Appendix A: Priority Species Information- Idaho BLM Best Management Practices for Migratory Birds During Vegetation Treatments: Final April 6, 2020

Idaho BLM Priority Species	BLM Special Status Species Type	Nest Type & Location	Idaho Distribution	Breeding Habitat [1]	Idaho's Core Egg/Nestling Dates [2]	Recommended Nest Buffer Distances (Feet) [3]	Citations/Notes (BNA = Birds of North America Online; BSC = Bird Studies Canada)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	Cup; in shrubs/trees - nest mostly 1-6m high, rarely to 27m	Southern	R	June 1 - Sep 1	Consult with USFWS on buffers for YBCU and other T/E species case by case basis	BNA, BSC
Bald Eagle	2	Large stick nest; high in trees or on cliff	Statewide	R, W, SS, G, DC, MC, L, AG, C/R	Feb 1 - Aug 15	2,640 to 5,280	BNA; Buffer is consistent with Idaho BLM IB 2010-039
Black Swift	2	Mossy cup nest on ledge, usually under waterfall or in cave	Central and Northern	MC, C/R	May 25-Sept 15	75	BNA
Black Tern	2	Floating or on mud, etc. in wetlands	Statewide but few breeding sites	W	May 15-Aug 15	300	BNA, BSC
Black-throated Sparrow	2	Cup; in shrub - mostly <0.5m high	Southern, patchy	SS, C/R	April 15-July 15 (Aug 1)	75	BNA (biased towards southern latitudes so adjusted)
Brewer's Sparrow	2	Cup; in shrub - mostly <0.75m high	Southern and Westcentral	SS, G	May 1-July 25 (Aug 7)	75	BNA, BSC; rare in Pinyon/Juniper, at edges
Burrowing Owl	2	Underground burrow (including artificial)	Southern	SS, G, AG, C/R	Mar 7 to Aug 7	1,320	BNA, BSC . Nest dates per Dr. James Belthoff, Boise State Univ. Buffer consistent with Idaho BLM IB 2010-039
Cassin's Finch	2	Cup near crown or on lateral branch; usually >5m high	Statewide	R, DC, MC, AL, L, P/J, MB	May 15-July 31 (Aug 15)	75	BNA, BSC
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	2	Ground; usually under shrubs or residual cover	Mostly Southeast; one population near Weiser	SS, G, AG	Apr 15-July 15 (Aug 15)	300	BNA
Ferruginous Hawk	2	Stick nest on lone trees/shrubs, cliffs, utility/artificial structures, and ground outcrops	Southern	SS, G, P/J, AG	March 15-July 15 (Aug 1)	5,280	BNA, BSC; Buffer is consistent with Idaho BLM IB 2010-039
Flammulated Owl	2	Cavities, sometimes nest boxes; usually in live trees	Statewide, patchy	DC, MC, P/J, AS	May 1-Aug 15	200	BNA, BSC; rare in Pinyon/Juniper;
Golden Eagle	2	Large stick nest; on cliff, high in trees, or utility structures	Statewide	SS, G, DC, MC, P/J, AS, MB, AG, C/R	March 15-Aug 15	2,640 to 5,280	BNA, BSC; Buffer is consistent with Idaho BLM IB 2010-039
Grasshopper Sparrow	2	Domed ground nest, usually under grass or forb	Statewide, patchy (especially Southern) but also Westcentral and Northern	SS, G, AG	May 1-July 15 (July 31)	75	BNA, BSC
Greater Sage-grouse	2	Ground; usually under sagebrush or residual grass cover	Southern	SS, G, AG	April 1- June 30	300	BNA - IDFG responded - April 1- June 30 was consensus
Green-tailed Towhee	2	Cup; in/under shrub from ground to 0.7m	Southern and a bit of Central	SS, DC, P/J, AS, MB	May 1-July 31 (Aug 7)	75	BNA
Harlequin Duck	2	On ground, small cliff ledges, in tree cavities, or on stumps - close to water	Mostly Northern, patchy	R	Apr 15-Aug 31 (Sep 20)	300	BNA and Harlequin Duck Conservation Assessment and Strategy. Cassirer, E.,F., J.D. Reichel, R.L. Wallen, and E.C. Atkinson. 1996. Harlequin Duck (Histrionicus histrionicus) United States Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management Habitat Conservation Assessment and Conservation Strategy for the U.S. Rocky Mountains.
Lewis's Woodpecker	2	Cavities in live or dead trees; nest height from 1.5–51.8m but usually 7-12m	Statewide, patchy	R, DC, MC, AS	May 1-Aug 31	50	BNA
Loggerhead Shrike	2	Cup; in shrubs/trees (incl. sagebrush & juniper) - nest mostly 0.7-2.3m high	Southern and a bit of Westcentral	SS, G, P/J, MB, AG	April 23-July 31	75	BNA
Long-billed Curlew	2	Scrape on ground - often near conspicuous objects (livestock dung, rocks, dirt mounds)	Mostly Southern and Central	SS, G, AG	April 1-June 30 (July 15)	75	BNA, BSC
Mountain Quail	2	Ground; usually under dense shrubs, saplings, logs, etc. and often on/near slope	Westcentral, very local	R, DC, MB	March 15-Aug 1 (Aug 15)	100	BNA
Northern Goshawk	2	Large stick nest in coniferous or deciduous; usually 7-17m high	Statewide	DC, MC, L, P/J, AS	Apr 15-July 31	2,640	BNA, BSC; rare in Pinyon/Juniper; Buffer is consistent with Idaho BLM IB 2010-039
Olive-sided Flycatcher	2	Cup, usually on lateral branches with some shade; most nest heights 1.5–34m	Statewide	R, DC, MC, AL, L, AS	May 25-Aug 7 (Aug 15)	75	BNA, BSC; mostly breeds in high elevation/subalpine forests but uses any forest type in migration
Pinyon Jay	2	Cup, from near trunk to outer branches; nest heights 1 (rare)–35m	Southeast	DC, P/J	Feb 15-July 15	75	BNA; broad & variable breeding timing across range & year to year; also, they occur in other habitats (like dry conifer) during irruptive movements and in NE portion of range (Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota) but they aren't key to breeding (that we know of) in Idaho
Sagebrush Sparrow	2	Cup; mainly in shrubs (<0.5m), also in bunchgrass and occasionally on ground under shrub	Southern	SS	March 15-July 15 (July 31)	75	BNA; they do arrive to Idaho by early March
Sage Thrasher	2	Cup, in shrubs (mostly sagebrush) 8–154 cm high	Southern and Central	SS, G, MB, AG	Apr 15-July 15 (Aug 5)	75	BNA
Short-eared Owl	2	Scrape on ground - often with high cover nearby but not always	Mostly Southern and Central	W, SS, G, AG	March 15-June 30 (July 15)	300	BNA, BSC
Trumpeter Swan	2	Mounded nest with deep bowl in wetlands	Statewide, mostly Eastern	W	Apr 23-July 23	300	BNA
Vaux's Swift	2	In hollows of live or dead trees (rarely chimney); nests attached to inner wall	Central and Northern	R, MC	May 15-Aug 15	75	BNA
Virginia's Warbler	2	Cup on/near ground under shrubs, saplings, or grasses	Southcentral and Southeast	DC, P/J, AS, MB	May 7-July 25	75	BNA; predominantly in Pinyon/Juniper and dry conifer but also in adjacent aspen and deciduous shrubs (mountain brush)
White-headed Woodpecker	2	Cavity; usually located low (2.5-3m) in large-diameter conifers	Southwest and Westcentral	DC, MC	Apr 28-Aug 15	50	BNA; predominantly in dry conifer (especially Ponderosa and mixed Ponderosa/Douglas-fir)
Willow Flycatcher	2	Cup; in shrubs, mostly <2m high but varies	Statewide, patchy	R, W	May 25-Aug 25	300	BNA, BSC

Notes:

1. Habitat abbreviations: R=riparian, W=wetlands, SS=shrubsteppe, G=grasslands, DC=dry conifer, MC=mixed conifer, AL=alpine, L=lodgepole pine, P/J=pinyon-juniper, AS=aspen, MB=mountain brush, AG=agriculture, C/R=cliff/rock

2. Breeding times may vary across the state, due to other factors such as weather and elevation (i.e. being delayed especially in higher elevation and northern forests). Thus, biologists may modify using better local information. Core breeding dates (when up to 80+% of population is expected to breed) are shown and parenthetical end dates are shown for consideration of higher elevations and/or later than usual spring seasons/phenologies. Sources include Birds of North America Online; Bird Studies Canada; Expert opinion within Idaho.

3. If land management plans (e.g., Resource Management Plans, Management Framework Plans) include species-specific nesting dates and/or buffers, refer to those. Dates and buffer distances shown in this spreadsheet are suggested, in lieu of other options. They are derived from a variety of sources including Pacific Gas and Electric guidelines, Idaho Power Avian Protection Plan, Idaho BLM Information Bulletin 2010-039, the Harlequin Duck Conservation Assessment and Strategy and expert opinion. This spreadsheet focuses on "Priority" avian species as defined in the accompanying document, and is not intended to be comprehensive. If buffers or nesting dates are desired for other bird species (e.g., non-priority species such as red-tailed hawk, prairie falcon or others), please refer to Idaho BLM IB 2010-039, Idaho Power Avian Protection Plan, USFWS Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, or other avian experts, as appropriate.

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