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## PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Title:** University Avenue I-10 TO I-25 Roadway Cross-Section Reallocation Study and Design  
**Project Type:** TRANSPORTATION, ROADS AND BRIDGES, ROADS AND BRIDGES-MAINTENANCE/MINOR RETROFIT  
**Latitude/Longitude (DMS):** 32.284540 / -106.753404  
**County(s):** DONA ANA  
**Project Description:** The City of Las Cruces, New Mexico (City of Las Cruces) is looking to complete a roadway cross-section reallocation study along the portion of University Avenue that connects Interstate 10 (I-10) and Interstate 25 (I-25), which is an important east-west connector for the city. This portion of University Avenue also links residents and visitors to the New Mexico State University (NMSU) campus. Because of the corridor's proximity to NMSU, the corridor experiences a high volume of nonmotorized users such as pedestrians and bicyclists. The public's concern regarding pedestrian and bicyclist safety were expressed in recent public involvement activities for a water line project along this section of University Avenue. Pedestrians are among the most vulnerable road users. The need to better accommodated these road users in the design and construction of transportation facilities was head by the City of Las Cruces engineers and was the impetus for this project.

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## REQUESTOR INFORMATION

**Project Organization:**  
**Contact Name:** teresa oneil  
**Email Address:** teresa.oneil@kimley-horn.com  
**Organization:** Kimley-Horn  
**Address:** 1001 West Southern Avenue, Mesa AZ 85210  
**Phone:** 6023714502

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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.



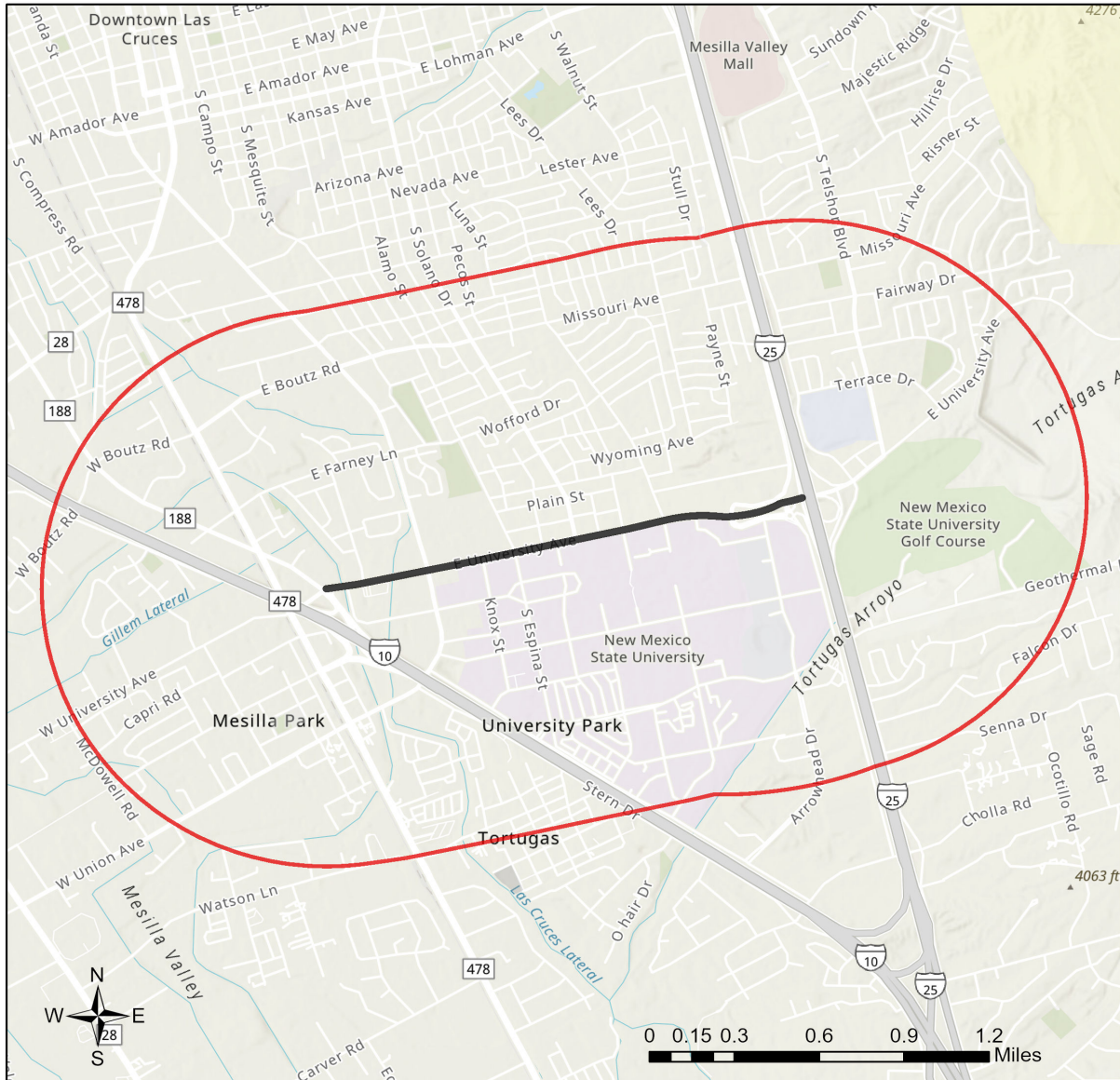
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### About this report:

- 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](#).
- This report contains information on wildlife species protected under the ESA and the [Wildlife Conservation Act \(WCA\)](#), [Species of Greatest Conservation Need \(SGCN\)](#), and Species of Economic and Recreational Importance (SERI). Species listed under the ESA are protected from take at the federal level and under the WCA are protected from take at the state level. SGCN are identified in the [State Wildlife Action Plan \(SWAP\) for New Mexico](#); all of these species are considered to be of conservation concern but not all of them are protected from take at the state or federal level. The harvest of all SERI is regulated at the state level. The Department has no authority to designate critical habitat for species listed under the WCA; only the USFWS can designate critical habitat for species listed under the ESA.
- 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](#), the data layers from which are included in the ERT, is the appropriate system for advising early-stage project planning and design to avoid areas of anticipated wildlife concerns and associated regulatory requirements.



# y Avenue I-10 TO I-25 Roadway Cross-Section Reallocation Study an



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

NHNM, USGS, USFS, US Census Bureau, NMDGF  
City of Las Cruces GIS, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS



**Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area**

| Common Name                           | Scientific Name                           | USFWS (ESA) | NMDGF (WCA) | NMDGF SGCN/SERI | USFS              | USFS SCC    | BLM           |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| <a href="#">Mountain Treefrog</a>     | <a href="#">Hyla wrightorum</a>           |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             |               |
| <a href="#">Barking Frog</a>          | <a href="#">Craugastor augusti</a>        |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             |               |
| <a href="#">Plains Leopard Frog</a>   | <a href="#">Lithobates blairi</a>         |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             | BLM WATCH     |
| <a href="#">Northern Leopard Frog</a> | <a href="#">Lithobates pipiens</a>        |             |             | SGCN            | Sensitive Species | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |
| <a href="#">American Bittern</a>      | <a href="#">Botaurus lentiginosus</a>     |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             | BLM WATCH     |
| <a href="#">Bald Eagle</a>            | <a href="#">Haliaeetus leucocephalus</a>  |             | T           | SGCN            | Sensitive Species |             | BLM SENSITIVE |
| <a href="#">Common Black-Hawk</a>     | <a href="#">Buteogallus anthracinus</a>   |             | T           | SGCN            | Sensitive Species |             | BLM WATCH     |
| <a href="#">Aplomado Falcon</a>       | <a href="#">Falco femoralis</a>           |             | E           | SGCN            |                   |             |               |
| <a href="#">Peregrine Falcon</a>      | <a href="#">Falco peregrinus</a>          |             | T           | SGCN            |                   |             | BLM WATCH     |
| <a href="#">Yellow-Billed Cuckoo</a>  | <a href="#">Coccyzus americanus</a>       | LT          |             | SGCN            |                   |             |               |
| <a href="#">Elf Owl</a>               | <a href="#">Micrathene whitneyi</a>       |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             | BLM WATCH     |
| <a href="#">Western Burrowing Owl</a> | <a href="#">Athene cucularia hypugaea</a> |             |             | SGCN            | Sensitive Species | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |
| <a href="#">Common Nighthawk</a>      | <a href="#">Chordeiles minor</a>          |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             |               |
| <a href="#">Lewis's Woodpecker</a>    | <a href="#">Melanerpes lewis</a>          |             |             | SGCN            |                   | USFS R3 SCC | BLM WATCH     |
| <a href="#">Bank Swallow</a>          | <a href="#">Riparia riparia</a>           |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             |               |
| <a href="#">Pinyon Jay</a>            | <a href="#">Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</a> |             |             | SGCN            |                   | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |
| <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            |                   | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |
| <a href="#">Sprague's Pipit</a>       | <a href="#">Anthus spragueii</a>          |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             | BLM SENSITIVE |
| <a href="#">Loggerhead Shrike</a>     | <a href="#">Lanius ludovicianus</a>       |             |             | SGCN            |                   | USFS R3 SCC | BLM WATCH     |



**Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area**

| Common Name                                   | Scientific Name                                    | USFWS (ESA) | NMDGF (WCA) | NMDGF SGCN/SERI | USFS              | USFS SCC    | BLM           |
|---|--|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| <a href="#">Bell's Vireo</a>                  | <a href="#">Vireo bellii</a>                       |             | T           | SGCN            |                   |             | BLM SENSITIVE |
| <a href="#">Virginia's Warbler</a>            | <a href="#">Leiothlypis virginiae</a>              |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             | BLM SENSITIVE |
| <a href="#">Lucy's Warbler</a>                | <a href="#">Leiothlypis luciae</a>                 |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             | BLM WATCH     |
| <a href="#">Black-Throated Gray Warbler</a>   | <a href="#">Setophaga nigrescens</a>               |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             | BLM WATCH     |
| <a href="#">Black-Chinned Sparrow</a>         | <a href="#">Spizella atrogularis</a>               |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             | BLM WATCH     |
| <a href="#">Vesper Sparrow</a>                | <a href="#">Poocetes gramineus</a>                 |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             |               |
| <a href="#">Thick-billed Longspur</a>         | <a href="#">Rhynchophanes mccownii</a>             |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             | BLM SENSITIVE |
| <a href="#">Chestnut-Collared Longspur</a>    | <a href="#">Calcarius ornatus</a>                  |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             | BLM SENSITIVE |
| <a href="#">Cassin's Finch</a>                | <a href="#">Haemorhous cassinii</a>                |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             | BLM WATCH     |
| <a href="#">Brook Trout</a>                   | <a href="#">Salvelinus fontinalis</a>              |             |             | SERI            |                   |             |               |
| <a href="#">Spotted Bat</a>                   | <a href="#">Euderma maculatum</a>                  |             | T           | SGCN            | Sensitive Species | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |
| <a href="#">Pale Townsend's Big-Eared Bat</a> | <a href="#">Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens</a> |             |             | SGCN            | Sensitive Species | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |
| <a href="#">Mule Deer</a>                     | <a href="#">Odocoileus hemionus</a>                |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             |               |
| <a href="#">Pronghorn</a>                     | <a href="#">Antilocapra americana</a>              |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             |               |
| <a href="#">Rock Rattlesnake</a>              | <a href="#">Crotalus lepidus</a>                   |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             |               |
| <a href="#">Desert Massasauga</a>             | <a href="#">Sistrurus catenatus edwardsii</a>      |             |             | SGCN            |                   |             |               |

Common Name hyperlink takes you to species account in [bison-m.org](http://bison-m.org); Scientific Name hyperlink takes you to information in [NatureServe Explorer](#); ESA = Endangered Species Act, C = Candidate, LE = Listed Endangered, LT = Listed Threatened, XN = Non-essential Experimental Population, for other ESA codes see this [website](#); WCA = Wildlife Conservation Act, E = Endangered, T = Threatened; SERI = Species of Economic and Recreational Importance; SGCN = Species of Greatest Conservation Need; USFS = U.S. Forest Service, Sensitive Species = A species likely to occur on USFS lands that is of concern for a potential reduction in population viability; SCC = Species of Conservation Concern; BLM = Bureau of Land Management, BLM SENSITIVE = A species that occurs on BLM lands and whose viability is at risk, BLM WATCH = Species that may be added to the sensitive species list in future pending new information regarding species status.



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

| Common Name                           | Scientific Name                                  | USFWS (ESA) | NMAC | NMRPCS | USFS | USFS SCC | BLM           |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------|------|--------|------|----------|---------------|
| <a href="#">Night-Blooming Cereus</a> | <a href="#">Peniocereus greggii var. greggii</a> |             | E    | SS     |      |          | BLM SENSITIVE |

NMAC = New Mexico Administrative Code, E = Endangered; NMRPCS = [New Mexico Rare Plant Conservation Strategy](#), SS = NM Rare Plant Conservation Strategy Species; USFS = U.S. Forest Service, Sensitive Species = A species likely to occur on USFS lands that is of concern for a potential reduction in population viability; SCC = Species of Conservation Concern; BLM = Bureau of Land Management, BLM SENSITIVE = A species that occurs on BLM lands and whose viability is at risk, BLM WATCH = Species that may be added to the sensitive species list in future pending new information regarding species status.



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## 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. If bats are determined to occur at bridge sites, work should be scheduled to avoid impacting bats that may roost there (i.e., conduct work in winter months).

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) may occur within your project area. Burrowing owls are protected from take by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and under New Mexico state statute. 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.

Your project area intersects an Important Plant Area (IPA) that contains one or more species of plants listed as threatened or endangered by the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) under New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 75-6-1 or by the USFWS under the federal ESA. Although IPAs have no legal designation, they have been identified as areas that support either a high diversity of sensitive plant species or contain the last remaining locations of New Mexico's most endangered plants. The Department recommends that you consult with EMNRD's [Endangered Plant Program Coordinator](#) regarding any state-listed plants and the USFWS's [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPAC\)](#) system for any federally-listed plants and reaching out to the appropriate federal species lead(s) with the [New Mexico Ecological Services Office of USFWS](#). The Department does not have any authority to designate or advise on state- or federally-listed plants.

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](#). The [New Mexico Riparian Habitat Map \(NMRipMap\)](#) may also provide useful information on local riparian habitat composition and structure.



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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.