



PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Idalia Road Culvert Replacement
Project Type:	TRANSPORTATION, ROADS AND BRIDGES, ROADS AND BRIDGES-NEW CONSTRUCTION OR MAJOR EXPANSION/RETROFIT
Latitude/Longitude (DMS):	35.296784 / -106.636191
County(s):	SANDOVAL
Project Description:	<p>The City of Rio Rancho (CoRR) proposes to re-design the Idalia Road crossing at Arroyo de la Barranca. The project has a two-fold purpose: First, to re-design the existing, four 67-inch by 95-inch arch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culverts to address capacity, erosion issues, and bank stabilization; and second, the proposed culverts will be extended to accommodate the future widening of Idalia Road. This project does not include widening Idalia Road. The current alignment, grades, and dimensions of the roadway will be restored following culvert construction. Guidance for the project will follow New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and CoRR requirements. The project site is located where Idalia Road crosses the Arroyo de la Barranca with an approximate size of 6.1 acres of public and private land ("subject property") in Sandoval County, New Mexico(see Appendix A, Figures A.1 and A.2). Idalia Road connects NM Highway 528 and Northern Boulevard. The surrounding area is a mix of residential and undeveloped land. Rio Rancho Middle School is located southwest of the project site. Idalia Road was paved in the late 1990s when the current culvert was designed and constructed. Rio Rancho has experienced significant growth since Idalia Road's initial construction. Weston Solutions contracted SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to complete a pedestrian biological survey to identify, record, and assess any natural resources that might be affected within the area of potential effects (APE) for the proposed project, in accordance with New Mexico Department of Transportation guidelines. The results of the survey are presented in this biological survey report (BSR). The APE for new surface disturbance for consists of 6.06 acres (2.45 hectares) of private lands in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. The CoRR's purpose for this project is to design and construct a replacement road culvert crossing beneath Idalia Road to reduce a potential safety hazard. The existing culvert crossing is in danger of failing due to erosion damage and subsequently causing the collapse of a segment of Idalia Road itself, creating a significant safety hazard for motorists. The existing road culverts beneath Idalia Road are experiencing substantial erosion, particularly on the downstream side of Arroyo de la Baranca. Additionally, the current culvert crossing may not have sufficient capacity for runoff from the contributing watershed under future conditions. The project will involve demolition of a short segment of Idalia Road, excavation and removal of the existing corrugated metal pipes and concrete headwalls, construction of new concrete box culverts and concrete headwalls, construction of upstream and downstream erosion protection, backfill and reconstruction of Idalia Road, replacement of highway asphalt and striping, and removal and replacement of steel</p>



guardrails. The APE within the arroyo channel will be approximately 150 feet long and 60 feet wide and will include replacing culverts, building concrete headwalls, channel regrading, and installing erosion protection. Along Idalia Road will be approximately 250 long and 60 feet wide and include excavation down to the culverts for replacement, reconstruction of the road corridor back up to grade, and replacing asphalt and guardrails. It is anticipated that the depth of excavation from the arroyo bottom will be no more than 3 to 5 feet.

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Project Organization: CITY GOVERNMENT
Contact Name: Matthew McMillan
Email Address: mmcmillan@swca.com
Organization: SWCA Environmental Consultants
Address: 5647 Jefferson Street, NE, Albuquerque NM 87109
Phone: 5058187449

OVERALL STATUS

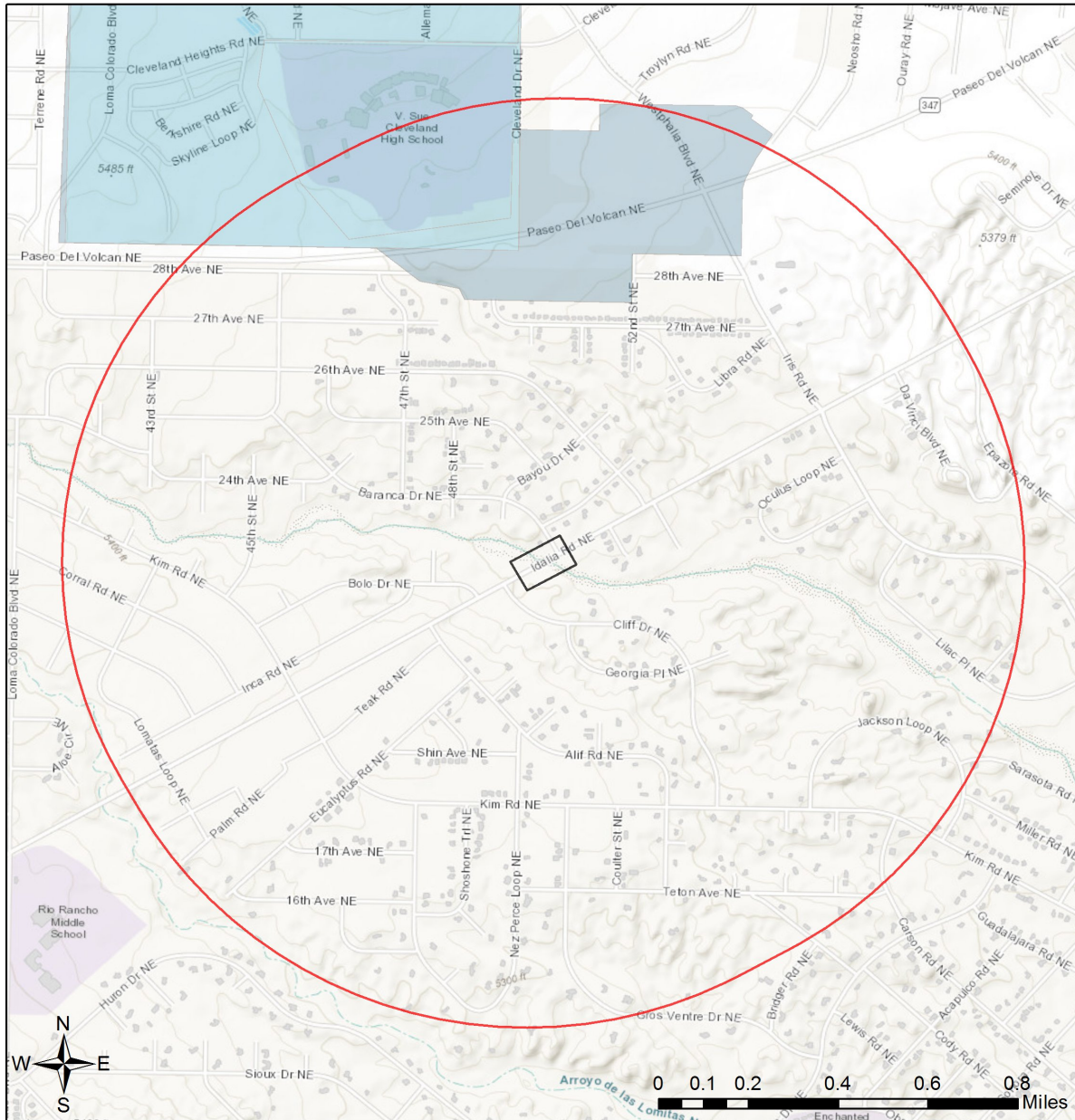
The information contained within this report comprises the recommendations of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) for management and mitigation of proposed project impacts to wildlife and habitat resources; see the Project Recommendations section below for further details. No further consultation with the Department is required based on the project's location and, with implementation of mitigation measures described in the Project Recommendations section below, no adverse effects to wildlife or important habitats are anticipated. However, a Department biologist may be in touch within 30 days if they determine that further review is required.

About this report:

- This environmental review is based on the project description and location that was entered. The report must be updated if the project type, area, or operational components are modified.
- This is a preliminary environmental screening assessment and report. It is not a substitute for the potential wildlife knowledge gained by having a biologist conduct a field survey of the project area. Federal status and plant data are provided as a courtesy to users. The review is also not intended to replace consultation required under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), including impact analyses for federal resources from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) using their [Information for Planning and Consultation tool](#).
- The New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (ERT) utilizes species observation locations and species distribution models, both of which are subject to ongoing change and refinement. Inclusion or omission of a species within a report can not guarantee species presence or absence at a precise point location, as might be indicated through comprehensive biological surveys. Specific questions regarding the potential for adverse impacts to vulnerable wildlife populations or habitats, especially in areas with a limited history of biological surveys, may require further on-site assessments.
- The Department encourages use of the ERT to modify proposed projects for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of wildlife impacts. However, the ERT is not intended to be used in a repeatedly iterative fashion to adjust project attributes until a previously determined recommendation is generated. The ERT serves to assess impacts once project details are developed. The [New Mexico Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool](#) is the appropriate system for advising early-stage project planning and design to avoid areas of anticipated wildlife concerns and associated regulatory requirements.



Idalia Road Culvert Replacement



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|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Project Boundary | NM Department of Game & Fish | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| Buffered Project Boundary | NM State Forestry Division | U.S. Bureau of Reclamation |
| NM_Ownership_20210316 | | |
| Bureau of Land Management | National Park Service | U.S. Department of Agriculture |
| City Land | Private | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| County Land | State Land Office | U.S. Forest Service |
| Department of Defense | State of New Mexico | U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| Department of Energy | Tribal Land | |

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Special Status Animal Species within 1 Miles of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI
Northern Leopard Frog	Lithobates pipiens			SGCN
Eared Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis			SGCN
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus			SGCN
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus		T	SGCN
Aplomado Falcon	Falco femoralis		E	SGCN
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus		T	SGCN
Mountain Plover	Charadrius montanus			SGCN
Elf Owl	Micrathene whitneyi			SGCN
Western Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia hypugaea			SGCN
Lewis's Woodpecker	Melanerpes lewis			SGCN
Red-Headed Woodpecker	Melanerpes erythrocephalus			SGCN
Williamson's Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus thyroideus			SGCN
Olive-Sided Flycatcher	Contopus cooperi			SGCN
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia			SGCN
Pinyon Jay	Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus			SGCN
Clark's Nutcracker	Nucifraga columbiana			SGCN
Juniper Titmouse	Baeolophus ridgwayi			SGCN
Pygmy Nuthatch	Sitta pygmaea			SGCN
Western Bluebird	Sialia mexicana			SGCN
Bendire's Thrasher	Toxostoma bendirei			SGCN
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus			SGCN
Gray Vireo	Vireo vicinior		T	SGCN
Painted Redstart	Myioborus pictus			SGCN
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum		T	SGCN
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	Cynomys ludovicianus			SGCN
Gunnison's Prairie Dog	Cynomys gunnisoni			SGCN
Cougar	Puma concolor			SERI
Mule Deer	Odocoileus hemionus			SERI

ESA = Endangered Species Act, WCA = Wildlife Conservation Act, SGCN = Species of Greatest Conservation Need, SERI = Species of Economic and Recreational Importance

Project Recommendations

Since the proposed highway project includes bridge or road construction activities, the Department recommends implementation of its [Bridge and Culvert Construction Guidelines for Stream, Riparian, and Wetland Habitats](#) for any rivers, streams, washes, springs, seeps, or riparian areas that are fall within the impact footprint of this project. These guidelines should assist in minimizing impacts to the river or wetland, and should be incorporated into the standard best management practices for these types of construction activities.

The Department also recommends that preconstruction bat surveys be conducted during summer months to determine if bats occur are present, and if they are determined to occur at bridge sites, work be scheduled to avoid impacting bats that may roost there (i.e., conduct work in winter months).



Burrowing owl is known to occur within or near your project area. Before any ground disturbing activities occur, the Department recommends that a preliminary survey be conducted between April and September, using the Department's [burrowing owl survey protocol](#). Should burrowing owls be documented in the project area, please contact the Department or USFWS for further recommendations regarding relocation or avoidance of impacts.

Disclaimers regarding recommendations:

- The Department provides technical guidance to support the persistence of all protected species of native fish and wildlife, including game and nongame wildlife species. Species listed within this report include those that have been documented to occur within the project area, and others that may not have been documented but are projected to occur within the project vicinity.
- Recommendations are provided by the Department under the authority of § 17-1-5.1 New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978, to provide "communication and consultation with federal and other state agencies, local governments and communities, private organizations and affected interests responsible for habitat, wilderness, recreation, water quality and environmental protection to ensure comprehensive conservation services for hunters, anglers and nonconsumptive wildlife users".
- The Department has no authority for management of plants or Important Plant Areas. The [New Mexico Endangered Plant Program](#), under the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department's Forestry Division, identifies and develops conservation measures necessary to ensure the survival of plant species within New Mexico. Plant status information is provided within this report as a courtesy to users. Recommendations provided within the ERT may not be sufficient to preclude impacts to rare or sensitive plants, unless conservation measures are identified in coordination with the Endangered Plant Program.
- Additional coordination may also be necessary under the federal ESA or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Further site-specific recommendations may be proposed during ESA and/or NEPA analyses, or through coordination with affected federal agencies.