

Appendix A. Special-Status Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring Within the City of Williams Sphere of Influence

| Common Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>) | Legal Status* Federal/State | Habitat Requirements | Presence in General Plan Area/ Known Occurrences |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| BIRDS | | | |
| Swainson's hawk (<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>) | -- / T | Breeds in Central Valley; nests in valley oaks, cottonwoods, willows and a variety of other trees often in, or near, riparian habitats; may also use non-native trees, such as eucalyptus and conifers for nesting; forages in grasslands, irrigated pastures, and a variety of agricultural row and field crops; shows a preference for alfalfa | One active nest reported in General Plan Area between Interstate 5 and Highway 99W, north of Crawford Road in 2000; another nest occurrence south of the General Plan Area; agricultural fields provide suitable foraging habitat for this species; however, rice fields are considered low-quality foraging habitat; large, mature trees in the General Plan Area are potential nest trees |
| Northern harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) | --/CSC | Year-round resident of the Central Valley; nests in marshes, other wetlands, and undisturbed grasslands; forages in grasslands, wetlands, and agricultural fields | No records; not likely to nest in the General Plan Area, although harriers may forage in agricultural fields |
| White-tailed kite (<i>Elanus leucurus</i>) | -- / FP | Year-round resident of valley and coastal lowlands; typically nests in mature trees or willows near suitable foraging habitat, including agricultural fields and open grasslands | No records; suitable nesting trees occur in the General Plan Area; suitable foraging habitat includes rice fields, other agricultural crops, and ditches |
| Greater sandhill crane (<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>) | --/T, FP | Breeds in northeastern California and winters in the Central Valley; nests in wet meadows interspersed with emergent marsh habitat; winters in agricultural croplands, irrigated pastures, and wetlands | Outside known breeding range; individuals may occasionally forage in agricultural lands during migration; likely an uncommon visitor to the General Plan Area |
| White-faced ibis (<i>Plegadis chihi</i>) | --/CSC | Breeds and winters in the Central Valley; requires extensive marshes for its nesting colonies; nests in emergent vegetation, shrubs, or low trees; forages for invertebrates in croplands and pastures flooded for waterfowl | No records; breeds at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge; unlikely to breed in General Plan Area; possible uncommon visitor to agricultural fields |
| Mountain plover (<i>Charadrius montanus</i>) | --/CSC | Winter resident of short grasslands and plowed fields in the Central Valley | No records; individuals may occasionally forage in agricultural fields within General Plan Area |
| Burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>) | -- /CSC | Year-round resident of the Central Valley; occupies mammal burrows year-round, especially those excavated by California ground squirrels along fence lines adjacent to open grasslands with sparse vegetation; may also use artificial structures for burrows | No records; could occur where ground squirrels construct burrows along ruderal road edges, ruderal fields, or fields left fallow |
| Loggerhead shrike | -- / CSC | Year-round resident of the Central Valley and | No records; suitable nesting and foraging habitat |

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|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> | | foothills; inhabits open habitats with scattered shrubs, trees, and posts for perching; nests in large shrubs and medium-sized trees | occur in the General Plan Area |
| Song sparrow (Modesto population) <i>Melospiza melodia</i> | --/CSC | Year-round resident Butte Sink south to Stanislaus County; occupies freshwater marshes, riparian thickets, ditches, and canals | No records; known to occur at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge; potential habitat includes rice fields and ditches in the General plan Area |
| Tricolored blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> | -- / CSC | Breeds and winters in Central Valley and coastal valleys; typically nests colonially (from a few individuals to thousands) in dense stands of cattails and tules, or in upland sites with blackberries, nettles, or thistles; nomadic during the breeding season | One nesting record in the General Plan Area along Highway 20 at Husted Road in 1933 (presumed extirpated by Beedy <i>et al.</i> [1991]; additional historic nesting occurrences within 2 miles of the City of Williams (i.e., north, east, and south of Williams) (presumed extirpated); potential nesting habitats are limited to narrow ditches; individuals or flocks may use grain fields for foraging, especially rice fields |
| REPTILES | | | |
| Giant garter snake <i>Thamnophis gigas</i> | T / T | Year-round resident of Central Valley; prefers low-gradient streams and sloughs; occupies habitats containing permanent or seasonal water, mud bottoms, and vegetated dirt banks; requires sufficient water during the active summer season to supply food and cover, emergent vegetation, bank side burrows, and upland refugia; refugia include uplands and levees within 200 feet of aquatic habitats | Several records within 2 miles of General Plan Area: Husted Road 1 mile north of E Street; Freshwater Creek west of Interstate 5; along Lurline Road 1 mile west of Interstate 5; Salt Creek at Old Highway 99 north of Williams; Glenn-Colusa Canal at Highway 20 and at Freshwater Creek; potential habitat in General Plan Area includes drainage ditches, emergent marshes, ponds, and rice fields (especially where aquatic or emergent vegetation is present) |
| Western pond turtle <i>Clemmys marmorata</i> | -- / CSC | Resident of Central Valley and foothills; occurs in a variety of aquatic habitats (e.g., ponds, marshes, sloughs, irrigation ditches, and wetlands) providing adequate basking sites from which turtles may readily escape to the water; females have been found to nest as far as 0.5 km from water | No records; potential habitat in the General Plan Area includes creeks, ditches, and ponds; most of these habitats only provide seasonal aquatic habitats when they are wet |

| AMPHIBIANS | | | |
|---|---------|---|--|
| California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) | T / CSC | Resident of Central Valley and foothills; breeds in vernal pools and ponds, typically lacking predatory fish; seeks cover in rodent burrows in grasslands near breeding pools and ponds | No records; Williams General Plan Area is outside the known range of tiger salamanders; Yolo County is the nearest known occurrence |
| INVERTEBRATES | | | |
| Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>) | T / -- | Associated exclusively with elderberry shrubs in Central Valley and foothills during its entire life cycle; larvae bore into elderberry stems and feed upon the pith during their 2-year life cycle | One record more than 5 miles NE of City limits; isolated elderberry shrubs could occur in the General Plan Area |
| Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) | E/-- | Associated with vernal pools and swales and human-made ditches and wetlands in the Sacramento Valley | Detected in the northern portion of the Williams General Plan Area in 1993; ditches and other wetlands in the General Plan Area provide potential habitat for this species |

***Legal Status Definitions**

Federal

- E = Listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act
- T = Listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act
- = No designation

State

- E = Listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act
- T = Listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act
- CSC = California Species of Special Concern
- FP = Fully protected species
- = No designation

Source: Beedy *et al.* 1991. Breeding status, distribution, and habitat associations of the tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) 1850-1989. June 1991. California Natural Diversity Database. 2010. Computer search of Williams and surrounding USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles. Shuford, W.D. and T.Gardali, eds. 2008. California bird species of special concern.. Studies of western birds I. Western Field Ornithologists, Camarillo, CA and California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA.