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2 July 2024

Gordon Michaud  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
Las Cruces District Office  
1800 Marquess Street  
Las Cruces, NM 88005

***RE: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); NMERT Project No. NMERT-3561***

Dear Mr. Michaud,

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) has reviewed the draft Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Draft RMP and EIS (RMP/EIS). This letter constitutes the Department's official comments regarding the draft RMP/EIS.

Pages 2-4 of the draft RMP/EIS describe the management objectives of Alternative B, which include "maintaining or enhancing habitat with the goal of achieving reference plant communities and supporting species augmentation and reintroduction efforts... opportunities for recreation and travel with the most restrictions in terms of areas closed to OHV use... [and] designat[ing] three new [Areas of Critical Environmental Concern] ACECs to be managed to protect scenic, cultural, and biological resource values." Based on these management objectives, Alternative B is identified as being "the most proactive in promoting conservation and recovery of threatened, endangered, and other special status species, as well as protecting other social and scientific values."

Because Alternative B is identified as the most beneficial for the conservation and protection of threatened, endangered, and other special status species, the Department supports the adoption of Alternative B as the preferred alternative for the management of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and submit comments regarding the draft RMP/EIS. Please contact Jack Marchetti, Aquatic/Riparian Habitat Specialist, at [jack.marchetti@dgf.nm.gov](mailto:jack.marchetti@dgf.nm.gov) or (505) 470-1269 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Virginia Seamster, Ph.D.  
Assistant Chief for Technical Guidance