



PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: L100 Compression
Project Type: ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, OIL AND GAS TRANSMISSION (PIPELINE), OIL AND GAS PIPELINES, MAINTENANCE OR EXISTING AREAS
Latitude/Longitude (DMS): 32.263210 / -104.128440
County(s): EDDY
Project Description: Screening for future activities on site. Potential 2027 work, required equipment to be determined. Planning for potential wildlife surveys in progress.

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 Wildlife (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 \(SGCN\)](#) (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. Any surveys including handling or capturing wildlife may require a scientific collection permit; contact the Department's Wildlife Permits Manager at dgf.permits@dgf.nm.gov for more information.
- 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.

L100 Compression



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

NHNM, USGS, USFS, US Census Bureau, NMDGF
 Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA
 Esri Community Maps Contributors, New Mexico State University, Texas Parks & Wildlife, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census

Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 650 Meters of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Barking Frog	Craugastor augusti			SGCN			
Plains Leopard Frog	Lithobates blairi			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Aplomado Falcon	Falco femoralis		E	SGCN			
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus		T	SGCN			BLM WATCH
Western Burrowing Owl	Athene cucularia hypugaea			SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor			SGCN			
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
Varied Bunting	Passerina versicolor		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species		
Vesper Sparrow	Poocetes gramineus			SGCN			
Thick-billed Longspur	Rhynchophanes mccownii			SGCN			BLM SENSITIVE
Chestnut-Collared Longspur	Calcarius ornatus			SGCN			BLM SENSITIVE
Least Shrew	Cryptotis parva		T	SGCN			BLM WATCH
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	Cynomys ludovicianus			SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Pronghorn	Antilocapra americana			SERI			
Gray-Banded Kingsnake	Lampropeltis alterna		E	SGCN			BLM WATCH
Western Ribbon Snake	Thamnophis proximus		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species		
Desert Massasauga	Sistrurus catenatus edwardsii			SGCN			
Texas Hornshell	Popenaias popeii	PE	E	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 650 Meters of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMAC	NMRPCS	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Tharp's Blue Star	Amsonia tharpii		E				BLM SENSITIVE
Scheer's Pincushion Cactus	Coryphantha robustispina ssp. scheeri		E				BLM SENSITIVE
Gyp Ground Plum	Astragalus gypsodes						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.

Project Recommendations

Open trenches excavated for underground water or oil and gas pipelines, powerlines, or fiber optic communication lines can unintentionally entrap and cause the unnecessary mortality of amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals, and can cause injury to large mammals. Trapped animals can die from exposure, starvation, crushing from pipe-laying, entombment from trenching backfilling, drowning, and predation. This unnecessary wildlife mortality can be avoided by implementing conservation measures including: concurrent trenching, pipe-laying, and backfilling operations to minimize the amount of trench left open overnight or longer; construction escape ramps; and employing biological monitors to remove trapped animals. Periods of highest activity for amphibians and reptiles vulnerable to entrapment include summer months and wet weather, and they can be active both day and night. Small mammals subject to entrapment are active year-round and generally most active at night.

Implementing the general trenching conservation measures outlined in the Department's [Trenching Project Guidelines](#) will help minimize unnecessary mortality of wildlife. Best management practices should include, at minimum, the following mitigation measures.

- Whenever possible, locate trenching activities within previously disturbed areas, such as existing road or pipeline right-of-ways. To the extent possible, avoid trenching in undisturbed habitat.
- Trench during the cooler months (October – March).
- Utilize concurrent trenching, pipe- or cable-laying, and backfilling. Keep trenching, pipe- or cable-laying, and backfilling crews as close together as possible to minimize the amount of open trench at any given time. When trenching activities are temporarily halted (e.g., overnight, weekends, holidays, weather shutdowns), protect wildlife from accessing any open trench between digging and backfilling operations by using one or more of the methods described below.
- Avoid leaving trenches open overnight. When trenches cannot be backfilled immediately, escape ramps should be constructed at least every 90 meters and preferably 30 meters. Escape ramps can be constructed parallel or perpendicular to the existing trench. The escape ramp slope should be less than 45 degrees (1:1). If pipe or cable has been installed but backfilling has not occurred, escape ramps may need to be constructed on both sides of the trench, since, unless the pipe is elevated enough to allow animals to move underneath it, the pipe or cable may block access of amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals to the ramps if only constructed on one side.
- Trenches that have been left open overnight should be inspected the following day by a qualified, permitted biological monitor and trapped animals removed as soon as possible, especially where state- or federally listed threatened or endangered amphibians, reptiles, or small mammals occur. Untrained personnel should not attempt to remove trapped wildlife because of the potential to injure animals and the possibility of injury from venomous snakes. Required tools for removal will include snake tongs for removing snakes and a dip net for capturing and removing amphibians and small mammals. Many animals trapped in a trench will burrow under loose soil. To the extent possible, the biological monitor should disturb loose soil in the trench to uncover and remove trapped animals. Animals should be relocated at least 50 meters away from the open trench in undisturbed habitat. Capture and relocation of all state-protected animals, and even of unprotected animals using a dip net, may require a scientific collection permit; contact the Department's Wildlife Permits Manager at dgf.permits@dgf.nm.gov for more information.
- When pipe has been laid in the trench, end caps should be placed on the open end(s) of the pipe to preclude animals from entering. Pipe staged outside the trench should be capped until placed in the trench or checked for wildlife before being placed into the trench.
- Most wildlife can be protected by constructing silt fence completely around the open trench. Silt fence should be supported from sagging by t-posts, rebar, or stakes and buried at the base to preclude animals from moving below the fence. If construction of a silt fence is a required best management practice for erosion control, then, to preclude the need for a biological monitor, escape ramps, and concurrent backfilling, the guidelines for silt fence installation and maintenance in the [Trenching Project Guidelines](#) should be followed.

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](#). Surveys including audio calls may require a scientific collection permit; contact the Department's Wildlife Permits Manager at dgf.permits@dgf.nm.gov for more information. Should burrowing owls be documented in the project area, please contact the Department or USFWS for further recommendations and information on any permitting requirements 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.

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.