INVENTORY AND MONITORING OF SENSITIVE SPECIES IN THE FORTIFICATION CREEK WILDERNESS STUDY AREA, WYOMING

Ian Abernethy^{1,2}, *Lusha Tronstad*¹, *Wendy Estes-Zumpf*¹ *and Bonnie Heidel*¹

¹Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming, 1000 E. University Avenue, Dept. 3381 Laramie, Wyoming 82071

²Contact information: Phone: (307) 766-3035; Email: <u>fisher@uwyo.edu</u>



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Introduction

Wyoming has 42 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. As part of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS), these WSAs are currently managed to preserve their natural characteristics. However, basic knowledge of the natural resources within many of Wyoming's WSAs is severely limited, reducing BLM Wyoming's ability to manage these areas. As a result, BLM Wyoming drafted a strategy for its NLCS lands in order to identify and address information needs and develop cohesive goals and guidelines for managing NLCS lands across the state (BLM 2013).

The Fortification Creek WSA is one of Wyoming's more well-known WSA's, largely because it contains one of the last herds of Great Plains-dwelling elk (*Cervus elaphus*). Fortification Creek WSA, established in 1979 (USDI BLM 1979), is noted for being the largest roadless area in the Powder River Basin and for being largely unaltered by humans. Although surrounded by ranches and energy development, the WSA itself is a relatively pristine and undisturbed island rising above the surrounding sagebrush-steppe prairie and badlands, and is a haven for elk, deer, and other wildlife species. The WSA has exceptional opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation; however, lack of public access restricts recreational use of this WSA, as does the lack of potable water. Although much is known about the Fortification Creek elk herd, little is known about the rest of the biota in this isolated and rugged WSA. Many animal species on the BLM's Sensitive species list and Wyoming Game and Fish Department's (WGFD) Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) may occur in the WSA, but formal surveys have not been conducted to confirm species occurrence.

WYNDD is a service and research unit of the University of Wyoming dedicated to collecting and disseminating unbiased data on the biology and status of Sensitive species in Wyoming (<u>http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/wyndd/</u>). Our mission is to generate information that helps organizations like the BLM make effective management decisions. Along these lines, WYNDD has worked with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and other state and federal experts to develop revised range maps and predictive distribution maps for Sensitive species in Wyoming. These projects have allowed WYNDD to identify gaps in our knowledge of Sensitive species distributions across the state. The biota of the Fortification Creek WSA is one of those information gaps.

Purpose & Objectives

The purpose of this project was to fill information gaps for Sensitive Species suspected to occur in the Fortification Creek WSA, assist the BLM Buffalo Field Office in designing and establishing a monitoring framework for key resources in the WSA, and provide NLCS Wyoming and the BLM Buffalo Field Office with public outreach materials. This was accomplished by conducting a targeted inventory of local biota using a suite of survey and monitoring methods at key locations across the WSA.

Specific objectives for the project were to:

- 1) Work with BLM Buffalo Field Office to develop a list of target species in order to fill gaps in our knowledge of the occurrence and status of these species in the Fortification Creek WSA.
- 2) Work with the BLM Buffalo Field Office to design and establish survey and monitoring protocols for target taxa and assessments of riparian areas.
- Sample invertebrate assemblages to assess the ecosystem health of ephemeral creeks in the Fortification Creek WSA.
- 4) Inventory pollinators across different habitats within the Fortification Creek WSA.

- 5) Provide information about the biota of the Fortification Creek WSA for public education and outreach.
- 6) Provide the Buffalo Field Office and the Wyoming State Office of the BLM with a list of Sensitive species occurring in the Fortification Creek WSA, which can be used to support informed management decisions.
- 7) Provide BLM Wyoming with photo documentation of biological and aesthetic resources in the Fortification Creek WSA to be used in future public outreach efforts.
- 8) Use results to update species range maps and predictive distribution models in Wyoming.

Methods

Study Area

The Fortification Creek WSA encompasses 5,025 ha (12,419 acres) and straddles the border of Campbell and Johnson counties in north-central Wyoming (Figure 1). Fortification Creek WSA is located within the Powder River Basin and is part of the Great Plains ecoregion (Bailey et al. 1994). According to the National Gap Analysis Program Land Cover Data, two major habitat types occur within the WSA including Wyoming big sage steppe and mixed grass prairie (Davidson et al. 2009).

Fortification Creek WSA ranges in elevation from approximately 1,160 to 1,440 m (3,800 to 4,700 ft) above sea level. The WSA is a steep, highly dissected landscape composed of ridges and drainages. Some ridgetops are knifelike, while others are flat, resembling mesas or buttes. Many ridgelines and valley slopes contain rock outcrops, most of which are unconsolidated.

Three main drainages occur in the WSA: Deer Creek, Bull Creek and Little Bull Creek. These ephemeral streams drain to the northwest directly into the Powder River. Schoolhouse Draw drains to the east into Wildhorse Creek, a tributary of the Powder River. The only wetland feature identified by National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) data was a stock pond (0.08 ha; 0.2 acres), that was dry during our visit.

Inventory and Monitoring

The Wyoming Natural Diversity Database worked closely with the Buffalo Field Office of the BLM to develop a list of taxa to target during inventory and monitoring efforts. Together, WYNDD and the Buffalo Field Office also developed repeatable survey methodologies for the different taxa. Due to the remoteness and ruggedness of the WSA, standard methodologies often had to be modified. During this study we established repeatable survey protocols and monitoring sites, and used these protocols to collect baseline data on all target taxa. All protocols and datasheets used are documented in Appendix 1 and locations of all monitoring sites are provided in associated supplemental GIS shapefiles.

Field surveys were conducted by four WYNDD and two BLM personnel during two trips to the WSA in the summer of 2014. We targeted birds, plants, amphibians, pollinators, riparian assessments and aquatic invertebrates from 9-13 June. We targeted bats, reptiles, pollinators, plants and raptor nests from 14-18 July. Copies of completed field datasheets are available in Appendix 2 and spreadsheets with results are also provided as supplemental material.

Birds

Site selection

Point count transects were established in a stratified random fashion in a Geographic Information System (GIS). First, we randomly placed three points within each GAP land-cover category polygon within the WSA boundary (Davidson et al. 2009). We then generated a 1,500m line transect oriented in a random direction. We placed 12 points spaced at 250m intervals along these lines. For surveys, we selected transects that would provide good spatial coverage across all habitat types within the WSA.

Point count methodology

Point count methods were adapted from the Integrated Monitoring In Bird Conservation Regions land bird monitoring program (Hanni et al. 2014). Each point count survey consisted of a line transect with 12 points spaced at 250m. At each point, a three-minute point count was conducted. We attempted to complete all 12 points during each point count survey but were unable to in some cases due to time or terrain limitations. Point count surveys should begin one half hour before local sunrise. Due to terrain and difficulty accessing point count transects, however, we were not always able to start at the recommended time. Surveys ended no later than five hours after local sunrise. Surveyors recorded the start time for each point count conducted. For every bird detected during the threeminute point count, we recorded: species, sex, horizontal distance to the bird, minute of the point count during which the bird was detected, type of detection (i.e. call, song, visual), and whether or not the observer was able to visually identify the bird. We measured the distance to each bird detected using a laser rangefinder. If it was not possible to measure the distance to a bird, we estimated the distance by measuring the distance to an object near the bird. We also recorded any bird species not previously detected during a point count while traveling between points within a transect. At the start and end of each survey, we recorded time, ambient temperature, cloud cover, precipitation, and wind speed. Before beginning each three-minute count, we collected ocular vegetation data within a 50m radius of the point (Hanni et al. 2014). Vegetation data included: dominant habitat type; relative abundance, percent cover and mean height of trees and shrubs by species, and grass height and ground cover types. These vegetation data were recorded quietly before beginning each point count to allow birds time to return to their normal habits prior to beginning each count.

In addition to formal point count surveys for birds, we also recorded any bird species not previously detected during point count surveys while conducting surveys for other taxa within the Fortification Creek WSA.

Mammals

Bats

We conducted two types of bat surveys: active mist-netting and passive acoustic monitoring. Capturing live bats with mist nets allowed us to verify species presence, inspect individuals for disease, assess physical condition, and collect demographic information. Passive surveys allowed us to efficiently collect species presence information from multiple sites each night.

Mist Net Surveys

At suitable mist net sites, 6m, 9m, and 12m mist nets¹ were suspended over water between aluminum poles in single-high arrangements to catch bats while feeding or drinking. Mist nets were

¹ Avinet bat-specific mist nets, 38mm mesh, black polyester, Dryden, NY, <u>www.Avinet.com</u>

opened at dusk unless nontarget taxa (e.g. birds) were active at the site. In this case, nets were opened as soon as bird activity ceased. Nets were checked for captures at least every 15 minutes and captures were removed from nets immediately to minimize injury or stress associated with being in the net. Surveyors removed bats from nets with great care to protect wing bones and patagia. All captures were removed from nets, processed and released within 30 minutes of capture. Nets were not set in high winds or temperatures below 40°F to minimize bat stress and injury. Once removed from the net, captures were placed in a paper bag for transport and processing to minimize stress. Captured bats were measured (forearm length, ear length), weighed, sexed, aged, identified to species, and released on site (see datasheet in Appendix 1A). Additionally, the membranes of both wings and the uropatagium of each captured bat were inspected following the methods presented by Reichard and Kunz (2009). After each survey, we decontaminated all survey equipment and supplies following the National White-Nose Syndrome Decontamination Protocol Version 06.25.2012 (2012). We also followed all guidelines laid out in the Wyoming White-Nose Strategic Plan (Abel and Grenier 2011).

Acoustic Surveys

Acoustic surveys were conducted using Wildlife Acoustics Song Meter SM2BAT+² full-spectrum recording equipment (see datasheet in Appendix 1A). Units were programed to begin recording one half hour before civil sunset and to stop recording one half hour after civil sunrise. On each recorder, one SMX-US³ ultrasonic microphone was attached to a 3m cable and placed between 1m and 2m above the ground. All calls were analyzed using the Sonobatch automated call analysis algorithm in the SonoBat 3 Wyoming Species Package. We used an acceptable call quality threshold of 0.70 and a discriminate probability threshold of 0.90.

Small Mammals

We live-trapped small mammals along the Bull Creek and Little Bull Creek drainages on the nights of July 14 and 15 and July 16 and 17, respectively. At each site, we placed 60 traps along the drainage. Additionally, we placed 30 traps running perpendicular to each drainage through sagebrush habitat and 30 traps through juniper habitat. Traps were arranged in transects with traps spaced approximately 5m apart. We used foldable metal small mammal live-traps⁴ to capture animals. Traps were set and checked for two nights at each site. Each trap contained polyester bedding material and was baited with 3-way horse feed. Traps were opened at dusk and checked beginning at dawn the following morning. Captures were processed immediately at the site of capture. Traps were closed during the day so that no animals risked overheating inside traps during the day. Captured animals remained in traps until processed individually. To process small mammals, we gently shook each animal out of its trap into a heavy duty plastic bag, identified the individual to species, identified the sex, obtained mass, and measured tail length, body length, and total length. Once the animal was fully recovered and properly oriented, it was immediately released at the capture site. All live-trapping and capture processing procedures followed guidelines for trapping and handling small mammals published by the American Society of Mammalogists (Sikes et al. 2011) and were approved by the University of Wyoming's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

Other Mammals

In addition to bats and small mammals, we searched for evidence of other mammals in the Fortification Creek WSA. Animal scat and tracks were identified to species, when possible. In order to

² Song Meter SM2Bat+ ultrasonic monitoring unit, Concord, MA, <u>www.wildlifeacoustics.com</u>

³ SMX-US ultrasonic microphone, Concord, MA, <u>www.wildlifeacoustics.com</u>

⁴ Sherman live traps; H. B. Sherman Traps, Inc., Tallahassee, Florida

document medium and large carnivores and other secretive species, we placed two digital infrared trail cameras⁵ at different locations in the WSA. Trail cameras were placed along obvious animal trails near water sources during our first visit in June and retrieved during our second visit in July.

Reptiles and Amphibians

We used three methods to inventory reptiles and amphibians in the Fortification Creek WSA: rock outcrop surveys for reptiles, riparian visual encounter surveys for amphibians, and incidental findings for both taxa. Target species were identified prior to surveys so that unique life history and behavioral traits (e.g. ephemeral puddle breeding by Great Plains Toads (*Anaxyrus cognatus*) and Plains Spadefoots (*Spea bombifrons*)) could guide survey placements and searches.

We surveyed for reptiles on south-facing rock outcrops, where lizards and snakes often concentrate. South facing rock outcrops provide thermal cover, cover from predators, and are often places with abundant invertebrate and small mammal prey items. Rock outcrop surveys consisted of walking along rocky slopes looking for basking reptiles in exposed areas as well as individuals resting on shaded ledges, in crevasses, or under rocks. Rocks lifted or flipped over during searching are replaced in their original position to minimize disturbance to habitat (Pike et al. 2010). Habitat, total survey time, and species detected were recorded. Datasheets and protocols are provided in Appendix 1B.

We used aerial photos and topographic maps in a GIS to locate potential amphibian habitat (ponds, streams, and areas likely to retain permanent or ephemeral water). We visited all accessible potential amphibian sites to see if they had water and supported amphibians. If water was present, we conducted visual encounter surveys of the water and surrounding moist habitat and recorded number and lifestage of all amphibians detected. We also recorded data on habitat, including water temperature and pH, shoreline characteristics, presence of predators (fish), etc., (see datasheet in Appendix 1B). Because tadpoles of most amphibian species are difficult to identify in the field, we also collected representative specimens of any tadpoles found. Tadpoles were later identified with a dissecting microscope.

Pollinators

To estimate the abundance and diversity of pollinators in the Fortification Creek WSA, we collected insects using vane traps, bee cups and visual encounter surveys (Figure 2a, b). We placed vane traps and bee cups in different habitats for about 24 hours before collecting individuals. We used yellow, blue, and white bee cups filled with soapy water. We recorded location, vegetation type, and deployment on datasheets (Appendix 1C). Other pollinating insects encountered during our excursions were captured with nets (Figure 2f). All captured insects were preserved in ~75% ethanol until they could be processed in the laboratory.

In the laboratory, we hydrated bees in warm water for 30-60 minutes, washed specimens in soapy water using a stir plate and dried individuals using tubes with forced air. For butterflies and moths, we hydrated individuals in a container with humid air for ~24 hours and dried on a spreading board. All pollinating insects were pinned, labeled, and will be stored at the University of Wyoming Insect Museum. Insects were identified using available keys (Michener et al. 1994, Williams et al. 2014, Pickering 2015).

⁵ RECONYX PC800 HyperFire Professional Semi-Covert, Holmen, WI, <u>http://www.reconyx.com</u>

Aquatic Invertebrates

We collected aquatic invertebrates from Deer Creek, Little Bull Creek and ponds in the WSA. At least three previously unmapped semi-permanent or permanent ponds existed in the WSA. One appeared to be a manmade stockpond along a tributary of Little Bull Creek and a second pond with emergent aquatic vegetation was farther down in the same drainage. The third pond was formed by a large landslide damming a tributary to Bull Creek. We collected aquatic invertebrates using a D-frame dipnet (250 μ m mesh; Figure 2c, d). We preserved samples with ~75% ethanol in the field to preserve them until they could be processed in a laboratory. Aquatic invertebrates were identified under a dissecting microscope using available keys (Merritt et al. 2008, Thorp and Covich 2010) and given a tolerance value (Barbour et al. 1999).

Plants

To identify plant species to target during surveys, we searched the WYNDD database for Sensitive plant species known or expected to occur in the area. There were no BLM Sensitive plant species known from the central areas of the Powder River Basin and there were no other Wyoming plant species of concern known within the WSA boundaries or within a 10 mile radius. The nearest known species of concern included four upland species: Barr's milkvetch (*Astragalus barrii*), cut-leaved evening-primrose (*Oenothera laciniata*), small-flowered fame-flower (*Talinum parviflorum*), and slim-pod Venus' looking-glass (*Triodanis leptocarpa*) and three wetland species: Sartwell's sedge (*Carex sartwellii*), short-point flatsedge (*Cyperus acuminatus*), and slender bulrush (*Schoenoplectus heterochaetus*). Barr's milkvetch is designated as Sensitive by the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region. In addition, woolly Twinpod (*Physaria lanata*) was sought because it is a Forest Service Sensitive species only known from one collection record in the Powder River Basin but is otherwise restricted to the Big Horn Mountains.

We searched the Rocky Mountain Herbarium (RMH) on-line database (2014) for any species collected in the WSA. No collections of vascular plant species have been made in the WSA. Therefore, we used a checklist for Campbell County that contained about 735 species. A Campbell County checklist was chosen as representative of the Powder River Basin rather than Johnson County, because Johnson County included the Big Horn Mountains. The BLM Buffalo Field Office provided datasheets for two range transects from the WSA, containing data on a total of 20 species.

Fieldwork involved identifying and collecting plant specimens. All species observations were recorded and determined whether they were: 1) among the eight species on the target list, 2) prevalent or else abundant in some given segment of the landscape, 3) noxious weeds, 4) not previously known from the Powder River Basin, or 5) not possible/practical to identify without closer examination. We used several keys to identity plants (Dorn 2001, Great Plains Flora Association 1986). Plants were collected to document the distinctive parts of the flora. The species on the target list could occupy all topographic positions on the landscape, so we surveyed many different ridge and valley settings across the WSA. Aerial photographs were referenced for unique features (e.g., the largest woodlands, wetlands, and outcrops). We collected and photographed specimens to document species.

We collected both typical and uncommon species. Voucher specimens were deposited at the RMH, where they will also be scanned and posted on-line. Any plants on the noxious weed list of Campbell County were recorded and reported to the BLM Buffalo Field Office during the field season. Nonvascular plants were not target species, but occurrences were recorded and bryophytes were collected in one juniper woodland stand.

Riparian Assessments

We assessed the riparian habitat using Proper Functioning Condition (PFC; Prichard et al. 1998). PFC uses hydrologic, vegetation, erosion, and deposition to assess the condition of riparian areas. We filled out the PFC standard checklist (Appendix 1D) for each major drainage in the Fortification Creek WSA after discussing each statement with the group of observers.

Results

Geology and Vegetation Characterization of the Fortification Creek WSA

Geology

The Powder River Basin is a large asymmetrical syncline dipping to the west that is filled by a thick sequence of sedimentary rock. The basin is bounded on the east by the Black Hills uplift, on the west by the Big Horn uplift and Casper Arch, on the south by the Laramie and Hartville uplifts and, on the north, it is separated from the Williston Basin by the Miles City Arch and the Cedar Creek Anticline. Sediments range from Paleozoic at the bottom through Mesozoic to Tertiary at the top (DeBruin et al. 2000). All of the Fortification Creek WSA and much of the Powder River Basin is covered by the Wasatch Formation, an Eocene formation of fluvial-deltaic sediments. The geology is generally described as drab sandstone and drab to variegated claystone with numerous coal beds in the lower section (Love and Christianson 1985); however, we observed prevalent loosely consolidated siltstone grading to fine, powdery sandstone in the WSA. Hard rock outcrops were present as scattered fragments of fine sandstone and baked siltstone (Figure 3d). We observed clinker, or red-colored baked siltstone, on some ridges (Figure 3c).

Soils

The sedimentary deposits comprising the Wasatch Formation are well-sorted in the study area. Almost the entire area is mapped as a single soil association, the Theedle-Shingle-Samday Association (NRCS STATSGO), representing calcareous, mesic, ustic torriorthents. They are predominantly fine-loamy texture, ranging from clayey to loamy with little or no coarse grain size. The northern portion of the east side of the WSA also has fine, smectitic, mesic ustic haplargid, a unit comprised of the Ulm-Theedle-Shingle (and five additional) soil associations.

Vegetation Characterization

Field notes were compiled to characterize patterns of plant composition and distribution in the WSA according to the U.S. National Vegetation Classification (http://usnvc.org/explore-classification/) system (Table 1). Steppe vegetation was composed of sagebrushes and wheatgrasses prevailed across the entire landscape. Mesas and flat ridgetops contained Great Basin and intermountain tall sagebrush shrubland and steppe vegetation dominated by mountain big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata ssp. Vaseyana*; Figure 3a) in combination with thickspike wheatgrass (*Elymus lancolatus*). The extensive ridges and ridge slopes were covered by Wyoming big sagebrush (*A. t. ssp. wyomingensis*) in combination with bluebunch wheatgrass (*E. spicatus*) on the steeper well-drained slopes or *E. lanceolatus* on benches and gentle slopes. Needle-and-thread (*Hesperostipa comata*) was sometimes prevalent with blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) on ridge crests, sandier ridge slopes and other sparsely-vegetated upland areas (Figure 3e). Greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) was common along south-

facing valley slopes of Bull and Little Bull Creeks and saltgrass (*Distichilis stricta*) was common on the toeslope.

Rocky Mountain foothills woodland characterized by Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) was scattered throughout the WSA, forming woodland vegetation in sheltered settings on north-facing slopes and draws (Figure 3b). They tended to appear even-aged, whereas a few large, presumably old trees were noted at isolated rim and draw locations. Almost no other tree species were present except isolated individuals of boxelder (*Acer negundo*) in the valleys and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) in the uplands. The latter is a county record.

Valley bottoms were covered by Great Plains shrub, and riparian vegetation was dominated by Basin silver sage (*A. cana ssp. cana*), western wheatgrass (*E. smithii*) and Basin wildrye (*E. cinereus*). Green needlegrass (*Nasella viridula*) also was common from valley bottoms to ridge tops. The WSA had deep rooting zones throughout most of the landscape and there were few sharp gradients despite the topographic relief. The three common wheatgrasses and three common sagebrushes had considerable ecological amplitude with no sharp boundaries in their distributions. A few of the species that are typical of moisture-collecting settings were found on ridgetops and valley bottom where moisture was retained by localized substrate conditions (e.g., wild licorice (*Glycyrrhiza lepidota*) and chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)). Plants more typical of alkali flats elsewhere in the state, such as greasewood, were on steep valley south-facing walls.

The riparian corridor mainly was meadow, vegetated in places by Basin silver sage (mentioned above). Stream beds were vegetated with meadow barley (*Hordeum brachyantherum*) and stream banks were lined by bands of prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*). Mesic species, such as *Nassela viridula* and *Artemisia tridentata ssp. vaseyanal*, were common despite the lack of surface water.

Birds

We surveyed a total of 15 transects and conducted a total of 164 point counts (Figure 4). During point counts, we detected 1,515 birds representing 65 bird species (Table 2). The most frequently detected bird species was Spotted Towhee (Pipilo maculatus) followed by Western Meadowlark (Sternella neglecta). We documented two bird species listed as Sensitive by Wyoming BLM. These included Sage Thrasher (Oreoscoptes montanus) and Brewer's Sparrow (Spizella breweri). In addition, we documented three bird species listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) by the WGFD. These included Brewer's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow (Ammodramus savanarum), and Sage Thrasher. While not a Sensitive or SGCN species, Field Sparrow (Spizella pusilla) was detected in abundance across the WSA. Field Sparrow is considered a very rare summer resident in Wyoming and very few records of the species in Wyoming exist (Faulkner 2010, Orabona et al. 2012). Observations of the species within the WSA may change the status of the species in Wyoming. This highlights the value of inventorying WSA's across the state for which little information regarding biological resources exist. A total of six raptor species were observed within the WSA including American Kestrel (Falco sparverius), Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos), Great-horned Owl (Bubo virginianus), Long-eared Owl (Asio otus), Redtailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), and Sharp-shinned Hawk (Accipiter striatus). We observed several raptor nests including three Red-tail Hawk nests, one Great-horned Owl nest, and one Long-eared Owl nesting location (Figure 5). It should be noted that we did not locate the nest of the Long-eared Owls but we observed six individual Long-eared Owls including two adults and four fledglings within a 10m radius.

Mammals

<u>Bats</u>

A total of five nights of acoustic recordings were conducted at two sites (Figure 6). From these recordings, we were able to identify a total of five bat species (Table 3). The most frequently detected species was the Western Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*), followed by the Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*). Four species, Little Brown Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), and Silver-haired Bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), were documented from acoustic recordings alone. While echolocation calls of Hoary Bat are very distinctive, echolocation calls of the remaining species should be viewed with caution as they may overlap with other bat species (Adams 2003). As a result, we are unable to confirm species presence of Little Brown Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, and Silver-haired Bat in the Fortification Creek WSA.

A total of three mist-net surveys were conducted (Figure 6). Despite many bats seen flying over ponds, we captured only one bat. The only captured species was Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) (Table 3). Inspection of the wing and tail membranes of the captured bat did not reveal any signs of White-nose Syndrome (WNS). The only Sensitive bat species documented was the Big Brown Bat, which is listed as SGCN by the WGFD.

Small Mammals

We live-trapped two sites (Figure 7) for two nights each resulting in 480 raw trap-nights and 461.5 trap-nights after accounting for closed traps (Beauvais and Buskirk 1999). We captured a total of 24 small mammals representing two species (Table 4). We captured 23 Deer Mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) and one Least Chipmunk (*Tamias minimus*). Overall, we had a capture rate of 5.2 captures per 100 trap-nights. Capture rates were much higher at the Little Bull Creek site than at the Bull Creek site with 9.76 and 0.85 captures per 100 trap-nights respectively. It is unclear why we observed this difference in capture rates. Regardless, these rates are very low when compared to other live-trapping conducted across Wyoming. One potential explanation is the high abundance of potential predators of small mammals including raptors and snakes observed within Fortification Creek WSA and in proximity to our live-trapping sites.

Other Mammals

In addition to mammals detected using targeted surveys for bats and small mammals, we documented several additional mammal species (Table 5) using remote camera (Figure 8) and incidental observations. Elk (*Cervus canadensis*) were abundant and ubiquitous throughout the WSA and were the most common species recorded by remote cameras (Figure 9a, b). We encountered many large and small herds of cows with calves and individual or small groups of bull elk. Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*; Figure 9c, d) and pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) also were common in the WSA. Coyotes (*Canis latrans*), woodrats (*Neotoma cinerea*), and cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus* sp.) also were detected.

Reptiles and Amphibians

We detected 4 species of reptiles (1 lizard, 3 snake) in the Fortification Creek WSA (Figure 10; Table 6). The Northern Sagebrush Lizard (*Sceloporus graciosus graciosus*) was the only lizard species detected in the WSA (Figure 11e). This species was detected during rock outcrop surveys. Prairie Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus viridis*) were the most common snake species detected. Rattlesnakes were only detected in

July and were detected both incidentally and during rock outcrop surveys. Incidental detections of rattlesnakes primarily occurred in ephemeral drainage bottoms. We also detected Bullsnakes (*Pituophis catenifer sayi*) under rock ledges (Figure 11f) and an Eastern Yellowbellied Racer (*Coluber constrictor flaviventris*) along an ephemeral drainage.

Despite the general lack of permanent water in the Fortification Creek WSA, we detected extremely high densities of tadpoles (Figure 11b) from 2 amphibian species, Rocky Mountain Toads (*Anaxyrus woodhousii*) and Boreal Chorus Frogs (*Pseudacris maculate*; Figure 11c; Table 6). Tadpoles and Tiger Salamander (Figure 11d) (*Ambystoma mavortium*) larvae were detected primarily in June and were found in many isolated pools along Deer Creek, Little Bull Creek, and Bull Creek and in two of the permanent ponds found (Figure 10). We also detected toad tadpoles at one site along Schoolhouse Draw on the southeast side of the WSA. In addition to tadpoles, we detected several adult Rocky Mountain Toads (Figure 11a) incidentally during other field surveys. Although some were found along ephemeral drainages, others were found on ridges and slopes high above drainages.

Pollinators

We collected 79 taxa of pollinating insects at Fortification Creek WSA (Figure 12; Table 7) and 17 other invertebrates (Table 8). Sampling locations are in Appendix 2A. We collected 1.8 insects/hr in traps; however, we collected far more insects in July (3.1 insects/hr) than June (0.5 insects/hr). Most of the pollinators we collected were bees (69%), but beetles (23%), and butterflies and moths (9%) also were abundant. *Halictus tripartitus* (57% of bees collected) and *Lasioglossum* (subgenus Dialictus; 10% of bees collected) were the most abundant bees collected (Figure 13). Blister beetles and long-horned beetles also were abundant in pollinator traps and on flowers. Most of the Lepidoptera we collected were butterflies (94%). The brush-footed butterflies were the most abundant family and *Speyeria callippe* were the most abundant species in the family. Gossamer-wing, white, and sulphur butterflies also were abundant. *Callophrys gryneus, Plebejus saepiolus,* and *Colia philodice* were the most common species in these families. *Hyles lineata, Sphinx vashti* and *Speyeria atlantis* complex had not previously been collected in the counties. Bees are poorly collected in the state, especially in the northeastern part Wyoming, and our surveys revealed that Fortification Creek WSA has high diversity and abundance of bees.

Aquatic Invertebrates

We collected at least 43 taxa of aquatic invertebrates in streams and ponds of Fortification Creek WSA (Figure 14). Most taxa were insects from 5 orders (true flies, mayflies, damselflies, beetles and true bugs; Table 9). We also collected crustaceans, annelids and horsehair worms. Few invertebrates were collected in the streams, probably because the streams were drying to small pools when we visited in June (Figures 12 and 15). Conversely, we collected many aquatic invertebrates from ponds within the WSA that appeared to hold water year round. All of the invertebrates that we collected had moderate to high tolerance values (>5). The absence of sensitive taxa from streams and ponds often indicates poor ecosystem quality; however, their absence from water bodies in Fortification Creek WSA likely is the result of harsh, ephemeral conditions in the WSA rather than poor ecosystem quality. Taxa in the orders mayflies, caddisflies and stoneflies are generally considered sensitive and many taxa in these orders do not have strategies to survive drying. Many of the taxa we collected do have survival strategies for drying. For example adult beetles, damselflies and true bugs can disperse and fly to new habitats.

Plants

A total of 257 vascular plant taxa were observed in the WSA, of which 47 have voucher specimens at RMH (Figure 16). The WSA flora included 221 native species and 36 non-native species (14%; Figure 17; Table 10). They represented 48 families and about 34% of the Campbell County flora. Twelve of the species (noted with an asterisk in Table 10) were not previously known in the Campbell County flora.

We discovered sprangle-top (Scolochloa festucacea), which is a Wyoming species of concern. The plant is a wetland species that is widespread in the northern Great Plains, but the only two previously known occurrences for Wyoming were in Yellowstone National Park, where it might be introduced. This finding highlights the value of inventorying WSA's across the state for rare species collectively despite what little information they have regarding biological resources. Sprangle-top typically occupies habitats that are at least seasonally inundated; in the Great Plains it occupies "potholes, ditches, sloughs, marshes, ponds and wet meadows, often in standing water" (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). There was surprisingly little of such habitat in valley bottoms in the WSA. Sprangle-top might be associated with prairie cordgrass (Spartina pectinata), the only other tall grass found in the WSA valley bottoms. Despite our discovery, timing might not have been ideal for surveying Scolochloa festucacea. The grass is extremely tall and matures late in the growing season. The only other grass of similar stature was prairie cordgrass, which was beginning to head out during our July fieldwork. Additional details about Scolochloa festucacea are in the state species abstract (Appendix 2B). The WSA supports other species that had some limits to geographic distribution or were once considered rare, including contracted Indian ricegrass (Achnatherum contractum; syn. Oryzopsis contracta) which had its center of distribution in Wyoming (Fertig 1994), and Physaria brassicoides with its center of distribution in the western Great Plains from Nebraska to North Dakota and was more common in Wyoming than the other states.

The state plants of concern that seemed most likely to be present in the broken landscape were *Astragalus barrii* and *Physaria lanata*. However, only the widespread plains species of milkvetches and twinpods were found in surveys, including *Astragalus gilviflorus*, *Physaria brassicoides* and *P. acutifolia*. The timing of fieldwork was suited for identifying all eight of the target species, and they appeared absent from the WSA.

Three non-native annuals were ubiquitous and abundant throughout the uplands including cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Japanese brome (*B. japonicus*), and desert alyssum (*Alyssum desertorum*; Table 9). These plants have different phenology but are equally pervasive and tend to overlap in distribution with one another. Additionally, hairy false flax (*Camelina microcarpa*) was common on all sparsely-vegetated slopes. We observed several noxious weeds including Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*; occasional), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*; rare), absinthium (*Artemisia absinthium*; rare) and tamarisk (*Tamarisk chinensis*; rare).

We observed that biological soil crusts were scant and mostly restricted to isolated ridgetops, and that the mossy groundcover often associated with juniper woodlands was almost absent (Figure 2f). Five bryophyte species were collected from one juniper woodland stand and Yelena Kosovich-Anderson identified these specimens. They included one species that has not been recognized as part of the state flora for Wyoming (*Syntrichia papillosissima*; Mishler 2007) although it was previously collected twice in Park County. *Syntrichia papillosissima* is a species of western North America, more typical of the Great Basin (Mishler 2007), and though not a state record our observation is among the easternmost records for this species. We also collected four low-growing, mat-forming bryophytes (*S. ruralis, Brachythecium albicans, B. collinum* and *Hypnum revolutum var. revolutum*), most of which are common in Wyoming (Kosovich-Anderson, personal communication). Specimens were deposited at RMH. There is not yet a list of bryophyte species of concern but a checklist of bryophytes in the state was compiled by Patricia Eckel in 2007. The state bryophyte flora is being expanded and revised through the research and

inventory of a bryologist in collaboration with WYNDD. Bryophyte records from this study will contribute to this effort.

Riparian Assessments

We assessed the riparian habitat of Deer Creek, Little Bull Creek and Bull Creek (Appendix 2C). The landscape of Fortification Creek WSA is erosional. The soils in the drainages are composed of fine sediments and the streams reflected this. The soils had sloughed into the streams channel in several locations including a large landslide in the Bull Creek drainage. The stream channels were incised in some locations. Riparian vegetation was dominated by grasses and sagebrush. Cheatgrass dominated the riparian vegetation in the many areas. The streams are ephemeral and were a series of pools when we visited.

Conclusion

The Fortification Creek WSA is a relatively pristine and undisturbed island in the prairie-breaks of the Powder River Basin. The rugged terrain and difficult access have protected the WSA from regular human use, but also have prevented detailed scientific investigation into the area's biodiversity. The biological inventory conducted during this study, though not exhaustive, was the first of its kind in the Fortification Creek WSA. Results of our survey not only provide data on numerous taxa never documented in the area, but also baseline monitoring data collected in a repeatable framework should the BLM have the resources and desire to continue monitoring various taxa in the WSA.

We documented 473 taxa in the Fortification Creek WSA during our visits. Seventy-two of these taxa were vertebrates, 262 taxa were plants, and 139 taxa were invertebrates. We surveyed the different habitat types within the WSA to record the diversity of life occupying the area. Several interesting discoveries were made, including finding *Scolochloa festucacea*, the observation of numerous singing Field Sparrows, a new beetle for the state a Wyoming, and the amazing abundance of pollinators in the area. All these observations will be added to the WYNDD database and used to update range maps for use by land managers.

The discovery of a rare wetland species in a landscape with little wetland habitat indicated that these habitats are under-surveyed and that isolated populations can disperse and persist. The distribution of *Scolochloa festucacea* may be more limited by the availability of habitat than by the habitat quality. The discovery of sprangle-top in the Powder River Basin fills a large and perplexing gap in our understanding of its distribution. Furthermore, the local abundance of mountain big sagebrush in the Powder River Basin has not been previously reported, and there is only one prior collection of this taxon from Campbell County. These observations support the uniqueness and overall ecological significance of the WSA.

The Fortification Creek WSA harbors an enormous abundance of pollinator species. We collected 79 taxa of pollinators alone. Pollinators were especially abundant in July when we collected 3.1 insect/hr. Pollinators were much more abundant at Fortification Creek WSA compared to Gardner Mountain WSA were we collected 0.33 insects/hour the previous year; however, we collected a similar diversity of pollinators in each WSA. These pollinators help maintain the flowering plant populations that grow on the WSA. We know little about the pollinator assemblages in northeastern Wyoming and the information is an excellent step to more fully describing the insects of Wyoming.



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Figures



Figure 1. Map of the Fortification Creek Wilderness Study Area in Wyoming.



Fortification Creek WSA Bureau of Land Management Private State



Figure 2. Photo of a vane trap (top portion) and bee cups (bottom portion) used to collect pollinators (a, b). We collected aquatic invertebrates using a D-frame dipnet in streams and ponds (c, d, e). We captured pollinators and other insects using a sweep net (f).



Figure 3. Well-vegetated sagebrush steppe, looking west (a.), juniper woodlands on north slopes (b), baked siltstone (clinker) is erosion-resistant (c), most outcrops are on south aspects, looking north (d), sparse ridgetops have relatively high local diversity (e), and biological soil crusts are on isolated ridgetops (f).



Figure 4. Locations of songbird point count transects surveyed in 2014 in the Fortification Creek WSA.









Figure 5. Locations of raptor nests located in 2014 within Fortification Creek WSA.



Legend





Figure 6. Locations of acoustic and mist net surveys for bats in the Fortification Creek WSA in 2014.



Legend

Fortification Creek WSA Survey Type ★ Acoustic ★ Mistnet







Legend





Figure 8. Locations of remote wildlife trail cameras set for approximately 30 days from June to July, 2014 in the Fortification Creek WSA.



Fortification Creek WSA

🛧 Trail Camera



Figure 9. Trail camera photos documenting elk (*Cervus canadensis*)(a,b) and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) (c,d) in the Fortification Creek WSA in 2014.



Figure 10. Locations of all reptile and amphibians detected in June and July, 2014, in the Fortification Creek WSA.





Figure 11. Example of reptiles and amphibian species detected at Fortification Creek WSA in June and July 2014. Species included a) Rocky Mountain Toad (adult), b) Rocky Mountain Toad (tadpole), c) Boreal Chorus Frog, d) Tiger Salamander (larva), e) Northern Sagebrush Lizard, and f) Bullsnake.



Figure 12. Map of aquatic invertebrate and pollinator sampling points in the Fortification Creek WSA.









that we collected at Fortification Creek WSA. a.) Meloidae, b.) *Halictus tripartitus,* c.)*Lasioglossum (Dialictus)*, d.) *Megachile,* e.) *Osmia,* f.) *Bombus rufocinctus,* and g.) *Andrena.*



Figure 14. We collected at least 42 taxa of aquatic invertebrates including a.) *Agabus*, b.) *Berosus*, c.) *Callibaetis*, d.) *Chaoborus*, e.) *Coptotomus*, f.) *Haliplus fulvus*, g.) *Trepobates* and f.) *Hygrotus acaroides* (new state record).





Figure 16. Map of plant collection locations with plant collection number for all plants submitted to the Rocky Mountain Herbarium collection. Map does not reflect the full scope of locations surveys and plants identified in the Fortification Creek WSA during this study.



Legend





Figure 17. a) Mountain big sagebrush, prevalent on butte tops. b) Green needlegrass, a ubitiquitous mesic grass. c) Smoothstem blazing star, one of four blazing stars present. d) Old-growth Rocky Mountain juniper. e) Desert prince's-plume is a magnet for pollinators. f) Petrified wood marks vegetation of earlier eras.

Tables

Table 1. Bold type-face shows the two general vegetation types from Fortification Creek WSA. Below each general vegetation type are shown the types from first six levels of the National Vegetation Classification. These national classification types were assigned based on information obtained January 31, 2014 from: The U.S. National Vegetation Classification Hierarchy Explorer (<u>http://usnvc.org/explore-classification/</u>).

UPLAND RIDGES AND SLOPES

A. Steppe Vegetation of Sagebrushes and Wheatgrass on Ridges and Mesas

1. Mesas and flat ridge tops with mountain big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*) and thickspike wheatgrass (*Elymus lanceolatus*)

CLASS: 3 - Xeromorphic Woodland, Scrub & Herb Vegetation Class
 SUBCLASS: 3.B - Cool Semi-Desert Scrub & Grassland Subclass
 FORMATION: 3.B.1 - Cool Semi-Desert Scrub & Grassland Formation
 DIVISION: 3.B.1.Ne - Western North American Cool Semi-Desert Scrub & Grassland Division
 MACROGROUP: M169 - Great Basin & Intermountain Tall Sagebrush Shrubland & Steppe
 Macrogroup
 GROUP: G304 - Artemisia tridentata ssp. spiciformis - Artemisia tridentata spp. vaseyana - Artemisia cana ssp. viscidula Tall Shrubland & Steppe Group

2. Ridge tops and slopes with Wyoming big sagebrush (A. t. ssp. wyomingensis) and bluebunch wheatgrass (E. spicatus) or thickspike wheatgrass (E. lanceolatus)

CLASS: 3 - Xeromorphic Woodland, Scrub & Herb Vegetation Class
 SUBCLASS: 3.B - Cool Semi-Desert Scrub & Grassland Subclass
 FORMATION: 3.B.1 - Cool Semi-Desert Scrub & Grassland Formation
 DIVISION: 3.B.1.Ne - Western North American Cool Semi-Desert Scrub & Grassland Division
 MACROGROUP: M169 - Great Basin & Intermountain Tall Sagebrush Shrubland & Steppe
 Macrogroup
 GROUP: G302 - Artemisia tridentata - Artemisia tripartita - Purshia tridentata Big
 Sagebrush Steppe Group

B. Grass Vegetation On Sandy Slopes & Ridge Crests

CLASS: 2 - Mesomorphic Shrub & Herb Vegetation Class
 SUBCLASS: 2.B - Temperate & Boreal Grassland & Shrubland Subclass
 FORMATION: 2.B.2 - Temperate Grassland, Meadow & Shrubland Formation
 DIVISION: 2.B.2.Na - Western North American Grassland & Shrubland Division
 MACROGROUP: M048 - Central Rocky Mountain Montane-Foothill Grassland & Shrubland
 Macrogroup
 GROUP: G273 - Festuca campestris - Festuca Idahoensis - Pseudoroegneria spicata Central
 Rocky Mountain Foothill Grassland Group

C. Rocky Mountain Juniper (Juniperus scopulorum) Woodlands On North-Facing Slopes and In Draws

CLASS: 1 - Mesomorphic Tree Vegetation Class SUBCLASS: 1.B - Temperate & Boreal Forest Subclass FORMATION: 1.B.2 - Cool Temperate Forest Formation

DIVISION: 1.B.2.Nb - Rocky Mountain Cool Temperate Forest Division

- MACROGROUP: M501 Central Rocky Mountain Dry Lower Montane-Foothill Forest Macrogroup
 - *GROUP:* G209 *Pinus flexilis Juniperus scopulorum* Rocky Mountain Foothill Woodland Group

VALLEY BOTTOMS

A. Valley Bottoms of Western Wheatgrass (Pascopyrum smithii)

CLASS: 2 - Mesomorphic Shrub & Herb Vegetation Class

- SUBCLASS: 2.B Temperate & Boreal Grassland & Shrubland Subclass
- FORMATION: 2.B.6 Temperate & Boreal Freshwater Marsh, Wet Meadow & Shrubland Formation
- DIVISION: 2.B.6.Na Alnus spp. / Typha spp. Carex spp. Eastern North American Freshwater Wet Meadow, Riparian & Marsh Division
- MACROGROUP: M071 Great Plains Wet Meadow & Marsh Macrogroup
- *GROUP:* G337 *Cornus* spp. *Prunus virginiana / Pascopyrum smithii* Great Plains Shrub & Herb Riparian Group

B. Narrow Riparian Fringe

CLASS: 2 - Mesomorphic Shrub & Herb Vegetation Class

- SUBCLASS: 2.B Temperate & Boreal Grassland & Shrubland Subclass
- FORMATION: 2.B.6 Temperate & Boreal Freshwater Marsh, Wet Meadow & Shrubland Formation
- DIVISION: 2.B.6.Na Alnus spp. / Typha spp. Carex spp. Eastern North American Freshwater Wet Meadow, Riparian & Marsh Division
- MACROGROUP: M071 Great Plains Wet Meadow & Marsh Macrogroup
- *GROUP:* G336 *Spartina pectinata Calamagrostis stricta Carex* spp. Great Plains Wet Prairie & Wet Meadow Group

Common Name	Scientific Name	Detections
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	1
American Goldfinch	Spinus tristis	38
American Kestrel	Falco sparverius	7
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	94
Black-billed Magpie	Pica hudsonia	23
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile atricapillus	36
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Polioptila caerulea	7
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus ater	93
Black-headed Grosbeak	Pheucticus melanocephalus	2
Brewer's Blackbird	Euphagus cyanocephalus	22
Brewer's Sparrow	Spizella breweri	100
Bullock's Oriole	Icterus bullockii	1
Cedar Waxwing	Bombycilla cedrorum	5
Chipping Sparrow	Spizella passerina	80
Common Grackle	Quiscalus quiscula	5
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor	1
Common Poorwill	Phalaenoptilus nuttallii	1
Dusky Flycatcher	Empidonax oberholseri	2
Eastern Kingbird	Tyrannus tyrannus	1
Field Sparrow	Spizella pusilla	60
Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos	1
Grasshopper Sparrow	Ammodramus savannarum	4
Great Horned Owl	Bubo virginianus	4
Green-tailed Towhee	Pipilo chlorurus	3
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon	65
Lark Sparrow	Chondestes grammacus	19
Lazuli Bunting	Passerina amoena	25
Long-eared Owl	Asio otus	5
Mountain Bluebird	Sialia currucoides	58
Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura	50
Northern Flicker	Colaptes auratus	1
Northern Rough-winged		
Swallow	Stelgidopteryx serripennis	4
Pine Siskin	Spinus pinus	1
Pinyon Jay	Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus	3
Rock Wren	Salpinctes obsoletus	64
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	16
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus	4
Say's Phoebe	Sayornis saya	22

Table 2. All birds detected in 2014 during formal point count surveys as well as opportunistic sightings inthe Fortification Creek WSA, Wyoming.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Detections
Sage Thrasher	Oreoscoptes montanus	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Accipiter striatus	1
Spotted Towhee	Pipilo maculatus	232
Tree Swallow	Tachycineta bicolor	2
Vesper Sparrow	Pooecetes gramineus	84
Violet-green Swallow	Tachycineta thalassina	4
Western Kingbird	Tyrannus verticalis	2
Western Meadowlark	Sturnella neglecta	114
Western Tanager	Piranga ludoviciana	1
Western Wood-Pewee	Contopus sordidulus	11
Yellow-breasted Chat	Icteria virens	2
Yellow Warbler	Setophaga petechia	13
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Setophaga coronata	24

Table 3. Number of mist-net captures and acoustic recordings for bat species in the Fortification CreekWSA in 2014.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Mist-net Cantures	Acoustic Recordings
	-	Captures	Recordings
Big Brown Bat	Eptesicus fuscus	1	1
Hoary Bat	Lasiurus cinereus	0	7
Western Small-footed	Myotis ciliolabrum	0	133
Myotis			
Little Brown Myotis	Myotis lucifugus	0	12
Silver-haired Bat	Lasionycteris noctivagans	0	11
Total	5	1	164

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sex	Age	Reproductive Status*	Site
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Male	Adult	D	Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Male	Adult	Ν	Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Female	Adult	Р	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Male	Adult	Ν	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Male	Adult	D	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Male	Adult	D	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Female	Adult	PL	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Male	Juvenile	Ν	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Female	Adult	Р	Little Bull Creek
Least Chipmunk	Tamias minimus	Male	Adult	Ν	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Male	Adult	N	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Male	Juvenile	N	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Male	Juvenile	N	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Male	Juvenile	Ν	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Female	Juvenile	N	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Female	Adult	Р	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Male	Adult	N	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Female	Adult	PL	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Female	Adult	Р	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Male	Adult	D	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Male	Adult	Ν	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Female	Adult	N	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Female	Adult	PL	Little Bull Creek
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Male	Adult	Ν	Little Bull Creek

Table 4. Sma	ll mammal ca	notures in	the Fortification	Creek WSA in 2014.
		iptui C5 III		

*D=Descended Testis, N=Non-reproductive, P=Pregnant, PL-Post Lactating

Table 5. All mammal species detected in the Fortification Creek WSA in June and July 2014. Detectionsincluded visual detections as well as species-specific sign (e.g., scat, nests, etc.).

Common Name	Scientific Name	How detected
Big Brown Bat	Eptesicus fuscus	Visual, Acoustic
Hoary Bat	Lasiurus cinereus	Acoustic
Western Small-footed Myotis	Myotis ciliolabrum	Acoustic
Little Brown Myotis	Myotis lucifugus	Acoustic
Silver-haired Bat	Lasionycteris noctivagans	Acoustic
Least Chipmunk	Tamias minimus	Visual
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus maniculatus	Visual
Bushy-tailed Woodrat	Neotoma cinerea	Visual, Sign (nests)
Cottontail	Sylvilagus sp.	Scat
Coyote	Canis latrans	Visual
Bobcat	Lynx rufus	Track
Elk	Cervus canadensis	Visual, Remote Camera
Mule Deer	Odocoileus hemionus	Visual, Remote Camera
Pronghorn	Antilocapra americana	Visual

Table 6. Reptiles and amphibians detected in the Fortification Creek WSA in June and July 2014.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Lifestage
Reptiles		
Northern Sagebrush Lizard	Sceloporus graciosus graciosus	Adult
Bullsnake	Pituophis catenifer sayi	Adult
Eastern Yellow-bellied racer	Coluber constrictor flaviventris	Adult
Prairie Rattlesnake	Crotalus viridis	Adult
Amphibians		
Tiger Salamander	Ambystoma mavortium	Larva
Boreal Chorus Frog	Pseudacris maculata	Adult, Tadpole
Rocky Mountain Toad	Anaxyrus woodhousii	Adult, Sub-adult, Metamorph, Tadpole

Scientific Name	Common Name	Number
Coleoptera	Beetles	284
Meloidae	Blister beetles	104
Cerambycidae	Long-horned beetles	2
Strangalia	Long-horned beetles	2
Hymenoptera	Bees	847
Andrenidae	Mining bees	8
Andrena	Mining bees	4
Calliopsis	Mining bees	2
Panurginus	Mining bees	1
Perdita	Mining bees	1
Apidae	Bees	97
Anthophora	Bees	7
Anthophora bomboides	Bees	3
Bombus	Bumblebees	6
Bombus	Bumblebees	1
Bombus centralis	Bumblebees	41
Bombus fervidus	Bumblebees	14
Bombus huntii	Bumblebees	1
Bombus insularis	Bumblebees	1
Bombus nevadensis	Bumblebees	1
Bombus rufocinctus	Bumblebees	2
Bombus sylvicola	Bumblebees	6
Diadasia	Chimney bees	6
Eucera	Long-horned bees	6
Habropoda	Anthophorine bees	1
Melissodes	Long-horned bees	1
Halictidae	Sweat bees	700
Agapostemon femoratus	Sweat bees	3
Agapostemon melliventris	Sweat bees	2
Agapostemon obliquus/sericeus	Sweat bees	1
Agapostemon	Sweat bees	6
texanus/angelicus		
Agapostemon virescens	Sweat bees	63
Dufourea	Sweat bees	4
Halictus	Sweat bees	1
Halictus ligatus	Sweat bees	35
Halictus parallelus	Sweat bees	6
Halictus rubicundus	Sweat bees	2
Halictus tripartitus	Sweat bees	486

Table 7. We identified 79 taxa of pollinators at Fortification Creek Wilderness Study Area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Number Collected
Lasioglossum (Dialictus)	Sweat bees	83
Lasioglossum (Evylaeus)	Sweat bees	2
Lasioglossum (Lasioglossum)	Sweat bees	4
Lasioglossum (Sphecodogastra)	Sweat bees	1
Lasioglossume (Dialictus)	Sweat bees	1
Megachilidae	Leafcutter bees	16
Coelioxys	Leafcutter bees	1
Dianthidium	Leafcutter bees	1
Heriades carinata	Leafcutter bees	2
Megachile	Leafcutter bees	2
Megachile latimanus	Leafcutter bees	1
Megachile melanophaea	Leafcutter bees	1
Osmia	Mason bees	8
Lepidoptera	Butterflies and moths	108
Erebidae	Tiger moths	1
Grammia parthenice	Pathenice tiger moths	1
Hesperiidae	Skippers	8
Erynnis persius	Persius duskywing	1
Hesperia	Skippers	7
Lycaenidae	Gossamer-wing butterflies	23
Callophrys gryneus	Juniper hairstreak	9
Lycaena rubidus	Ruddy copper	1
Plebejus melissa	Melissa blue	2
Plebejus saepiolus	Greenish blue	9
Noctuidae	Owlet and miller moths	1
Anagrapha falcifera	Celery looper moth	1
Nymphalidae	Brush-footed butterflies	42
Cercyonis oetus	Small wood-nymph	1
Cercyonis pegala	Common wood-nymph	4
Chlosyne acastus	Sagebrush checkerspot	1
Chlosyne gorgone	Gorgone checkerspott	2
Euphydryas anicia	Anicia checkerspot	1
Limenitis weidemeyerii	Weidemeyer's admiral	1
Phyciodes tharos complex	Pearl crescent group	4
Polygonia gracilis	Hoary comma	1
Speyeria atlantis complex	Atlantis fritillary complex	1
Speyeria callippe	Callippe fritillary	23
Vanessa atalanta	Red admiral	1
Vanessa cardui	Painted lady	1
Papilionidae	Parnassians and swallowtails	2

Scientific Name	Common Name	Number Collected
Papilio machaon	Old world swallowtail	1
Papilio zelicaon	Anise swallowtail	1
Pieridae	Whites and sulphurs	19
Callophrys gryneus	Juniper hairstreak	2
Colias alexandra	Queen Alexandra's sulphur	4
Colias philodice	Clouded sulphur	12
Pontia beckerii	Becker's white	1
Pyralidae	Snout moths	1
Sphingidae	Spinx and hawkmoths	3
Hyles lineata	White-lined sphinx	2
Sphinx vashti	Vashti sphinx	1

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Cicindela decemnotata	Badlands tiger beetle	Little Bull Creek and Softwater Draw
Cicindela denverensis	Green claybank tiger beetle	Bull Creek
Tenebrionidae	Darkling beetle	Softwater Draw
Paruroctonus boreus	Scorpion	Softwater Draw
Tetragnathidae	Long-jawed orb weaver	Landslide pond
Carabidae	Ground beetles	Many locations
Scarabaeidae	Scarab beetles	Little Bull Creek
Asilidae	Robber flies	Many locations
Apiomerus	Bee hunter	Many locations
Cicadidae	Cicadids	Many locations
Strangalia	Long-horned beetles	Many locations
Vespidae	Paper sasps	Many locations
Sphecidae	Thread-waisted wasps	Little Bull Creek and Softwater Draw
Chrysididae	Cuckoo wasp	Many locations
Formicidae	Ants	Many locations
Orthoptera	Crickets	Many Locations
Climaciella brunnea	Mantis fly	Bull and Little Bull Creeks

Table 8. Other invertebrates observed at Fortification Creek WSA.

Table 9. Aquatic invertebrates collected from 2 streams and 3 ponds in the Fortification CreekWilderness Study Area. Invertebrate tolerance values to ecosystem quality range from 0 (intolerant) to10 (tolerant). The presence of a taxa is represented by an X. See Figure 12 for locations of sampling sites.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Tolerance Value	Deer Creek	Landslide Pond	Little Bull Creek	Little Bull Pond	Pond 2
Amphipoda	Scuds						
Hyalella	Scud	8		Х			
Annelida							
Oligochaeta	Worms	5				Х	
Nematomorpha	Horsehair worm	-	Х				
Coleoptera	Beetles						
Acilius	Predaceous diving beetle	-		Х			
Agabus ¹	Predaceous diving beetle	6.5	х		Х	Х	
Berosus	Water scavenger beetle	6.8				Х	
Coptotomus	Predaceous diving beetle	9				Х	
Curculionidae	Snout beetle	-		Х			
Desmopachria	Predaceous diving beetle	5				Х	
Elodes	Marsh beetle	-		Х			Х
Graphoderus	Predaceous diving beetle	-				Х	
Haliplus fulvus	Crawling water beetle	7		Х		Х	Х
Helophorus	Water scavenger beetle	7.9		Х		Х	х
Hydraenidae	Minute moss beetles	5				Х	
Hygrotus acaroides ²	Predaceous diving beetle	-				Х	
Laccophilus	Predaceous diving beetle	7				Х	
Sanfilippodytes vilis	Predaceous diving beetle	-				Х	
Scirtidae	Marsh beetle	-		Х			
Sphaeridiinae	Water scavenger beetle	8					х
Stictotarsus striatellus	Predaceous diving beetle	-		Х			
Suphisellus	Burrowing water beetles	-		X			
Diptera	True Flies						
Chaoborus	Phantom midge	-		Х			

Scientific Name	Common Name	Tolerance Value	Deer Creek	Landslide Pond	Little Bull Creek	Little Bull Pond	Pond 2
Chironomidae	Non-biting midge	6		Х			Х
Culicidae	Mosquito	8		Х	Х		
Culicoides	No-see-um	8.8	Х				
Culiseta	Mosquito	-	Х				
Dasyhelea	No-see-um	-	Х				
Non-	Non-biting midge	6		Х		Х	
Tanypodinae							
Ephemeroptera	Mayflies						
Callibaetis	Speckled dun	8.4		Х		Х	
Hemiptera	True Bugs						
Aquarius	Water strider	-		Х		Х	
Gerris	Water strider	5		Х		Х	
Hesperocorixa	Water boatman	-		Х			
laevigata							
Limnoporus	Water strider	-		Х		Х	
Notonecta	Backswimmer	-		Х		Х	Х
Palmacorixa	Water boatman	5				Х	
Sigara	Water boatman	9		Х			
Trepobates	Water strider	10		Х			Х
Odonata	Dragonflies & Damselflies						
Coenagrion/ Enallagma	Blue damsels	8.8		Х			
Lestes congener	Spotted spreadwing	9					Х
Lestes unguiculatus	Lyre-tipped spreadwing	9				Х	

¹At least 3 species of *Agabus* were collected; however, many species cannot be identified as larvae ²First record of this species in Wyoming

Scientific Name (Dorn 2001)	Family	Common Name	Form	Native (N) Introduced(I)	Collected
Acer negundo L. var. interius (Britt.) Sarg.	Aceraceae	Box elder	Tree	Ν	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> L. var. <i>lanulosa</i> (Nutt.) Piper	Asteraceae	Common yarrow	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Achnatherum contractum (Johnson) Barkw.	Poaceae	Contracted ricegrass	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	Collected
Achnatherum hymenoides (R. & S.) Barkw.	Poaceae	Indian ricegrass	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
Agropyron cristatum (L.) Gaertn. var. cristatum	Poaceae	Crested wheatgrass	Perennial Graminoid	I	
<i>Allium textile</i> Nels. & Macbr.	Alliaceae	Textile onion	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Alyssum desertorum Stapf	Brassicaceae	Desert madwort	Annual Forb	1	
Amaranthus albus L.	Amaranthaceae	Tumbleweed	Annual Forb	Ν	
<i>Amaranthus blitoides</i> Wats.	Amaranthaceae	Mat amaranth	Annual Forb	Ν	
Ambrosia psilostachya DC.	Asteraceae	Perennial ragweed	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Ambrosia tomentosa</i> Nutt.	Asteraceae	Skeleton-leaf burr-ragweed	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Ambrosia trifida L.	Asteraceae	Giant ragweed	Annual Forb	Ν	
Androsace occidentalis Pursh	Primulaceae	Western rock- jasmine	Annual Forb	Ν	
<i>Antennaria dimorpha</i> (Nutt.) T. & G.	Asteraceae	Cushion pussytoes	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
<i>Antennaria howellii</i> Greene	Asteraceae	Small pussytoes	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Antennaria microphylla Rydb.	Asteraceae	Small-leaf pussyoes	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Antennaria parvifolia</i> Nutt.	Asteraceae	Little leaf pussytoes	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Antennaria rosea Greene	Asteraceae	Rosy pussytoes	Perennial Forb	N	
<i>Arabis glabra</i> (L.) Bernh.	Brassicaceae	Tower-mustard	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected

Table 10. Plant species observed within boundary of Fortification Creek WSA, Wyoming in 2014.

Scientific Name (Dorn 2001)	Family	Common Name	Form	Native (N) Introduced(I)	Collected
Arctium minus Bernh.	Asteraceae	Lesser burdock	Perennial Forb	I	
<i>Aristida purpurea</i> Nutt. var. <i>fendleriana</i> (Steuel) Vasey	Poaceae	Purple three- awn	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
Arnica sororia Greene	Asteraceae	Twin leopardbane	Perennial Forb	N	
*Artemisia absinthium L.	Asteraceae	Oldman	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
Artemisia campestris L. var. scouleriana (Bess.) Cronq.	Asteraceae	Pacific wormwood	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Artemisia cana</i> Pursh var. <i>cana</i>	Asteraceae	Silver sagebrush	Shrub	Ν	
Artemisia dracunculus L.	Asteraceae	Tarragon	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Artemisia frigida Willd.	Asteraceae	Fringed sagebrush	Shrub	N	
<i>Artemisia longifolia</i> Nutt.	Asteraceae	Long-leaf wormwood	Shrub	N	
Artemisia ludoviciana Nutt. var. ludoviciana	Asteraceae	White sagebrush	Perennial Forb	N	
Artemisia tridentata Nutt. var. <i>vaseyana</i> (Rydb.) Boivin	Asteraceae	Mountain big sagebrush	Shrub	Ν	Collected
Artemisia tridentata Nutt. var. wyomingensis (Beetle & Young (Welsh)	Asteraceae	Wyoming big sagebrush	Shrub	Ν	
<i>Asclepias speciosa</i> Torrey	Asclepiadaceae	Showy milkweed	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Asclepias viridiflora Raf.	Asclepiadaceae	Green comet milkweed	Perennial Forb	N	
<i>Astragalus agrestis</i> Dougl. ex G. Don	Fabaceae	Field milkvetch	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Astragalus bisulcatus (Hook.) Gray var. bisulcatus	Fabaceae	Two-groove milkvetch	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Astragalus crassicarpus</i> Nutt. var. <i>paysonii</i> (Kelso) Barneby	Fabaceae	Ground plum	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Astragalus drummondii</i> Dougl. ex Hook.	Fabaceae	Drummond's milkvetch	Perennial Forb	Ν	

Scientific Name (Dorn 2001)	Family	Common Name	Form	Native (N) Introduced(I)	Collected
Astragalus gilviflorus Sheld. var. gilviflorus	Fabaceae	Plains milkvetch	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
<i>Astragalus lotiflorus</i> Hook.	Fabaceae	Lotus milkvetch	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Astragalus missouriensis Nutt.	Fabaceae	Missouri milkvetch	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Astragalus purshii</i> Dougl. ex Hook.	Fabaceae	Pursh's milkvetch	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Astragalus spatulatus</i> Sheld.	Fabaceae	Spoonleaf milkvetch	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Astragalus tenellus</i> Pursh	Fabaceae	Loose-flower milkvetch	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Astragalus vexilliflexus</i> Sheld.	Fabaceae	Bent-flower milkvetch	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
Atriplex canescens (Pursh) Nutt. var. canescens	Chenopodiaceae	Four-wing saltbush	Shrub	Ν	
*Atriplex patula L.	Chenopodiaceae	Halberd-leaf orache	Annual Forb	Ν	
<i>Besseya wyomingensis</i> (A. Nels.) Rydb.	Scrophulariaceae	Wyoming kittentails	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Boechera holboellii</i> (Hornem.) Love & Love var. <i>collinsii</i> (Fern.) Dorn	Brassicaceae	Holboell's rockcress	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i> (L.) Palla var. <i>paludosus</i> (A. Nels.) Dorn	Cyperaceae	Seacoast bulrush	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	Collected
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> (H.B.K.) Lag. ex Griffiths	Poaceae	Blue grama	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
Brickellia eupatorioides (L.) Shinners var. corymbulosa (T. & G.) Shinners	Asteraceae	False boneset	Perennial Forb	Ν	
*Bromus brizaeformis Fisch. & Meyer	Poaceae	Rattlesnake brome	Annual Graminoid	Ι	Collected
Bromus carinatus H. & A.	Poaceae	California brome	Perennial Graminoid	N	
<i>Bromus commutatus</i> Schrad.	Poaceae	Meadow brome	Annual Graminoid	I	Collected

Scientific Name (Dorn 2001)	Family	Common Name	Form	Native (N) Introduced(I)	Collected
<i>Bromus inermis</i> Leyss. var. <i>inermis</i>	Poaceae	Smooth brome	Perennial Graminoid	I	
Bromus tectorum L.	Poaceae	Cheatgrass	Annual Graminoid	I	Collected
*Calamagrostis stricta (Timm) Koeler	Poaceae	Slim-stem reedgrass	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i> (Hook.) Scribn.	Poaceae	Prairie sandreed	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
<i>Calochortus nuttallii</i> T. & G.	Calochortaceae	Sego-lily	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Camelina microcarpa</i> Anrdz. ex DC.	Brassicaceae	Little-pod false flax	Annual Forb	I	
Campanula rotundifolia L.	Campanulaceae	Harebell	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Carduus nutans L.	Asteraceae	Nodding plumeless thistle	Perennial Forb	I	
Carex filifolia Nutt.	Cyperaceae	Thread-leaf sedge	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
Carex nebrascensis Dewey	Cyperaceae	Nebraska sedge	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
Carex pensylvanica Lam. var. digyna Boeckl.	Cyperaceae	Pennsylvania sedge	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
Carex petasata Dewey	Cyperaceae	Liddon sedge	Perennial Graminoid	n	Collected
Cerastium arvense L.	Caryophyllaceae	Field mouse- ear chickweed	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Chaenactis douglasii (Hook.) H. & A. var. montana Jones	Asteraceae	Hoary dusty- maiden	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Chamaesyce missurica</i> (Raf.) Shinners var. <i>petaloidea</i> (Engelm.) Dorn	Euphorbiaceae	Prairie sandmat	Annual Forb	Ν	
Chenopodium album L.	Chenopodiaceae	Lamb's- quarters	Annual Forb	I	
<i>Chenopodium berlandieri</i> Moq. var. <i>zschackei</i> (Murr) Murr ex Asch.	Chenopodiaceae	Pitseed goosefoot	Annual Forb	Ν	
Chenopodium fremontii Wats.	Chenopodiaceae	Fremont's goosefoot	Annual Forb	Ν	
Chorispora tenella (Pallas) DC.	Brassicaceae	Blue mustard	Annual Forb	1	Collected

Scientific Name (Dorn 2001)	Family	Common Name	Form	Native (N) Introduced(I)	Collected
Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus (Hook.) Nutt. var. viscidiflorus	Asteraceae	Green rabbitbrush	Shrub	N	
<i>Cirsium arvense</i> (L.) Scop.	Asteraceae	Canada thistle	Perennial Forb	I	
<i>Cirsium undulatum</i> (Nutt.) Spreng.	Asteraceae	Wavy-leaf thistle	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Collinsia parviflora</i> Lindl.	Scrophulariaceae	Small-flower blue-eyed Mary	Annual Forb	N	
Collomia linearis Nutt.	Polemoniaceae	Narrowleaf mountain- trumpet	Annual Forb	N	
<i>Comandra umbellata</i> (L.) Nutt. var. <i>pallida</i> (A. DC.) Jones	Santalaceae	Bastard toadflax	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Convolvulus arvensis L.	Convolvulaceae	Field bindweed	Perennial Forb	I	
<i>Crepis acuminata</i> Nutt.	Asteraceae	Long-leaf hawk's-beard	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
<i>Crepis occidentalis</i> Nutt. var. <i>costata</i> Gray	Asteraceae	Large-flower hawk's-beard	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Cryptantha celosioides</i> (Eastw.) Payson	Boraginaceae	Cockscomb cryptantha	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Cryptantha torreyana (Gray) Greene	Boraginaceae	Torrey's cat's- eye	Annual Forb	Ν	
Cymopterus montanus T. & G.	Apiaceae	Mountain spring-parsley	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i> (L.) Bernh.	Aspleniaceae	Brittle bladder- fern	Ferns/Fer n Allies	Ν	
<i>Dalea candida</i> Willd. var. <i>oligophylla</i> (Torrey) Shinners	Fabaceae	White prairie- clover	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Delphinium geyeri</i> Greene	Ranunculaceae	Geyer's Iarkspur	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Descurainia incana</i> (Bernh. ex Fisch. & Meyer) Dorn var. <i>incana</i>	Brassicaceae	Mountain tansy-mustard	Annual Forb	Ν	
Descurainia sophia (L.) Webb ex Prantl	Brassicaceae	Flixweed	Annual Forb	I	
Distichlis stricta (Torrey) Rydb.	Poaceae	Alkali saltgrass	Perennial Graminoid	N	

Scientific Name (Dorn 2001)	Family	Common Name	Form	Native (N) Introduced(I)	Collected
Draba reptans (Lam.)	Brassicaceae	Carolina	Annual	Ν	
Fern.	Actorecco	Whitlow-grass	FOrD	NI	
(Vent.) Hitchc	Asteraceae	Fetia marigola	Annual	IN	
Fllisia nyctelea (L.) L	Hydronhyllaceae	Waternod		N	Collected
	nyaropnynaceae	Waterpou	Forb		concetted
*Elyhordeum	Poaceae	McCoun's	Perennial	Ν	Collected
macounii (Vasey)		barley	Graminoid		
Barkworth & D.R.					
Dewey [Elymus					
trachycaulus ×					
Hordeum jubatum]	-				
Elymus canadensis L.	Poaceae	Canada wildrye	Perennial	Ν	
var. canadensis	D		Graminoid	N	
Elymus cinereus	Poaceae	Great Basin	Perenniai	N	
Scribn. & Werr.	Deaceas	Wildrye	Graminold	N	
(Pof) Swozov vor	POaceae	squirreltail	Graminoid	IN	
hrevifolius (Smith)		Squirreitan	Graninolu		
Dorn					
Elvmus lanceolatus	Poaceae	Thickspike	Perennial	1	Collected
(Scribn. & Sm.) Gould		wheatgrass	Graminoid		
var. lanceolatus		0			
Elymus repens (L.)	Poaceae	Common	Perennial	N	
Gould		quackgrass	Graminoid		
<i>Elymus smithii</i> (Rydb.)	Poaceae	Western	Perennial	Ν	Collected
Gould		wheatgrass	Graminoid		
Elymus spicatus	Poaceae	Bluebunch	Perennial	Ν	
(Pursh) Gould	-	wheatgrass	Graminoid	•	
Elymus trachycaulus	Poaceae	Slender	Perennial	N	
(LINK) Gould ex		wneatgrass	Graminoid		
sninners var.					
Eremogone hookeri	Carvonhyllaceae	Hooker's	Perennial	N	
(Nutt.) Weber var.	caryophynaccac	sandwort	Forb		
pinetorum (A. Nels.)		Sanawort	1010		
Dorn					
Ericameria nauseosa	Asteraceae	Rubber-	Shrub	Ν	
(Pallas ex Pursh)		rabbitbrush			
Nesom & Baird var.					
nauseosa					
Erigeron compositus	Asteraceae	Cut-leaved	Perennial	Ν	
Pursh var. discoideus		fleabane	Forb		
Gray					

Scientific Name (Dorn 2001)	Family	Common Name	Form	Native (N) Introduced(I)	Collected
<i>Erigeron ochroleucus</i> Nutt. var. <i>ochroleucus</i>	Asteraceae	Buff fleabane	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
Eriogonum flavum Nutt. var. flavum	Polygonaceae	Yellow buckwheat	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Eriogonum pauciflorum Pursh var. pauciflorum	Polygonaceae	Few-flower wild buckwheat	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Erysimum asperum (Nutt.) DC. var. asperum	Brassicaceae	Sand dune wallflower	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Euclidium syriacum</i> (L.) R. Br.	Brassicaceae	Syrian-mustard	Annual Forb	1	Collected
Euphorbia brachycera Engelm. var. robusta (Engelm.) Dorn	Euphorbiaceae	Horned spurge	Perennial Forb	N	
Fritillaria atropurpurea Nutt.	Liliaceae	Checker lily	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Galium aparine L. var. aparine	Rubiaceae	Cleavers	Annual Forb	Ν	
Galium boreale L.	Rubiaceae	Northern bedstraw	Perennial Forb	N	
Geranium carolinianum L.	Geraniaceae	Carolina crane's-bill	Annual Forb	Ν	
<i>Geum triflorum</i> Pursh var. <i>triflorum</i>	Rosaceae	Prairie smoke	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i> Pursh var. <i>glutinosa</i> (Nutt.) Wats.	Fabaceae	Licorice-root	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Grindelia squarrosa (Pursh) Dunal var. squarrosa	Asteraceae	Curly-cup gumweed	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i> (Pursh) Britt. & Rusby	Asteraceae	Broom snakeweed	Shrub	Ν	
<i>Hedeoma drummondii</i> Benth.	Lamiaceae	Drummond's false pennyroyal	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Hedeoma hispidum</i> Pursh	Lamiaceae	Rough false pennyroyal	Perennial Forb	I	
<i>Hedysarum boreale</i> Nutt. var. <i>pabulare</i> (A. Nels.) Dorn	Fabaceae	Boreal sweet- vetch	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
Helianthus nuttallii T. & G.	Asteraceae	Nuttall's sunflower	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Helianthus petiolaris</i> Nutt.	Asteraceae	Prairie sunflower	Annual Forb	N	

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Hesperostipa comata (Trin. & Rupr.) var. comata	Poaceae	Needle-and- thread	Perennial Graminoid	N	
Heterotheca villosa (Pursh) Shinners var. villosa	Asteraceae	Hairy false golden-aster	Perennial Forb	N	
*Hordeum brachyantherum Nevski	Poaceae	Meadow barley	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
Hymenopappus polycephalus Osterh.	Asteraceae	Fine-leaf woollywhite	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
lpomopsis congesta (Hook.) Grant var. congesta	Polemoniaceae	Ball-head skyrocket	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
lva axillaris Nutt. var. axillaris	Asteraceae	Poverty-weed	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Juncus bufonius L.	Juncaceae	Toad rush	Annual Graminoid	Ν	Collected
Juncus interior Wieg.	Juncaceae	Inland rush	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
<i>Juniperus communis</i> L. var. <i>depressa</i> Pursh	Cupressaceae	Common juniper	Shrub	Ν	
Juniperus scopulorum Sarg.	Cupressaceae	Rocky Mountain juniper	Tree	Ν	
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i> (Ledeb.) Schultes	Poaceae	Prairie junegrass	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
<i>Krascheninnikovia Ianata</i> (Pursh) Meeuse & Smit	Chenopodiaceae	Winterfat	Shrub	Ν	
Lactuca serriola L.	Asteraceae	Prickly lettuce	Annual Forb	I	
<i>Lappula redowskii</i> (Hornem.) Greene var. <i>cupulata</i> (Gray) Jones	Boraginaceae	Cupseed stickseed	Annual Forb	Ν	
Lepidium densiflorum Schrad. var. densiflorum	Brassicaceae	Miner's pepperwort	Annual Forb	Ν	
<i>Lesquerella alpina</i> (Nutt.) Wats.	Brassicaceae	Alpine bladderpod	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
<i>Liatris punctata</i> Hook.	Asteraceae	Dotted gayfeather	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Linanthus pungens</i> (Torrey) Porter & Johnson	Polemoniaceae	Granite prickly- phlox	Shrub	Ν	

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<i>Linum lewisii</i> Pursh	Linaceae	Blue flax	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Linum rigidum</i> Pursh var. <i>rigidum</i>	Linaceae	Large-flower yellow flax	Annual Forb	Ν	
<i>Lithophragma parviflorum</i> (Hook.) Nutt. ex T. & G.	Saxifragaceae	Prairie woodlandstar	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Lithospermum incisum</i> Lehm.	Boraginaceae	Fringed gromwell	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Logfia arvensis</i> (L.) Holub	Asteraceae	Field cotton- rose	Annual Forb	Ν	Collected
<i>Lomatium foeniculaceum</i> (Nutt.) Coult. & Rose	Apiaceae	Carrot-leaf desert-parsley	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Lomatium orientale</i> Coult. & Rose	Apiaceae	Oriental desert-parsley	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Lupinus argenteus</i> Pursh var. <i>argenteus</i>	Fabaceae	Silver-stem lupine	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Lupinus pusillus</i> Pursh var. <i>pusillus</i>	Fabaceae	Rusty lupine	Annual Forb	Ν	
<i>Lygodesmia juncea</i> (Pursh) D. Don ex Hook.	Asteraceae	Rush skeleton- plant	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Machaeranthera pinnatifida</i> (Hook.) Shinners var. <i>glaberrima</i> (Rydb.) Turner & Hartm.	Asteraceae	Spiny goldenweed	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Machaeranthera tanacetifolia (H.B.K.) Nees	Asteraceae	Tansy aster	Annual Forb	Ν	
Maianthemum stellatum (L.) Link	Convallariaceae	Starry false Solomon's-seal	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Medicago lupulina L.	Fabaceae	Black medick	Annual Forb	I	
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i> (L.) Pallas	Fabaceae	Yellow sweet- clover	Perennial Forb	I	
<i>Mentzelia decapatela</i> (Pursh ex Sims) Urban & Gilg ex Gilg	Loasaceae	Evening star	Perennial Forb	N	Collected
<i>Mentzelia dispersa</i> Wats.	Loasaceae	Nevada blazingstar	Annual Forb	Ν	
<i>Mentzelia laevicaulis</i> (Dougl. ex Hook.) T. & G.	Loasaceae	Giant blazingstar	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected

Scientific Name (Dorn 2001)	Family	Common Name	Form	Native (N) Introduced(I)	Collected
<i>Mentzelia pumila</i> T. & G.	Loasaceae	Golden blazingstar	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
<i>Mertensia lanceolata</i> (Pursh) DC.	Boraginaceae	Prairie bluebells	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Mirabilis linearis</i> (Pursh) Heimerl	Nyctaginaceae	Narrow-leaf four-o'clock	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i> L. var. <i>menthifolia</i> (Grah.) Fern.	Lamiaceae	Oswego-tea	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Monolepis nuttalliana</i> (Schultes) Greene	Chenopodiaceae	Nuttall's poverty-weed	Annual Forb	Ν	
* <i>Montia chamissoi</i> (Ledeb. ex Spreng.) Greene	Portulacaceae	Chamisso's candy-flower	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Muhlenbergia asperifolia</i> (Nees & Mey. ex Trin.) Parodi	Poaceae	Alkali muhly	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
<i>Musineon divaricatum</i> (Pursh) Nutt. ex T. & G.	Apiaceae	Leafy wild parsley	Perennial Forb	Ν	
* <i>Myosotis micrantha</i> Pallas ex Lehm.	Boraginaceae	Blue scorpion- grass	Annual Forb	N	Collected
<i>Nassella viridula</i> (Trin.) Barkw.	Poaceae	Green needlegrass	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	Collected
Oenothera cespitosa Nutt. var. cespitosa	Onagraceae	Tufted evening- primrose	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Oenothera nuttallii</i> Sweet	Onagraceae	Nuttall's evening- primrose	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
Opuntia polyacantha Haw. var. polyacantha	Cactaceae	Plains prickly- pear	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Orobanche fasciculata</i> Nutt.	Orobanchaceae	Clustered broomrape	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Orobanche Iudoviciana Nutt. var. Iudoviciana	Orobanchaceae	Louisiana broomrape	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Oxytropis besseyi (Rydb.) Blank. var. besseyi	Fabaceae	Bessey's locoweed	Perennial Forb	Ν	
*Oxytropis campestris (L.) DC. var. spicata Hook.	Fabaceae	Northern yellow locoweed	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
<i>Oxytropis lambertii</i> Pursh	Fabaceae	Lambert's locoweed	Perennial Forb	N	Collected

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<i>Oxytropis sericea</i> Nutt. var. <i>sericea</i>	Fabaceae	White locoweed	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Packera cana</i> (Hook.) Weber & Love	Asteraceae	Silver-woolly groundsel	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Parietaria pensylvanica Muhl. ex Willd.	Urticaceae	Pennsylvania pellitory	Annual Forb	Ν	
Pediomelum argophyllum (Pursh) Grimes	Fabaceae	Silver-leaf Indian- breadroot	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Pediomelum esculentum</i> (Pursh) Rydb.	Fabaceae	Large Indian- breadroot	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Penstemon albidus</i> Nutt.	Scrophulariaceae	Red-line beardtongue	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Penstemon eriantherus Pursh var. eriantherus	Scrophulariaceae	Fuzzy-tongue beardtongue	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Penstemon glaber Pursh var. glaber	Scrophulariaceae	Western smooth beardtongue	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Phacelia hastata</i> Dougl. ex Lehm.	Hydrophyllaceae	Silver-leaf scorpion-weed	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Phacelia linearis</i> (Pursh) Holz	Hydrophyllaceae	Thread-leaf scorpion-weed	Annual Forb	Ν	
Phleum pratense L.	Poaceae	Common timothy	Perennial Graminoid	I	
<i>Phlox hoodii</i> Richardson	Polemoniaceae	Hood's phlox	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Phlox longifolia Nutt.	Polemoniaceae	Long-leaf phlox	Perennial Forb	Ν	
*Physaria acutifolia Rydb.	Brassicaceae	Sharp-leaf twinpod	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
<i>Physaria brassicoides</i> Rydb.	Brassicaceae	Double twinpod	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
<i>Picradeniopsis oppositifolia</i> (Nutt.) Rydb. ex Britt.	Asteraceae	Opposite-leaf false bahia	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Plantago patagonica Jacq. var. patagonica	Plantaginaceae	Woolly plantain	Annual Forb	Ν	
Poa arida Vasey	Poaceae	Prairie bluegrass	Perennial Graminoid	N	Collected
Poa bulbosa L.	Poaceae	Bulbous bluegrass	Perennial Graminoid	I	

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Poa compressa L.	Poaceae	Canada bluegrass	Perennial Graminoid	I	
<i>Poa cusickii</i> Vasey var. <i>epilis</i> (Scribn.) Hitchc.	Poaceae	Skyline bluegrass	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
Poa palustris L.	Poaceae	Fowl bluegrass	Perennial Graminoid	1	Collected
Poa pratensis L.	Poaceae	Kentucky bluegrass	Perennial Graminoid	I	
Poa secunda Presl var. secunda	Poaceae	Sandberg bluegrass	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	Collected
Polanisia trachysperma T. & G.	Capparaceae	Red-whisker clammy-weed	Annual Forb	Ν	
Polygonum convolvulus L.	Polygonaceae	Black- bindweed	Annual Forb	I	
*Polygonum sawatchense Small	Polygonaceae	Sawatch knotweed	Annual Forb	Ν	
Polypogon monspeliensis (L.) Desf.	Poaceae	Annual rabbit's-foot- grass	Annual Graminoid	I	Collected
<i>Populus deltoides</i> Bartr. ex Marsh. var. <i>occidentalis</i> Rydb.	Salicaceae	Plains cottonwood	Tree	Ν	
<i>Prunus virginiana</i> L. var. <i>melanocarpa</i> (A. Nels.) Sarg.	Rosaceae	Choke cherry	Shrub	Ν	
*Pseudotsuga menziesii (Mirb.) Franco var. glauca (Beissn.) Franco	Pinaceae	Douglas-fir	Tree	Ν	Collected
Psilocarphus brevissimus Nutt.	Asteraceae	Dwarf woollyheads	Annual Forb	Ν	
<i>Psoralidium lanceolatum</i> (Pursh) Rydb.	Fabaceae	Lemon scurf- pea	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Psoralidium tenuiflorum</i> (Pursh) Rydb.	Fabaceae	Slender- flowered scurf- pea	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Puccinellia nuttalliana</i> (Schultes) Hitchc.	Poaceae	Nuttall's alkali- grass	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
Ranunculus cymbalaria Pursh var. cymbalaria	Ranunculaceae	Shore buttercup	Perennial Forb	N	
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i> (Nutt.) Wooton & Standley	Asteraceae	Prairie coneflower	Perennial Forb	Ν	

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<i>Rhus aromatica</i> Aiton var. <i>trilobata</i> (Nutt.) Gray	Anacardiaceae	III-scented sumac	Shrub	Ν	
<i>Ribes americanum</i> Miller	Grossulariaceae	Wild black currant	Shrub	Ν	
<i>Ribes aureum</i> Pursh var. <i>villosum</i> DC.	Grossulariaceae	Buffalo currant	Shrub	Ν	
<i>Ribes oxyacanthoides</i> L. var. <i>setosum</i> (Lindl.) Dorn	Grossulariaceae	Canadian gooseberry	Shrub	Ν	
<i>Rosa arkansana</i> Porter	Rosaceae	Prairie rose	Shrub	Ν	
<i>Rosa woodsii</i> Lindl.	Rosaceae	Woods' rose	Shrub	Ν	
Rumex spp.	Polygonaceae		Perennial Forb	Ν	
Salsola tragus L.	Chenopodiaceae	Prickly Russian- thistle	Annual Forb	1	
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> (Michx.) Nash	Poaceae	Little bluestem	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
<i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> (Vahl) Palla var. <i>polyphyllus</i> (Boeckler) Dorn	Cyperaceae	Three-square bulrush	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
*Scolochloa festucacea (Willd.) Link	Poaceae	Sprangletop	Perennial Graminoid	Ν	
<i>Sedum lanceolatum</i> Torrey	Crassulaceae	Lance-leaf stonecrop	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Senecio integerrimus</i> Nutt. var. <i>exaltatus</i> (Nutt.) Cronq.	Asteraceae	Western groundsel	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Silene spp.	Caryophyllaceae		Perennial Forb	Ν	
Sisymbrium loeselii L.	Brassicaceae	False London rocket	Annual Forb	1	
<i>Solanum triflorum</i> Nutt.	Solanaceae	Cut-leaf nightshade	Annual Forb	N	
Solidago missouriensis Nutt. var. missouriensis	Asteraceae	Missouri goldenrod	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Sonchus arvensis L.	Asteraceae	Field sow- thistle	Perennial Forb	I	
<i>Spartina pectinata</i> Link	Poaceae	Prairie cordgrass	Perennial Graminoid	N	

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<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i> (Nutt.) Rydb.	Malvaceae	Scarlet globe- mallow	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Sporobolus cryptandrus (Torrey) Gray	Poaceae	Sand dropseed	Perennial Graminoid	N	
Stephanomeria runcinata Nutt.	Asteraceae	Desert wirelettuce	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Symphoricarpos occidentalis Hook.	Caprifoliaceae	Western snowberry	Shrub	Ν	
<i>Symphoricarpos oreophilus</i> Gray var. <i>utahensis</i> (Rydb.) A. Nels.	Caprifoliaceae	Mountain snowberry	Shrub	Ν	Collected
Symphyotrichum falcatum (Lindl.) Nesom var. commutatum (T. & G.) Nesom	Asteraceae	Rough white prairie american-aster	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Tamarix chinensis</i> Loureiro	Tamaricaceae	Five-stamen Tamarisk	Shrub	I	Collected
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> Weber	Asteraceae	Common dandelion	Perennial Forb	I	
Tetradymia canescens DC.	Asteraceae	Spineless horsebrush	Shrub	Ν	Collected
<i>Thermopsis</i> <i>rhombifolia</i> (Nutt. ex Pursh) Nutt. ex Richardson var. <i>rhombifolia</i>	Fabaceae	Prairie golden- banner	Perennial Forb	Ν	
Thlaspi arvense L.	Brassicaceae	Field pennycress	Annual Forb	I	
<i>Toxicodendron rydbergii</i> (Small ex Rydb.) Greene	Anacardiaceae	Western poison ivy	Shrub	Ν	
<i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i> (Britt.) Smyth	Commelinaceae	Prairie spiderwort	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i> Scop.	Asteraceae	Yellow salsify	Perennial Forb	1	
<i>Vicia americana</i> Muhl. ex Willd. var. <i>americana</i>	Fabaceae	American purple vetch	Perennial Forb	N	Collected
<i>Viola nuttallii</i> Pursh	Violaceae	Yellow prairie violet	Perennial Forb	Ν	

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Viola vallicola A. Nels.	Violaceae	Valley violet	Perennial Forb	Ν	
<i>Vulpia octoflora</i> (Walt.) Rydb.	Poaceae	Eight-flower six-weeks fescue	Annual Graminoid	Ν	
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> L. var. <i>canadense</i> (Miller) T. & G.	Asteraceae	Rough cocklebur	Annual Forb	Ν	
<i>Yucca glauca</i> Nutt.	Agavaceae	Soapweed yucca	Shrub	Ν	
Zannichellia palustris L.	Zannichelliaceae	Horned pondweed	Perennial Forb	Ν	Collected
Zigadenus venenosus Wats. var. gramineus (Rydb.) Walsh ex Peck	Melanthiaceae	Meadow deathcamas	Perennial Forb	Ν	

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