



PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Santa Clara Pueblo

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION, ROADS AND BRIDGES, ROADS AND BRIDGES-MAINTENANCE/MINOR RETROFIT

Latitude/Longitude (DMS): 35.954523 / -106.106540

County(s): RIO ARRIBA

Project Description: The Santa Clara Pueblo (SCP) in coordination with the Federal Highway administration (FHWA) is proposing to improve several streets and roads on SCP tribal lands. Environmental documentation is anticipated to cover all segments of roadway (above table) on one environmental document. No separate documentation is anticipated for each segment of road. The project would require the use of federal Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) funds to complete construction which would require the completion of an FHWA-compliant Categorical Exclusion (CatEx). Additionally, new right-of-way (ROW) may be needed for portions of the project which is expected to require the completion of an environmental assessment (EA) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Southwest Region, Northern Pueblos Agency approval to establish the new ROW on Tribal lands. The approval for use of federal funds and ROW acquisition on tribal lands requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The project activities would not involve work within the State Route (SR) 30 right-of-way (ROW). Therefore, no New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) encroachment permit is anticipated to be necessary. Geotechnical work will be necessary. However, no separate geotechnical clearances are included in this scope and fee. The environmental documentation will need to meet NMDOT, FHWA, and BIA Southwest Region standards. Logan Simpson's assistance has been requested to prepare an EA, CatEx, and associated technical resource documents necessary for NEPA compliance. The following Scope of Work tasks will be undertaken by Logan Simpson. Any relevant assumptions are provided in the individual task descriptions.

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Project Organization: STATE TRIBAL ENTITIES

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Organization: Logan Simpson

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OVERALL STATUS



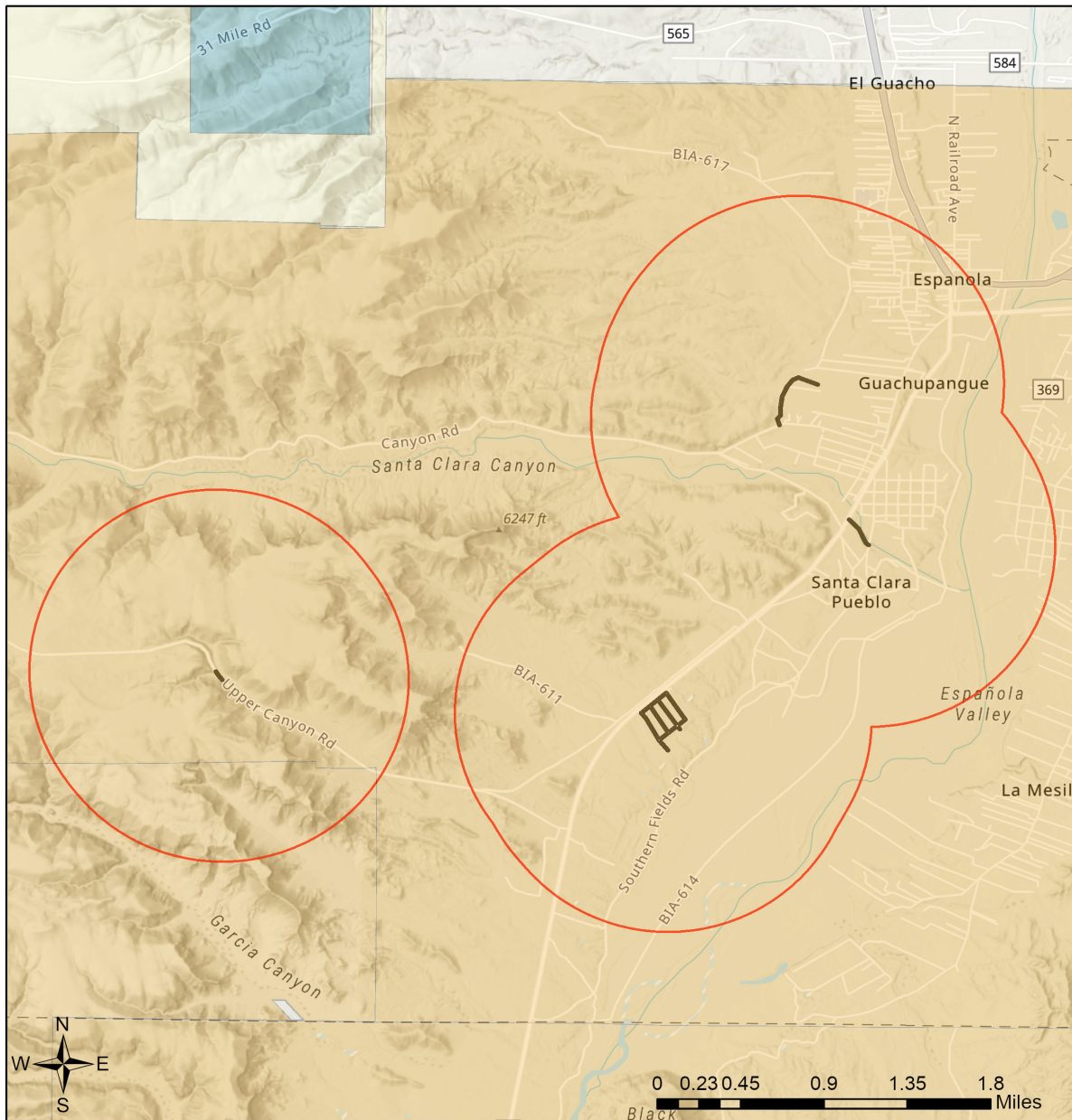
The information contained within this report comprises the recommendations of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) for management and mitigation of proposed project impacts to wildlife and habitat resources; see the Project Recommendations section below for further details. No further 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.



Santa Clara Pueblo



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

USGS, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), Natural Heritage New Mexico (NHNM), and USDA Forest Service,

Compiled by Richard Norwood of NHNM over the period 2020 to 2021.

Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodastysreisen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap 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
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus		T	SGCN
Mountain Plover	Charadrius montanus			SGCN
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus americanus	Threatened		SGCN
Black Swift	Cypseloides niger			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
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	Empidonax traillii extimus	Endangered		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
Brown-Capped Rosy-Finch	Leucosticte australis			SGCN
Channel Catfish	Ictalurus punctatus			SERI
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum		T	SGCN
American Pika	Ochotona princeps			SGCN
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	Cynomys ludovicianus			SGCN
Gunnison's Prairie Dog	Cynomys gunnisoni			SGCN
New Mexican Meadow Jumping Mouse	Zapus hudsonius luteus	LE	E	SGCN
Black Bear	Ursus americanus			SERI
Cougar	Puma concolor			SERI
Elk	Cervus canadensis nelsoni			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).

The proposed project occurs within or near a riparian area. Because riparian areas are important wildlife habitats, the project footprint should avoid removing any riparian vegetation or creating ground disturbance either directly within or affecting the riparian area. If your project involves removal of non-native riparian trees or planting of native riparian vegetation, please refer to the Department's habitat handbook guideline for [Restoration and Management of Native and Non-native Trees in Southwestern Riparian Ecosystems](#).

Your project occurs within important habitats for wildlife, which could include fawning/calving or wintering areas for species such as deer and elk, or high wildlife movement and activity areas. Management recommendations within these areas may include the following.

- Restrictions on noise-generating activities between Dec. 1 and Apr. 15. These activities would include oil and gas well pad development and operation that exposes wildlife to noises loud noises (at or above 48.6 dB(A) Leq at 400 feet in any direction from the source) from drilling, compressors, and pumping stations.
- Modifying fences along high use areas to make them wildlife friendly and facilitate large animal movement.
- Taking mitigation actions to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions at high risk locations.



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.