Species Evaluation Parameters

Form to assist in completing the Endangered & Threatened Species Evaluation Procedures Guide Sheet and Determining the Potential Effect

The following questions identify the potential for suitable habitat within the Project Limits, or if the project is within the range of a federally or state listed species. If a species is listed during construction or implementation, the species will be addressed in the Individual Project Level Evaluation document.

Proposed Project Information

Project Sponsor and Contact:

Biologist Completing Assessment:

Project No.:

Control No.:

Project Name:

County:

Limits of Work

Start:

End:

Total Length:

Section-Township-Range:

Project Description:

Project Limits: The Project Limits are defined as the area between the project beginning and end points, from right-of-way to right-of-way, as marked in the construction plans, including temporary construction easements, detours, and any designated waste, staging, stockpile or material sites.

Project Area Habitat Description:

Nebraska Federal and State Listed Species

E = Endangered	P = Proposed for Listing	XN = Experimental Population
T = Threatened	C = Candidate (no specific review required)	

Animals

American Burying Beetle (E)
Black-footed Ferret (E)
Blacknose Shiner (E)
Eskimo Curlew (E)
Finescale Dace (T)
Gray Wolf (E)
Interior Least Tern (E)
Lake Sturgeon (T)
Massasauga (T)
Mountain Plover (T)
Northern Long-Eared Bat (PE)
Northern Redbelly Dace (T)
Pallid Sturgeon (E)
Piping Plover (T)
River Otter (T)
Salt Creek Tiger Beetle (E)
Scaleshell Mussel (E)
Southern Flying Squirrel (T)
Sturgeon Chub (E)
Swift Fox (E)
Topeka Shiner (E)
Whooping Crane (E)

Plants

American Ginseng (T)
Blowout Penstemon (T)
Colorado Butterfly Plan (T)
Saltwort (E)
Small White Lady's Slipper (T)
Ute Ladies'-tresses (T)
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid (T)

Species Information: http://www.fws.gov/nebraskaes/species.php and http://outdoornebraska.gov/atrisk species/
Nature Serve: http://www.natureserve.org

STEP 1: RANGE AND OCCURRENCE EVALUATION

Species	Will the project occur in a county(s) in which this species is listed*?	Are there Natural Heritage records within 5-miles of the project within the last 30-years?
American Burying Beetle	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
American Ginseng	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Black-footed Ferret	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Blacknose Shiner	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Blowout Penstemon	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Colorado Butterfly Plant	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Eskimo Curlew	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Finescale Dace	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Gray Wolf	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Interior Least Tern	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Lake Sturgeon	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Massasauga	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Mountain Plover	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Northern Long-Eared Bat	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Northern Redbelly Dace	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Pallid Sturgeon	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Piping Plover	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
River Otter	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
***Rufa* Red Knot**	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Salt Creek Tiger Beetle	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Saltwort	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Scaleshell Mussel	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Small White Lady's Slipper	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Southern Flying Squirrel	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Sturgeon Chub	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Swift Fox	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Topeka Shiner	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Ute Ladies'-tresses	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Whooping Crane	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No

***County lists can be found at:** http://outdoornebraska.gov/naturalheritageprogram/
AND http://www.fws.gov/nebraskaes/Library/NECountyMAY2015.pdf.

If the species is not identified in either column, then there is a "no effect" to the species from action. If any "yes" boxes are checked, carry these species to Step 2.

Does the project occur directly adjacent to or on Federal or Tribal land? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, the project Biological Evaluation documentation will be provided to the tribe and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), or the Federal land managing agency regardless of the affect determination. This documentation will be provided concurrently with the resource agency submittals in May Affect situations. If a tribe, BIA, or Federal land managing agency does not concur with the affect determination or conservation conditions, then a consultation with all parties, including the resource agencies, shall occur.

Has a survey, Natural Heritage Database, or other source identified an occurrence within 1.0 mile of the project, within the last 30 years? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, indirect effects and cumulative effects of the activity will be analyzed below. Indirect effects may include but are not limited to hydrologic changes (ditching, diking, etc.). If any indirect effects are identified that are not captured elsewhere in the Matrix, then May Affect. (NDOR Environmental).

Indirect and Cumulative Effects Analysis

Will the project impact animal movements, such as by adding traffic capacity within occupied habitats, or will the project provide an opportunity to improve known existing habitat fragmentation conditions?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, the effects will be analyzed below.

Habitat Connectivity Analysis

STEP 2: HABITAT EVALUATION

For each species checked above, complete the Yes/No questions to assist in scoping for the potential affects to the listed species. All the questions associated with a species need to be evaluated individually to determine Yes/No applicability (see below).

If ALL answers are "No" for the species or critical habitat below, then there is a "No Effect" to that particular species or critical habitat.

If ANY answer is "Yes" on this Habitat Evaluation worksheet, then carry the "Yes" species forward and proceed to the Step 3 – Federal or State Species Matrix for further effects guidance.

SPECIES			
American Burying Beetle			
	Area of activity in Loess Canyons population range:	Yes	No
	Do the Project Limits include activities in a perennial vegetated plant community?	☐	☐
	Area of activity in Sandhills population range:	Yes	No
	Do the Project Limits include activities in perennial vegetated and/or wet and mesic inclusions?	☐	☐
American Ginseng			
		Yes	No
	Do the Project Limits include mature woodland along a river bluff within the designated range of the species?	☐	☐
Black-footed Ferret			
		Yes	No
	Do the Project Limits include, or is it within ¼ mile of, a prairie dog town or complex which is 1,000 acres or more in size? A complex consists of two or more neighboring prairie dog towns with the spacing between the adjacent neighboring town being less than 4.34 miles (7 km).	☐	☐
Blacknose Shiner			
		Yes	No
	Do the Project Limits include a stream, connected backwater areas, and/or topographic floodplain within the designated range of the species?*	☐	☐
Blowout Penstemon			
		Yes	No
	Do the Project Limits include open sand blowouts?	☐	☐
Colorado Butterfly Plant			
		Yes	No
	Do the Project Limits include pasture, grassland, or hay land on floodplain and lower stream terraces along Lodgepole Creek?	☐	☐

Eskimo Curlew			
	Does the Heritage Database indicate known species occurrences within 5 miles of the Project Limits within the last 30 years?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Finescale Dace			
	Do the Project Limits include a stream, connected backwater areas, and/or topographic floodplain within the designated range of the species?*	Yes ☐	No ☐
Gray Wolf			
	Does the Heritage Database indicate known species occurrences within 5 miles of the Project Limits within the last 30 years?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Interior Least Tern			
	Do the Project Limits include un-vegetated or sparsely vegetated sand, shale, or gravel such as a beach, peninsula, or bar?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Are the Project Limits (noise and sight) within ¼ mile of suitable habitat to include but not limited to a beach area, sand pits, peninsula, sand, shale, or gravel bar **AND** is the habitat visible from the Project Limits?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Lake Sturgeon			
	Are the Project Limits within the range as identified in the most current Species Assessment as provided by the Service and Commission OR within a stream or connected backwater area within ¼ mile of the range?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Massasauga			
	Are the Project Limits within a wet site (including, but not limited to wetlands, ditches, and floodplains) characterized by the presence of prairie cordgrass, reed canary grass, open shrub, and crayfish burrows OR an upland grassland habitat adjacent to moist soil habitat?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Mountain Plover			
	Are the Project Limits within 150-feet of heavily grazed/disturbed short grass prairies or areas with very little cover such as tilled cropland on gently rolling to level topography?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Northern Long-Eared Bat			
	Are the Project Limits within ¼-mile of known or occupied hibernacula?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Are the Project Limits within 150-feet of known or occupied maternity roosts?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Are the Project Limits within or adjacent to deciduous woodlands (connected to ≥ 5 acres in size) that have live/dead tree species or snags that exhibit peeling bark, crevices or hollows (Typically ≥ 6-inch dbh)?	Yes ☐	No ☐

Northern Long-Eared Bat (cont.)			
	Do the Project Limits include buildings and/or bridges over drainages (wet or dry) connected to a woodland ≥ 5 acres in size?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Northern Redbelly Dace			
	Do the Project Limits include a stream, connected backwater areas, and/or topographic floodplain within the designated range of the species?*	Yes ☐	No ☐
Pallid Sturgeon			
	Are the Project Limits within the range as identified in the most current Species Assessment as provided by the Service and Commission OR within a stream or connected backwater area within ¼ mile of the range?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Piping Plover			
	Do the Project Limits include un-vegetated or sparsely vegetated sand, shale, or gravel such as a beach, peninsula, or bar?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Are the Project Limits (noise and sight) within ¼ mile of suitable habitat to include but not limited to a beach area, sand pits, peninsula, sand, shale, or gravel bar **AND** is the habitat visible from the Project Limits?	Yes ☐	No ☐
River Otter			
	Do the Project Limits include a river, stream, or backwater area within the designated range of the species?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Are the Project Limits within ½ mile of a lake, pond, or an adjacent upland bank within the topographic floodplain AND is the lake, pond, or adjacent upland bank associated with a river, stream, or backwater area within the designated range of the species?*	Yes ☐	No ☐
***Rufa* Red Knot**			
	Does the Heritage Database indicate known species occurrences within 5-miles of the Project Limits within the last 30 years?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Salt Creek Tiger Beetle			
	Are saline wetlands and/or salt flats present within ½ mile of the Project Limits?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Salt Creek Tiger Beetle (Critical Habitat)			
	Are the Project Limits within ½ mile of critical habitat?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Are the Project Limits within the drainage of Oak Creek, Haines Branch, Rock Creek and/or Little Salt Creek?	Yes ☐	No ☐

Saltwort			
	Are saline wetlands, salt flats, or saline soils present within ½ mile of the Project Limits?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Are the Project Limits within the drainage of Oak Creek, Haines Branch, Rock Creek and/or Little Salt Creek?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Scaleshell Mussel			
	Are the Project Limits within the topographic floodplain of the Missouri Recreational River segment below Gavins Point dam and the associated lower portion of tributaries in this area?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Small White Lady's Slipper			
	Are the Project Limits within or adjacent to: • a wet meadow or • natively vegetated grassland that is on a lower stream terrace or topographic floodplain.	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Do the Project Limits occur in a drainage (ditch, waterway, or other moist soil sites) that contains suitable vegetation for the species AND is associated with: • a wet meadow or • natively vegetated grassland that is on a lower stream terrace or topographic floodplain.	Yes ☐	No ☐
Southern Flying Squirrel			
	Are the Project Limits within or adjacent to a mature deciduous woodland with mast producing trees including walnut, hickory, or oak component within the designated range of the species?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Sturgeon Chub			
	Are the Project Limits within the range as identified in the most current Species Assessment as provided by the Service and Commission OR within a stream or connected backwater area within ¼ mile of the range?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Would the proposed project permanently affect the ability for water to expand within the floodplain during high flows?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Swift Fox			
	Are the Project Limits within a mile of connected suitable habitat that contains vegetation <6 inches in height, including gently rolling to level intact upland grasslands and field borders that are outside of densely populated residential, commercial, industrial areas within the designated range of the species?	Yes ☐	No ☐

Topeka Shiner			
	Are the Project Limits within a stream, connected backwater areas and/or floodplain within the designated range of the species?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Are the Project Limits within the watershed of a stream and alter fish passage, water temperature, or volume within the designated range of the species?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Topeka Shiner (Critical Habitat)			
	Are the Project Limits within critical habitat?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Are the Project Limits within the drainage of Taylor Creek?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Ute Ladies'-tresses			
	Are the Project Limits within or adjacent to a wet meadow on floodplain and lower stream terraces along the Niobrara River?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Will the project modify drainage within a wet meadow on floodplain and lower stream terraces along the Niobrara River?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid			
	Are the Project Limits within or adjacent to: • a wet meadow or • natively vegetated grassland that is on a lower stream terrace or topographic floodplain.	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Are the Project Limits within 100 feet of a natively vegetated sidehill seep that has no history of tillage?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Do the Project Limits occur in a drainage (ditch, waterway, or other moist soil sites) that contains suitable vegetation for the species AND is associated with: • a wet meadow or • natively vegetated grassland that is on a lower stream terrace or topographic floodplain.	Yes ☐	No ☐
Whooping Crane			
	Are the Project Limits: • outside of densely populated residential, commercial, or industrial areas and… • within ½ mile of suitable habitat to include, but not limited to sub-irrigated grasslands, meadows, shallow wetland habitat, farm ponds, or major rivers?	Yes ☐	No ☐

Whooping Crane (Critical Habitat)			
		Yes	No
	Are the Project Limits within ½ mile of the federally designated critical habitat area?	☐	☐

*The topographic floodplain for this project is identified on the attached map.