United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
Colorado Field Office
755 Parfet Street, Suite 361
Lakewood, Colorado 80215

IN REPLY REFER TO:
ES/CO:T&E
Mail Stop 65412

NOV 1 2000

Mr. Thomas Ryon
Greystone Environmental Consultants, Inc.
5231 South Quebec Street
Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111

Dear Mr. Ryon:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your letter of August 9, 2000, regarding the Platte River Power Authority's proposed upgrade of two existing electric transmission lines near Loveland and Fort Collins, Colorado. You requested a list of Federal endangered and threatened species that may exist in the project area. These comments have been prepared under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.).

The Service has no specific knowledge of the project site; however, enclosed is a list of Federal endangered, threatened, proposed and candidate species, by county, in Colorado. The list for Larimer County can be used as a basis for determining species potentially present in the project area.

While other species could occur at or visit the project area, endangered or threatened species most likely to occur include:

Birds:	Bald eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Threatened Mountain plover, *Charadrius montanus*, Proposed Threatened
Mammals:	Preble's meadow jumping mouse, *Zapus hudsonius preblei*, Threatened
Plants:	Ute ladies'-tresses orchid, *Spiranthes diluvialis*, Threatened Colorado butterflyplant, *Gaura neomexicana* spp. *coloradensis*, Threatened

The Service also is interested in the protection of species which are candidates for official listing as threatened or endangered (Federal Register, Vol. 61, No. 40, February 28, 1996). While these species presently have no legal protection under the ESA, it is within the spirit of this Act to consider project impacts to potentially sensitive candidate species. It is the intention of the Service to protect these species before human-related activities adversely impact their habitat to a degree that they would need to be listed and, therefore, protected under the ESA. Additionally, we wish 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. If any candidate species will be unavoidably impacted, appropriate mitigation should be proposed and discussed with this office.

While the Service has no specific knowledge of the presence of these species within the project area, the following may occur in or visit the project area.

Mammals: Swift fox, *Vulpes velox*, Candidate
Black-tailed-prairie dog, *Cynomys ludovicianus*, Candidate

If the Service can be of further assistance, contact me at (303)275-2343.

Sincerely,

For LeRoy W. Carlson
Colorado Field Supervisor

cc: Reading file
Project file

Reference: Specieslist\PRPA