



DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY
TO THE COMMISSION
Michael B. Sloane

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

One Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507

Tel: (505) 476-8000 | Fax: (505) 476-8180

For information call: (888) 248-6866

<https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov>

STATE WILDLIFE COMMISSION

RICHARD STUMP
Chair
Santa Fe

FERNANDO CLEMENTE, JR.
Vice Chair
Sunland Park

KYLE HARWOOD
Santa Fe

TIRZIO J. LOPEZ
Cebolla

DR. CHRISTOPHER C. WITT
Albuquerque

7 October 2026

James Duran, Forest Supervisor
Carson National Forest (NF)
ATTN: Truchas-Costilla Project
208 Cruz Alta Rd.
Taos, NM 87571

RE: Truchas to Upper Costilla Headwaters Active Management Project and draft Environmental Assessment; NMDOW Project No. NMERT-6555

Dear Mr. Duran,

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) proposes to conduct active management activities on approximately 491,942 acres in the Questa and Camino Real Ranger Districts of the Carson NF (Proposed Action) and has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project ([USFS 2026](#)). The New Mexico Department of Wildlife (Department) would like to thank the Carson NF for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Action. In addition to the information provided in the attached New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (NMERT)-generated report for this project (NMDOW 2026), the Department has the following comments on the Proposed Action.

General Comments

It appears that portions of the Proposed Action area border Pueblo/Reservation lands. The Department has no jurisdiction or authority over the wildlife resources on Indian reservations or property. We would recommend that you contact the Pueblo/Reservation regarding general wildlife issues they may have and contact USFWS regarding any threatened or endangered species issues.

The Department would appreciate the opportunity to review any Biological Assessments (BAs) or surveys completed for this Proposed Action in order to provide further species-specific recommendations and technical guidance.

In addition to the species list included within the NMERT-generated report and those listed in the draft EA ([USFS 2026](#)), an expanded species list (pers. comm. J. Klingel 2026) has been included in Appendix A. The species in Appendix A are classified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) within New Mexico ([NMDOW 2025](#)) and are known or expected, based on county occurrence and habitat associations, to occur within the Carson NF and, therefore, are potentially found within the Proposed Action area. The Department recommends these species be included in the BA for the Proposed Action to provide increased protection for wildlife and their habitats.

Comments to Minimize Impacts on Wildlife and Terrestrial Habitats

The Department appreciates the USFS's consideration of wildlife and terrestrial habitats in the draft EA for the Proposed Action ([USFS 2026](#)). The Department also concurs with the design features included in Appendix D. The Department suggests the following recommendations be included as design features in order to provide the maximum level of protection for wildlife and terrestrial habitats within the Proposed Action area.

Since the Proposed Action will likely include road construction or repair activities, the Department recommends implementation of its [Bridge and Culvert Construction Guidelines for Stream, Riparian, and Wetland Habitats](#) (NMDOW 2025) for any rivers, streams, washes, springs, seeps, or riparian areas that fall within the impact footprint of the Proposed Action. These guidelines should assist in minimizing impacts to the local rivers or wetlands and should be incorporated into the standard best management practices for these types of construction activities.

The Department also recommends that pre-construction bat surveys be conducted during summer months to determine if bats occur in existing culverts or bridges to be impacted by the Proposed Action. If bats are determined to occur at bridge or culvert sites, work should be scheduled to avoid impacting bats that may roost there (i.e., conduct work in winter months).

Construction areas and other impervious surfaces associated with the Proposed Action can have significant impacts on surface waters by increasing the amount of sediment and other pollutants that are washed into surface waters, increasing the velocity and volume of water, and reducing infiltration into groundwater. Reducing the amount of impervious surfaces and phasing construction will reduce these impacts. To prevent sediment and other pollutants from entering waterways within the Proposed Action footprint, the Department recommends developing a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and provides the following additional recommendations to minimize or eliminate impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat:

- Divert water around construction sites whenever possible.
- Preserve natural areas within sites for projects implemented under the Proposed Action. Strive to maintain the natural drainage system of the sites, including natural stream channels, wetlands, and floodplains. Design, construct, and maintain the sites to protect (or restore) the natural hydrology.
- Following construction, disturbed areas should be re-vegetated using native species that approximate the pre-disturbance plant community composition or

native plant communities appropriate for the site, including from a region that represents potential future climatic conditions at the site, whichever is more beneficial to wildlife. Include as much locally appropriate genetic diversity in plant material sources as possible. Short-term erosion control seed mixes are available for temporary control of surface erosion during Proposed Action implementation; native mixes should be used for temporary as well as permanent erosion control. Native plants and materials should also be used for landscaping. All seed mixtures should be certified as weed-free and designed to enhance local pollinator habitat, unless there is concern regarding potential for pesticide, especially neonicotinoid, presence. For pollinating insects, including a diversity of flowering plants with different colors and shapes and flowering times that span spring through fall (March-October), high-nutrient or value plants (e.g., goldenrods [*Solidago* spp.], gumweed [*Grindelia* spp.], or sunflowers [*Helianthus* spp.]), perennials, native bunch grasses and thistles, some plants with pithy and woody stems, some bare ground, and rarer plants may be beneficial. Ideally, at least three different species should be flowering at all times between March and October. Consult pollinator-friendly plant species lists provided by the [Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#) or other appropriate resources. No-till drills may be more effective than broadcast seeding for establishing flowering plants. New Mexico grass ecotypes for commercial seeding are available through the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center and New Mexico State University. Seeding guidelines are available from the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#).

- If erosion control blankets are used post-construction, burying the blanket edges, and using blankets without fused mesh corners (e.g., woven mesh) can reduce the chances of unintentional wildlife entanglement. Regularly check the erosion control blankets after applying them to identify and release any wildlife that does become entangled.
- Maintain a vegetated buffer zone along all watercourses, including ephemeral arroyos, sufficient to minimize erosion and sediment delivery.
- Use properly engineered drainage swales and other vegetated channel systems instead of storm sewers, lined channels, curbs, and gutters. Vegetated swales should be gently sloped (4:1) so that small wildlife is able to maneuver them.
- Efforts should be made during construction to minimize impacts on vegetative communities. Existing roads and rights-of-way should be used for all transportation. Off-road driving should be avoided. Staging areas should be located in previously disturbed sites, where possible, and kept as small as possible.

Open trenches or substantive excavations performed under the Proposed Action could 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 of 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](#) (NMDOW 2022) 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 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](#) (NMDOW 2022) should be followed.

For site restoration conducted under the Proposed Action, the Department recommends that only native plant species be used in restoration seed and plant mixes and that the mixes be designed to enhance local pollinator habitat. In addition to the recommendations provided above for re-vegetation of disturbed areas following construction, the Department has the following recommendations. The Department notes that the use of plants that are not pre-treated with systemic pesticides may be beneficial for pollinators. The Department recommends that all mulch be certified weed-free to avoid inadvertently introducing non-native species to the restoration site and that sterile non-native seed sources not be used. Any alternative plant species used to substitute for primary plant species that are unavailable at the time of restoration should also be native. For trees, use of containerized seedlings or poles is recommended over seeds as is selection of more protected planting sites with higher soil moisture to increase likelihood of revegetation success. Planting trees in separated clumps or patches may better match natural regeneration and support greater wildlife diversity. More details on tree seedling selection and planting in upland sites are available from the [New Mexico Forestry Division](#).

Since pinyon jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*) is listed as potentially present in the Proposed Action area, the Department notes that the breeding season for the pinyon jay starts March 1, earlier than for some other migratory birds, and encourages implementation of recommendations outlined in the [Conservation Strategy for the Pinyon Jay \(*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*\)](#) (Somershoe et al. 2020) for any vegetation treatments conducted in pinyon-juniper woodlands. In particular, the Department encourages completion of surveys for active pinyon jay colonies during the breeding season prior to treatment implementation and buffering any previously detected colonies with 500 m buffers during Proposed Action implementation. Further information and management recommendations for pinyon jay within the Gila NF can be found in the [Pinyon Jay Surveys in the Gila National Forest, New Mexico - Final Report](#) (Johnson et al. 2023).

The Department recommends that any outdoor lighting installed as part of the Proposed Action be down shielded to keep light within the boundaries of the site and minimize its potential attraction for birds, insects, and the one threatened bat species potentially found in the Proposed Action area. Additionally, keeping the number and intensity of

outdoor lights to a minimum, the use of motion activators or timers when feasible, and use of red gel filters will benefit insects.

For any debris or slash piles, wildlife including small mammals ([Goguen et al. 2015](#)), snakes ([Sperry and Weatherhead 2010](#)), and birds ([Aigner et al. 1998](#)) are known to use brush piles for habitat and cover. To avoid unintended wildlife mortality, the Department recommends chipping or masticating all mechanically removed woody plant material or, if burning is necessary, burning either immediately after piles are constructed or during the winter.

Additionally, the Department would like to note that the following state-endangered plants: great plains lady's tresses (*Spiranthes magnicamporum*), mountain lily (*Lilium philadelphicum* var. *andinum*), and Taos springsparsely (*Cymopterus spellenbergii*) have been documented near and potentially within the Proposed Action area footprint. The USFS may need to consider mitigating impacts of projects implemented under the Proposed Action on these species, including during project design. The Department recommends the USFS contact Erika Rowe (Erika.Rowe@emnrd.nm.gov) at the [New Mexico Endangered Plant Program](#) of the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department regarding potential presence of, and conservation needs for, state-listed plants.

Comments to Minimize Impacts on Fish and Aquatic Habitats

The Department appreciates the USFS's consideration of wildlife and terrestrial habitats in the draft EA for the Proposed Action ([USFS 2026](#)). The Department suggests the following recommendations be included as design features in order to provide the maximum level of protection for fish and aquatic habitats within the Proposed Action area.

For projects implemented under the Proposed Action in aquatic habitats where beavers are present, the Department recommends implementing or consulting its [Beavers in New Mexico: Coexistence and Relocation](#) (NMDOW 2025) guidelines as needed to mitigate any local conflicts with beaver activities and for information on relocation procedures in situations where coexistence is not feasible, respectively.

As much as is feasible, the Department encourages the use of low-tech, process-based restoration (LTPBR) techniques (i.e., structures such as beaver dam analogs, one-rock dams, media lunas, post-assisted log structures, and Zuni bowls) and the use of native vegetation or buried log structures (rather than rip rap, concrete, gabions, or other hardening substrate/structures) to stabilize stream banks and address issues related to erosion. LTPBR techniques are low in cost, made from natural and locally sourced materials, and have been shown to be effective in restoring fluvial processes and habitats. Native riparian vegetation provides important habitat to a wide diversity of wildlife.

The Department encourages the USFS to implement biosecurity measures in site-specific plans in order to prevent the transmission of fish and amphibian diseases. Information on disinfection protocols for implementation before going into the field, during the sampling of amphibians, and after work is completed can be found here: [Disinfection Protocols for Herpetofaunal Pathogens](#) (Bletz et al. 2023). The Department recommends these disinfection protocols be used when working in aquatic habitats, even when no faunal sampling or direct handling will take place, in order to protect aquatic species.

If construction activities necessitate temporary dewatering of any waterway within the Proposed Action footprint, the Department recommends conducting fish salvage in the dewatered area and using screens and block nets to prevent fish from being entrapped in any pumps and machinery or any areas disconnected from the mainstem flow during the Proposed Action implementation. If a waterway is diverted, the Department recommends best management practices include ensuring any diversion liners are constructed and installed so no animals can become entrapped between the lining material and stream banks or other substrates.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Proposed Action and for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions regarding terrestrial habitat or species, please contact Meredith Dalton, Terrestrial Habitat Specialist, at (505)709-0671 or meredith.dalton@dgf.nm.gov. For aquatic species or habitat questions, please contact Jelsie Kerr, Aquatic Habitat Restoration Biologist, at (505)637-2811 or jelsie.kerr@dgf.nm.gov.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed
by Virginia
Seamster
Date: 2026.10.07
17:22:23 -06'00'

Virginia Seamster
Assistant Chief for Technical Guidance
Ecological and Environmental Planning Section

References

Aigner, P. A., W. M. Block, and M. L. Morrison. 1998. Effect of Firewood Harvesting on Birds in a California Oak-Pine Woodland. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. 62(2):485-496. <<https://doi.org/10.2307/3802322>>.

Bletz, M. C., J. T. Julian, M. Kirchgessner, J. M. Drasher, P. F. P. Henry, S. D. Jewell, P. T. Meier, K. Michell, J. C. Olori, K. J. Oxenrider, M. Ravesi, and S. A. Smith. 2023. Disinfection Protocols for Herpetofaunal Pathogens. *Herpetological Review* 54:200-203. <https://www.parcplace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Bletz.etal_.2023_NEPARCdecon1.pdf>.

Goguen, C. B., R. S. Fritsky, and G. J. San Julian. 2015. Effects of Brush Piles on Small Mammal Abundance and Survival in Central Pennsylvania. *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* 6(2):392-404.

<<https://meridian.allenpress.com/jfwm/article/6/2/392/203996/Effects-of-Brush-Piles-on-Small-Mammal-Abundance>>.

Johnson, K., N. Petersen, G. Sadoti, and L. Wickersham. 2023. Pinyon Jay Surveys in the Gila National Forest, New Mexico - Final Report 2021, 2022, and 2023. Animas Biological Studies, Durango, Colorado, USA.

<<https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/download/pinyon-jay-surveys-in-the-gila-national-forest-final-report-2021-2022-2023/?wpdmdl=48827&refresh=69d947d6359961775847382>>.

[NMDOW] New Mexico Department of Wildlife. 2022. Conservation Measures to Avoid Mortality of Wildlife from Trenching Operations. New Mexico Department of Wildlife, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA.

< <https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/download/trenching-project-guidelines/?wpdmdl=43136&refresh=69bc31b07fd811773941168>>

[NMDOW] New Mexico Department of Wildlife. 2025. Beavers in New Mexico: Coexistence and Relocation. New Mexico Department of Wildlife, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. <<https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/download/beavers-in-new-mexico-coexistence-and-relocation/?wpdmdl=50966&refresh=6839eeea599651748627178>>.

[NMDOW] New Mexico Department of Wildlife. 2025. Bridge and Culvert Construction Guidelines for Stream, Riparian, and Wetland Habitats. New Mexico Department of Wildlife, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. < <https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/download/bridge-and-culvert-construction-guidelines-for-stream-wetland-and-riparian-habitats-2019/?wpdmdl=43122&refresh=69b9c274579be1773781620>>

[NMDOW] New Mexico Department of Wildlife. 2025. State Wildlife Action Plan for New Mexico. New Mexico Department of Wildlife, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA.

<<https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/download/new-mexico-state-wildlife-action-plan-swap-final-2025/?ind=17520976476241&filename=2025%20State%20Wildlife%20Action%20Plan%20for%20New%20Mexico.pdf&wpdmdl=51964&refresh=686ee37d997eb1752097661>>.

[NMDOW] New Mexico Department of Wildlife. 2026. Truchas to Upper Costilla Headwaters Active Management Project EA. New Mexico Environmental Review Tool Report. New Mexico Department of Wildlife, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA.

<https://nmert.org/system/files/project_report_truchas_upper_costilla_head_45184_45958.pdf>.

Somershoe, S. G., E. Ammon, J. D. Boone, K. Johnson, M. Darr, C. Witt, and E. Duvuvuei. 2020. Conservation Strategy for the Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*). Partners in Flight Western Working Group and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colorado, USA.

<https://partnersinflight.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Conservation-Strategy-for-Pinyon-Jay_Version-1_February-2020_LowRes.pdf>.

Sperry, J. H., and P. J. Wheatherhead. 2010. Ratsnakes and Brush Piles: Intended and Unintended Consequences of Improving Habitat for Wildlife? The American Midland Naturalist 163:311-317. <<https://doi.org/10.1674/0003-0031-163.2.311>>.

[USFS] U.S. Forest Service. 2026. Truchas to Upper Costilla Headwaters Active Management Project Draft Environmental Assessment. U.S. Forest Service, Carson National Forest, Taos, New Mexico, USA.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r03/carson/projects/377818?utm_source=MarketingCloud&utm_medium=email>.

Appendix A: Species Potentially Present in the Proposed Action Area

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Species Status
American Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	SGCN
American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus unicolor</i>	SGCN
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius sparverius</i>	SGCN
American Mink	<i>Neogale vison</i>	SGCN
American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	SGCN
American Tree Sparrow	<i>Spizelloides arborea ochracea</i>	SGCN
Bendire's Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma bendirei</i>	SGCN
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	SGCN
Big Free-Tailed Bat	<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>	SGCN
Black Footed Ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	E, SGCN
Black Rosy Finch	<i>Leucosticte atrata</i>	SGCN
Black-Billed Magpie	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>	SGCN
Black-Headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	SGCN
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus ludovicianus</i>	SGCN
Black-Throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	SGCN
Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	SGCN
Brown-Capped Rosy-Finch	<i>Leucosticte australis</i>	SGCN
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	SGCN
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia hypugaea</i>	SGCN
Canada Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	T, SGCN
Canyon Towhee	<i>Melospiza fusca</i>	SGCN
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus conspersus</i>	SGCN
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans vociferans</i>	SGCN
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina arizonae</i>	SGCN

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Species Status
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	SGCN
Common Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	SGCN
Dune Flower-loving Fly	<i>Apiocera bilineata</i>	SGCN
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	SGCN
Eastern Yellowbelly Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	SGCN
Ermine Weasel	<i>Mustela richardsonii</i>	SGCN
Ferruginous Hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	SGCN
Fringed Myotis Bat	<i>Myotis thysanodes thysanodes</i>	SGCN
Green-Tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>	SGCN
Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi</i>	SGCN
Heather Vole	<i>Phenacomys intermedius intermedius</i>	SGCN
Hoary Bat	<i>Aeorestes cinereus cinereus</i>	SGCN
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus vociferus</i>	SGCN
Lake Fingernail Clam	<i>Musculium lacustre</i>	NM-T, SGCN
Lark Bunting	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>	SGCN
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus strigatus</i>	SGCN
Lazuli Bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>	SGCN
Least Tern	<i>Sternula antillarum athalassos</i>	SGCN
Magdalena Alpine Butterfly	<i>Erebia magdalena magdalena</i>	SGCN
Mountain Checkered Skipper	<i>Pyrgus xanthus</i>	SGCN
Mountain Chickadee	<i>Poecile gambeli gambeli</i>	SGCN
Northern Rough-Winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	SGCN
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	SGCN
Ornate Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene ornata</i>	SGCN
Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>	SGCN
Pinyon Jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	SGCN
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus circumcinctus</i>	T, NM-T, SGCN
Plumbeous Vireo	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>	SGCN
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	SGCN
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	SGCN
Red-Naped Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>	SGCN
Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis</i>	SGCN
Rio Grande Sucker	<i>Catostomus plebeius</i>	SGCN
River Otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	SGCN
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus</i>	SGCN
Rocky Mountainsnail	<i>Oreohelix strigosa depressa</i>	SGCN
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	SGCN
Sagebrush Sparrow	<i>Artemisiospiza nevadensis</i>	SGCN

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Species Status
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis; anthinus</i>	SGCN
Scott's Oriole	<i>Icterus parisorum</i>	SGCN
Short-Eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus flammeus</i>	SGCN
Southern Plains Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus fraternus</i>	SGCN
Southern Red-Backed Vole	<i>Myodes gapperi</i>	SGCN
Southern Redbelly Dace	<i>Chrosomus erythrogaster</i>	NM-E, SGCN
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	SGCN
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	SGCN
Star Gyro	<i>Armiger crista</i>	NM-T, SGCN
Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri macrolopha</i>	SGCN
Thirteen-Lined Ground Squirrel	<i>Ictidomys tridecemlineatus arenicola; blanca; hollisteri</i>	SGCN
Violet-Green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina lepida</i>	SGCN
Plains Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis radix</i>	SGCN
Western Boreal Toad	<i>Anaxyrus boreas boreas</i>	NM-E, SGCN
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	SGCN
Western Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus princeps princeps</i>	SGCN
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	SGCN
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	SGCN
Western Wood Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	SGCN
White-Tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus townsendii campanius</i>	SGCN
White-Throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis saxatalis</i>	SGCN
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	SGCN
Yellow-Headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	SGCN
Yuma Myotis Bat	<i>Myotis yumanensis yumanensis</i>	SGCN

E= Federally listed as Endangered

T= Federally listed as Threatened

NM-E= Listed as Endangered in the state of New Mexico

NM-T= Listed as Threatened in the state of New Mexico

SGCN= Included as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan for New Mexico ([NMDOW 2025](#))