

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those "Partners" (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

Endangered Species Act (CEST and EA) – PARTNER

https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/endangered-species

1.	Does the pro	ject involve an	y activities that have the	potential to affect s	pecies or habitats?
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- □No, the project will have No Effect due to the nature of the activities involved in the project.
 - → If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section.

 Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documents used to make your determination.
- □No, the project will have No Effect based on a letter of understanding, memorandum of agreement, programmatic agreement, or checklist provided by local HUD office.

Explain your determination:

Click here to enter text.

- → If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section.

 Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documents used to make your determination.
- \boxtimes Yes, the activities involved in the project have the potential to affect species and/or habitats. \rightarrow *Continue to Question 2.*

2. Are federally listed species or designated critical habitats present in the action area? Obtain a list of protected species from the Services. This information is available on the <u>FWS Website</u>.

⊠No, the project will have No Effect due to the absence of federally listed species and designated critical habitat.

→ If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section.

Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documents used to make your determination. Documentation may include letters from the Services, species lists from the Services' websites, surveys or other documents and analysis showing that there are no species in the action area.

☐Yes, there are federally listed species or designated critical habitats present in the	he action area	\rightarrow
Continue to Question 3.		

- 3. Recommend one of the following effects that the project will have on federally listed species or designated critical habitat:
 - □No Effect: Based on the specifics of both the project and any federally listed species in the action area, you have determined that the project will have absolutely no effect on listed species or critical habitat.
 - → If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section.

 Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documents used to make your determination. Documentation should include a species list and explanation of your conclusion, and may require maps, photographs, and surveys as appropriate.
 - ☐ May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect: Any effects that the project may have on federally listed species or critical habitats would be beneficial, discountable, or insignificant.
 - → Partner entities should not contact the Services directly. If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, they will have to complete Informal Consultation. Provide the RE/HUD with a biological evaluation or equivalent document. They may request additional information, including surveys and professional analysis, to complete their consultation.
 - □Likely to Adversely Affect: The project may have negative effects on one or more listed species or critical habitat.
 - → Partner entities should not contact the Services directly. If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, they will have to complete Formal Consultation. Provide the RE/HUD with a biological evaluation or equivalent document. They may request additional information, including surveys and professional analysis, to complete their consultation.

Worksheet Summary

Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.

A review of special status species databases including the Nevada Natural Heritage Program, United States Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Conservation Database, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife was completed in order to identify special status species that may occur within the project area. No federally listed species were observed during the site visit on October 4, 2022. Based on the results of this review, its location within an urbanized area and the site visit, no habitat for special status species is present within or adjacent to the project area.

However, existing trees on and adjacent to the site could provide nesting habitat for birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Please see attached Biological Resources Technical Memorandum.

A survey for active bird nests should be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 10 days prior to initiation of these activities. If nests are identified, then avoidance, minimization, or other mitigation measures must be implemented. Avoidance and minimization measures recommended for the project include the following:

- Avoidance and minimization measure 1: The USFWS and NDOW recommend completing all project activities that could result in nesting migratory bird and raptor take, such as tree, shrub, and other vegetation removal, outside the maximum migratory bird and raptor nesting season. September through January is a suitable timeframe for completing vegetation removal to minimize the potential to impact nesting birds and raptors.
- Avoidance and minimization measure 2: If project work must occur during the nesting season (February August), project proponents should utilize a qualified biologist to survey nesting birds and raptors no more than 10 days prior to the beginning of tree removal activities. A copy of the survey shall be submitted to the project proponent prior to the start of construction activities.
- Avoidance and minimization measure 3: If nesting birds or raptors are detected within or near the project impact area during the survey, consultation with NDOW and the USFWS is recommended to establish acceptable avoidance or minimization measures to avoid impacts. Avoidance measures could include the establishment of a suitable activity-free buffer around active nest sites. The size of the buffer, duration of buffer, acceptable activities, etc. will be established through consultation with the agencies. The avoidance or minimization plan shall be submitted to the project proponent for review and approval prior to the start of construction activities. These measures will ensure that no nesting birds or roosting bats are impacted by construction activities.



VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Date: 11/4/2022 Project Number: 627.23.25

To: Washoe County

From: NCE

Subject: Nevada Cares Campus Project - Vegetation and Wildlife Assessment

Project Location

The Nevada Cares Campus Project (project) encompasses approximately 18 acres in the City of Reno (City), adjacent to the "Spaghetti Bowl" interchange at Interstate (I-)80 and U.S. Route 395. The site address is 1800 Threlkel Street, Reno, Nevada (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 008-211-47, 008-211-48, 008-211-050, and 008-211-51). See **Appendix A**, **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** at the end of this document. The U.S. Geological Survey Quadrangle is Reno, Nevada. The project is within Township 19N, Range 19E, and Sections 1 and 12.

Project Background

The project is designed to help unhoused individuals and families receive mental-health support and alternative shelter options. The proposed project will provide up to 1,100 beds and services for the unhoused over 4 phases. This multi-phased construction project has an estimated budget of over \$70,000,000 from multiple funding sources – including \$12,000,000 of Community Project Funding (CPF)/ Congressionally Directed Spending, through a HUD Economic Development Initiative grant, subject to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Prior to the commitment of federal funding, Phase 1 was completed to meet immediate needs in 2020 on parcels 008-211-47, -48, and 51. A 45,900-square-foot (sf) shelter (Sprung building) opened on May 17, 2021. In addition, 50 temporary-housing modular units were installed in the "Safe Camp" at the previous Governor's Bowl Park location; the Safe Camp began operation in January 2022. Phase 2 provides for construction of two restroom buildings adjacent to the shelter building; one is complete, and the other was under contract in March 2022. The project was "federalized" as of July 18, 2022. This is also referred to as the federal 'nexus' date for environmental review for CPF projects. This means that the

P.O. Box 1760

Zephyr Cove, NV 89448 (775) 588-2505 Campus phases constructed and contracted prior to the federal nexus date, Phases 1 and 2, may proceed before NEPA review is complete. However, all activities subsequent to this date may not proceed until the Authority to Use Grant Funds are issued.

Subsequent construction phases will include a day-use area, social worker support areas, and internet and broadband infrastructure. In addition to bringing services to the Campus, enhancements include improving the arrival experience to include a diversion program and appropriate case-manager ratios. The Campus will employ about 175 people at buildout. The project will incorporate various environmental mitigations including:

- High-efficiency LED street and area lights will be used throughout.
- Waste bins and recycling bins are on-site for residents.
- Native and drought-resistant trees will be planted.
- Secure bike parking will be provided at numerous locations.

Existing Site Conditions and Habitat

The project is accessed via Threlkel Street off East 4th Street. The existing site conditions are consistent with a heavily developed, urban downtown area with low plant-and-wildlife species richness and diversity. The project area contains mostly paved roads, sidewalks, abandoned warehouses, parking lots, buildings operated by and associated with the Nevada Cares Campus, and an active construction and staging area associated with the Safe Camp and Support Housing on the northwest end of the site. Vegetation on the site consists of rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*) on the slopes of Governor's Bowl Park, firethorn (*Pyracantha coccinea*) along Line Drive, and sparse scattered trees including lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), elms (*Ulmus sp.*), and blue spruce (*Picea pungens*). Surrounding land uses include commercial properties and several major freeways, including I-80 to the north of the project and U.S. 395 to the east.

Relevant Regulations

Federal and state regulations that are relevant to this assessment are described below.

FEDERAL

Federal Endangered Species Act

The federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) protects plants and wildlife that are listed as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the taking of endangered wildlife, where taking is defined as "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or

attempt to engage in such conduct" (50 Code of Federal Regulations 17.3). Under Section 7 of the ESA, federal agencies are required to consult with the USFWS or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, as applicable, if their actions could adversely affect an endangered plant or wildlife species or its critical habitat. Section 10 of the ESA provides for issuance of incidental take permits to private parties provided a habitat conservation plan is developed.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA; 16 United States Code Section 703 et seq.) makes it unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, or kill migratory birds. The law applies to the removal of nests (such as swallow nests on bridges) occupied by migratory birds during the breeding season.

STATE OF NEVADA

Nevada Division of Natural Heritage Program

The Nevada Division of Natural Heritage (NDNH) systematically collects information on Nevada's at-risk biological features, including plants, animals, and ecological communities. Staff biologists and data management specialists consolidate natural resource information from diverse sources such as field surveys, museum collections, resource-management agencies, published and unpublished reports, and knowledgeable individuals. NDNH data include the existence, locations, numbers, condition, biology, and habitats of species and ecological communities. This comprehensive inventory is maintained in a system of GIS databases, online reports, and paper files, and is continually updated, refined, and subjected to quality controls. The information becomes more complete each year and continues to change to reflect current conditions on the landscape.

The following statutes and codes specify guidelines and provisions for those species afforded some level of protection by the state of Nevada, and which are included in the NDNH at-risk species list.

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 503.610 and 503.620

Bald eagles, golden eagles, and migratory birds are specifically protected under NRS 503.610 and NRS 503.620. Under these statutes, it is unlawful for any person or organization to, "kill, destroy, wound, trap, injure, possess dead or alive, or in any other manner to catch or capture, or to pursue with such intent," bald eagles and golden eagles or other birds protected under the MBTA.

Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 527.010 and Nevada Revised Statutes 527.260, 527.270, and 527.300

Under NRS 527.270, state law provides that a species or subspecies of native flora shall be regarded as threatened with extinction when the state Forester Firewarden, after consultation with competent authorities, determines that its existence is endangered, and its survival requires assistance because of overexploitation, disease, or other factors or because its habitat is threatened with destruction, drastic modification, or severe curtailment. These species are also on a state list of fully protected species of native flora (NAC 527.010), also known as the Critically Endangered Species List. The law also authorizes a program for the conservation, protection, restoration, and propagation of selected species of flora and for the perpetuation of the habitats of such species (NRS 527.260 and NRS 527.300).

Nevada Revised Statutes, Title 45

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) manages fish and wildlife resources under the Title 45, "Wildlife," of the NRS. Title 45 consists of provisions that address wildlife management, including protective measures that establish a program for the conservation, protection, restoration, propagation, and perpetuation of native fish and other vertebrate wildlife species.

Site Investigation

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES DATABASE SEARCH

A wide variety of taxa native to the state of Nevada have low population numbers, limited distributions, or are otherwise vulnerable to extinction or extirpation within the state and are therefore protected by state and federal laws. Although they may include ecologically significant units and subspecies, as well as species, these taxa are collectively referred to as special status species (SSS).

Relevant information was reviewed to assess the likelihood of SSS to occur within the project area. The following databases and background information were reviewed:

- USFWS "Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC)" website, September 29, 2022.
- Personal communication with Eric Miskow, NDNH, to request information on special status species occurrence data within or near project area, September 29, 2022.

 Personal communication with Jinna Larkin, NDOW, to request information on special status species occurrence data within or near project area, September 29, 2022.

The results of the database research were used to assess the presence of SSS and their habitats in the vicinity of the project. In addition, a determination was made, based on the database research, regarding the potential for each species to occur within the vicinity of the project area. These determinations were confirmed by the field survey.

FIELD SURVEY

An NCE scientist conducted an SSS reconnaissance-level field survey on October 4, 2022, to evaluate habitat and identify the presence or absence of SSS in the project area based on the database search results. The survey weather conditions were 73-75°F, clear skies, and 1-3 mph wind. The survey occurred between 11:00 and 12:26. Survey equipment included binoculars, a smartphone utilizing the ESRI Fieldmaps application for data collection, and a kestrel 3000 pocket weather meter. The survey involved walking meandering transects through the project area ensuring 100% coverage for potential rare plants; the survey was botanical in nature such that each plant was identified to the taxonomic level necessary to determine if it was special status or rare. The survey also involved observing animal tracks and sign, observing and listening for birds and other animals, documenting presence or absence of SSS and their habitats, and documenting plant communities and existing conditions in the project area. Building exteriors planned for demolition were surveyed for potential owl and bat roosts and common structure nests (e.g., signs of previous swallow nesting).

Results

Appendix B, Table 1, presents a list of SSS with the potential to occur in the project area, as identified by the background database research and evaluated during the field survey. The right column in **Table 1** lists the potential for occurrence in the project area for each species. SSS listed as "present" were observed in the project area during the surveys or have historical occurrence data within the project area. SSS listed as "possible" were not observed during the surveys, but suitable habitat was present within the project area. An SSS "unlikely" listing is identified if the species was not observed and would not be expected to occur there due to limited habitat potential, except perhaps, as a transient. Any SSS listed as "absent" may be known to occur in the general vicinity of the project area, but none were observed, and the species is precluded from occurring there because habitat requirements are not met.

A USFWS species list was accessed through the IPaC website for the proposed project. The results of the IPaC report indicated no critical habitat exists within the project area (**Appendix C**) and the field survey confirmed no habitat is present for federally listed species. It was determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect federally listed species; therefore, no Section 7 consultation with the USFWS is anticipated.

NDNH identified no at-risk taxa in the project area, but disclosed habitat may be available for spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*), a Nevada BLM sensitive species; monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*), a federal listing candidate and Nevada BLM sensitive species; and the Mono checkerspot (*Euphydryas editha monoensis*), a taxon determined to be Critically Imperiled by NDNH. These species or their habitats were not observed during the survey. Habitat requirements and potential for these species to occur in the project area is discussed in more detail in **Table 1**.

NDOW-protected species that may occur the project vicinity include nesting raptors. No known raptor nest sites in the project vicinity were returned by the NDOW data request and no nesting birds or raptors were observed during the field survey.

The site is heavily developed and has no dominant plant community, with the exception of rubber rabbitbrush along the slopes of the Governor's Bowl Park construction area. The project area contains mostly paved roads, sidewalks, abandoned warehouses, parking lots, and buildings. Trees and shrubs in the project area are primarily ornamental and include firethorn, lodgepole pine, elms, blue spruce, and a cherry plum tree (*Prunus cerasifera*). Surrounding land uses include commercial properties and several major freeways; therefore, no wildlife movement

corridors connect to the project area. Plants and wildlife species observed during the survey are presented in **Appendix B**, **Tables 2 and 3**, respectively.

Potential nesting bird habitat is present in the trees and shrubs in the project area, but no nesting bird activity was observed. No previous or inactive nests and no potential bat roosts were identified during the survey. Bird species observed were those typically seen in an urban environment including rock pigeon (*Columba livia*) and house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*). A red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) were observed as flyovers.

Non-native plant species were observed in the project area during the field survey; however, these species are not on the Nevada Noxious Weed List (NAC 555.010) and do not require control by the landowner.

Discussion and Recommendations

No SSS or their habitats were observed in the project area during the field survey. Based on the lack of habitat present within the project area, it is unlikely the project will impact SSS. It is possible that butterflies, bats, and raptors, including those listed by USFWS, NDOW, and NDNH as SSS, could occur within the project vicinity as transients. It is unlikely these species would use the project area for reproduction, nesting, or roosting, considering the existing development and site conditions.

Vegetation within the project area may provide suitable nesting habitat for migratory birds but is unlikely to support tree-nesting raptors. If a migratory bird or raptor, regardless of its federal or state status, were to nest within or near the project area prior to or during proposed construction activities, such activities could result in the abandonment of active nests or direct mortality to these birds. Construction activities (such as removal of vegetation with active nests) that adversely affect the nesting success of special-status or non-special status migratory birds, including tree-nesting raptors, or result in mortality of individual birds constitute a violation of NRS 503.610, NRS 503.620, and the MBTA (16 U.S.C., scc. 703, Supp. I, 1989), which prohibits killing, possessing, or trading in migratory birds except in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior.

Given the presence of low-quality nesting bird habitat in the project area, NCE proposes measures to avoid impacts to migratory birds and raptors during construction. If vegetation removal or ground disturbance near potential migratory bird or SSS nesting habitat (e.g., native and ornamental trees, bushes, shrubs) is proposed during the nesting season (typically February 1 through September 1), a survey for active bird nests should be conducted by a qualified biologist no more

than 10 days prior to initiation of these activities. If nests are identified, then avoidance, minimization, or other mitigation measures must be implemented. Avoidance and minimization measures recommended for the project include the following:

- Avoidance and minimization measure 1: The USFWS and NDOW
 recommend completing all project activities that could result in nesting
 migratory bird and raptor take, such as tree, shrub, and other vegetation
 removal, outside the maximum migratory bird and raptor nesting season.
 September through January is a suitable timeframe for completing vegetation
 removal to minimize the potential to impact nesting birds and raptors.
- Avoidance and minimization measure 2: If project work must occur
 during the nesting season (February through August), project proponents
 should utilize a qualified biologist to survey nesting birds and raptors no
 more than 10 days prior to the beginning of tree removal activities. A copy of
 the survey shall be submitted to the project proponent prior to the start of
 construction activities.
- Avoidance and minimization measure 3: If nesting birds or raptors are detected within or near the project area during the survey, consultation with NDOW and the USFWS is recommended to establish acceptable avoidance or minimization measures to avoid impacts. Avoidance measures could include the establishment of a suitable activity-free buffer around active nest sites. The size of the buffer, duration of buffer, and acceptable activities will be established through consultation with the agencies. The avoidance or minimization plan shall be submitted to the project proponent for review and approval prior to the start of construction activities. These measures will ensure that no nesting birds or roosting bats are impacted by construction activities.

Attachments

APPENDIX A

Figure 1: Project Area Location Map

Figure 2: Project Detail Map

APPENDIX B

Table 1: Special Status Species List

Table 2: Plant Species Observed During Survey

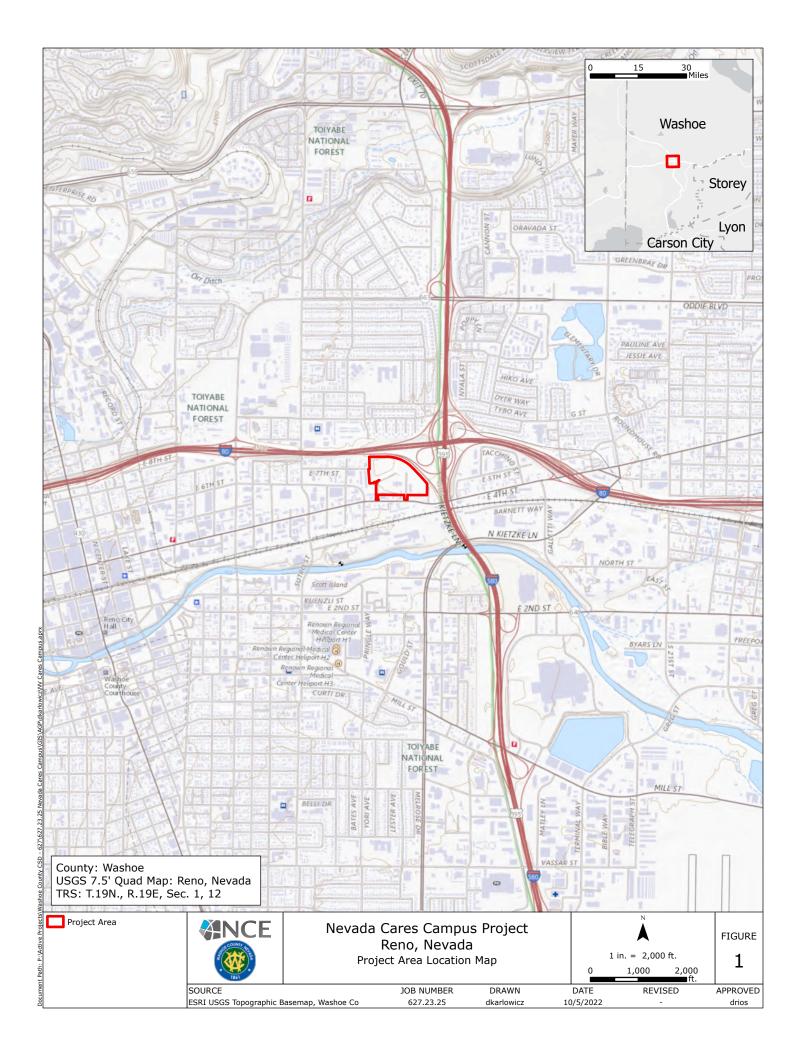
Table 3: Wildlife Species Observed During Survey

APPENDIX C

USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation Report

Appendix A

FIGURES





Appendix B

TABLES

Table 1. List of Special Status Species that May Occur in the Project Area

Common Name Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
Mammals Spotted bat	Ι	S	Species occurs in a wide	Unlikely. Species is associated
Euderma maculatum		5	Species occurs in a wide range of habitats including Great Basin Desert shrub, saltbush, pinyon pine, juniper, and subalpine meadows with associated forest species including ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, white fir, and patches of aspen. Prefers to roost on cliffsides near open water.	with sources of open water. Habitat is not present in the project area, but species may occur on-site as a transient.
Amphibians				
Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog Rana sierrae	FE		Rarely found more than 1m from water, usually near rocky stream beds, lakes, ponds, and tarns, typically with grassy or muddy banks and edges. Both adults and larvae overwinter for up to 9 months in the bottoms of lakes that are at least 1.7 m deep, under ledges of stream or lake banks, or in rocky streams.	Absent. Project will occur outside of species' known range. Stillwater habitat is absent within project area.
Fish				
Cui-ui Chasmistes cujus	FE	EF	Inshore areas of Pyramid Lake with extensive shoals and shallow bars. Spawning occurs in the Truckee River over gravel beds in water no deeper than 5 feet where flow is rapid.	Absent. Habitat is absent within project area.
Lahontan cutthroat trout Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi	FT		Inhabits cool, well- oxygenated lakes and streams in drainages of the Truckee, Humboldt, Carson, Walker, and Quinn Rivers. Spawning occurs on silt-free rocky substrate in riffle-run areas.	Absent. Habitat is absent within project area.

Common Name Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
Insects				
Carson wandering skipper Pseudocopaeodes eunus obscurus	FE		This species is locally distributed in grassland habitats on alkaline substrates in eastern California and western Nevada and is closely associated with its larval hostplant, saltgrass (Distichlis spicata var. stricta). Only four extant populations are known from Washoe County and Douglas County, Nevada, and Lassen County, California.	Unlikely. Project area does not contain grassland habitat or saltgrass. May occur as a transient.
Monarch butterfly Danaus plexippus	С	S	Species occurs in various habitats across North America. During the breeding season, monarchs lay their eggs on their obligate milkweed host plant (primarily <i>Asclepias</i> spp.). Multiple generations can breed year-round. Species migrates from Nevada to the coastal regions of California in fall and return in the spring.	Unlikely. Project area does not contain habitat or host plants. May occur as a transient during migration, may breed outside of the project area in gardens/open spaces/parks, etc.
Mono checkerspot Euphydryas editha monoensis		CI	Pinon-juniper woodland, meadows, mountain slopes. Occurs locally in relatively wet meadows and pine forests along the east slope of the Sierra Nevada and extreme western edge of the Great Basin (Pine Nut and Sweetwater mountains) from near Walker, Mono County, CA north to near Reno, Washoe Co., NV. The preferred larval host plant is Collinsia parvifloria. Secondary larval host plants include Penstemon heterodoxus and Plantago lanceolata.	Unlikely. Project area does not contain habitat or host plants. May occur as a transient.

Common Name Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
Plants	•			
Webber's ivesia Ivesia webberi	FT		Known populations occur between 4,475 and 6,237 feet on flats, benches, or terraces that are generally above or adjacent to large valleys. Primarily associated with <i>Artemisia arbuscula</i> nutt. (low sagebrush) and other perennial, rock gardentype plant on shallow, clay soils that are vernally wet and rocky on the surface.	Absent. Project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Sources: United States Fish and Wildlife Service Nevada Natural Heritage Program Nevada Department of Wildlife		C = Car FE = Fe FT = Fe FSC = S PT = Pro FCE = C	y Listed Species (Federal):	Nevada State Listed Species (NV): CE = Critically Endangered Plant EF = Endangered Fish PA = Protected Amphibian PM = Protected Mammal Nevada Natural Heritage Program: CI = Critically Imperiled S = NV BLM Sensitive

Table 2. Plant Species Observed During Survey

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native: Y, N
Agropyron cristatum	crested wheatgrass	N
Bromus tectorum	cheatgrass	N
Elaeagnus angustifolia	Russian olive	N
Ericameria nauseosa	rubber rabbitbrush	Y
Juniperus horizontalis	creeping juniper	Y
Lactuca serriola	prickly lettuce	N
Picea pungens	blue spruce	N
Pinus contorta	lodgepole pine	Y
Portulaca oleracea	common purslane	N
Prunus cerasifera	cherry plum	N
Pyracantha coccinea	firethorn	N
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust	N
Salsola tragus	Russian thistle	N
<i>Ulmus</i> sp.	elm	N

Table 3. Wildlife Species Observed During Survey

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native: Y, N
Branta canadensis	Canada goose	Υ
Buteo jamaicensis	red-tailed hawk	Υ
Columba livia	rock pigeon	N
Haemorhous mexicanus	house finch	Y



USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation Report



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Reno Fish And Wildlife Office 1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234 Reno, NV 89502-7147 Phone: (775) 861-6300 Fax: (775) 861-6301

In Reply Refer To: September 29, 2022

Project Code: 2022-0090546 Project Name: NV Cares Campus

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

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

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

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

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

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

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php.

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

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Attachment(s):

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

Official Species List

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

This species list is provided by:

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

Project Summary

Project Code: 2022-0090546
Project Name: NV Cares Campus

Project Type: Commercial Development

Project Description: Campus improvements/building construction

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@39.53510165,-119.79124259058395,14z



Counties: Washoe County, Nevada

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Endangered Species Act Species

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

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

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

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

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

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog Rana sierrae	Endangered

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9529

Fishes

NAME	STATUS

Cui-ui *Chasmistes cujus*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/456

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3964

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Insects

NAME **STATUS**

Carson Wandering Skipper *Pseudocopaeodes eunus obscurus*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/674

Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

Candidate

Endangered

Endangered

Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME

Webber's Ivesia Ivesia webberi

Threatened

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4682

Critical habitats

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

USFWS National Wildlife Refuge Lands And Fish Hatcheries

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

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

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Migratory Birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

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

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

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

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

DDEEDING

NAME	SEASON
American White Pelican <i>pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6886	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 31
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

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NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3093	Breeds May 15 to Aug 20
Cassin's Finch <i>Carpodacus cassinii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9462	Breeds May 15 to Jul 15
Clark's Grebe <i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 31
Evening Grosbeak <i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 15 to Aug 10
Franklin's Gull <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere
Lewis's Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9408	Breeds Apr 20 to Sep 30
Long-eared Owl <i>asio otus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3631	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
Marbled Godwit <i>Limosa fedoa</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9481	Breeds elsewhere
Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914	Breeds May 20 to Aug 31
Pinyon Jay <i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9420	Breeds Feb 15 to Jul 15

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Rufous Hummingbird <i>selasphorus rufus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8002	Breeds Apr 15 to Jul 15
Sage Thrasher <i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9433	Breeds Apr 15 to Aug 10
Western Grebe <i>aechmophorus occidentalis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6743	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 31
Willet <i>Tringa semipalmata</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 5

Probability Of Presence Summary

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

Probability of Presence (■)

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

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

- 1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
- 2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12

- (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
- 3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season (

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

Survey Effort (|)

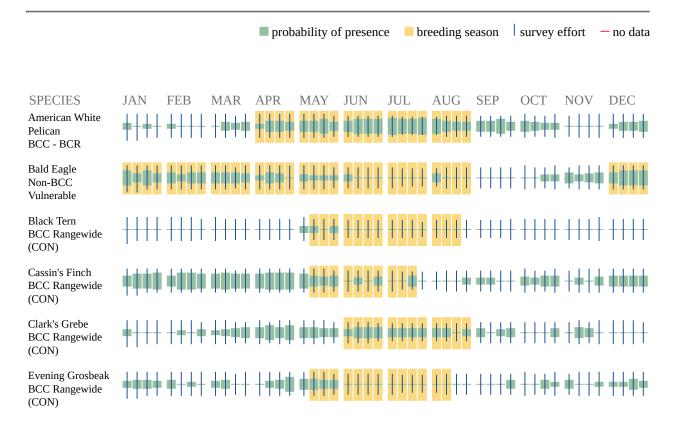
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

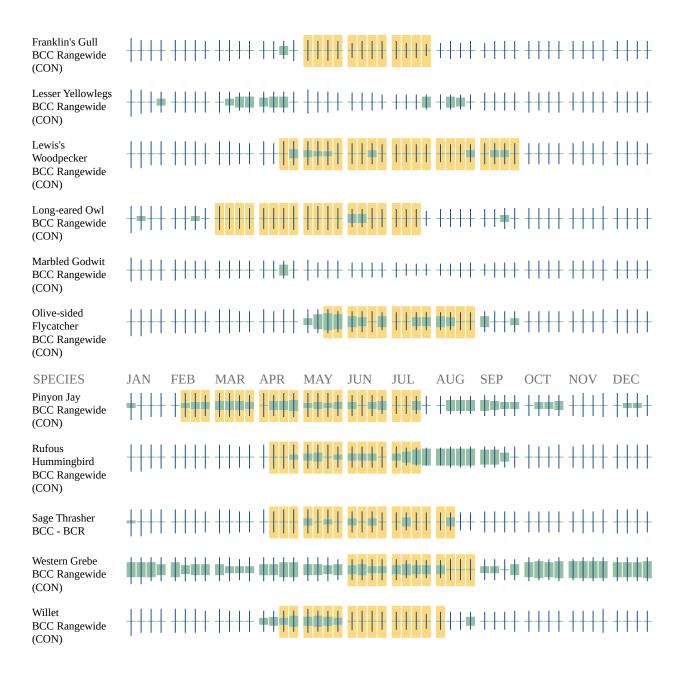
No Data (-)

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

Survey Timeframe

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





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf

Migratory Birds FAQ

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

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

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

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

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

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

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

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

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

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

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

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are <u>Birds of Conservation Concern</u> (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);

- 2. "BCC BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
- 3. "Non-BCC Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

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

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

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

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

What if I have eagles on my list?

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

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

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

certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Wetlands

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

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

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

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

IPaC User Contact Information

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