



PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: The Peoples Water Co-op Water System Improvements
Project Type: HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, UTILITIES MAINTENANCE
Latitude/Longitude (DMS): 32.307892 / -107.780900
County(s): LUNA
Project Description: The project will include improvements to the existing People's Water Co-op water distribution system, water storage tank rehabilitation, and a new potable water transmission main. The improvements to the existing water distribution system will include the construction of additional water lines between Quarterhorse Road and Hunt & Little Road, the replacement of water service meters, a post hydrant located near the existing water storage tank, and the installation of gate valves & combination air valves throughout the distribution system. The water storage tank rehabilitation will include cleaning, repainting the exterior & interior, and miscellaneous improvements. The new transmission main will connect the existing water distribution system to the City of Deming water distribution system. The transmission main will be constructed along Keeler Road NE (County Road A008) and Highway NM 180. A branch line off the new transmission line will be constructed on the Highway 26 to provide water service to the existing volunteer fire station.

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Project Organization:
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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.



The Peoples Water Co-op Water System Improvements



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

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, Geodatasyrelsen, 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
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus			SGCN
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus		T	SGCN
Aplomado Falcon	Falco femoralis		E	SGCN
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus		T	SGCN
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus americanus	LT		SGCN
Elf Owl	Micrathene whitneyi			SGCN
Juniper Titmouse	Baeolophus ridgwayi			SGCN
Western Bluebird	Sialia mexicana			SGCN
Bendire's Thrasher	Toxostoma bendirei			SGCN
Sprague's Pipit	Anthus spragueii			SGCN
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus			SGCN
Gray Vireo	Vireo vicinior		T	SGCN
Black-Throated Gray Warbler	Setophaga nigrescens			SGCN
Baird's Sparrow	Ammodramus bairdii		T	SGCN
Chihuahua Chub	Gila nigrescens	LT	E	SGCN
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum		T	SGCN

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

Project Recommendations

With implementation of the applicable mitigation or avoidance measures included in the project description, and incorporation of the guidance listed below, the Department does not anticipate significant impacts to wildlife or sensitive wildlife habitats from the proposed project activities. See the "OVERALL STATUS" section above to determine the likelihood that your project will be reviewed further based on its location. If a Department biologist determines that additional conservation measures are needed, then you should expect to receive notification and/or any additional project recommendations within 30 days of your project submission.

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) 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 by a qualified biologist 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.