

**APPENDIX K**

**USFWS CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING  
FEDERALLY LISTED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES**



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ecological Services  
764 Horizon Drive, Building B  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506-3946

IN REPLY REFER TO:

ES/CO:FS/GMUG/PaoniaRD  
MS 65412 GJ

February 4, 2003

Rollin Daggett, Project Manager  
ENSR International  
1601 Prospect Parkway  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525-9769

Dear Mr. Daggett:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has received your December 19, 2002, correspondence requesting a list of federally threatened (FT), endangered (FE), proposed (FP), and candidate (FC) species that may be affected by Gunnison Energy Corporation's proposed 8 natural gas exploratory drilling projects and new access roads in Gunnison and Delta counties.

While candidate species presently have no legal protection under the Endangered Species Act, it is within the spirit of the Act to consider project impacts to potentially sensitive species. Additionally, we would like to make you aware of the presence of Federal candidates should any be proposed or listed prior to the time that all Federal actions related to the project are completed. The Gunnison sage-grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*) is a high priority for conservation efforts in Colorado. Any efforts taken that will reduce negative impacts to this bird would be greatly appreciated by the Service. Please be aware that endangered and threatened species lists should be updated every 90 days by telephone or in writing. If water depletions are part of your projects, you will need to consult for the endangered Colorado River fishes. Since there are two Federal agencies involved with these projects, please select one to be the lead. This will streamline the consultation process and address cumulative effects with greater efficiency.

## Federally Listed and Candidate Species of Gunnison and Delta Counties

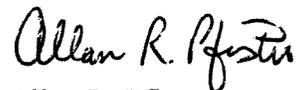
|                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bald eagle (FT)                     | <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>   |
| Gunnison sage-grouse (FC)           | <i>Centrocercus minimus</i>       |
| Southwestern willow flycatcher (FE) | <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> |
| <i>Eriogonum pelinophilum</i> (FE)  | Clay-loving wild-buckwheat        |
| <i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i> (FT)    | Uinta Basin hookless cactus       |
| Yellow-billed cuckoo (FC)           | <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>        |
| Black-footed ferret (FE)            | <i>Mustela nigripes</i>           |
| Canada Lynx (FT)                    | <i>Lynx canadensis</i>            |
| Boreal toad (FC)                    | <i>Bufo boreas boreas</i>         |

Colorado pikeminnow<sup>1</sup> (FE)  
Bonytail (FE)  
Humpback chub (FE)  
Razorback sucker (FE)

*Ptychocheilus lucius*  
*Gila elegans*  
*Gila cypha*  
*Xyrauchen texanus*

If the Service can be of further assistance, please contact John Kleopfer at the letterhead address or (970) 245-3920, extension 39.

Sincerely,



Allan R. Pfister  
Assistant Colorado Field Supervisor

pc: FWS/ES, Lakewood

JKleopfer:FSGMUGPaoniaRDGunnisonEnergyCorpLtr.wpd:020403

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<sup>1</sup>Formerly squawfish