebrate species in the planning area. For planning purposes, a viable population shall be regarded as one, which has the estimated numbers, and distribution of reproductive individuals to insure its continued existence is well distributed in the planning area. In order to insure that viable populations will be maintained, habitat must be provided to support, at least, a minimum number of reproductive individuals and that habitat must be well distributed so that those individuals can interact with others in the planning area."

Various sections of the Forest Service Manual address viability, particularly FSM 2620 and 2670, which include policy statements such as the following:

With the following:

Regional Forester Sensitive Species

The Forest Service Manual addresses species viability at FSM 2620 and 2670, which include policy statements such as the following:

Page 129, first paragraph under “Species of Conservation Concern and the 2012 Planning Rule”

Correct the paragraph:

For potential species of conservation concern in an amendment to a plan written under planning regulations previous to the 2012 Planning Rule, a finding is made regarding substantial adverse impacts and substantially lessened protections. For this analysis, we have defined substantial adverse impacts and substantially lessened protections in terms of species viability. Therefore, the meaning of viability was critical to determining effects on both sensitive species and potential species of conservation concern in this analysis.

With the following:

For potential species of conservation concern in an amendment to a plan written under planning regulations previous to the 2012 Planning Rule, a finding is made regarding substantial adverse impacts and substantially lessened protections (36 CFR 219.13(b)(6)). Twenty-seven animal

species were found to have the potential for substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment based on species evaluations completed to support this plan amendment. These species are considered to be subject to substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections for the purposes at 36 CFR 219.13(b)(6). Ecosystem and, where necessary, species-specific plan components were developed for each alternative to provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area (36 CFR 219.9(b)(1)).

Page 149, second and third paragraphs under “Effects Analysis – Preliminary List of Potential Species of Conservation Concern”

Replace these paragraphs:

The Forest Service initially considered 82 animal species to determine if they met the criteria for potential species of conservation concern and would be affected by the proposed plan amendment. The Forest Service then eliminated more than half from further evaluation because they had no habitat or prey-based relationship with prairie dog colonies or short-stature vegetation ecosystems. For the remaining 31 animal species, the Forest Service researched and compiled species evaluations to determine if they may be subject to some degree of adverse impacts or lessened protections as a result of changes in the management of prairie dog colonies, or if further information would be needed to make that conclusion. The 27 animal species found to have the potential for substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment were brought forward from the species evaluations for detailed analysis in the biological evaluation of animal species and preliminary list of potential species of conservation concern report (appendix E).

The focus of the potential species of conservation concern analysis is to determine if adverse impacts or lessened protections for each species rise to the level of “substantial” (36 CFR 219.13(b)(6)). For this plan amendment, a substantial adverse impact is an impact that causes the viability of the species on the Thunder Basin National Grassland to be lost. Similarly, a substantially lessened protection would result if the plan amendment removes or lessens a protection necessary to maintain a viable population of that species on the Thunder Basin National Grassland. Isolated impacts or mortality among individuals of a species are not considered substantial unless viability across the plan area would be lost.

With the following:

The Forest Service initially considered 82 animal species to determine if they met the criteria for potential species of conservation concern and would be affected by the proposed plan amendment. The Forest Service then eliminated more than half from further evaluation because they had no habitat or prey-based relationship with prairie dog colonies or short-stature vegetation ecosystems. For the remaining 31 animal species, the Forest Service researched and compiled species evaluations to determine if they may be subject to some degree of adverse impacts or lessened protections as a result of changes in the management of prairie dog colonies, or if further information would be needed to make that conclusion. Twenty-seven animal species were found to have the potential for substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment. These species were considered to be subject to substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections for the purposes at 36 CFR 219.13(b)(6). These species were brought forward from the species evaluations for detailed analysis in the biological evaluation of animal species and preliminary list of potential species of conservation concern report (appendix

E). Ecosystem and, where necessary, species-specific plan components were developed for each alternative to provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species in the plan area (36 CFR 219.9(b)(1)).

FEIS References

Page 183, add citation

Add the following:

USDA Forest Service. 2019. Greater Sage-grouse Proposed Land Management Plan Amendments (LMPA) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Intermountain and Rocky Mountain Regions. 623 pp.

FEIS Appendix C

Page C-71-72, last paragraph on page C-71

Correct the paragraph:

The conclusion in the Potential Species of Conservation Concern Species Evaluations that the proposed plan amendment had the potential to cause substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessen protections for a species is unrelated to the determinations in the biological evaluations and potential species of conservation reports. We prepared the species evaluations as a tool to preliminarily gather the best available scientific information. This information helped to determine whether there was a potential for substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for any species as a result of the proposed plan amendment. For the species for which this potential existed, we conducted further detailed analysis in the biological evaluations and reports on preliminary lists of potential species of conservation to determine whether any of the alternatives in the environmental impact statement would in fact cause substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessen protections for any species (i.e., lead to a loss of viability in the planning area). We determined that the alternatives as proposed would not cause substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessen protections for any species. If we had determined that the proposed amendment would cause substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessen protections for a species, we would have applied the requirements of 36 CFR 219.9(b) to that species as if it had been officially chosen by the regional forester as a species of conservation concern (36 CFR 219.13(b)(6)).

With the following:

The conclusion in the Potential Species of Conservation Concern Species Evaluations that the proposed plan amendment had the potential to cause substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessen protections for a species is unrelated to the determinations in the biological evaluations and potential species of conservation reports. We prepared the species evaluations as a tool to preliminarily gather the best available scientific information. This information helped to determine whether there was a potential for substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for any species as a result of the proposed plan amendment. Twenty-seven animal species were found to have the potential for substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment. These species were considered to be subject to substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections for the purposes at 36 CFR 219.13(b)(6). Ecosystem and, where necessary, species-specific plan components were developed for each alternative to

provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area (36 CFR 219.9(b)(1)).

Page C-72, second sentence under “Response”

Delete the following:

The plan will continue to be guided by the older planning rule under which it was originally written.

Page C-77-8, last paragraph under “Response”

Correct the first part of the paragraph:

However, there is a balance to managing for multiple resources, specifically wildlife and fish habitat. Under the National Forest Management Act regulations, it is the responsibility of the Forest Service to manage for habitat to maintain viable populations of existing native and desired non-native vertebrate species in the planning area. The 2012 Planning Rule further outlines the responsibility to do so.

With the following:

However, there is a balance to managing for multiple resources, specifically wildlife and fish habitat. Forest Service policy is to develop and implement management practices to ensure that species do not become threatened or endangered because of Forest Service actions and to maintain viable populations of all native and desired nonnative wildlife, fish, and plant species in habitats distributed throughout their geographic range on National Forest System lands (FSM 2670.22). The 2012 Planning Rule further outlines the responsibility to maintain or restore ecosystem integrity and diversity and provide the ecological conditions necessary to contribute to the recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species, conserve proposed and candidate species, and maintain a viable population of each species of conservation concern within the plan area.

FEIS Appendix D

Page D-17

Correct the paragraph:

Critically, it must be noted that the plan amendment will not result in an official designation of species of conservation concern on the TBNG by the Rocky Mountain Region Regional Forester. Because the plan amendment will not fully revise the grassland plan, the existing grassland plan will still be guided by the older planning rule under which it was originally written. This means that the Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species list will remain in place for the TBNG, and environmental analysis of the proposed plan amendment will analyze effects to sensitive species. At the same time, the 2012 Planning Rule requires the consideration of effects to *potential* SCC when crafting changes to plan components. If the environmental analysis reveals that the plan amendment will result in “substantial adverse impacts to a specific species, or the proposal would substantially lessen protections for a specific species” meaning viability will be lost, and that species has potential to meet the Regional Forester’s minimum criteria for consideration as a potential SCC, the Responsible Official must treat those species as if they were SCC during the planning process (81 Federal Register 90726). In other words, the plan amendment must contain plan components to provide for the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of each species

meeting the minimum criteria for consideration as a potential SCC and that are likely to be substantially affected by the plan amendment, as determined by the Responsible Official.

With the following:

Critically, it must be noted that the plan amendment will not result in an official designation of species of conservation concern on the TBNG by the Rocky Mountain Region Regional Forester. Because the plan amendment will not fully revise the grassland plan, the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species list will remain in place for the TBNG, and environmental analysis of the proposed plan amendment will analyze effects to sensitive species. At the same time, the 2012 Planning Rule requires the consideration of effects to *potential* SCC when crafting changes to plan components. If the environmental analysis reveals that the plan amendment will result in "substantial adverse impacts to a specific species, or the proposal would substantially lessen protections for a specific species", and that species has potential to meet the Regional Forester's minimum criteria for consideration as a potential SCC, the Responsible Official must treat those species as if they were SCC during the planning process (36 CFR 219.13(b)(6)). In other words, the plan amendment must contain plan components to provide for the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of each species (36 CFR 219(b)(1)) meeting the minimum criteria for consideration as a potential SCC and that are likely to be substantially affected by the plan amendment, as determined by the Responsible Official.

Page D-22, last paragraph

Correct the sentence:

Therefore, the biological determinations under the Proposed Action, the Grassland-wide Alternative, the No Action Alternative, and the Prairie Dog Emphasis Alternative are all *no effect*.

With the following:

Therefore, the biological determinations under the Proposed Action, the Grassland-wide Alternative, the No Action Alternative, the Prairie Dog Emphasis Alternative, and the Preferred Alternative are all *no effect*.

Page D-23, second paragraph under "*Physaria didymocarpa* var. *latana*"

Correct the sentence:

Therefore, the biological determinations under the Proposed Action, the Grassland-wide Alternative, the No Action Alternative, and the Prairie Dog Emphasis Alternative are all *no effect* for *Physaria didymocarpa* var. *latana* and suitable habitat.

With the following:

Therefore, the biological determinations under the Proposed Action, the Grassland-wide Alternative, the No Action Alternative, the Prairie Dog Emphasis Alternative, and the Preferred Alternative are all *no effect* for *Physaria didymocarpa* var. *latana* and suitable habitat.

Page D-24, second paragraph, last sentence

Correct the sentence:

This document further analyzes the potential for impacts to these species as a result of the plan amendment and uses best available science to aid the Responsible Official in determining if adverse

impacts or lessened protections are expected to be “substantial” in that outcomes could negatively affect the species’ capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area.

With the following:

This document further analyzes the potential for impacts to these species as a result of the plan amendment and uses best available science to aid the Responsible Official in determining if adverse impacts or lessened protections are expected to be “substantial.”

Page D-26, paragraph under “Effects of Alternatives on the Preliminary list of Potential Species of Conservation Concern”

Replace the paragraph:

The following section analyzes the effects of the plan amendment on the potential plant species of conservation concern in greater detail. The focus of this analysis is to determine if adverse impacts or lessened protections for each species rise to the level of “substantial” (81 Federal Register 90726). A substantial adverse impact would be an impact that causes the viability of the species on the Thunder Basin National Grassland to be lost. Similarly, a substantially lessened protection would result if the plan amendment removes or lessens a protection necessary to maintain a viable population of that species on the Thunder Basin National Grassland. Isolated impacts or mortality among individuals of a species are not considered substantial unless viability across the plan area is affected. The only plant species that have been carried forward in this analysis are those 6 which were found during the species evaluation process to have the *potential* to be substantially adversely impacted or to have substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment. All other plant species have been excluded from further analysis because best available science has been used to show that the plan amendment does not have the potential to cause substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for these species. One preliminary potential SCC, Barr’s milkvetch (*Astragalus barrii*) is also a sensitive species and effects of the alternatives of the 2020 Plan Amendment are analyzed in Section VII: Regional Forester Sensitive Species Considered in the Analysis. Section VII also determines if impacts to *A. barrii* are expected to be substantial – they are not. Information below is provided in summary format, for more detailed information, in-text citations, and a list of scientific references, please see the “Potential Species of Conservation Concern Species Evaluations for the Thunder Basin National Grassland” (USDA Forest Service 2019) posted to the project website.

With the following:

The following section analyzes the effects of the plan amendment on the potential plant species of conservation concern in greater detail. The only plant species that have been carried forward in this analysis are those 6 which were found during the species evaluation process to have the *potential* to be substantially adversely impacted or to have substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment. All other plant species have been excluded from further analysis because best available science has been used to show that the plan amendment does not have the potential to cause substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for these species. One preliminary potential SCC, Barr’s milkvetch (*Astragalus barrii*) is also a sensitive species and effects of the alternatives of the 2020 Plan Amendment are analyzed in Section VII: Regional Forester Sensitive Species Considered in the Analysis. Section VII also determines if impacts to *A. barrii* are expected to be substantial – they are not. Information below is provided in summary format, for more detailed information, in-text citations, and a list of scientific

references, please see the “Potential Species of Conservation Concern Species Evaluations for the Thunder Basin National Grassland” (USDA Forest Service 2019) posted to the project website.

Page D-26, last paragraph, last sentence under “*Chenopodium subglabrum*”

Correct the sentence:

Consequently, the Responsible Official has determined that the plan amendment will not cause substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for *C. subglabrum* because viability of the species is not expected to be adversely impacted.

With the following:

Consequently, the Responsible Official has determined that the plan amendment will not cause substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for *C. subglabrum* because the does not share habitat requirements with prairie dogs.

Page D-27, last sentence under “*Nuttallanthus texanus*”

Correct the sentence:

Consequently, the Responsible Official has determined that the plan amendment will not cause substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for *N. texanus* because viability of the species is not expected to be adversely impacted.

With the following:

Consequently, the Responsible Official has determined that the plan amendment will not cause substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for *N. texanus* because the species is not directly associated with prairie dog colonies.

Page D-28, last sentence under “*Palafoxia rosea*”

Correct the sentence:

Consequently, the Responsible Official has determined that the plan amendment will not cause substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for *P. rosea* because viability of the species is not expected to be adversely impacted.

With the following:

Consequently, the Responsible Official has determined that the plan amendment will not cause substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for *P. rosea* because the species is not directly associated with prairie dog colonies.

Page D-28, last sentence under “*Phemeranthus parviflorus*”

Correct the sentence:

Consequently, the Responsible Official has determined that the plan amendment will not cause substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for *P. parviflorus* because viability of the species is not expected to be adversely impacted.

With the following:

Consequently, the Responsible Official has determined that the plan amendment will not cause substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for *P. parviflorus* because the species is not directly associated with prairie dog colonies.

Page D-28, first sentence under “Summary of Findings”

Correct the sentence:

The proposed 2020 Thunder Basin Plan Amendment, including all alternatives, is not expected to cause substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for any species on the preliminary list of potential plant SCC in the plan area because it will not cause the viability of any plant species on the list to be lost.

With the following:

The proposed 2020 Thunder Basin Plan Amendment, including all alternatives, is not expected to cause substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for any species on the preliminary list of potential plant SCC in the plan area because none of the species were found to be directly associated with prairie dog colonies.

FEIS Appendix E

Pages E-2-4, Table E-1

Correct the table:

Table E-3. Summary of effects for all alternatives for endangered species, Forest Service sensitive species, and potential species of conservation concern

Class	Common Name	Status	Determination for All Alternatives
Amphibian	Northern leopard frog	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Bald eagle	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Brewer’s sparrow	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Burrowing owl	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	California gull	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Chestnut-collared longspur	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment

Class	Common Name	Status	Determination for All Alternatives
Bird	Dickcissel	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Ferruginous hawk	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Flammulated owl	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Golden eagle	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Grasshopper sparrow	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Greater sage-grouse	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Lewis's woodpecker	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Loggerhead shrike	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Long-billed curlew	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	McCown's longspur	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Merlin	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Mountain plover	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Northern goshawk	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Northern harrier	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Olive-sided flycatcher	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Peregrine falcon	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Ring-billed gull	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment

Class	Common Name	Status	Determination for All Alternatives
Bird	Sagebrush sparrow	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Sage thrasher	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Short-eared owl	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Swainson's hawk	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Bird	Upland sandpiper	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Fish	Finescale dace	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Flathead chub	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Mountain sucker	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Plains minnow	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Plains topminnow	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Sturgeon chub	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Monarch butterfly	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Ottoe skipper	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Regal fritillary	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Western bumblebee	Sensitive	No impact
Mammal	Black-footed ferret	Endangered	No impact
Mammal	Black-tailed prairie dog	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Mammal	Fringed myotis	Sensitive	No impact
Mammal	Hoary bat	Sensitive	No impact
Mammal	Northern long-eared bat	Threatened	No impact
Mammal	Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep	Sensitive	No impact
Mammal	Swift fox	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Mammal	Thirteen-lined ground squirrel	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Mammal	Townsend's big-eared bat	Sensitive	No impact
Reptile	Plains hog-nosed snake	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment
Reptile	Prairie rattlesnake	Potential SCC	No substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment

*Sensitive = Forest Service sensitive species; Potential SCC = Potential species of conservation concern

With the following:

Table E-4. Summary of effects for all alternatives for endangered species, Forest Service sensitive species, and potential species of conservation concern

Class	Common Name	Status ¹	Determination for all alternatives ²
Amphibian	Northern leopard frog	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Bald eagle	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Brewer's sparrow	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Burrowing owl	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	California gull	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Chestnut-collared longspur	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Dickcissel	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Ferruginous hawk	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Flammulated owl	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Golden eagle	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Grasshopper sparrow	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Greater sage-grouse	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.

Class	Common Name	Status¹	Determination for all alternatives²
Bird	Lewis's woodpecker	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Loggerhead shrike	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Long-billed curlew	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	McCown's longspur	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Merlin	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Mountain plover	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Northern goshawk	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Northern harrier	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Olive-sided flycatcher	Sensitive	No impact
Bird	Peregrine falcon	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Ring-billed gull	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species in the plan area.
Bird	Sagebrush sparrow	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Sage thrasher	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Short-eared owl	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Swainson's hawk	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.

Class	Common Name	Status ¹	Determination for all alternatives ²
Bird	Upland sandpiper	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Fish	Finescale dace	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Flathead chub	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Mountain sucker	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Plains minnow	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Plains topminnow	Sensitive	No impact
Fish	Sturgeon chub	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Monarch butterfly	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Ottoe skipper	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Regal fritillary	Sensitive	No impact
Invertebrate	Western bumblebee	Sensitive	No impact
Mammal	Black-footed ferret	Endangered	No impact
Mammal	Black-tailed prairie dog	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Mammal	Fringed myotis	Sensitive	No impact
Mammal	Hoary bat	Sensitive	No impact
Mammal	Northern long-eared bat	Threatened	No impact
Mammal	Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep	Sensitive	No impact
Mammal	Swift fox	Sensitive; Potential SCC	May adversely impact individuals but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend toward Federal listing; Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Mammal	Thirteen-lined ground squirrel	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Mammal	Townsend's big-eared bat	Sensitive	No impact
Reptile	Plains hog-nosed snake	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Reptile	Prairie rattlesnake	Potential SCC	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.

¹Sensitive = Forest Service sensitive species; Potential SCC = Potential species of conservation concern. Species listed here as Potential SCC have not been officially recommended to the Regional Forester as species of conservation concern. They have been found to meet the minimum criteria for consideration as potential species of conservation concern for this analysis.

²Determinations for sensitive species follow policy at FSM 2672.41. Determinations for potential SCC follow planning regulations at 36 CFR 219.9(b)(1).

Page E-5, second paragraph under “Law, Regulation, Policy”*Correct the paragraph:*

- The National Forest Management Act (1976) governs the development of land and resource management plans for national forests and national grasslands. The Forest Service has developed NFMA implementing regulations (1982, 2012) to further specify direction for forest planning under the National Forest Management Act. These Forest Service regulations govern planning requirements for animal species, including the provision of a diversity of plant and animal communities (16 U.S.C. § 1604(g)(3)(B)). For example, regarding management of species of conservation concern, the current planning regulations, known as “the 2012 planning rule,” define a viable population as one that “continues to persist over the long term with sufficient distribution to be resilient and adaptable to stressors and likely future events” (36 CFR section 219.19 [2012]).

With the following:

- The National Forest Management Act (1976) governs the development of land and resource management plans for national forests and national grasslands. The Forest Service has developed NFMA implementing regulations (i.e., the 2012 Planning Rule, 36 CFR 219) to further specify direction for forest planning under the National Forest Management Act. These Forest Service regulations govern planning requirements for animal species, including the provision of a diversity of plant and animal communities (16 U.S.C. § 1604(g)(3)(B)). For example, regarding management of species of conservation concern, the 2012 Planning Rule defines a viable population as one that “continues to persist over the long term with sufficient distribution to be resilient and adaptable to stressors and likely future events” (36 CFR section 219.19 [2012]).

Page E-19-20, last paragraph on page 19 under “Law, Regulation, Policy”*Correct the paragraph:*

The TBNG does not yet have any formally identified SCC, but the Responsible Official (Forest Supervisor) will apply the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule with respect to the preliminary list of potential SCC and other at-risk species during the development of the plan amendment. In order to meet these requirements, the Responsible Official (Forest Supervisor) may instruct necessary additions or changes to plan components to ensure that the plan amendment provides ecological conditions necessary to contribute to the recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species, conserve proposed and candidate species, and maintain a viable population of each potential SCC. Until the Forest Supervisor provides further direction, the Regional Forester sensitive species and the preliminary list of potential species of conservation concern will be analyzed for future proposed projects. Once a final list is determined, the Thunder Basin will adopt a final Species of Conservation Concern list and the Regional Forester sensitive species list, along with the preliminary list of potential species of conservation concern will no longer be used.

With the following:

The TBNG does not yet have any formally identified SCC, but the Responsible Official (Forest Supervisor) will apply the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule with respect to the preliminary list of potential SCC and other at-risk species during the development of the plan amendment. In order to meet these requirements, the Responsible Official (Forest Supervisor) may instruct necessary additions or changes to plan components to ensure that the plan amendment provides ecological conditions necessary to contribute to the recovery of federally listed threatened and

endangered species, conserve proposed and candidate species, and maintain a viable population of each potential SCC. Once a final list is determined, the Thunder Basin will adopt a final Species of Conservation Concern list and the Regional Forester sensitive species list, along with the preliminary list of potential species of conservation concern will no longer be used.

Page E- 20, paragraph under “The SCC Filtering Process”

Correct the paragraph:

Wildlife biologists used a series of analysis filters to determine which animal species should be considered as potential species of conservation concern for the proposed plan amendment. The Forest Service Handbook outlines a set of species lists and categories from which biologists should draw to identify species to consider for potential SCC. This set includes: the Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species list; species lists created by other Federal agencies like the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management or Fish and Wildlife Service; species listed by states, tribes, or local agencies; and species categorized by universities, non-governmental organizations, or private organizations (FSH 1909.12_20, 12.52d). Wildlife biologists identified 82 animal species that are native and known to occur on the Thunder Basin (documented in an official observation record) and that appear on one or more at-risk species lists. Next, a third filter was applied to eliminate species that would demonstrably not be affected by the plan amendment. The majority of animals, including all fish, mollusks, crustaceans, amphibians, and bats, were eliminated from evaluation *a priori* because their lack of dependence on prairie dogs or habitats affected by prairie dog management was evident. After the filtering process, 31 animal species (24 birds, 4 mammals, 2 reptiles, and 1 insect) and 16 plant species were carried forward for evaluation. See “Potential Species of Conservation Concern Species Evaluations – Thunder Basin National Grassland” for further information.

With the following:

Wildlife biologists used a series of analysis filters to determine which animal species should be considered as potential species of conservation concern for the proposed plan amendment. The Forest Service Handbook outlines a set of species lists and categories from which biologists should draw to identify species to consider for potential SCC. This set includes: the Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species list; species lists created by other Federal agencies like the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management or Fish and Wildlife Service; species listed by states, tribes, or local agencies; and species categorized by universities, non-governmental organizations, or private organizations (FSH 1909.12_20, 12.52d). Wildlife biologists identified 82 animal species that are native and known to occur on the Thunder Basin (documented in an official observation record) and that appear on one or more at-risk species lists. Next, a third filter was applied to eliminate species that would demonstrably not be affected by the plan amendment. The majority of animals, including all fish, mollusks, crustaceans, amphibians, and bats, were eliminated from evaluation *a priori* because their lack of dependence on prairie dogs or habitats affected by prairie dog management was evident. After the filtering process, 31 animal species (24 birds, 4 mammals, 2 reptiles, and 1 insect) and 16 plant species were carried forward for evaluation. See “Potential Species of Conservation Concern Species Evaluations – Thunder Basin National Grassland” for further information. Twenty-seven animal species were found to have the potential for substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment.

Page E- 21, paragraph under number “1”*Correct the paragraph:*

Note: The proposed plan amendment will not result in an official designation of SCC on the TBNG by the Rocky Mountain Region Regional Forester. Because the plan amendment will not fully revise the grassland plan, the existing grassland plan will continue to be guided by the older planning rule under which it was originally written. This means that the Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species list will remain in place for the TBNG, and environmental analysis of the proposed plan amendment will analyze effects to sensitive species.

With the following:

Note: The proposed plan amendment will not result in an official designation of SCC on the TBNG by the Rocky Mountain Region Regional Forester. Because the plan amendment will not fully revise the grassland plan, the Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species list will remain in place for the TBNG, and environmental analysis of the proposed plan amendment will analyze effects to sensitive species.

Page E- 21, paragraphs under “Species Viability and Persistence”*Replace the paragraphs:*

Determinations regarding effects to sensitive species and potential species of conservation concern are dependent on several definitions laid out in Forest Service planning regulations and the Forest Service Manual. For sensitive species, the 1982 Planning Rule applies and a determination is made about the species’ viability in the planning area or possible trends toward Federal listing.

Regional Forester Sensitive Species and the 1982 Planning Rule

Specific direction concerning viability is provided in the 1982 NFMA implementing regulations at 36 CFR 219.19:

"Fish and wildlife habitat shall be managed to maintain viable populations of existing native and desired non-native vertebrate species in the planning area. For planning purposes, a viable population shall be regarded as one, which has the estimated numbers, and distribution of reproductive individuals to insure its continued existence is well distributed in the planning area. In order to insure that viable populations will be maintained, habitat must be provided to support, at least, a minimum number of reproductive individuals and that habitat must be well distributed so that those individuals can interact with others in the planning area".

Various sections of the Forest Service Manual address viability, particularly FSM 2620 and 2670, which include policy statements such as the following:

With the following:

Determinations regarding effects to sensitive species and potential species of conservation concern are dependent on several definitions laid out in Forest Service planning regulations and the Forest Service Manual. For sensitive species, a determination is made about the species’ viability in the planning area or possible trends toward Federal listing (FSM 2672.41).

Regional Forester Sensitive Species

The Forest Service Manual addresses species viability at FSM 2620 and 2670, which include policy statements such as the following:

Page E- 22, first paragraph under “Species of Conservation Concern and the 2012 Planning Rule”

Correct the paragraph:

For potential species of conservation concern in an amendment to a plan written under planning regulations previous to the 2012 Planning Rule, a finding is made regarding substantial adverse impacts and substantially lessened protections. For this analysis, we have defined substantial adverse impacts and substantially lessened protections in terms of species viability. Therefore, the meaning of viability was critical to determining effects on both sensitive species and potential species of conservation concern in this analysis.

With the following:

For potential species of conservation concern in an amendment to a plan written under planning regulations previous to the 2012 Planning Rule, a finding is made regarding substantial adverse impacts and substantially lessened protections (36 CFR 219.13(b)(6)). Twenty-seven animal species were found to have the potential for substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment. These species are considered to be subject to substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections for the purposes at 36 CFR 219.13(b)(6). Ecosystem and, where necessary, species-specific plan components were developed for each alternative to provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of each species of conservation concern within the plan area (36 CFR 219.9(b)(1)).

Page E- 29, third paragraph

Correct the paragraph:

However, there is a balance to managing for multiple resources, specifically wildlife and fish habitat. Under the NFMA regulations, it is the responsibility of the Forest Service to manage for habitat it shall be managed to maintain viable populations of existing native and desired non-native vertebrate species in the planning area. The 2012 Planning Rule further outlines the responsibility to do so.

With the following:

However, there is a balance to managing for multiple resources, specifically wildlife and fish habitat. Forest Service policy is to develop and implement management practices to ensure that species do not become threatened or endangered because of Forest Service actions and to maintain viable populations of all native and desired nonnative wildlife, fish, and plant species in habitats distributed throughout their geographic range on National Forest System lands (FSM 2670.22). The 2012 Planning Rule further outlines the responsibility to maintain or restore ecosystem integrity and diversity and provide the ecological conditions necessary to contribute to the recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species, conserve proposed and candidate species, and maintain a viable population of each species of conservation concern within the plan area.

Pages E-59, E-76, E-86, E-97, E-106, E-116, E-126, E-136, E-152, E-156, E-161, E-180, E191, under “Determination of Effects”

Correct the paragraph:

This species also meets the minimum criteria for consideration as a potential SCC and this analysis concludes that, with all current activities combined, along with resource protection measures and plan components, “no substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment are anticipated” under any of the alternatives, since the effects are considered localized where proposed activities will occur. Recognizing that habitat and population distribution are dynamic over time, distribution also implies that ecological conditions are provided to support numbers such that losing one or some without replacement will still support a viable population. In addition, components were developed with the intent of maintaining ecological conditions on the TBNG. These components are expected to provide for this species’ habitat on the TBNG.

With the following:

This species also meets the minimum criteria for consideration as a potential SCC. With all current activities combined, ecosystem and species-specific plan components developed for each alternative would provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. Under any of the alternatives, effects are considered localized where proposed activities will occur. Recognizing that habitat and population distribution are dynamic over time, distribution also implies that ecological conditions are provided to support numbers such that losing one or some without replacement will still support a viable population. In addition, components were developed with the intent of maintaining ecological conditions on the TBNG. These components are expected to provide for this species’ habitat on the TBNG.

Page E- 193, second paragraph under “Effects Analysis – Potential Species of Conservation Concern”

Replace the paragraph:

The following section analyzes the effects of the plan amendment on potential species of conservation concern in greater detail. The focus of this analysis is to determine if adverse impacts or lessened protections for each species rise to the level of “substantial” (81 Federal Register 90726). A substantial adverse impact would be an impact that causes the viability of the species on the TBNG to be lost. Similarly, a substantially lessened protection would result if the plan amendment removes or lessens a protection necessary to maintain a viable population of that species on the TBNG. Isolated impacts or mortality among individuals of a species are not considered substantial unless viability across the plan area is lost.

With the following:

Based on species evaluations completed prior to the start of the plan amendment project, 27 animal species were found to have the potential for substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment. These species were considered to be subject to substantial adverse impacts or substantially lessened protections for the purposes at 36 CFR 219.13(b)(6). Ecosystem and, where necessary, species-specific plan components were developed for each alternative to provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of each potential species of conservation concern within the plan area (36 CFR

219.9(b)(1). The following section analyzes the effects of the plan amendment on potential species of conservation concern in greater detail. For those species that are also classified as regional forester's sensitive species, analysis and determinations are documented in the section above.

Pages E- 194-197, Table E-23

Replace the table:

Table E-5. Summary of habitat and rationale for effects determinations for all alternatives for the preliminary list of potential species of conservation concern

Class	Common Name	Status	Habitat Features	Possible Impacts from Plan Amendment	Determination for All Alternatives
Bird	Bald Eagle	Potential SCC	Nests in forested areas adjacent to rivers and large bodies of water, although a small number are found nesting along smaller drainages and lakes; opportunistic forager and will take waterfowl and other birds, small and mid-sized mammals, and carrion	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated.
Bird	Brewer's Sparrow	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Sagebrush obligate species	Grassland and sagebrush bird species that may be affected by losses in available habitat if prairie dog colonies grow to extremely large sizes.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated. See Sensitive Species section for more information.
Bird	Burrowing Owl	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Open terrain such as grasslands, prairies, shrub-steppe, and deserts, preferring well-draining or gently sloping areas with low vegetation and a high percentage of bare ground, where active and inactive prairie dog colonies exist, due to dependence on previously excavated by mammals to provide nesting and forage habitat.	Rely on prairie dogs for food or habitat. Potential to be affected by changes to the size, distribution, or total extent of prairie dog colonies.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated. See Sensitive Species section for more information.
Bird	California Gull	Potential SCC	Shorebird generalist. Will inhabit a variety of conditions near water.	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated.

Class	Common Name	Status	Habitat Features	Possible Impacts from Plan Amendment	Determination for All Alternatives
Bird	Chestnut-collared Longspur	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Open tracts of shortgrass and mixed-grass prairie; may use prairie dog colonies as habitat	Often inhabit prairie dog colonies and could experience unintended mortality as a result of recreational shooting or the use of rodenticides	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated. See Sensitive Species section for more information.
Bird	Dickcissel	Potential SCC	Grassland obligate species that breeds primarily in open prairie grasslands		No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated.
Bird	Ferruginous Hawk	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Open lower-elevation grassland, shrub-steppe, and desert habitats and tends to avoid croplands, forests, and narrow canyons; in winter, concentrates in grasslands where prairie dog colonies exist	Rely on prairie dogs for food or habitat. Potential to be affected by changes to the size, distribution, or total extent of prairie dog colonies.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Bird	Golden Eagle	Potential SCC	Nest in trees, and nests are especially concentrated in cottonwood galleries along riparian corridors; opportunistic forager for fish, other birds and mammals, including prairie dogs	Rely on prairie dogs for food or habitat. Potential to be affected by changes to the size, distribution, or total extent of prairie dog colonies.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated.
Bird	Grasshopper Sparrow	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Broad array of open grassland habitat types, including prairie dog colonies	Grassland and sagebrush bird species that may be affected by losses in available habitat if prairie dog colonies grow to extremely large sizes.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Bird	Greater Sage-grouse	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Sagebrush obligate species that depends on large areas of contiguous sagebrush	Grassland and sagebrush bird species that may be affected by losses in available habitat if prairie dog colonies grow to extremely large sizes.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.

Class	Common Name	Status	Habitat Features	Possible Impacts from Plan Amendment	Determination for All Alternatives
Bird	Long-billed curlew	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Breeding habitat comprised of sparsely-vegetated shortgrass or mixed-grass prairie environments, often dominated by Wire Grass and Mountain Timothy, with low vegetation ($\leq 10\text{--}30$ cm) and topography that is flat or gently sloping; winter habitat comprised of coastal estuaries, mudflats, salt marshes, wetlands, flooded fields, agricultural fields and pastures, and a variety of manmade waterbodies	Often inhabit prairie dog colonies and could experience unintended mortality as a result of recreational shooting or the use of rodenticides	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Bird	McCown's Longspur	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Large tracts of open, semi-arid, shortgrass prairie and heavily-grazed mixed-grass rangeland with low and sparse vegetation, extensive bare ground, and little ground litter, including prairie dog colonies	Rely on prairie dogs for food or habitat. Potential to be affected by changes to the size, distribution, or total extent of prairie dog colonies.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Bird	Merlin	Potential SCC	Typically associated with woody draws, rocky outcrops and cliff habitat.	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated.
Bird	Mountain Plover	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Open terrain such as grasslands, prairies, shrub-steppe, and deserts, preferring well-draining or gently sloping areas with low vegetation and a high percentage of bare ground, and in some parts of range, where active and inactive prairie dog colonies exist	Rely on prairie dogs for food or habitat. Potential to be affected by changes to the size, distribution, or total extent of prairie dog colonies.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Bird	Northern Harrier	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Typically associated with wetlands, marshes, or thicker vegetation in open habitats	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.

Class	Common Name	Status	Habitat Features	Possible Impacts from Plan Amendment	Determination for All Alternatives
Bird	Peregrine Falcon	Potential SCC	Typically associated with cliff habitat.	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated.
Bird	Ring-billed Gull	Potential SCC	Shorebird generalist. Will inhabit a variety of conditions near water.	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated.
Bird	Sagebrush Sparrow	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Sagebrush-obligate species that breeds preferentially in arid shrub lands dominated by Big Sagebrush	Grassland and sagebrush bird species that may be affected by losses in available habitat if prairie dog colonies grow to extremely large sizes.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Bird	Sage Thrasher	Potential SCC	Sagebrush-obligate species that breeds preferentially in arid shrub lands dominated by Big Sagebrush	Grassland and sagebrush bird species that may be affected by losses in available habitat if prairie dog colonies grow to extremely large sizes.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated.
Bird	Short-eared Owl	Potential SCC	Open habitat including: intermountain, prairie, and coastal grasslands, sagebrush steppe, marshes, arctic tundra, and shrub-steppe plateaus	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated.
Bird	Swainson's Hawk	Potential SCC	Open grasslands, shrub-steppe, and prairies, as well as agricultural areas where crop height does not greatly exceed that of native grasses	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated.
Bird	Upland Sandpiper	Potential SCC	Open grasslands, moderately tall, dense vegetation for nest concealment		No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated.

Class	Common Name	Status	Habitat Features	Possible Impacts from Plan Amendment	Determination for All Alternatives
Bird	Black-tailed Prairie Dog	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Short statured grassland and bare ground; flat areas with short vegetation and few visual barriers	Potential to be affected by changes to the size, distribution, or total extent of prairie dog colonies.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Mammal	Swift Fox	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Short-grass and mid-grass prairies with flat or gently sloping topography; utilizes previously excavated burrows by other mammals for denning habitat	Rely on prairie dogs for food or habitat. Potential to be affected by changes to the size, distribution, or total extent of prairie dog colonies.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Mammal	Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	Potential SCC	Open areas with short grass and well-drained loamy or sandy soils for burrows	Often inhabit prairie dog colonies and could experience unintended mortality as a result of recreational shooting or the use of rodenticides	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated.
Reptile	Plains Hog-nosed Snake	Potential SCC	Grasslands with sandy or gravelly areas for burrowing; however, open brush land and woodland, farmlands, canyon bottoms, scrub brush, and floodplains	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated.
Reptile	Prairie Rattlesnake	Potential SCC	Plains, foothills, scarp woodlands, and granite or limestone outcrops; including prairie dog colonies	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	No substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections anticipated.

With the following:

Table E-6. Summary of habitat and rationale for effects determinations for all alternatives for the preliminary list of potential species of conservation concern

Class	Common Name	Status	Habitat Features	Possible Impacts from Plan Amendment	Determination for All Alternatives
Bird	Bald Eagle	Potential SCC	Nests in forested areas adjacent to rivers and large bodies of water, although a small number are found nesting along smaller drainages and lakes; opportunistic forager and will take waterfowl and other birds, small and mid-sized mammals, and carrion	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Brewer's Sparrow	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Sagebrush obligate species	Grassland and sagebrush bird species that may be affected by losses in available habitat if prairie dog colonies grow to extremely large sizes.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. See Sensitive Species section for more information.
Bird	Burrowing Owl	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Open terrain such as grasslands, prairies, shrub-steppe, and deserts, preferring well-draining or gently sloping areas with low vegetation and a high percentage of bare ground, where active and inactive prairie dog colonies exist, due to dependence on previously excavated by mammals to provide nesting and forage habitat.	Rely on prairie dogs for food or habitat. Potential to be affected by changes to the size, distribution, or total extent of prairie dog colonies.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. See Sensitive Species section for more information.
Bird	California Gull	Potential SCC	Shorebird generalist. Will inhabit a variety of conditions near water.	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.

Class	Common Name	Status	Habitat Features	Possible Impacts from Plan Amendment	Determination for All Alternatives
Bird	Chestnut-collared Longspur	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Open tracts of shortgrass and mixed-grass prairie; may use prairie dog colonies as habitat	Often inhabit prairie dog colonies and could experience unintended mortality as a result of recreational shooting or the use of rodenticides	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. See Sensitive Species section for more information.
Bird	Dickcissel	Potential SCC	Grassland obligate species that breeds primarily in open prairie grasslands		Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Ferruginous Hawk	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Open lower-elevation grassland, shrub-steppe, and desert habitats and tends to avoid croplands, forests, and narrow canyons; in winter, concentrates in grasslands where prairie dog colonies exist	Rely on prairie dogs for food or habitat. Potential to be affected by changes to the size, distribution, or total extent of prairie dog colonies.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Bird	Golden Eagle	Potential SCC	Nest in trees, and nests are especially concentrated in cottonwood galleries along riparian corridors; opportunistic forager for fish, other birds and mammals, including prairie dogs	Rely on prairie dogs for food or habitat. Potential to be affected by changes to the size, distribution, or total extent of prairie dog colonies.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.

Class	Common Name	Status	Habitat Features	Possible Impacts from Plan Amendment	Determination for All Alternatives
Bird	Grasshopper Sparrow	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Broad array of open grassland habitat types, including prairie dog colonies	Grassland and sagebrush bird species that may be affected by losses in available habitat if prairie dog colonies grow to extremely large sizes.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Bird	Greater Sagegrouse	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Sagebrush obligate species that depends on large areas of contiguous sagebrush	Grassland and sagebrush bird species that may be affected by losses in available habitat if prairie dog colonies grow to extremely large sizes.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Bird	Long-billed curlew	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Breeding habitat comprised of sparsely-vegetated shortgrass or mixed-grass prairie environments, often dominated by Wire Grass and Mountain Timothy, with low vegetation ($\leq 10\text{--}30$ cm) and topography that is flat or gently sloping; winter habitat comprised of coastal estuaries, mudflats, salt marshes, wetlands, flooded fields, agricultural fields and pastures, and a variety of manmade waterbodies	Often inhabit prairie dog colonies and could experience unintended mortality as a result of recreational shooting or the use of rodenticides	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Bird	McCown's Longspur	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Large tracts of open, semi-arid, shortgrass prairie and heavily-grazed mixed-grass rangeland with low and sparse vegetation, extensive bare ground, and little ground litter, including prairie dog colonies	Rely on prairie dogs for food or habitat. Potential to be affected by changes to the size, distribution, or total extent of prairie dog colonies.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.

Class	Common Name	Status	Habitat Features	Possible Impacts from Plan Amendment	Determination for All Alternatives
Bird	Merlin	Potential SCC	Typically associated with woody draws, rocky outcrops and cliff habitat.	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Mountain Plover	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Open terrain such as grasslands, prairies, shrub-steppe, and deserts, preferring well-draining or gently sloping areas with low vegetation and a high percentage of bare ground, and in some parts of range, where active and inactive prairie dog colonies exist	Rely on prairie dogs for food or habitat. Potential to be affected by changes to the size, distribution, or total extent of prairie dog colonies.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Bird	Northern Harrier	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Typically associated with wetlands, marshes, or thicker vegetation in open habitats	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Bird	Peregrine Falcon	Potential SCC	Typically associated with cliff habitat.	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Ring-billed Gull	Potential SCC	Shorebird generalist. Will inhabit a variety of conditions near water.	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.

Class	Common Name	Status	Habitat Features	Possible Impacts from Plan Amendment	Determination for All Alternatives
Bird	Sagebrush Sparrow	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Sagebrush-obligate species that breeds preferentially in arid shrub lands dominated by Big Sagebrush	Grassland and sagebrush bird species that may be affected by losses in available habitat if prairie dog colonies grow to extremely large sizes.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Bird	Sage Thrasher	Potential SCC	Sagebrush-obligate species that breeds preferentially in arid shrub lands dominated by Big Sagebrush	Grassland and sagebrush bird species that may be affected by losses in available habitat if prairie dog colonies grow to extremely large sizes.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Short-eared Owl	Potential SCC	Open habitat including: intermountain, prairie, and coastal grasslands, sagebrush steppe, marshes, arctic tundra, and shrub-steppe plateaus	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Swainson's Hawk	Potential SCC	Open grasslands, shrub-steppe, and prairies, as well as agricultural areas where crop height does not greatly exceed that of native grasses	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Bird	Upland Sandpiper	Potential SCC	Open grasslands, moderately tall, dense vegetation for nest concealment		Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.

Class	Common Name	Status	Habitat Features	Possible Impacts from Plan Amendment	Determination for All Alternatives
Bird	Black-tailed Prairie Dog	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Short statured grassland and bare ground; flat areas with short vegetation and few visual barriers	Potential to be affected by changes to the size, distribution, or total extent of prairie dog colonies.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Mammal	Swift Fox	Sensitive, Potential SCC	Short-grass and mid-grass prairies with flat or gently sloping topography; utilizes previously excavated burrows by other mammals for denning habitat	Rely on prairie dogs for food or habitat. Potential to be affected by changes to the size, distribution, or total extent of prairie dog colonies.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. See Sensitive Species section for analysis.
Mammal	Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	Potential SCC	Open areas with short grass and well-drained loamy or sandy soils for burrows	Often inhabit prairie dog colonies and could experience unintended mortality as a result of recreational shooting or the use of rodenticides	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Reptile	Plains Hog-nosed Snake	Potential SCC	Grasslands with sandy or gravelly areas for burrowing; however, open brush land and woodland, farmlands, canyon bottoms, scrub brush, and floodplains	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.
Reptile	Prairie Rattlesnake	Potential SCC	Plains, foothills, scarp woodlands, and granite or limestone outcrops; including prairie dog colonies	May sometimes use prairie dogs as prey. The use of some types of rodenticides or lead ammunition for recreational shooting of prairie dogs could result in non-target poisoning to individuals.	Ecosystem and species-specific plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area.

Pages E-202, E-207, E-212, E-222, E-226, E-231, E-236, E-241, E-248, E-255, E-260, E-266, E-271, E-276 first paragraph under “Determination of Effects”

For Bald Eagle, California gull, Dickcissel, Golden Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine falcon, Sage thrasher, Short-eared owl, Swainson’s hawk, Upland Sandpiper, Thirteen-lined ground squirrel, Plains hog-nosed snake, Prairie rattlesnake

Correct the part of the paragraph:

and this analysis concludes that, with all current activities combined, along with resource protection measures and plan components, “no substantial adverse impacts and no substantially lessened protections as a result of the plan amendment are anticipated” under any of the alternatives, since the effects are considered localized where proposed activities will occur.

With the following:

With all current activities combined, ecosystem and species-specific plan components developed for each alternative would provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of the species within the plan area. Under any of the alternatives, effects are considered localized where proposed activities will occur.

FEIS Appendix F

Page F-2, under “State of Wyoming – Inconsistencies and Reconciliation”

Correct the paragraph:

While the State of Wyoming designates black-tailed prairie dog as a pest, the Thunder Basin National Grassland currently manages black-tailed prairie dog as a regional forester’s sensitive species and a management indicator species, and black-tailed prairie dogs meet the criteria for consideration as potential species of conservation concern. The Forest Service must manage for diversity of animal species, the recovery of threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend, for the viability of sensitive species, and to prevent substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for potential species of conservation of concern (36 CFR 219, FSM 2670).

With the following:

While the State of Wyoming designates black-tailed prairie dog as a pest, the Thunder Basin National Grassland currently manages black-tailed prairie dog as a regional forester’s sensitive species and a management indicator species, and black-tailed prairie dogs meet the criteria for consideration as potential species of conservation concern. The Forest Service must manage for diversity of animal species, the recovery of threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend, for the viability of sensitive species, and to provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of each potential species of conservation concern within the plan area (36 CFR 219.9(b)(1), 36 CFR 219.13(b)(6), FSM 2670).

Page F-4, first row

Correct the paragraph:

While the State of Wyoming designates black-tailed prairie dog as a pest, the Thunder Basin National Grassland currently manages black-tailed prairie dog as a regional forester's sensitive species and a management indicator species, and black-tailed prairie dogs meet the criteria for consideration as potential species of conservation concern. The Forest Service must manage for diversity of animal species, the recovery of threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend, for the viability of sensitive species, and to prevent substantial adverse impacts to or substantially lessened protections for potential species of conservation of concern (36 CFR 219, FSM 2670).

With the following:

While the State of Wyoming designates black-tailed prairie dog as a pest, the Thunder Basin National Grassland currently manages black-tailed prairie dog as a regional forester's sensitive species and a management indicator species, and black-tailed prairie dogs meet the criteria for consideration as potential species of conservation concern. The Forest Service must manage for diversity of animal species, the recovery of threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend, for the viability of sensitive species, and to provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of each potential species of conservation concern within the plan area (36 CFR 219.9(b)(1), 36 CFR 219.13(b)(6), FSM 2670).