



PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Camino del Llano (Both Phases)
Project Type: TRANSPORTATION, ROADS AND BRIDGES, ROADS AND BRIDGES-MAINTENANCE/MINOR RETROFIT
Latitude/Longitude (DMS): 34.654857 / -106.786187
County(s): VALENCIA
Project Description: The scope of this project is a general A/B survey that is a continuation of a previous project for a Traffic Study and Drainage Study for the corridor from the Highline Canal to Main St in Belen, New Mexico. This survey will be used to identify the need for road improvements including potential lane widening. This report will be used to adjust and determine priority planning and associated programmatic costs for the desired project. Further the report will be used to describe the existing conditions such as geometric deficiencies, ADA deficiencies, sight distance deficiencies, the existing right-of-way, and develop the primary need for the future retrofit project.

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Project Organization:
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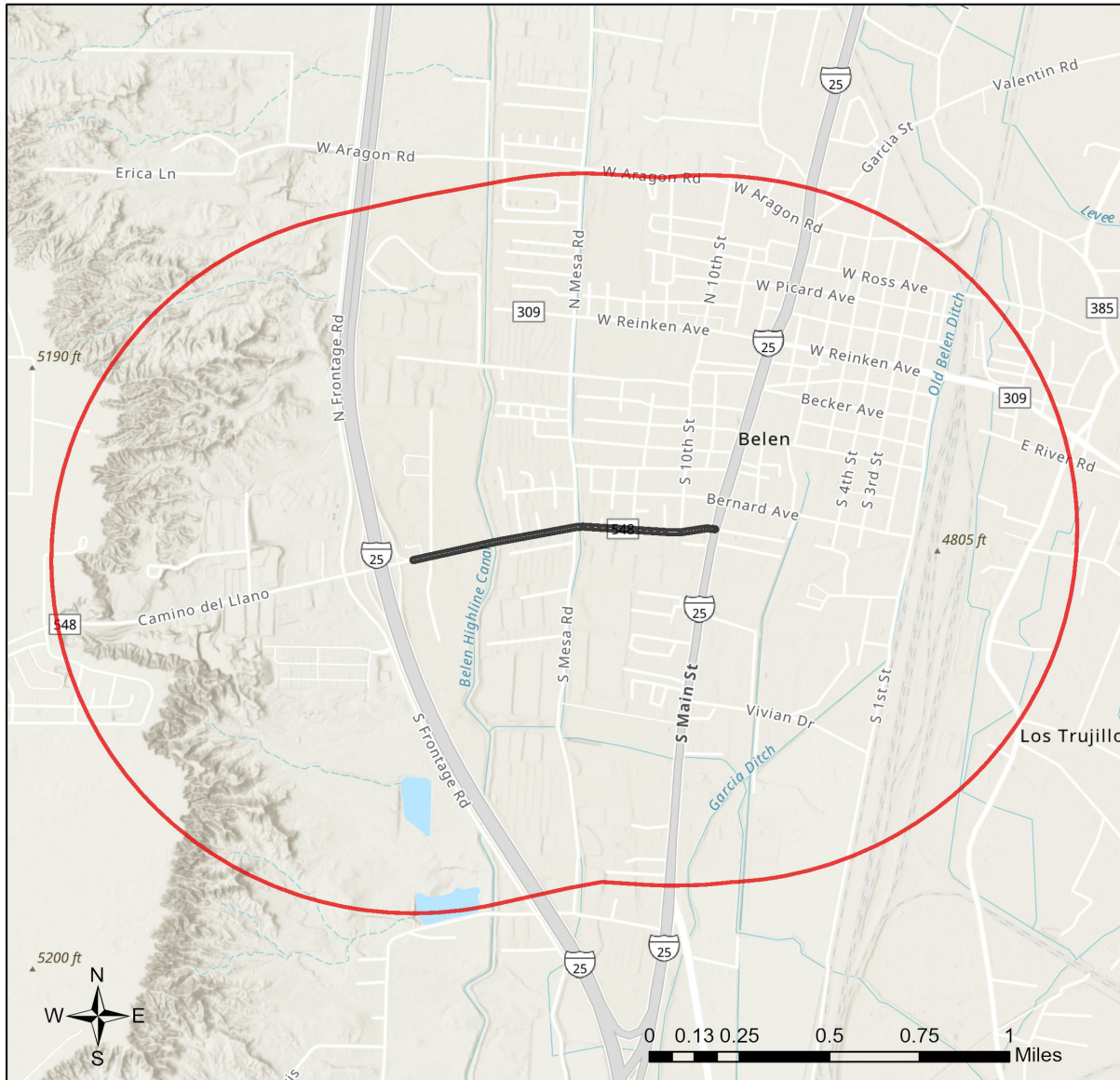
OVERALL STATUS

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](#).
- 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.

Camino del Llano (Both Phases)



NHNM, USGS, USFS, US Census Bureau, NMDGF
 Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA
 Esri, TomTom, Garmin, 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 |
|--|---|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Boreal Chorus Frog | Pseudacris maculata | | | SGCN | | | |
| American Bittern | Botaurus lentiginosus | | | SGCN | | | BLM WATCH |
| Aplomado Falcon | Falco femoralis | | E | SGCN | | | |
| Peregrine Falcon | Falco peregrinus | | T | SGCN | | | BLM WATCH |
| Mountain Plover | Charadrius montanus | | | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | BLM WATCH |
| Flammulated Owl | Otus flammeolus | | | SGCN | | | BLM WATCH |
| Western Burrowing Owl | Athene cunicularia hypugaea | | | SGCN | Sensitive Species | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Common Nighthawk | Chordeiles minor | | | SGCN | | | |
| Lewis's Woodpecker | Melanerpes lewis | | | SGCN | | USFS R3 SCC | BLM WATCH |
| Red-Headed Woodpecker | Melanerpes erythrocephalus | | | SGCN | | | |
| Olive-Sided Flycatcher | Contopus cooperi | | | SGCN | | | |
| Southwestern Willow Flycatcher | Empidonax traillii extimus | LE | E | SGCN | | | |
| Bank Swallow | Riparia riparia | | | SGCN | | | |
| Pinyon Jay | Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus | | | SGCN | | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Pygmy Nuthatch | Sitta pygmaea | | | SGCN | | | |
| Mountain Bluebird | Sialia currucoides | | | SGCN | | | |
| Bendire's Thrasher | Toxostoma bendirei | | | SGCN | | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Loggerhead Shrike | Lanius ludovicianus | | | SGCN | | USFS R3 SCC | BLM WATCH |
| Black-Throated Gray Warbler | Setophaga nigrescens | | | SGCN | | | BLM WATCH |
| Black-Chinned Sparrow | Spizella atrogularis | | | SGCN | | | BLM WATCH |
| Thick-billed Longspur | Rhynchophanes mccownii | | | SGCN | | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Chestnut-Collared Longspur | Calcarius ornatus | | | SGCN | | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Spotted Bat | Euderma maculatum | | T | SGCN | Sensitive Species | USFS R3 SCC | BLM SENSITIVE |

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 |
|--|---|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------|---------------|
| Black-Tailed Prairie Dog | Cynomys ludovicianus | | | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Gunnison's Prairie Dog | Cynomys gunnisoni | | | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| New Mexican Meadow Jumping Mouse | Zapus hudsonius luteus | LE | E | SGCN | Sensitive Species | | BLM SENSITIVE |
| Elk | Cervus canadensis | | | SGCN | | | |
| Mule Deer | Odocoileus hemionus | | | SGCN | | | |
| Pronghorn | Antilocapra americana | | | 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

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.

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

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.