

## **CHAPTER SIX DELETED AND DROPPED SPECIES**

### **DELETED SPECIES**

In 1996, the West Mojave Supergroup recommended that approximately 100 specifically identified plants and animals be considered by the Plan. Species accounts were prepared by a team of scientists assembled by the Biological Resources Division of the United States Geological Survey. During the course of the evaluation, biologists from the West Mojave planning team reviewed the species accounts, and as a result of their review recommend that thirteen species be deleted from the list of species to be considered in the Plan. The reasons for this recommendation include the following: 1) the species does not occur within the WMPA, 2) it is peripheral to the WMPA, 3) it is vagrant or accidental within the WMPA, or 4) it is too common and no protection measures are needed within the WMPA. Service and Department biologists met with the West Mojave team on January 29, 1998 and concurred with this decision. The species deleted from further consideration by the West Mojave Plan are listed below. Numbers in parentheses correspond to the reasons for deletion given above.

California gull (4)	Hepatic tanager (3)
Double-crested cormorant (4)	Virginia's warbler (2)
Bank swallow (2)	Vaux's swift (2)
American white pelican (2)	Yuma clapper rail (3)
Sharp-shinned hawk (4)	Long-billed curlew (2)
Pocketed free-tailed bat (3)	Fringed myotis (3)
Spanish Needle onion (1)	

### **DROPPED SPECIES**

The evaluation team reviewed all remaining species on the list developed by the Supergroup. The Department and the Service recommend that twenty-one species not be addressed by the Plan because of insufficient data, because they were being separately addressed by other Habitat Conservation Plans and Biological Opinions already underway, because they were too common, or for other reasons.

#### **Insufficient data**

The available information on certain plants and animals was judged to be insufficient to prepare a conservation plan, to estimate take, or to predict with reasonable certainty that the conservation measures suggested would be appropriate. Additional information developed in the future about the range and habitat of these species may allow for their later inclusion in the Plan. For some species, the validity of the taxon is in question, for others, information on specific distribution within the planning area is lacking. None of

these species are believed to be at risk of extinction for the foreseeable future.

Coulter's goldfields  
Flat-seeded spurge  
Jackass clover  
Piute Mountains jewelflower  
Ripley's cymopterus  
Ripley's gilia  
Robinson's peppergrass  
Sagebrush loeflingea  
Southern scullcap  
Tehachapi pocket mouse  
Tricolored blackbird

### **Deferred Pending Additional Information**

Certain species are in need of protection, but the available data cannot support preparation of a conservation plan, nor can it meet the requirements of incidental take permits. The West Mojave team recommends that additional information be gathered on these species so that they can receive coverage under the permit provisions of the plan by amendment at a later date. The need for surveys and research is relatively urgent, since many of these species could become listed as threatened or endangered under state and federal endangered species acts within the foreseeable future.

The deferred species are:

Lancaster milkvetch  
Burrowing owl  
Gray vireo  
Mojave River vole  
Salt Springs checkerbloom

### **Separately Addressed by Other HCPs and Biological Opinions**

Several listed species whose occurrence in the planning area is limited to a single or very few locations are already covered by existing HCPs or biological opinions, or will be addressed by HCPs and biological opinions that are currently in the planning stage.

Species in this category include the following:

- Bald eagle BO in process for Rancho Las Flores development (Hesperia)
- Arroyo toad BOs in process for Rancho Las Flores development,

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
|                                  | Summit Valley development (Hesperia)   |
| ● Red-legged frog                | BO issued for improvements on Elizabeth Lake Road (Palmdale)                           |
| ● Least Bell's vireo             | BO issued for Mojave River Floodplain Management Plan (Hesperia downstream to Barstow) |
| ● Southwestern willow flycatcher | BO issued for Mojave River Floodplain Management Plan (Hesperia to Barstow)            |
| ● Western yellow-billed cuckoo   | BO issued for Mojave River Floodplain Management Plan (Hesperia to Barstow)            |

### Too common

After review and analysis, the following species were judged to be too common within the planning area to merit coverage under the West Mojave Plan. Existing threats to these species, if any, are not likely to result in their future designation as threatened or endangered. Protection of individuals and habitat appears to be adequate.

Cooper's hawk  
 Foxtail cactus  
 Loggerhead shrike  
 Sand Linanthus

### Other Reasons

Two species were determined to be best addressed on a case-by-case basis. They are listed below with the reasons for individual consideration.

**Mojave Tui Chub:** The Mojave tui chub is a small fish native to the Mojave River. It now occurs at a single natural site, Soda Spring near Zzyzx, east of the planning area and two introduced locations, Lark Seep at China Lake NAWA and Camp Cady. The deep pools and sloughs that represent the original habitat of this fish have nearly disappeared from the Mojave River. Reintroduction is not very feasible because of the presence of arroyo chubs in the river, which hybridize with the Mojave tui chub and have virtually eliminated pure populations.

The Mojave tui chub is listed as endangered by both the state and federal governments, and a recovery plan has been prepared. Agency biologists agree that the Department and the Service will continue to manage the existing populations of this fish at their protected

sites. Any fish re-introduced into the Mojave River would be considered experimental, non-essential populations, reducing the need for incidental take permits. Secure habitats must be created that have an assured clean water supply, are free of invasive plants such as tamarisk, are free of arroyo chubs, other non-native fish and bullfrogs, and that will not be disturbed by human activity. The wildlife agencies will manage this species, and specific conservation measures by the private sector have not been identified at this time.

**Swainson's hawk:** Swainson's hawk is known from less than five nesting locations within the planning area, all on private land. It is sighted throughout the planning area during fall and spring migration. This bird is not currently threatened where it occurs in the planning area. A regional plan cannot be developed for such a localized species, and it will be considered by the Department and the Service individually if threats arise or development plans are proposed in the future for the nesting locations.