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**PROJECT INFORMATION**

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**Project Title:** Cañon Convenience Station SWPPP  
**Project Type:** STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN  
**Latitude/Longitude (DMS):** 35.664988 / -106.739599  
**County(s):** SANDOVAL  
**Project Description:** The Cañon Convenience Station (Facility) is an existing facility that is updating its Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for compliance with the 2021 Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP). Eligibility for coverage under the MSGP requires a determination to verify if there are any species that have been placed on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) threatened or endangered species list for the facility's defined Action Area, and that the Facility activities are not expected to adversely affect any such species. This request is submitted on behalf of the Facility for a review of the project by the Department of New Mexico Game and Fish regarding anticipated impacts of the project on any federally listed endangered or threatened species and/or their critical habitats.

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**REQUESTOR INFORMATION**

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**Project Organization:**  
**Contact Name:** Spenser Harvey  
**Email Address:** Sharvey@Parkhill.com  
**Organization:** Parkhill  
**Address:** 800 S. Polk Street, Amarillo TX 79101  
**Phone:** 8063788673

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**OVERALL STATUS**

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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.



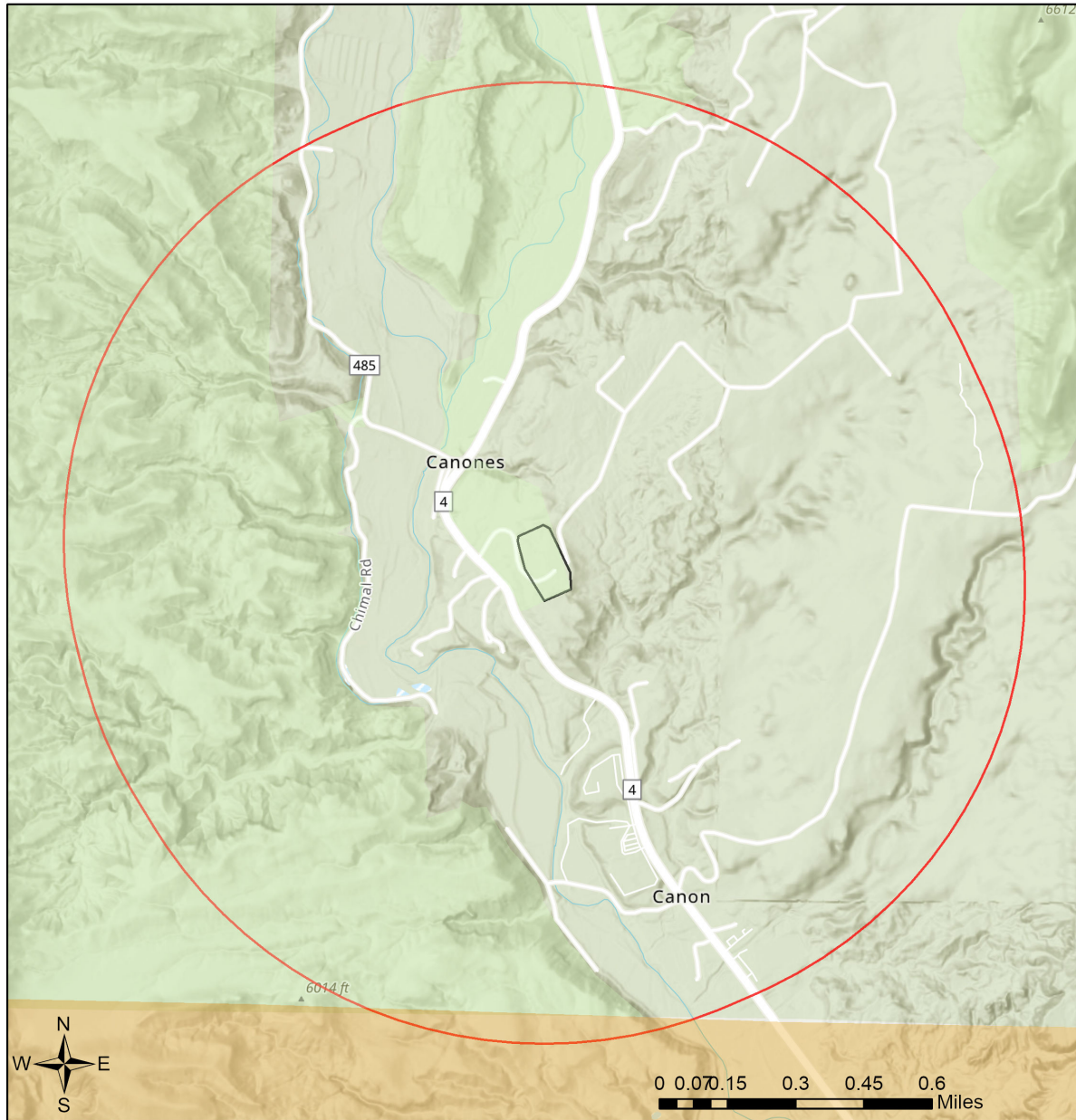
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**About this report:**

- 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 habitat suitability models, both of which are subject to ongoing change and refinement. Inclusion or omission of a species within a report cannot guarantee species presence or absence within your project area. To determine occurrence of any species listed in this report, or other wildlife that may be present within your project area, onsite surveys conducted by a qualified biologist during appropriate, species-specific survey timelines may be necessary.
- 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.



## Cañon Convenience Station SWPPP



- |                           |                              |                              |   |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 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 Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI
<a href="#">Boreal Chorus Frog</a>	<a href="#">Pseudacris maculata</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Peregrine Falcon</a>	<a href="#">Falco peregrinus</a>		T	SGCN
<a href="#">Mountain Plover</a>	<a href="#">Charadrius montanus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Flammulated Owl</a>	<a href="#">Psiloscops flammeolus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Western Burrowing Owl</a>	<a href="#">Athene cunicularia hypugaea</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Mexican Spotted Owl</a>	<a href="#">Strix occidentalis lucida</a>	LT		SGCN
<a href="#">Common Nighthawk</a>	<a href="#">Chordeiles minor</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Black Swift</a>	<a href="#">Cypseloides niger</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Lewis's Woodpecker</a>	<a href="#">Melanerpes lewis</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Red-headed Woodpecker</a>	<a href="#">Melanerpes erythrocephalus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Williamson's Sapsucker</a>	<a href="#">Sphyrapicus thyroideus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Olive-sided Flycatcher</a>	<a href="#">Contopus cooperi</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Bank Swallow</a>	<a href="#">Riparia riparia</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Pinyon Jay</a>	<a href="#">Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Clark's Nutcracker</a>	<a href="#">Nucifraga columbiana</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Juniper Titmouse</a>	<a href="#">Baeolophus ridgwayi</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Pygmy Nuthatch</a>	<a href="#">Sitta pygmaea</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Western Bluebird</a>	<a href="#">Sialia mexicana</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Mountain Bluebird</a>	<a href="#">Sialia currucoides</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Bendire's Thrasher</a>	<a href="#">Toxostoma bendirei</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Loggerhead Shrike</a>	<a href="#">Lanius ludovicianus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Gray Vireo</a>	<a href="#">Vireo vicinior</a>		T	SGCN
<a href="#">Virginia's Warbler</a>	<a href="#">Oreothlypis virginiae</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Black-Throated Gray Warbler</a>	<a href="#">Setophaga nigrescens</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Grace's Warbler</a>	<a href="#">Setophaga graciae</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Chestnut-collared Longspur</a>	<a href="#">Calcarius ornatus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Cassin's Finch</a>	<a href="#">Haemorhous cassinii</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Evening Grosbeak</a>	<a href="#">Coccothraustes vespertinus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Rainbow Trout</a>	<a href="#">Oncorhynchus mykiss</a>			SERI
<a href="#">Rio Grande Sucker</a>	<a href="#">Catostomus plebeius</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Spotted Bat</a>	<a href="#">Euderma maculatum</a>		T	SGCN
<a href="#">Pale Townsend's Big-Eared Bat</a>	<a href="#">Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">American Pika</a>	<a href="#">Ochotona princeps</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Gunnison's Prairie Dog</a>	<a href="#">Cynomys gunnisoni</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Meadow Jumping Mouse</a>	<a href="#">Zapus hudsonius</a>	LE	E	SGCN
<a href="#">Pacific Marten</a>	<a href="#">Martes caurina</a>		T	SGCN
<a href="#">Common Checkered Whiptail</a>	<a href="#">Aspidoscelis tessellata</a>		E	SGCN
<a href="#">Desert Massasauga</a>	<a href="#">Sistrurus catenatus edwardsii</a>			SGCN

ESA = Endangered Species Act, WCA = Wildlife Conservation Act, SGCN = Species of Greatest Conservation Need, SERI = Species



of Economic and Recreational Importance, C = Candidate, E = Endangered, LE = Listed Endangered, LT = Listed Threatened, T = Threatened, XN = Non-essential Experimental Population, for other ESA codes see this website: <https://nhnm.unm.edu/node/1378928>.

### Special Status Plant Species Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMAC	NMRPCS
<a href="#">Galisteo Sand Verbena</a>	<a href="#">Abronia bigelovii</a>			SS

NMAC = New Mexico Administrative Code, NMRPCS = [New Mexico Rare Plant Conservation Strategy](#), SS = NM Rare Plant Conservation Strategy Species, E = Endangered

### Project Recommendations

The Department has reviewed your request for information regarding the above referenced project and provides the following information for the development of your Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

Construction areas and other impervious surfaces can have significant impacts on surface waters by increasing the amount of sediment and other pollutants that are washed into surface waters, increasing the velocity and volume of water, and reducing infiltration into groundwater. Reducing the amount of impervious surfaces and phasing construction will reduce these impacts. The Department provides the following additional recommendations to minimize or eliminate impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat:

- Divert water around construction site whenever possible.
- Preserve natural areas within the project site. Strive to maintain the natural drainage system of the site, including natural stream channels, wetlands, and floodplains. Design, construct, and maintain the site to protect (or restore) the natural hydrology.
- Following construction, disturbed areas should be re-vegetated using native species that approximate pre-disturbance plant community composition or native plant communities appropriate for the site, including from a region that represents potential future climatic conditions at the site, whichever is more beneficial to wildlife. Short-term erosion control seed mixes are available for temporary control of surface erosion during project implementation; native mixes should be used for temporary as well as permanent erosion control. Native plants and materials should also be used for landscaping. All seed mixtures should be certified as weed-free. New Mexico grass ecotypes for commercial seeding are available through the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center and New Mexico State University. Seeding guidelines are available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Colorado Natural Areas Program.
- Maintain a vegetated buffer zone along all watercourses, including ephemeral arroyos, sufficient to minimize erosion and sediment delivery.
- Use properly engineered drainage swales and other vegetated channel systems instead of storm sewers, lined channels, curbs, and gutters. Vegetated swales should be gently sloped (4:1) so that small wildlife is able to maneuver them.
- Efforts should be made during construction to minimize impacts on vegetative communities. Existing roads and rights-of-way should be used for all transportation. Off-road driving should be avoided. Staging areas should be located in previously disturbed sites, where possible, and kept as small as possible.

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) may occur within your project area. Before any ground disturbing activities occur, the Department recommends that a preliminary burrowing owl 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.



Prairie dog colonies may occur within the vicinity of your project area. Both black-tailed prairie dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) and Gunnison's prairie dogs (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) are designated as New Mexico Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and their colonies provide important habitat for other grassland wildlife. Wherever possible, occupied prairie dog colonies should be left undisturbed, and all project activities should be directed off the colony. Any burrows that are located on the project site should be surveyed by a qualified biologist to determine whether burrows are active or inactive and whether burrowing owls may be utilizing the site. Colonies within the range of the black-tailed prairie dog can be surveyed by a qualified biologist diurnally, year-round using binoculars. Colonies within the range of the Gunnison's prairie dog can be surveyed by a qualified biologist diurnally, using binoculars during the warmer months from April through October and by searching for fairly fresh scat and lack of cobwebs or debris at the mouths of burrows during the cold months (November through March). If ground-disturbing activities cannot be relocated off the prairie dog colony, or if project activities involve control of prairie dogs, the Department recommends live-trapping and relocation of prairie dogs. The Department can provide recommendations regarding suitability of potential translocation areas and procedures.

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, unless the project is intended to restore riparian habitat through non-native plant removal and replanting with native species. 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 could affect important components of wildlife habitat, including fawning/calving or wintering areas for species such as deer and elk, or general high wildlife movement and activity areas for large mammals. Mitigation measures should focus on high use sites and movement areas based on collar data and expert knowledge of Department of Game and Fish and land management agency personnel. Management recommendations within these areas may include the following.

- Restrictions on noise-generating activities during wintering and calving/fawning seasons, specific timing of which may vary throughout the state. These activities would include oil and gas well pad development and operations that expose wildlife to loud noises from drilling, compressors, and pumping stations within 400 feet of the source.
- Modifying fences along high use areas to make them wildlife friendly and facilitate large animal movement.





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**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 and/or consultation may also be necessary under the federal ESA or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Further site-specific mitigation recommendations may be proposed during ESA consultation and/or NEPA analyses or through coordination with affected federal agencies.