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## STATE OF NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

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15 June 2026  
Kevin Barnes, Permit Lead  
Mining Act Reclamation Program  
Mining and Minerals Division (MMD)  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

**RE: Modification 26-1, Summa Silver Mogollon Exploration Project, Catron County,  
New Mexico, Permit No. CA027EM; NMDOW No. NMERT-5996.**

Dear Mr. Barnes,

The New Mexico Department of Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the proposed permit modification referenced above. Summa Silver Corporation (Summa Silver) is proposing four additional drill pads located on public lands administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS). Anticipated borehole depths will range from approximately 600 to 2,000 feet. The total proposed disturbance on USFS lands is approximately 0.3 acres. Staff from the Department, MMD, USFS, and Summa Silver conducted a site inspection on 3 June 2026.

Silver Creek Roost #1 is located approximately 500-600 feet from the proposed drill sites on a northwest facing cliff along Silver Creek. The roost site is also approximately 300 feet below the proposed drill sites and is visually isolated. Summa Silver is proposing to use up to four drilling rigs to complete the exploration project within the seasonal timing restrictions that have been previously established for the Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*). The Department is concerned that the roost site may not be aurally isolated from the drilling activities and strongly recommends that Summa Silver utilize some type of sound barrier(s) to eliminate or minimize any potential sound disturbance to the roost site. Summa Silver does state in the permit application that they will proactively conduct a baseline sound study to develop a sound profile to distinguish normal background sound from drilling-related sound. This profile will provide a basis for selecting and configuring appropriate noise controls. The Department also recommends that Summa Silver regularly verify real-time noise levels near the roost site for the duration of the project, and especially when additional drilling rigs are mobilized, to determine if improved sound barriers are required. The permit also states, and the Department recommends, that all nighttime lighting be shielded and directed downward into the immediate work area to prevent stray light from entering adjacent areas. During the site inspection, the USFS staff confirmed that they will also consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in order to identify and address any additional guidance or concerns, respectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed permit modification. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Kellermueller, Mining and Energy Habitat Specialist, at (505) 270-6612 or [ronald.kellermueller@dgf.nm.gov](mailto:ronald.kellermueller@dgf.nm.gov).

Sincerely,

Virginia Seamster, Ph.D.  
Assistant Chief  
Wildlife Management Division, Ecological and Environmental Planning Section

cc: USFWS NMES Field Office