



STATE OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
WM DOCKET CONTROL CENTER

NORMAN H. BANGERTER, GOVERNOR

PETER C. VAN DYCK, M.D., M.P.H. ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*See Packet 3 for
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WM Record File

106.1

WM Project 16

Docket No. _____

PDR

LPDR

Distribution: PEB MJB Green w/end.

February 19, 1985 Linehan

JOB RDM DEM

Johnson

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(Return to WM, 623-SS)

B. Sanborn

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MEMORANDUM

TO: JOHN LINEHAN
Scott Grace, Nuclear Regulatory Commission

FROM: Toni Ristau, Utah Department of Environmental Health

SUBJECT: Requested Information/Reference Materials

Per our discussions at the meetings on February 11 and 12, 1985, I am enclosing a listing of animal species of special state concern (as requested by Mr. LaRoch), and a copy of an analysis done by the state of Utah on visual aesthetics (as requested by Mr. Cleary).

The listing of animal species is current, but the listing of plant species is currently in a state of flux. Probably the leading authority on plant species within the state of Utah is Dr. Stanley K. Walsh, at Brigham Young University, in Provo, Utah; if more detailed information on plant species is required, the best approach would be to contact Dr. Walsh directly.

The visual impacts analysis is currently being updated, and should be available soon. I understand that more current maps have already been transmitted to you. The primary contact for the state of Utah is Mike Johnson, 801-533-6290.

Toni
Toni K. Ristau

Enclosures (2)

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PDR WASTE
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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Mr. LaRoch ~
This is the latest information
on animal species of special
concern to the state of Utah.
The plant species info is not
updated. Perhaps the best
information on plants is
available from Dr. Stanley K.
Walsh, Brigham Young
University, Provo UT.

Toni Bistau

106.1 *Encl. to memo to
Lincoln from
T. Ristau - 2/19/85*

STATUS OF SELECTED NONGAME WILDLIFE AND PLANT SPECIES IN UTAH

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

September 1982 (Revised)

Copy to LaRach

One of the present compelling environmental issues is the phenomenon of the growing numbers of animal and plant species being threatened with extinction. The problem is not only one of local concern, but one which faces the world as a whole. Quoted figures show that during the past century and a half, more than 200 species of animals have disappeared--nearly 50 in the United States alone.

It is thought, at present, that over 1,000 more species are in jeopardy throughout the world. These include such familiar animals as whales, tigers, great apes and others too numerous to list. Of the world's endangered vertebrate species, over 100 occur in the United States.

The situation in Utah is not as serious as in many other areas because man's interference has not been as intensive and extensive as in many other countries of the world or states of our nation. We are fortunate that time remains to work toward saving many of our native animals--a priceless natural heritage--for use and enjoyment of future generations.

Public Concern

As people become more aware of the importance of the intricacy of natural phenomena, with man an integral part, mounting concern is being expressed over the actual or potential loss of any life form. No longer should poor land use and environmental deterioration be tolerated.

One of our Division goals is to "protect all species of wildlife from waste, exploitation, deterioration and extinction in consideration of their intrinsic, ecologic, and/or sociologic values." Knowledge of distribution and trends in numbers of individual animal species should serve to identify areas and situations where life-support systems have been damaged. Steps can be taken by all responsible parties to identify the cause and attempt to rectify the damage.

Passage by the Utah Legislature in 1971 of the new Wildlife Resources Code of Utah and revisions in 1973, 1975 and 1979 protect or provide the means for protecting nongame wildlife.

Immediate protection can be granted any federally endangered species newly found in Utah.

Animal Lists and Classifications

The word "animal" is used in a very broad sense to encompass mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and insects. Following are classifications under which animals are listed.

Extirpated: Any species of animal that has disappeared, as a part- or full-time resident, from the state since 1800. (This is different from the word "extinct," which means the total loss of the species in the world.)

Endangered: Any species, subspecies or subpopulation of animal which is threatened with extinction resulting from very low or declining numbers, alteration and/or reduction of habitat, detrimental environmental changes, or any combination of the above. Continued survival in this situation is unlikely without implementation of special measures.

Threatened: Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Declining: Any species of animal which, although still occurring in numbers adequate for survival, has been greatly depleted and continues to decline. A management program, including protection or habitat manipulation, is needed to stop or reverse the decline.

Limited: Any species of animal occurring in limited areas and/or numbers due to a restricted or specialized habitat or at the perimeter of its historic range.

Status Questioned: Insufficient data available on which to base a reliable assessment as to status.

The animals listed are those found in the state as residents or those which use the state as a necessary part of their annual life cycle even though they may migrate to or from the state at certain times of the year. Their status in other states or countries is not a part of this list.

This list and classification of animals certainly is not static, and periodic reviews must determine if changes are needed. Current status is based on best information available at time of publication.

MAMMALS

Extirpated:

Grizzly Bear - Ursus horribilis

None have been reported in Utah for many years.

Fisher - Martes pennanti

Originally inhabited the Uinta Mountains. Report of fisher tracks in Uinta Mountains prior to 1952. None thought to exist as residents in Utah at present.

Endangered: (Federal Classification)

Utah Prairie Dog - Cynomys parvidens

Found only in Utah. Distribution and population on public lands reduced but increasing at present time. Poisoning thought to be primary cause of decline. Added to list of protected wildlife in 1973. Transplanting program is operating and appears successful.

Black-footed Ferret - Mustela nigripes

Never abundant in Utah, and may have been extirpated. Utah is on the extreme western portion of this animal's historic range. Prairie dogs are primary prey species, and reduction in numbers of prairie dogs may limit ferret numbers. Unverified reports from Uinta Basin in 1972 and 1975; near Green River, Utah, in early 1976; Rich and Emery counties, 1977 and 1978; two near Crescent Junction, 1982.

Wolf - Canis lupus

Although wolves once inhabited all of the state except the hot deserts of southwestern Utah, none have been taken in Utah for many years. Investigations of reported sightings in recent years have been large coyotes or wild dogs. Continued reports from west-central Duchesne County are being investigated.

Limited:

Dwarf Shrew - Sorex nanus

Desert Shrew - Notiosorex crawfordi

Red Bat - Lasiurus borealis

Mexican Big-eared Bat - Plecotus phyllotis

Spotted Bat - Euderma maculatum

Big Free-tailed Bat - Tadarida macrotis

Abert Squirrel (protected) - Sciurus aberti navajo

Belding Ground Squirrel - Spermophilus beldingi

Richardson Ground Squirrel - Spermophilus richardsoni

Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel - Spermophilus tridecemlineatus

Spotted Ground Squirrel - Spermophilus spilosoma

Yellow Pine Chipmunk - Eutamias amoenus
Rock Pocket Mouse - Perognathus intermedius
Wyoming Pocket Mouse - Perognathus fasciatus
Merriam's Kangaroo Rat - Dipodomys merriami
Desert Kangaroo Rat - Dipodomys deserti
Cactus Mouse - Peromyscus eremicus
Rock Mouse - Peromyscus difficilis
Southern Grasshopper Mouse - Onychomys torridus
Stephen's Woodrat - Neotoma stephensi
Mexican Meadow Mouse - Microtus mexicanus
Wolverine (protected) - Gulo gulo

Recent confirmation of this species in Utah. Continued reports indicate the probability of the existence of this species in Utah and the need for intensive surveys in areas of suspected presence.

River Otter - Lutra canadensis

Last animals known to have been taken in Utah were trapped near Scofield Reservoir in the early sixties. Recent sightings indicate the possible occurrence of single animals in Wasatch, Summit and Daggett counties, and the Green River and its tributaries.

Canada Lynx - Lynx canadensis

Once found nearly statewide in high mountain wilderness areas.

Killed indiscriminately in early years as predators and more recently by mistaken identity as bobcats. Do not seem to be able to adapt to man's presence as trapping records indicate they are now restricted to the High Uinta Mountain area. Are now protected.

BIRDS

(All bird species in Utah are protected)

Extirpated:

California Condor - Cynogyps californianus

Once reportedly ranged into southwestern Utah. None found in the state at present and are endangered in California.

Endangered: (Federal Classification)

American Peregrine Falcon - Falco peregrinus anatum

Once found worldwide, the peregrine has declined in numbers drastically over some of its range. Several breeding pairs were known in Utah in 1973, and others may nest in remote, isolated areas. DDT and its metabolites are thought to be the single most important reason for the decline. Recovery effort is underway in

cooperation with Rocky Mtn./Southwestern Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team.

Arctic Peregrine Falcon - Falco peregrinus tundrius

A migrant through Utah in the fall and spring as it travels to winter quarters in South America and returns to nest in the arctic of Alaska and Canada.

Bald Eagle - Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Linnaeus)

A common winter visitor. Division surveys indicate a winter population in excess of 900 birds. No summer nestings are presently known. Historically, the bald eagle was reported to nest in Utah.

Whooping Crane - Grus americana

A migrant only from an experimental flock hatched under sandhill cranes at Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Idaho. Occasionally seen in eastern Utah as the flock travels to winter in New Mexico.

Declining:

Snowy Plover - Charadrius alexandrinus

Long-billed Curlew - Numenius americanus

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - Coccyzus americanus

Lewis' Woodpecker - Asyndesmus lewis

Western Bluebird - Sialia mexicana

Limited:

White Pelican - Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

Double-crested Cormorant - Phalacrocorax auritus

Caspian Tern - Hydroprogne caspia

Purple Martin - Progne subis

Bell's Vireo - Vireo bellii

Grasshopper Sparrow - Ammodramus savannarum

Roadrunner - Geococcyx californianus

Spotted Owl - Strix occidentalis

Osprey - Pandion haliaetus

Status Questioned:

Great Blue Heron - Ardea herodias

American Bittern - Botaurus lentiginosus

Western Grebe - Aechmophorus occidentalis

Black-crowned Night Heron - Nycticorax nycticorax

Pileated Woodpecker - Dryocopus pileatus

Red-headed Woodpecker - Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Mountain Bluebird - Sialia currucoides

Yellow-breasted Chat - Icteria virens

Fox Sparrow - Passerella iliaca

FISH

(All fish species in Utah are protected)

Endangered:

*Bonytail Chub - Gila elegans

Added to the Federal list in April 1980. Probably the most endangered fish species in the Colorado River system. Most recent specimens of bonytail chub taken from their riverine environment have been from the Green River.

*Colorado Squawfish - Ptychocheilus lucius

Has become restricted in distribution to the middle and lower Green River, the White River, and in the Colorado River above Lake Powell. Formerly distributed widely in the Colorado River and all its major tributaries. Among reasons for its decline is the modification of habitat by man's construction of large reservoirs.

*Humpback Chub - Gila cypha

Found only in the Green, Little Colorado, and Colorado rivers from Grand Canyon to Flaming Gorge Dam. Occurs in restricted canyon reaches within the rivers in low numbers. Reasons for decline in numbers are not known but probably due to habitat changes within the rivers in which it is found.

*Woundfin - Plegoapterus argentissimus

Restricted to the Virgin River below Hurricane, Utah. Formerly much wider range and greater numbers. Reason for decline is modification of habitat by man. It is adapted to sandy, swift, turbid river habitat.

Threatened:

*Lahontan Cutthroat Trout - Salmo clarki henshawi

Found only on Pilot Mountain in Utah. It is not native to Utah.

Virgin River Roundtail Chub - Gila robusta seminuda

Found in the Virgin River of southwestern Utah.

June Sucker - Chasmistes liorus mictus

Once common in Utah Lake, but exists today in small numbers. Recent taxonomic studies indicate that the June sucker found today display characteristics of earlier specimens with the exception of a variation in gill raker counts. To account for the difference June sucker prior to 1930 are classified as Chasmistes liorus liorus and after 1930 as Chasmistes liorus mictus.

Razorback Sucker - Xyrauchen texanus

Found in the Green and Colorado rivers and some of their tributaries. Recent investigations have found only old individuals and no evidence of successful reproduction. The decline of the razorback sucker is felt to be primarily related to habitat changes and resulting influx of nonnative fish species.

Declining:

Least Chub - Notichthys phlegethontis
Virginia River Spinedace - Lepidomeda mollispinis

Status Questioned:

Leatherside Chub - Gila copei
Longnose Dace - Rhinichthys cataractae

*Federal Classification

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

(All reptiles and amphibians are protected)

Threatened: (Federal Classification)

Desert Tortoise - Gopherus agassizi

Range is extremely limited in Utah and populations within this range are low, but appear to be stable or slightly increasing.

Limited:

Gila Monster - Heloderma suspectum
Desert Iguana - Dipsosaurus dorsalis
Chuckwalla - Sauromalus obesus
Desert Night Lizard - Xantusia vigilis
Western (Utah) Banded Gecko - Coleonyx variegatus utahensis
Zebra-tailed Lizard - Callisaurus draconoides rhodostictus
Many-lined Skink - Eumeces multivirgatus gaigei
Plateau Whiptail - Cnemidophorus velox
Arizona Toad - Bufo microscaphus microscaphus
Pacific Tree Frog - Hyla regilla
Relict Leopard Frog - Rana onca
Speckled Rattlesnake - Crotalus mitchelli pyrrhus
Mojave Rattlesnake - Crotalus scutulatus scutulatus
Sidewinder Rattlesnake - Crotalus cerastes cerastes
Utah Black-headed Snake - Tantilla planiceps utahensis
California Kingsnake - Lampropeltis getulus californiae
Desert Glossy Snake - Arizona elegans
Utah Blind Snake - Leptotyphlops humilis utahensis
Mojave Patch-Nosed Snake - Salvadora hexalepis mojavensis
Arizona Lyre Snake - Trimorphodon lambda

Status Questioned:

Utah Mountain Kingsnake - Lampropeltis pyromelena infralabialis
Utah Milk Snake - Lampropeltis triangulum taylori
Great Plains Rat Snake - Elaphe guttata emoryi
Western Smooth Green Snake - Opheodrys vernalis blanchardi
Western Spotted Frog - Rana pretiosa pretiosa

INSECTS

Limited:

Great Basin Silverspot Butterfly - Speyeria nokomis nokomis
Of several subspecies in Utah, this one is found only in the Uinta Basin. Very specialized in its habitat requirements. Protected by Utah law.

PLANTS

Endangered: (Federal Classification)

Bear Poppy - Arctomecon humilis

RECEIVED

FEB 19 1985

Utah State Dept. of
Environmental Quality

Mr. Cleary ~

This report is in the process of being updated, but this currently represents the most detailed analysis available on visual aesthetics you may have already seen this.

Mike Johnson is the primary contact for this study (801 - 533-6290).

Terri Boston