

Criteria for Designating Wildlife Species of Special Concern

Boulder County maintains a Species of Special Concern (SSC) List for the purpose of conserving and preserving wildlife species and their habitat in the county. A species must meet one of the following criteria to be incorporated into the List:

1. Species with Federal status (listed or proposed threatened or endangered, candidates for listing, or under review for listing) or State status (threatened or endangered);
2. Species considered to be sensitive that appear on the following lists: Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Species of Concern, U.S. Forest Service Region 2 – Sensitive Species, U.S. Bureau of Land Management – Sensitive Species, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Birds of Conservation Concern;
3. Species that have undergone a documented long-term noncyclical population decline, or whose abundance is critically low relative to their expected abundance in a given habitat type or quality;
4. Species occurring in Boulder County that are naturally rare ¹;
5. Species that are dependent upon isolated or restricted² habitat for at least a portion of their life cycle;
6. Species that have a disproportionately large effect on the structure and function of the ecosystem(s) they inhabit, and thus promote species diversity, ecosystem function and natural processes;
7. Extirpated species that historically occupied and are native to Boulder County;
8. Species of global or continental concern whose populations are stable in Boulder County (e.g. Colorado Natural Heritage Program - G1S4);
9. Species whose populations in the County may be currently secure, but are vulnerable to imminent threats affecting their populations either directly or indirectly³.
10. Species of undetermined status which require further research and/or monitoring.

The Boulder County SSC list is a compilation of special status species identified by federal, state, and local governmental agencies, as well as non-governmental conservation organizations and conservation experts, as species that warrant protection in order to prevent the loss of habitat or populations.

¹ Species which are “naturally rare” normally occur in low abundance throughout their range. While their populations may be stable, species that are rare on the landscape are more vulnerable to extirpation or extinction compared to species with large populations.

² “Isolated or restricted” habitat is defined as a discrete area that is distinguished from surrounding habitat by its unique features (biotic or abiotic). Such habitat is typically rare and patchily distributed on the landscape. Species that rely on “isolated or restricted” habitat are more vulnerable to extirpation than those that are widely distributed or are habitat generalists.

³ Direct threats to populations include loss of individuals from overexploitation or other means of direct mortality. Indirect threats include habitat degradation, competition with invasive species, increased prevalence of disease and pollution, and climate change.

Boulder County Wildlife Species of Special Concern

Boulder County Species of Special Concern

Species Name	Class	Criteria	Imperiled
1 Frog, Chorus <i>Pseudacris triseriata</i>	Amphibian	9	
2 Frog, Northern Leopard <i>Rana pipiens</i>	Amphibian	2	*
3 Salamander, Tiger <i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>	Amphibian	9	
4 Toad, Boreal <i>Anaxyrus boreas</i>	Amphibian	1,2	*
5 Toad, Plains Spadefoot <i>Spea bombifrons</i>	Amphibian	9	
6 Avocet, American <i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	Bird	5	
7 Bittern, American <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Bird	2,5	
8 Bittern, Least <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Bird	4,5	
9 Blackbird, Yellow-headed <i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Bird	3,5	
10 Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Bird	3,5	
11 Bunting, Indigo <i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Bird	3	
12 Bunting, Lark <i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>	Bird	2,3	
13 Bunting, Lazuli <i>Passerina amoena</i>	Bird	3	
14 Bushtit <i>Psatritriparus minimus</i>	Bird	5	
15 Cormorant, Double-crested <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Bird	5	
16 Crossbill, White-winged <i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	Bird	4,9	
17 Dipper, American <i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	Bird	5	
18 Duck, Ring-necked <i>Aythya collaris</i>	Bird	4,5	
19 Duck, Wood <i>Aix sponsa</i>	Bird	5	
20 Eagle, Bald <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bird	1,2,5	
21 Eagle, Golden <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Bird	2,5	
22 Egret, Great <i>Ardea alba</i>	Bird	4,5	
23 Falcon, Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Bird	2,4,5	
24 Falcon, Prairie <i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Bird	2,5	
25 Flicker, Northern <i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Bird	3	
26 Flycatcher, Olive-sided <i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Bird	2,5	
27 Flycatcher, Willow <i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Bird	1,2,3,5	*
28 Goshawk, Northern <i>Accipter gentilis</i>	Bird	2,5	
29 Grebe, Eared <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Bird	3,4	
30 Harrier, Northern <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Bird	2,3,4,5	*
31 Hawk, Ferruginous <i>Buteo regalis</i>	Bird	2,3,5	
32 Hawk, Rough-legged <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Bird	5	
33 Heron, Black-crowned Night <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Bird	5	
34 Heron, Great Blue <i>Ardea herodias</i>	Bird	5	
35 Kingfisher, Belted <i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	Bird	3	

Species Name	Class	Criteria	Imperiled
36 Kinglet, Golden-crowned <i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Bird	5	
37 Lark, Horned <i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Bird	3	
38 Mockingbird, Northern <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Bird	4,5	
39 Ovenbird <i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	Bird	4	
40 Owl, Boreal <i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Bird	2,5,10	
41 Owl, Burrowing <i>Athene cucularia</i>	Bird	1,2,3,5	*
42 Owl, Flammulated <i>Otus flammeolus</i>	Bird	2,5	
43 Owl, Long-eared <i>Asio otus</i>	Bird	3	
44 Owl, Short-eared <i>Asio flammeus</i>	Bird	2,4,5	
45 Pigeon, Band-tailed <i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Bird	10	
46 Ptarmigan, White-tailed <i>Lagopus leucura</i>	Bird	2,5,9	
47 Redstart, American <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Bird	4	
48 Rosy-Finch, Brown-capped <i>Leucosticte australis</i>	Bird	2,5	
49 Scrub-Jay, Western <i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	Bird	5	
50 Shrike, Loggerhead <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Bird	2,3,5	*
51 Siskin, Pine <i>Spinus pinus</i>	Bird	3	
52 Sparrow, Brewer's <i>Spizella breweri</i>	Bird	2,3,5	
53 Sparrow, Cassin's <i>Peucaea cassinii</i>	Bird	2,3	
54 Sparrow, Fox <i>Passerella iliaca</i>	Bird	5	
55 Sparrow, Grasshopper <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Bird	2,3,5	
56 Swallow, Bank <i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bird	3	
57 Swift, Black <i>Cypseloides niger</i>	Bird	2,4,5	
58 Thrasher, Sage <i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	Bird	4,5	
59 Veery <i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Bird	2,4,5	
60 Vireo, Plumbeous <i>Vireo plumbeus</i>	Bird	3,5	
61 Warbler, Virginia's <i>Oreothlypis virginiae</i>	Bird	8	
62 Warbler, Wilson's <i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	Bird	3,5	
63 Waxwing, Cedar <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Bird	4,5	
64 Woodpecker, American Three-toed <i>Picoides dorsalis</i>	Bird	2,5	
65 Woodpecker, Lewis's <i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Bird	2,3,5	
66 Woodpecker, Red-headed <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Bird	3,5,10	
67 Wren, Rock <i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	Bird	3	
68 Chub, Lake <i>Couesius plumbeus</i>	Fish	1,5	*
69 Darter, Iowa <i>Etheostoma exile</i>	Fish	2,4,5	
70 Darter, Johnny <i>Etheostoma nigrum</i>	Fish	3,5	

Boulder County Wildlife Species of Special Concern

Boulder County Species of Special Concern (continued)

	Species Name	Class	Criteria	Imperiled
71	Minnow, Brassy <i>Hybognathus hankinsoni</i>	Fish	1,5	*
72	Shiner, Bigmouth <i>Notropis dorsalis</i>	Fish	3,5	
73	Shiner, Common <i>Notropis cornutus</i>	Fish	1,5	*
74	Stonecat <i>Noturus flavus</i>	Fish	2,4,5	*
75	Topminnow, Plains <i>Fundulus sciadicus</i>	Fish	3	*
76	Trout, Greenback Cutthroat <i>Oncorhynchus clarki</i>	Fish	1,3,9	*
77	Capshell, Rocky Mountain <i>Acroloxus coloradensis</i>	Gastropod	2,3	*
78	Floater, Giant <i>Anodonta grandis</i>	Gastropod	3	
79	Papershell, Cylindrical <i>Anodontoides ferussacianus</i>	Gastropod	2,3	*
80	Physa, Banded <i>Physa utahensis</i>	Gastropod	3	*
81	Sprite, Umbilicate <i>Promenetus umbilicatellus</i>	Gastropod	3	
82	(A miner bee) <i>Macrotera opuntiae</i>	Insect	5,10	
83	Alpine, Theano <i>Erebia pawlowskii</i>	Insect	4	
84	Azure, Hops Feeding <i>Celastrina humulus</i>	Insect	4,5,9	
85	Bee, American Bumble <i>Bombus pensylvanicus</i>	Insect	3	
86	Bee, Black and Gold Bumble <i>Bombus auricomus</i>	Insect	4,5	
87	Bee, Variable Cuckoo Bumble <i>Bombus variabilis</i>	Insect	4,10	
88	Bee, Western Bumble <i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	Insect	3,6	*
89	Beetle, Prairie Tiger <i>Cicindela nebraskana</i>	Insect	5,9,10	
90	Blue, Colorado <i>Euphilotes rita coloradensis</i>	Insect	4,10	
91	Dancer, Blue-Ringed <i>Argia sedula</i>	Insect	3,10	
92	Darner, Lake <i>Aeshna eremita</i>	Insect	5,10	*
93	Dragonfly, Hudsonian Emerald <i>Somatochlora hudsonica</i>	Insect	2,5,10	
94	Duskywing, Mottled <i>Erynnis martialis</i>	Insect	4,5	
95	Elfin, Moss's <i>Calophrys mossii</i>	Insect	4,5	
96	Emerald, American <i>Cordulia shurtleffi</i>	Insect	5	
97	Fritillary, Regal <i>Speyeria idalia</i>	Insect	2,3,5	*
98	Jutta, Rocky Mountain Arctic <i>Oeneis jutta</i>	Insect	3,9	
99	Skipper, Arogos <i>Atrytone arogos</i>	Insect	4,5	
100	Skipper, Cross-line <i>Polites origenes</i>	Insect	4,5	
101	Skipper, Dusted <i>Atrytonopsis hianna</i>	Insect	4,5	
102	Skipper, Ottoe <i>Hesperia ottoe</i>	Insect	2,4,5	
103	Skipper, Rhesus <i>Polites rhesus</i>	Insect	3,4	
104	Skipper, Simius Roadside <i>Amblyscirtes simius</i>	Insect	3,5	
105	Skipper, Snow's <i>Paratrytone snowi</i>	Insect	3,5	

	Species Name	Class	Criteria	Imperiled
106	Skipper, Two-spotted <i>Euphyes bimacula</i>	Insect	4	
107	Badger, American <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	Mammal	3	
108	Bat, Big Brown <i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Mammal	9	
109	Bat, Brazilian Free-tailed <i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	Mammal	4,8,9	
110	Bat, Eastern Red <i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	Mammal	4,8	
111	Bat, Hoary <i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Mammal	4,8	
112	Bat, Silver-haired <i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Mammal	5	
113	Bat, Townsend's Big-eared <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Mammal	2,3,4,9	
114	Bat, Tricolored <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Mammal	9	
115	Beaver, North American <i>Castor canadensis</i>	Mammal	5,6	
116	Fox, Gray <i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	Mammal	5,10	
117	Jackrabbit, White-tailed <i>Lepus townsendii</i>	Mammal	3,10	*
118	Lynx, Canada <i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Mammal	1,2,3	
119	Marten, American <i>Martes americana</i>	Mammal	2,5	
120	Mouse, Northern Rock <i>Peromyscus nasutus</i>	Mammal	5	
169	Chipmunk, Uinta <i>Neotamias umbrinus</i>	Mammal	10	
170	Gopher, Northern Pocket <i>Thomomys talpoides</i>	Mammal	10	
171	Mink, American <i>Neovison vison</i>	Mammal	10	
172	Mouse, Northern Grasshopper <i>Onychomys leucogaster</i>	Mammal	10	
173	Mouse, Olive-back Pocket <i>Perognathus fasciatus</i>	Mammal	5,10	
174	Mouse, Plains Harvest <i>Reithrodontomys montanus</i>	Mammal	4,10	
175	Mouse, Plains Pocket <i>Perognathus flavescens</i>	Mammal	5,10	
176	Mouse, Silky Pocket <i>Perognathus flavus</i>	Mammal	4,5,10	
177	Shrew, Dwarf <i>Sorex nanus</i>	Mammal	10	
178	Shrew, Merriam's <i>Sorex merriami</i>	Mammal	5,10	
179	Vole, Heather <i>Phenacomys intermedius</i>	Mammal	5,10	
180	Snake, Lined <i>Tropidoclonion lineatum</i>	Reptile	9,10	*
121	Mouse, Prebles Meadow Jumping <i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Mammal	1,2,5	
122	Myotis, Fringed <i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Mammal	2,4,5,8,9	
123	Myotis, Little Brown <i>Myotis lucifugas</i>	Mammal	5,9	
124	Myotis, Long-eared <i>Myotis evotis</i>	Mammal	4	
125	Myotis, Long-legged <i>Myotis volans</i>	Mammal	5,8	
126	Myotis, Western Small-footed <i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	Mammal	5	
127	Otter, River <i>Lontra canadensis</i>	Mammal	1,2,4	
128	Pika <i>Ochotona princeps</i>	Mammal	5,9	

Boulder County Wildlife Species of Special Concern

Boulder County Species of Special Concern (continued)

Species Name	Class	Criteria	Imperiled
129 Porcupine, North American <i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	Mammal	3	
130 Prairie Dog, Black-tailed <i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	Mammal	2,3,6,9	
131 Rat, Ord's Kangaroo <i>Dipodomys ordii</i>	Mammal	5,10	
132 Ringtail <i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	Mammal	4,10	
133 Sheep, Rocky Mountain Bighorn <i>Ovis canadensis canadensis</i>	Mammal	2,9	
134 Shrew, American Water <i>Sorex palustris</i>	Mammal	5	
135 Shrew, Least <i>Cryptotis parva</i>	Mammal	5	
136 Squirrel, Spotted Ground <i>Xeroperomophilus spilosoma</i>	Mammal	4,5,9,10	
137 Squirrel, Thirteen-lined Ground <i>Ictidomys tridecemlineatus</i>	Mammal	5	
138 Vole, Meadow <i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	Mammal	5	
139 Lizard, Short-Horned <i>Phrynosoma hernandesi</i>	Reptile	4,5,10	*
140 Snake, Common Garter <i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Reptile	2,3	
141 Snake, Milk <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>	Reptile	4,9	
142 Turtle, Spiny Softshell <i>Apalone spinifera</i>	Reptile	4,10	

Extirpated Species

Species Name	Class	Criteria	Imperiled
143 Toad, Great Plains <i>Bufo Cognatus</i>	Amphibian	7	
144 Curlew, Long-billed <i>Numenius americanus</i>	Bird	2,7	
145 Goldeneye, Barrow's <i>Bucephala islandica</i>	Bird	7	
146 Grouse, Plains Sharp-tailed <i>Tympanuchus phasianellus jamesi</i>	Bird	7	
147 Plover, Mountain <i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Bird	2,7	
148 Chub, Hornyhead <i>Nocomis biguttatus</i>	Fish	1,7	
149 Dace, Northern Redbelly <i>Phoxinus eos</i>	Fish	1	
150 Shiner, Blacknose <i>Notropis heterolepis</i>	Fish	7	
151 Jewelwing, River <i>Calopteryx aequabilis</i>	Insect	3	
152 Moth, Lost Ethmiid <i>Ethmia monachella</i>	Insect	7,10	
153 Bear, Grizzly <i>Ursus arctos</i>	Mammal	1,2,7	
154 Bison <i>Bison bison</i>	Mammal	7	
155 Ferret, Black-footed <i>Mustela nigripes</i>	Mammal	7	
156 Fox, Swift <i>Vulpes velox</i>	Mammal	7	
157 Pronghorn <i>Antilocarpa americana</i>	Mammal	7	
158 Wolf, Gray <i>Canis lupus</i>	Mammal	1,7	
159 Wolverine <i>Gulo gulo</i>	Mammal	1,2,7	

Species of Undetermined Status

Species Name	Class	Criteria	Imperiled
160 Owl, Mexican Spotted <i>Strix occidentalis</i>	Bird	1,10	
161 Owl, Northern Pygmy <i>Glaucidium gnoma</i>	Bird	10	
162 Sprite, Sharp <i>Promenetus exacuuous</i>	gastropod	2,3,10	*
163 (an Ant) <i>Aphaenogaster huachuana</i>	Insect	10	
164 (an Ant) <i>Formica laeviceps</i>	Insect	10	
165 (an Ant) <i>Stigmatomma pallipes</i>	Insect	10	
166 (an Ant) <i>Pheidole elecebra</i>	Insect	10	*
167 Skipper, Two-banded Checkered <i>Pyrgus ruralis</i>	Insect	7	
168 Chipmunk, Colorado <i>Neotamias quadrivittatus</i>	Mammal	10	
169 Chipmunk, Uinta <i>Neotamias umbrinus</i>	Mammal	10	
170 Gopher, Northern Pocket <i>Thomomys talpoides</i>	Mammal	10	
171 Mink, American <i>Neovison vison</i>	Mammal	10	
172 Mouse, Northern Grasshopper <i>Onychomys leucogaster</i>	Mammal	10	
173 Mouse, Olive-back Pocket <i>Perognathus fasciatus</i>	Mammal	5,10	
174 Mouse, Plains Harvest <i>Reithrodontomys montanus</i>	Mammal	4,10	
175 Mouse, Plains Pocket <i>Perognathus flavescens</i>	Mammal	5,10	
176 Mouse, Silky Pocket <i>Perognathus flavus</i>	Mammal	4,5,10	
177 Shrew, Dwarf <i>Sorex nanus</i>	Mammal	10	
178 Shrew, Merriam's <i>Sorex merriami</i>	Mammal	5,10	
179 Vole, Heather <i>Phenacomys intermedius</i>	Mammal	5,10	
180 Snake, Lined <i>Tropidoclonion lineatum</i>	Reptile	9,10	

Summary of changes to the Boulder County Species of Special Concern List from 1999 to 2013.

	Year	
	1994	2013
Total Species	153	180
New		64
Deleted		37

The Boulder County Species of Special Concern (SSC) list was updated from the current County list using the best and most current resources available. We compiled current and historical lists of special status species provided by various resource management agencies and conservation organizations. Many of these sources have been utilized in past Boulder County SSC lists and some are new resources for this update.