



PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Silver Stallion Wind
Project Type: ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, WIND, WIND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION OR EXPANSION
Latitude/Longitude (DMS): 32.275489 / -108.459425
County(s): GRANT; HIDALGO
Project Description: Wind development scoping area

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Project Organization:
Contact Name: Hailey Booth
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Phone: 5054046093

OVERALL STATUS

This report contains an initial list of recommendations regarding potential impacts to wildlife or wildlife habitats from the proposed project; see the Project Recommendations section below for further details. Your project proposal is being forwarded to a New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) biologist for review to determine whether there are any additional recommendations regarding the proposed actions. A Department biologist will be in touch within 30 days if there are further recommendations regarding this project proposal.

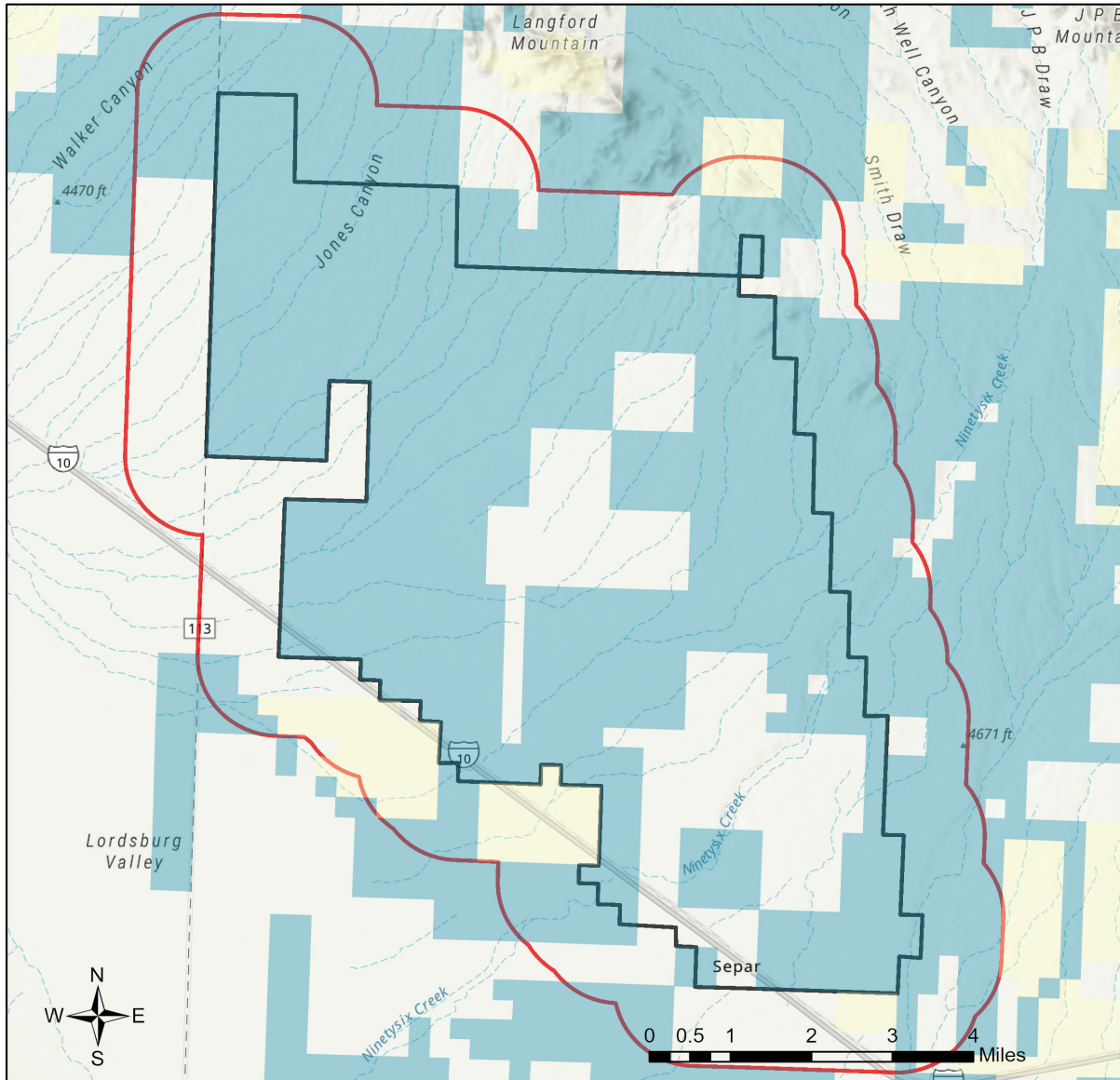


About this report:

- 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.



Silver Stallion Wind



| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 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
 Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS
 CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, 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 |
|--|---|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Colorado River Toad | Incilius alvarius | | T | SGCN | | | |
| Boreal Chorus Frog | Pseudacris maculata | | | SGCN | | | |
| Plains Leopard Frog | Lithobates blairi | | | SGCN | | | BLM WATCH |
| Chiricahua Leopard Frog | Lithobates chiricahuensis | LT | | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | |
| Lowland Leopard Frog | Lithobates yavapaiensis | | E | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | BLM WATCH |
| Common Black-Hawk | Buteogallus anthracinus | | T | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | BLM WATCH |
| Aplomado Falcon | Falco femoralis | | E | SGCN | | | |
| Peregrine Falcon | Falco peregrinus | | T | SGCN | | | BLM WATCH |
| Flammulated Owl | Otus flammeolus | | | SGCN | | | BLM WATCH |
| Whiskered Screech-Owl | Megascops trichopsis | | T | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | |
| Elf Owl | Micrathene whitneyi | | | SGCN | | | BLM WATCH |
| Western Burrowing Owl | Athene cucularia hypugaea | | | SGCN | Sensitive Species | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Common Nighthawk | Chordeiles minor | | | SGCN | | | |
| Broad-Billed Hummingbird | Cynanthus latirostris | | T | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | |
| Violet-Crowned Hummingbird | Amazilia violiceps | | T | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | |
| Lucifer Hummingbird | Calothorax lucifer | | T | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | |
| Costa's Hummingbird | Calypte costae | | T | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | |
| Elegant Trogon | Trogon elegans | | E | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | |
| Lewis's Woodpecker | Melanerpes lewis | | | SGCN | | USFS R3 SCC | BLM WATCH |
| Thick-Billed Kingbird | Tyrannus crassirostris | | E | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | |



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 |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Pinyon Jay | Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus | | | SGCN | | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Pygmy Nuthatch | Sitta pygmaea | | | SGCN | | | |
| Western Bluebird | Sialia mexicana | | | SGCN | | | |
| Mountain Bluebird | Sialia currucoides | | | SGCN | | | |
| Bendire's Thrasher | Toxostoma bendirei | | | SGCN | | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Sprague's Pipit | Anthus spragueii | | | SGCN | | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Loggerhead Shrike | Lanius ludovicianus | | | SGCN | | USFS R3 SCC | BLM WATCH |
| Bell's Vireo | Vireo bellii | | T | SGCN | | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Lucy's Warbler | Leiothlypis luciae | | | SGCN | | | BLM WATCH |
| Black-Throated Gray Warbler | Setophaga nigrescens | | | SGCN | | | BLM WATCH |
| Red-Faced Warbler | Cardellina rubrifrons | | | SGCN | | USFS R3 SCC | |
| Painted Redstart | Myioborus pictus | | | SGCN | | | |
| Botteri's Sparrow | Peucaea botterii | | | SGCN | | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Black-Chinned Sparrow | Spizella atrogularis | | | SGCN | | | BLM WATCH |
| Vesper Sparrow | Pooecetes gramineus | | | SGCN | | | |
| Baird's Sparrow | Ammodramus bairdii | | T | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Arizona Grasshopper Sparrow | Ammodramus savannarum ammolegus | | E | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Thick-billed Longspur | Rhynchophanes mccownii | | | SGCN | | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Chestnut-Collared Longspur | Calcarius ornatus | | | SGCN | | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Cassin's Finch | Haemorhous cassinii | | | SGCN | | | BLM WATCH |
| Evening Grosbeak | Coccothraustes vespertinus | | | SGCN | | | |



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 |
|---|--|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Mexican Long-Tongued Bat | Choeronycteris mexicana | | | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Mexican Long-Nosed Bat | Leptonycteris nivalis | LE | E | SGCN | | | |
| Western Yellow Bat | Lasiurus xanthinus | | T | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Spotted Bat | Euderma maculatum | | T | SGCN | Sensitive Species | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Pale Townsend's Big-Eared Bat | Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens | | | SGCN | Sensitive Species | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |
| White-Sided Jackrabbit | Lepus callotis | | T | SGCN | | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Mountain Lion | Puma concolor | | | SGCN | | | |
| Elk | Cervus canadensis | | | SGCN | | | |
| Mule Deer | Odocoileus hemionus | | | SGCN | | | |
| Pronghorn | Antilocapra americana | | | SGCN | | | |
| Sonoran Mud Turtle | Kinosternon sonoriense | | | SGCN | | | |
| Gila Monster | Heloderma suspectum | | E | SGCN | | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Bunch Grass Lizard | Sceloporus slevini | | T | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | BLM WATCH |
| Gray-checkered Whiptail | Aspidoscelis tessellata | | E | SGCN | | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Green Rat Snake | Senticolis triaspis | | T | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | |
| Rock Rattlesnake | Crotalus lepidus | | | SGCN | | | |
| Desert Massasauga | Sistrurus catenatus edwardsii | | | SGCN | | | |

Common Name hyperlink takes you to species account in 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.



Project Recommendations

Your proposed project activities may require a custom review for assessment of potential effects to wildlife. See the "OVERALL STATUS" section above to determine the likelihood that your project will be reviewed further based on its location. A Department biologist will confirm whether any additional conservation measures are needed. You should expect to receive any additional project recommendations within 30 days of your project submission. If the "OVERALL STATUS" section indicates that no further consultation with the Department is required based on its location, then you will only receive additional project feedback from the Department if a biologist deems it necessary.

All migratory birds are protected against direct take under the federal [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) (16 U.S.C. Sections 703-712), and hawks, falcons, vultures, owls, songbirds, and other insect-eating birds are protected under New Mexico State Statutes (17-2-13 and 17-2-14 NMSA), unless permitted by the applicable regulatory agency. To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to migratory birds, nests, eggs, or nestlings, the Department recommends that ground disturbance and vegetation removal activities be conducted outside of the primary migratory bird breeding season of April 15-September 1. Breeding season may begin earlier for raptors or when working in low-elevation habitats such as deserts. If ground disturbing and clearing activities must be conducted during the breeding season, the area should be surveyed for active nest sites (with birds or eggs present in the nesting territory) and avoid disturbing active nests until young have fledged. For active nests, establish adequate buffer zones to minimize disturbance to nesting birds. Buffer distances should be at least 100 feet from songbird and raven nests; 0.25 miles from most raptor nests; and 0.5 miles for ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) nests. Active nest sites in trees or shrubs that must be removed should be mitigated by qualified biologists or wildlife rehabilitators. Department biologists are available to consult on nest site mitigation and can facilitate contact with qualified personnel.

The list of [New Mexico SGCN](#) (see link, page 14, table 5) and the federal list of [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) should be reviewed to fully evaluate potential effects to migratory birds from your proposed project. Federal agencies are also required under Executive Order 13186 to implement standards and practices that lessen the amount of unintentional take attributable to agency actions. These conservation measures are strongly recommended to ensure persistence of migratory bird species whose populations are small and/or declining within New Mexico.

The Department recommends use of the federal wind energy guidelines tiered decision-making process ([US Fish and Wildlife Service Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines- 2012](#)) through which wind developers gather information in increasing detail (from early site evaluations to site-specific surveys) to effectively evaluate potential impacts to wildlife and make informed siting and operational decisions. Once consultation is initiated with the USFWS, the Department typically participates in the tiered evaluation process with the project proponent to minimize potential impacts to wildlife.

For post-construction reclamation of the project area, the Department recommends that the project proponent use only native plant species and that the reclamation seed mix is designed to enhance local pollinator habitat. The Department also recommends that only certified weed-free seed be used to avoid inadvertently introducing non-native species to the reclamation site. Any alternate seeds used to substitute for primary plant species that are unavailable at the time of reclamation should also be native. When possible, the Department recommends using seeds that are sourced from the same region and habitat type as the reclamation site or from a region that represents potential future climatic conditions at the site.

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.



The proposed project occurs near an important bat area. This area may contain important bat roosting resources, such as caves or mines, that potentially could be affected by certain project activities. Follow the guidelines below to minimize disturbance to roosting bats.

- Avoid use of pesticides, firearms, open-flame torches, or heavy smoke-producing equipment, especially from April through September.
- If artificial lighting is needed, use only light sources powered by batteries, or cyalume glow/light sticks. Keep the site clean by picking up refuse or materials from project lighting or operations whenever they are shut down.
- For any surface disturbing activities, the project footprint (including a 350 foot buffer) should avoid potential roost sites such as caves or mines, especially from April through July. Tree clearing activities and prescribed burns should include a minimum 0.5 mile buffer from any such features.
- If caves, mines, bridges, or other man-made structure suitable as potential bat roosts are encountered within the project area, they should not be entered during any time of year, and no roosting or hibernating bats should be contacted or disturbed. Report any dead or injured bats to the Department, who can facilitate contacts with other appropriate personnel.

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.