

## **EFFECTS EVALUATION AREAS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA STATE LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

The following brief habitat descriptions define those areas, in addition to the known locations included in the Natural Heritage Database, within which potential effects associated with implementation of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) practices will be considered (i.e., effects evaluation area). Effects of NRCS practices on state listed species will be considered within these evaluation areas if the species is listed as present within the county in Table 2 of the Threatened and Endangered species section in Section II of the electronic South Dakota Technical Guide (eFOTG). Impacts of practices will also be evaluated for all known locations recorded in the Natural Heritage Database.

### **BIRDS**

#### **American Dipper** (*Cinclus mexicanus*)

The effects evaluation area for American dippers is located within the 50-foot buffer above bankfull elevation or within bankfull elevation of Whitewood, Rapid, and Spearfish Creeks in the Black Hills.

#### **Bald Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

For bald eagles, the effects evaluation area lies within one-quarter mile of verified nesting sites and within one-half mile of verified winter roost sites. Note: verified nesting or roosting sites are those sites identified in the Natural Heritage Database, or those sites verified as active nesting or roosting sites by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGF&P), or NRCS biologist. This definition of important habitat conforms to the area considered for bald eagles in the NRCS federal endangered and threatened effects determination process.

#### **Eskimo Curlew** (*Numenius borealis*)

No effects evaluation area identified, as species has not been observed for many years and may no longer exist.

#### **Least Tern** (*Sterna antillarum*)

The effects evaluation area for least terns occurs within one-quarter mile of a beach area, peninsula, or a sand, shale, or gravel bar on the Missouri River (and its reservoirs) or on the Cheyenne River from Wasta to its confluence with the Missouri River. Also included are sites with recorded known use by least terns. Note: this definition of habitat conforms to the area considered for least terns in the NRCS federal endangered and threatened effects determination process.

#### **Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*)

For osprey, the area within which the potential effects of NRCS practices will be evaluated includes the immediate vicinity of verified nesting sites, and re-introduction areas. Note: verified nesting sites are those sites identified in the Natural Heritage Database, or those sites verified as active nesting sites by a USFWS, SDGFP, or NRCS biologist.

#### **Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*)

For peregrine falcons, the effects evaluation area occurs within one-quarter mile of a verified nesting site. Note: verified nesting sites are those sites identified in the Natural Heritage Database, or those sites determined as active nesting sites by a USFWS, SDGFP, or NRCS biologist.

#### **Piping Plover** (*Charadrius melodus*)

The piping plover effects evaluation area includes known sites recorded in the Natural Heritage Database, federally designated critical habitat along the Missouri River, and beach areas, peninsulas, and sand, shale, or gravel bars on the Missouri River. The effects evaluation area for piping plovers occurs within one-quarter mile of a beach area, peninsula, or a sand, shale, or gravel bar on the Missouri River (and its reservoirs). Also included are sites with recorded known use by piping plovers. Note: this definition of habitat conforms with the area considered for piping plovers in the NRCS federal endangered and threatened effects determination process.

### **Whooping Crane** (*Grus americana*)

For whooping cranes, the effects evaluation area includes known sites with repeat use within Campbell, Walworth, Potter, Sully, Hughes, and Stanley Counties as noted in the Natural Heritage Database records and/or as reported by the landowner/land user. Repeat use in other counties observed/reported by the Natural Heritage Database, landowners, or others will be evaluated on a site-by-site basis.

## **MAMMALS**

### **Black Bear** (*Ursus americanus*)

Important black bear habitat includes sites recorded in the Natural Heritage Database. The NRCS practices are not anticipated to affect black bears.

### **Black-Footed Ferret** (*Mustela nigripes*)

The effects evaluation area for black-footed ferrets includes re-introduction areas and black-tailed prairie dog towns and complexes of 1,000 acres or more in size. Note: this definition of habitat conforms with the area considered for black-footed ferret in the NRCS federal endangered and threatened effects determination process.

### **Northern River Otter** (*Lontra canadensis*)

Consideration of the effects of NRCS practices on northern river otter will occur within the riparian corridors of the James, Missouri, Cheyenne, White, Vermillion, Big Sioux, Bad, North Fork Whetstone, and Little Minnesota Rivers and Medicine Creek in counties with recorded northern river otter locations, as well as at all known locations included in the Natural Heritage Database. Note: River otter are not restricted to major waterways, they also use wetlands and creeks if there is ample food, dens, and water.

### **Swift Fox** (*Vulpes velox*)

For swift fox, the effects evaluation area will include locations identified in the Natural Heritage Database and re-introduction areas.

## **FISH**

### **Banded Killifish** (*Fundulus diaphanus*)

In Day, Deuel, and Charles Mix Counties: within 50-foot buffer above bankfull elevation and within bankfull elevation of streams within one mile of Lake Cochrane, North and South Waubay Lakes, and Lake Andes and in those lakes.

### **Blacknose Shiner** (*Notropis heterolepis*)

In Todd and Tripp Counties: within the 50-foot buffer above bankfull elevation and within bankfull elevation of the Keya Paha River and its perennial tributaries, and all Natural Heritage Database locations.

### **Finescale Dace** (*Phoxinus neogaeus*)

In Lawrence, Todd, and Fall River Counties: within the 50-foot buffer above bankfull elevation and within bankfull elevation of Fall River, Coffee and Redwater Creeks, and in Cox, Mud, and Mirror Lakes, and all Natural Heritage Database locations.

### **Longnose Sucker** (*Catostomus catostomus*)

In Lawrence and Butte Counties: within 50-foot buffer above bankfull elevation and within bankfull elevation of Redwater, Spearfish, and Crow Creeks.

### **Northern Redbelly Dace** (*Phoxinus eos*)

In Bennett, Brookings, Corson, Deuel, Grant, Todd, and Tripp Counties: within the 50-foot buffer above bankfull elevation and within bankfull elevation of the Keya Paha River and its perennial tributaries, Lake, Six Mile, and Deer Creeks in Brookings County, Monighan and Gary Creeks, the South Fork Yellow Bank River in Deuel County; South Fork and North Fork Yellow Bank River in

Grant County, Stink Creek in Corson County, and other known locations recorded in the Natural Heritage Database.

**Pallid Sturgeon** (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)

Practices with Missouri River impacts, especially from pump intakes.

**Pearl Dace** (*Margariscus margarita*)

In Todd, Tripp, and Bennett Counties: within the 50-foot buffer above bankfull elevation and within the bankfull elevation of the Keya Paha and Little White Rivers, as well as, the perennial tributaries of those rivers, and Elm and Lake Creeks in Bennett County, and Coffee Creek in Todd County.

**Sicklefin Chub** (*Macrhybopsis meeki*)

Missouri River impacts primarily from pump intakes.

**Sturgeon Chub** (*Macrhybopsis gelida*)

In Bennett, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Jackson, Jones, Lyman, Meade, Mellette, Pennington, Shannon, Todd, Tripp, and Ziebach Counties: within 50-foot buffer above bankfull elevation and within bankfull elevation of Cheyenne and White Rivers and the perennial tributaries of those rivers.

**REPTILES**

**Eastern Hognose Snake** (*Heterodon platirhinos*)

Sandy areas in native vegetation within one mile of the Missouri River in Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Union, and Yankton Counties, and Natural Heritage Database sites. Most recent records are from Clay, Union, and Yankton Counties but surveying has been minimal. It is likely these snakes are found in suitable habitat along the Missouri River from Pickstown to North Sioux City.

**Lined Snake** (*Tropidoclonion lineatum*)

Open prairie hillsides and woodlands within one mile of the Big Sioux River, Split Rock Creek, and Brule Creek in Clay, Minnehaha, Moody, and Union Counties.

**False Map Turtle** (*Graptemys pseudographica*)

Consider known sites and project areas that affect river, lake, wetland, floodplain, and shoreline and sandbar habitat within one mile of the Missouri River, particularly from Gavins Point Dam to Fort Randall Dam. Note: nest sites are likely a limiting factor for these turtles.