PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Black Fire Recovery Project
Project Type:	(NO PROJECT REVIEW) SPECIES LIST ONLY
Latitude/Longitude (DMS):	33.113929 / -107.988239
County(s):	CATRON; GRANT; SIERRA
Project Description:	USFS Project in scoping

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Project Organization:	
Contact Name:	Brian Nowicki
Email Address:	bnowicki@biologicaldiversity.org
Organization:	Center for Biological Diversity
Address:	P.O. Box 1178, Albuquerque NM 86002
Phone:	5059175611

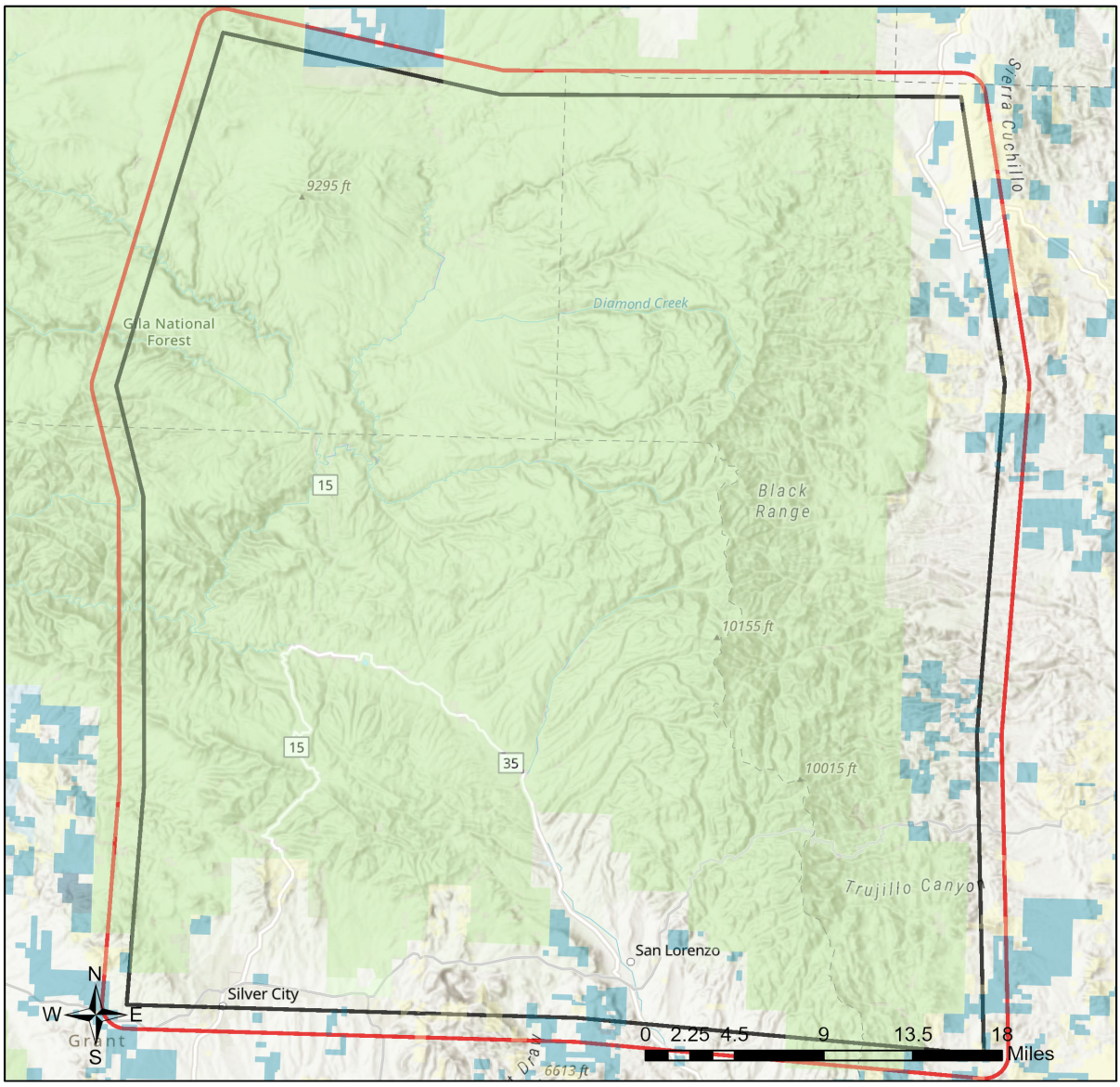
OVERALL STATUS

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 Wildlife (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) (page 18, table 5), 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.

Black Fire Recovery Project



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

NHNM, USGS, USFS, US Census Bureau, NMDGF
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USFWS
Esri, CGIAR, USGS

Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 2000 Meters of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Arizona Toad	Anaxyrus microscaphus			SGCN 2025		USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Mountain Treefrog	Hyla wrightorum			SGCN			
Boreal Chorus Frog	Pseudacris maculata			SGCN			
Barking Frog	Craugastor augusti			SGCN			
Plains Leopard Frog	Lithobates blairi			SGCN 2025			BLM WATCH
Chiricahua Leopard Frog	Lithobates chiricahuensis	LT		SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species		
Northern Leopard Frog	Lithobates pipiens			SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Lowland Leopard Frog	Lithobates yavapaiensis		E	SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM WATCH
Clark's Grebe	Aechmophorus clarkii			SGCN			
Neotropic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax brasilianus		T	SGCN			
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Common Black-Hawk	Buteogallus anthracinus		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM WATCH
Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos			SGCN 2025			BLM WATCH
Aplomado Falcon	Falco femoralis		E	SGCN			
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus		T	SGCN			BLM WATCH
Mountain Plover	Anarhynchus montanus			SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM WATCH
Band-Tailed Pigeon	Patagioenas fasciata			SGCN 2025			
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus americanus	LT		SGCN			
Flammulated Owl	Psiloscops flammeolus			SGCN 2025			BLM WATCH
Elf Owl	Micrathene whitneyi			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Western Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia hypugaea			SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Mexican Spotted Owl	Strix occidentalis lucida	LT		SGCN 2025			

Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 2000 Meters of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor			SGCN			
Lucifer Hummingbird	Calothorax lucifer		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species		
Elegant Trogon	Trogon elegans		E	SGCN	Sensitive Species		
Lewis's Woodpecker	Melanerpes lewis			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Red-Headed Woodpecker	Melanerpes erythrocephalus			SGCN			
Gila Woodpecker	Melanerpes uropygialis		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
Williamson's Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus thyroideus			SGCN			
Olive-Sided Flycatcher	Contopus cooperi			SGCN			
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia			SGCN			
Pinyon Jay	Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Clark's Nutcracker	Nucifraga columbiana			SGCN			
Juniper Titmouse	Baeolophus ridgwayi			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Pygmy Nuthatch	Sitta pygmaea			SGCN			
Western Bluebird	Sialia mexicana			SGCN			
Mountain Bluebird	Sialia currucoides			SGCN			
Sage Thrasher	Oreoscoptes montanus			SGCN 2025			BLM WATCH
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 2025			BLM SENSITIVE
Gray Vireo	Vireo vicinior		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH

Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 2000 Meters of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Virginia's Warbler	Leiothlypis virginiae			SGCN			BLM SENSITIVE
Lucy's Warbler	Leiothlypis luciae			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Black-Throated Gray Warbler	Setophaga nigrescens			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Grace's Warbler	Setophaga graciae			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Red-Faced Warbler	Cardellina rubrifrons			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	
Abert's Towhee	Melozone aberti		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species		
Black-Chinned Sparrow	Spizella atrogularis			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Vesper Sparrow	Pooecetes gramineus			SGCN			
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			
Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis			SGCN			
Rainbow Trout	Oncorhynchus mykiss			SERI			
Gila Trout	Oncorhynchus gilae	LT	T	SGCN 2025			
Brown Trout	Salmo trutta			SERI			
Chihuahua Chub	Gila nigrescens	LT	E	SGCN 2025			
Rio Grande Chub	Gila pandora			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Roundtail Chub	Gila robusta		E	SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Gila Chub	Gila intermedia	LE	E	SGCN 2025			
Headwater Chub	Gila nigra		E	SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species		
Spikedace	Meda fulgida	LE	E	SGCN 2025			
Loach Minnow	Rhinichthys cobitis	LE	E	SGCN			

Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 2000 Meters of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Loach Minnow	Tiaroga cobitis	LE	E	SGCN 2025			
Desert Sucker	Pantosteus clarkii			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Sonora Sucker	Catostomus insignis			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Rio Grande Sucker	Catostomus plebeius			SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Rio Grande Sucker	Pantosteus plebeius			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Headwater Catfish	Ictalurus lupus			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Channel Catfish	Ictalurus punctatus			SERI			
Flathead Catfish	Pylodictis olivaris			SERI			
Smallmouth Bass	Micropterus dolomieui			SERI			
Lesser Long-Nosed Bat	Leptonycteris yerbabuenae	DL	T	SGCN 2025		USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Yuma Myotis	Myotis yumanensis			SGCN 2025			
Cave Myotis	Myotis velifer			SGCN 2025			
Fringed Myotis	Myotis thysanodes			SGCN 2025			
Occult Myotis	Myotis occultus			SGCN 2025		USFS R3 SCC	
Western Red Bat	Lasiurus blossevillii			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species		BLM WATCH
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Allen's Big-Eared Bat	Idionycteris phyllotis			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species		BLM WATCH
Big Free-Tailed Bat	Nyctinomops macrotis			SGCN 2025			
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	Cynomys ludovicianus			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Gunnison's Prairie Dog	Cynomys gunnisoni			SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE

Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 2000 Meters of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Arizona Gray Squirrel	Sciurus arizonensis			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species		
Yellow-Nosed Cotton Rat	Sigmodon ochrognathus			SGCN 2025			BLM WATCH
Mexican Wolf	Canis lupus baileyi	LE,XN	E	SGCN			
Black Bear	Ursus americanus			SERI			
Black-Footed Ferret	Mustela nigripes	LE		SGCN 2025			
Hooded Skunk	Mephitis macroura			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species		
Jaguar	Panthera onca	LE		SGCN			
Mountain Lion	Puma concolor			SERI			
Elk	Cervus canadensis			SERI			
Mule Deer	Odocoileus hemionus			SERI			
Pronghorn	Antilocapra americana			SERI			
Big Bend Slider	Trachemys gaigeae			SGCN			BLM SENSITIVE
Sonoran Mud Turtle	Kinosternon sonoriense			SGCN 2025			
Gila Monster	Heloderma suspectum		E	SGCN			BLM SENSITIVE
Bunch Grass Lizard	Sceloporus slevini		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM WATCH
Sonoran Mountain Kingsnake	Lampropeltis pyromelana			SGCN 2025			
Northern Mexican Garter Snake	Thamnophis eques megalops	LT	E	SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Narrowhead Garter Snake	Thamnophis rufipunctatus	LT	E	SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species		
Rock Rattlesnake	Crotalus lepidus			SGCN			
Banded Rock Rattlesnake	Crotalus lepidus klauberi			SGCN 2025			
Arizona Black Rattlesnake	Crotalus cerberus			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Desert Massasauga	Sistrurus catenatus edwardsii			SGCN			
An Amphipod	Hyalella azteca			SGCN 2025			
Southwestern Slender Bee Fly	Thevenetimyia speciosa			SGCN 2025			

Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 2000 Meters of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Crandall's Hornet Fly	Spilomyia crandalli			SGCN 2025			
Morrison's Bumble Bee	Bombus morrisoni			SGCN 2025			
Mimbres Miner Bee	Andrena mimbresensis			SGCN 2025			
Neff's Miner Bee	Andrena neffi			SGCN 2025			
Volger's Mining Bee	Andrena vogleri			SGCN 2025			
Orange Giant-Skipper	Agathymus neumoegeni			SGCN 2025			
Southwestern Great Basin Silverspot	Argynnis nokomis nitocris			SGCN 2025			
Zuni Flower Moth	Schinia zuni			SGCN 2025			
Silver Creek Woodlandsnail	Ashmunella binneyi			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
Woodlandsnail, Black Range	Ashmunella cockerelli argenticola			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
Woodlandsnail, Creek, Whitewater	Ashmunella danielsi danielsi			SGCN 2025			
Woodlandsnail, Dry Creek	Ashmunella tetrodon inermis			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
Woodlandsnail, Dry Creek	Ashmunella tetrodon animorum			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
Pinos Altos Mountainsnail	Oreohelix confragosa			SGCN 2025			
Black Range Mountainsnail	Oreohelix metcalfei radiata			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
Mineral Creek Mountainsnail	Oreohelix pilsbryi		T	SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
Morgan Creek Mountainsnail	Oreohelix swopei			SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
New Mexico Hot Springsnail	Pyrgulopsis thermalis		T	SGCN 2025	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
Gila Springsnail	Pyrgulopsis gilae			SGCN 2025		USFS R3 SCC	
Jordan Spring Pyrg	Pyrgulopsis marilynae			SGCN 2025			
Burnt Corral Pyrg	Pyrgulopsis similis			SGCN 2025			

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.

Special Status Plant Species Potentially within 2000 Meters of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMAC	NMRPCS	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Dwarf Milkweed	Asclepias uncialis			SS	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
Gilia Thistle	Cirsium gilense			SS	Sensitive Species		
Rock Fleabane	Erigeron scopulinus			SS			
New Mexico Gumweed	Grindelia arizonica var. neomexicana			SS			BLM WATCH
Mogollon Whitlowgrass	Draba mogollonica			SS			
Standley's Whitlow-Grass	Draba standleyi						
Goodding Bladderpod	Physaria gooddingii			SS			
Wright's Campion	Silene wrightii			SS		USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Porsild's Starwort	Stellaria porsildii			SS	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Gila Morning Glory	Ipomoea gilana			SS		USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Cliff Brittlebush	Apacheria chiricahuensis			SS		USFS R3 SCC	
Mosquito Plant	Agastache cana			SS			BLM WATCH
Organ Mountains Giant Hyssop	Agastache pringlei var. verticillata			SS			BLM SENSITIVE
Supreme Sage	Salvia summa			SS			
Pinos Altos Flameflower	Phemeranthus humilis			SS	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Wooton's Hawthorn	Crataegus wootoniana			SS	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
Arizona Willow	Salix arizonica				Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
Arizona Alum-Root	Heuchera glomerulata				Sensitive Species		

Special Status Plant Species Potentially within 2000 Meters of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMAC	NMRPCS	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Metcalfe's Penstemon	Penstemon metcalfei		E	SS	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
Mimbres Figwort	Scrophularia macrantha		E	SS	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
	Carex amplifolia			SS			
Goodding's Onion	Allium gooddingii		E		Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
Yellow Lady's-Slipper	Cypripedium parviflorum var. pubescens		E	SS	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	
Arizona Crested Coralroot	Hexalectris arizonica		E	SS	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH

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.

Project Recommendations

This report includes a preliminary species list that may be used during early stages of project or conservation planning. Even if this report indicates that your proposed project location would require a custom review from a biologist, **no review will be returned** until additional project details are provided. **To obtain a project review**, please submit additional details regarding the **type** of project, project **objectives**, anticipated project **duration**, **timing** of project construction, the composition and dimensions/quantities of **materials** that will be utilized for project implementation, any **equipment** that will be used, anticipated **ground disturbance** that will occur, wildlife surveys or observations that have occurred on or near the project site, and **any other relevant details** regarding potential effects of project activities on wildlife or wildlife habitat. **Photographs** of the project site are especially useful.

Although this project report may include management recommendations based on the project location, additional conservation measures may be needed. The Department can not fully assess potential effects and associated management recommendations until a **project type and description** have been submitted and an appropriate **impact buffer** for that project type has been applied. Also, the species list within this report represents an estimation of special status species that could be present at the site of a small-scale project. Species lists for projects that occur across **broader geographic scales** (e.g., one or more counties, multiple habitat types) are more appropriately obtained from the **Department's Biota Information System of New Mexico (BISON-M) database**. Species lists generated by the ERT may contain modeled species distributions in order to predict species occurrences within areas that lack previous wildlife inventories or surveys. This list can be refined using occurrence-based information within BISON-M regarding wildlife-habitat relationships and biological needs for species that might be present within the project footprint.

The highly invasive, noxious weed African rue *(Peganum harmala)* has been documented near the proposed project area. African rue thrives on disturbed sites and along road sides. It is extremely drought-tolerant and will undergo rapid vegetative growth when soil moisture is available. African rue is extremely toxic to horses, sheep, cattle, and humans, containing at least four types of poisonous alkaloids. In addition, most parts of the plant contain allelopathic chemicals that will reduce the growth of surrounding native plants. To help control this species' spread, the Department recommends that any vehicles and equipment arriving on the project site be thoroughly cleaned of all visible dirt and mud to help contain and control the potential spread of weed seeds. The operator should also initiate a weed management program that includes a commitment to aggressive control of any African rue on the project site. For more information on potential control of African rue, see this field guide.

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 a Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) as identified in the SWAP for New Mexico. These areas contain high numbers of SGCN as identified in the SWAP and therefore represent areas where implementing conservation actions, including restoration projects intended to benefit wildlife, has higher potential to benefit a diversity of species. Within COAs, the Department encourages project proponents to consider (during project planning and design) and mitigate (during project implementation) potential adverse effects to non-federally listed SGCN and their habitats. State-listed and federally-listed species are protected from take by the New Mexico WCA and ESA, respectively, and migratory birds are protected from take by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Your project area intersects designated critical habitat for one or more species that are listed under the federal ESA. The Department recommends that you confirm this using the USFWS's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPAC) system (https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/) and then reach out to the appropriate species lead(s) with the New Mexico Ecological Services Office of USFWS. The USFWS has authority to designate critical habitat for species listed under the ESA. The Department has no authority to designate critical habitat for species listed under the WCA or ESA. If there are any federally-listed plants within your project area and your project has a federal nexus, you may find these recommendations from the USFWS useful: Recommendations for Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultations Involving Plants in New Mexico; Standards for Conducting and Reporting Consultation Surveys for Federally-Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Plants in New Mexico.

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.
- If the use of permanent outdoor lights cannot be avoided, design all outdoor lighting in accordance with the New Mexico Night Sky Protection Act, which requires that outdoor lighting be fitted with shielding that directs light downward, rather than upward or laterally, to prevent sky glow and associated impacts to bats.
- 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 miles 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, which can facilitate contacts with other appropriate personnel.

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.

It appears that your buffered project footprint intersects one or more properties owned by the State Wildlife Commission and managed by the New Mexico Department of Wildlife (Department). You can use the NM Ownership (2021) layer in the ERT's Create Project/Map tab to determine whether your project footprint directly intersects any Department-managed properties. To better coordinate any access or other administrative requirements and address any concerns from our Department lands program, please contact Donald Auer at donaldp.auer@dgf.nm.gov.

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.

Your proposed project occurs within an area where springs or other important natural water features occur. This may result in the presence of a high use area for wildlife relative to the surrounding landscape. To ensure continued function of these important wildlife habitats, your project should consider measures to avoid the following.

- Altering surface or groundwater flow or hydrology,
- Disturbance to soil that modifies geomorphic properties or facilitates invasion of non-native vegetation.
- Affecting local surface or groundwater quality.
- Creating disturbance to wildlife utilizing these water features. Disturbance to wildlife can be reduced through practices including clustering infrastructure and activity wherever possible, avoiding large visual obstructions around water features, and limiting nighttime project operations or activities.

Department biologists are available for site-specific consultation regarding measures to assist with management and conservation of these habitat resources.

Your project is on or near a section of road that has experienced comparatively high incidence of wildlife-vehicle collisions. Coordinate with the New Mexico Department of Transportation to consider implementing mitigation actions that are appropriate to your project area and planned action to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions. These may include but are not limited to: installation of wildlife-proof fencing; installation of wildlife passages such as arch culverts or overpasses; and installation of animal detection systems.

The current project area appears to contain one or more wetland types as classified by the New Mexico Environment Department's Wetland Map. Information on wetlands in your project area can also be viewed on the ERT's Create Project/Map page. This key can assist in interpreting Landscape Position, landform, water flow path, and waterbody type (LLWW) codes in the ERT's wetland data. Wetlands provide important habitat for numerous species of wildlife and pollinators and provide ecosystem services, such as water filtration and storage, to downstream users. The Department recommends avoiding disturbance of wetlands whenever possible, avoiding actions or infrastructure installment that may disrupt natural wetland hydrological processes, and reseeding or replanting areas where disturbance cannot be avoided with native wetland plant species appropriate to the local wetland type. For a list of native seed providers, please see the Department's habitat handbook guideline for Restoration and Management of Native and Non-native Trees in Southwestern Riparian Ecosystems. For projects involving filling wetlands under federal jurisdiction, please contact the Army Corps of Engineers for more information on permits required under the Clean Water Act.

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.
- Unless a project is marked as confidential in the title or description by the project proponent and if a ERT-generated report is the only response that the project proponent receives from the Department, then the report will be made publicly accessible via the Public Comment Letters page on the ERT website.