

# **APPENDIX A**

## Environmental Resources

## Endangered Species Act Species and USFWS Coordination

### Endangered Species Act Species

A total of four threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species appear on the USFWS species list for the area. All species on this list are being considered in the effects analysis for the project. The official consultation letter is provided below.

Table 1 USFWS Endangered Species Act Species

GROUP	NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	POTENTIAL OCCURRENCE/EFFECT
Birds	Mexican Spotted Owl <i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	Endangered	No suitable habitat exists within the project area.
Birds	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Endangered	No suitable habitat exists within the project area.
Insects	Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Proposed Threatened	Potential to occur in project area, especially during migration; project could provide habitat; discussed below.
Plants	Holy Ghost Ipomopsis <i>Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus</i>	Endangered	No suitable habitat exists within the project area.

**Critical Habitats:** there are no critical habitats within the project area.

### Species accounts:

#### Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*)

Spotted owls' historical range included Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah. These owls are residents of old-growth or mature forests that possess complex structural components. Owls are also found in canyon habitat dominated by vertical-walled rocky cliffs within complex watersheds. Spotted Owl foraging habitat includes a wide variety of forest conditions, canyon bottoms, cliff faces, tops of canyon rims, and riparian areas. Important features of roosting and nesting habitats include large trees (with a trunk diameter of 12 inches or more), uneven aged tree stands, multi-storied canopy, a tree canopy creating shade over 40 percent or more of the ground and downed logs and snags. None of these features exist in or near the project area. (USFWS species profile, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8196#lifeHistory> , 2025).

#### Holy Ghost Ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus*)

This endangered plant is found in only one canyon in the upper Pecos River drainage of the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains in San Miguel County, NM. It grows on relatively dry, steep, west to southwest-facing slopes in open ponderosa pine or mixed conifer forest at 2,400-2,500 m (7,730-8,220 ft). The geologic substrate is partly weathered Terrero limestone. This plant appears to grow best in bare mineral soils with its highest densities on disturbed sites such as road cuts. The sole location for this plant is along a road to a campground in a canyon developed for summer homes (New Mexico Rare Plant

Website, <https://nmrareplants.unm.edu/node/105> , 2025). Habitat for this species does not occur at or near Conchas Lake.

### **Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)**

The federally endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) occurs in southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, southern portions of Nevada and Utah, and southwestern Colorado (USFWS 1995). These birds arrive in New Mexico by early to mid-May. Breeding occurs in late May and early June. Young are fledged in late June or early July. The SWFL departs New Mexico for wintering grounds in late September (USFWS 2002).

Nesting habitat for the flycatcher includes riparian plant species such as willow (*Salix* spp.), saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.), box elder (*Acer negundo*), and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*). Nests generally occur adjacent to or over water or saturated substrates (Paxton et al. 2007). Along the Middle Rio Grande, breeding territories were found in young and mid-age riparian vegetation dominated by dense growths of willows at least 15 feet high, as well as in mixed native and exotic stands dominated by Russian olive and saltcedar. (USFWS species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749>, 2005)

Tree species near the Conchas Lodge include juniper, Siberian elm, mesquite and saltcedar. Vegetation surrounding the lodge building is upland in character and not sufficiently dense for flycatchers.

### **Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)**

The monarch butterfly is proposed for listing as threatened. With its iconic orange and black markings, the monarch butterfly is one of the most recognizable species in North America. Monarchs are particularly remarkable because they migrate each year, flying from as far as Canada and across the United States to congregate at a few forested overwintering sites in coastal California or the mountains of central Mexico, where thousands to millions of monarchs cluster in the trees. For more than 20 years, communities and scientists have been tracking monarch populations with growing concern as the number of monarchs at overwintering sites has declined, prompting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies and groups to identify threats to the monarch and take steps to conserve monarchs throughout their range. (USFWS species profile, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743> )



Monarch butterfly (photo credit: USFWS)



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office  
2105 Osuna Road Ne  
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001  
Phone: (505) 346-2525 Fax: (505) 346-2542



In Reply Refer To:

03/14/2025 19:23:50 UTC

Project Code: 2024-0017833

Project Name: Conchas Lodge Demolition

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your recent request for information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of New Mexico wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 *et seq.*), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as amended (16 USC 701-715), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act as amended (16 USC 668-668(c)). We are providing the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may or may not occur within your project area, and to recommend some conservation measures that can be included in your project design.

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the ESA of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and

the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 USC 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>.

### **Candidate Species and Other Sensitive Species**

A list of candidate and other sensitive species in your area is also attached. Candidate species and other sensitive species are species that have no legal protection under the ESA, although we recommend that candidate and other sensitive species be included in your surveys and considered for planning purposes. The Service monitors the status of these species. If significant declines occur, these species could potentially be listed. Therefore, actions that may contribute to their decline should be avoided.

Lists of sensitive species including State-listed endangered and threatened species are compiled by New Mexico State agencies. These lists, along with species information, can be found at the following websites.

Biota Information System of New Mexico (BISON-M): [www.bison-m.org](http://www.bison-m.org)

New Mexico State Forestry. The New Mexico Endangered Plant Program:  
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/rare-plants/>

New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council, New Mexico Rare Plants: [nmrareplants.unm.edu](http://nmrareplants.unm.edu)

Natural Heritage New Mexico, online species database: [nhnm.unm.edu](http://nhnm.unm.edu)

## WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value.

We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's NWI program website, [www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html](http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html), integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the ESA, there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the Service (50 CFR 10.12 and 16 USC 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a Federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no Federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>. We also recommend review of the Birds of Conservation Concern list (<https://www.fws.gov/media/birds-conservation-concern-2021>) to fully evaluate the effects to the birds at your site. This list identifies migratory and non-migratory bird species (beyond those already designated as federally threatened or endangered) that represent top conservation priorities for the Service, and are potentially threatened by disturbance, habitat impacts, or other project development activities.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 thereby provides additional protection for both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. Please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds> for information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186.



We suggest you contact the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division for information regarding State protected and at-risk species fish, wildlife, and plants.

For further consultation with the Service we recommend submitting inquiries or assessments electronically to our incoming email box at [nmesfo@fws.gov](mailto:nmesfo@fws.gov), where it will be more promptly routed to the appropriate biologist for review.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

## OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office**

2105 Osuna Road Ne  
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001  
(505) 346-2525



## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0017833  
Project Name: Conchas Lodge Demolition  
Project Type: Recreation - Maintenance / Modification  
Project Description: Historic building demolition  
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@35.37875895,-104.19933107913086,14z>



Counties: San Miguel County, New Mexico

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

**BIRDS**

NAME	STATUS
Mexican Spotted Owl <i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8196">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8196</a>	Threatened
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749</a>	Endangered

**INSECTS**

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Proposed Threatened

**FLOWERING PLANTS**

NAME	STATUS
Holy Ghost Ipomopsis <i>Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8231">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8231</a>	Endangered

**CRITICAL HABITATS**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

## IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Dana Price  
Address: 4101 Jefferson Plaza NE  
City: Albuquerque  
State: NM  
Zip: 87109  
Email: dana.m.price@usace.army.mil  
Phone: 5053423378

## State of NM Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species

### New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Coordination

The Biota Information System of New Mexico (BISON-M) and the New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (NM-ERT) were consulted regarding species with potential to occur in the project area and species of conservation concern to the state. The following state-listed species appear in the NM-ERT report.

GROUP	NAME	STATE STATUS	POTENTIAL OCCURRENCE/EFFECT
Bird	Bald Eagle	T	Potential overflight only; no effect
Bird	Peregrine Falcon	T	Potential overflight only; no effect
Bird	Gray Vireo	T	Potential overflight only; no effect
Mammal	Least Shrew	T	Unlikely; no suitable habitat in project area
Reptile	Gray-Checkered Whiptail	E	Does not occur in San Miguel County according to BISON-M
Reptile	Western ribbon snake	T	Unlikely; no suitable habitat in project area

Project impacts to state status bird species would be avoided by ensuring no vegetation removal occurs during the nesting season and surveying the building's eaves and other suitable nesting locations for nests prior to demolition activities.

Impacts to reptiles and small mammals would be avoided by ensuring any trenches or holes are either covered or provided with gently sloped ramps so animals can escape.

The NMERT report states that prairie dog colonies and burrowing owls may occur within the project area. Prairie dogs have not been observed in the vicinity of the lodge building. Prior to demolition, the area surrounding the building would be checked for burrows that could be inhabited by burrowing owls. Due to construction/demolition activities being confined to the building footprint, impacts to these species are unlikely.

Follow-up conversations with NMGDF biologists concern the potential for impacts to bats. Bats have been observed roosting inside the lodge building but have not been identified to species. USACE is in process of coordinating with NMDGF concerning avoidance measures. To avoid harm to these sensitive animals, a preliminary assessment will be conducted to determine whether bats are using the lodge building regularly and in significant numbers. If an important bat roost is found, appropriate measures such as excluding or relocating the animals would be undertaken.



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**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Title:	Conchas Lodge Partial Preservation and Partial Demolition
Project Type:	PLANNING, GENERAL
Latitude/Longitude (DMS):	35.379163 / -104.199829
County(s):	SAN MIGUEL
Project Description:	Historic Preservation, Building. The historic Conchas Lodge will have portions that are not contributing elements to its historic character demolished, and the historic portions will be restored and preserved.

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**REQUESTOR INFORMATION**

Project Organization:	
Contact Name:	Dana Price
Email Address:	dana.m.price@usace.army.mil
Organization:	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Address:	4101 Jefferson Plaza NE, Albuquerque NM 87109
Phone:	505-342-3378

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**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 Game and Fish (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.



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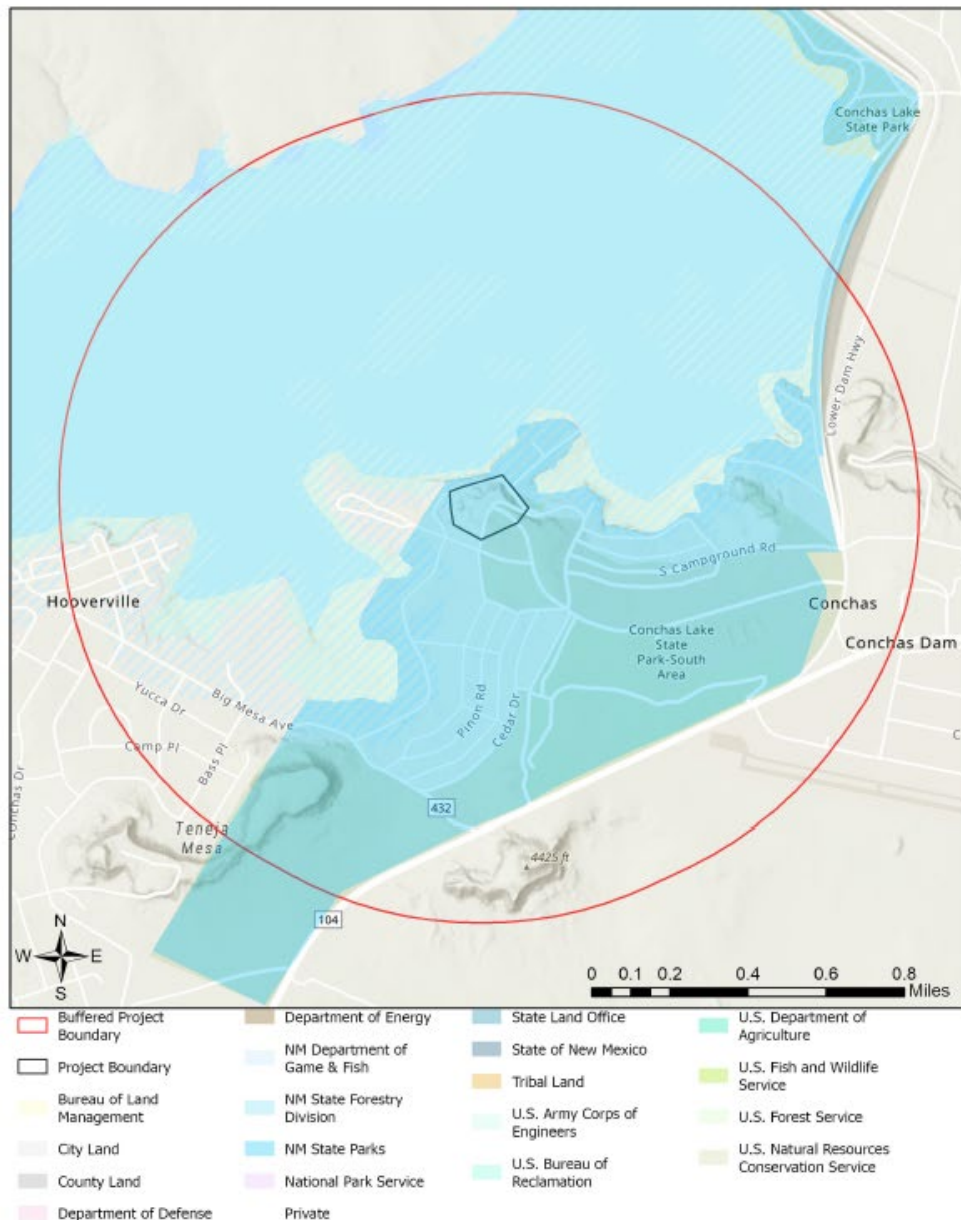
About this report:

- 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.





## Conchas Lodge Partial Preservation and Partial Demolition



USGS, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), Natural Heritage New Mexico (NHNM), and USDA Forest Service.  
Compiled by Richard Norwood of NHNM over the period 2020 to 2021.  
Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NOAA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatasynthese, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community



**Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI
<a href="#">Boreal Chorus Frog</a>	<a href="#">Pseudacris maculata</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Northern Leopard Frog</a>	<a href="#">Lithobates pipiens</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Fared Grebe</a>	<a href="#">Podiceps nigricollis</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Clark's Grebe</a>	<a href="#">Aechmophorus clarkii</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Bald Eagle</a>	<a href="#">Haliaeetus leucocephalus</a>		T	SGCN
<a href="#">Peregrine Falcon</a>	<a href="#">Falco peregrinus</a>		T	SGCN
<a href="#">Mountain Plover</a>	<a href="#">Charadrius montanus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Long-Billed Curlew</a>	<a href="#">Numenius americanus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Yellow-Billed Cuckoo</a>	<a href="#">Coccyzus americanus</a>	LT		SGCN
<a href="#">Western Burrowing Owl</a>	<a href="#">Athene cunicularia hypugaea</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Common Nighthawk</a>	<a href="#">Chordeiles minor</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Lewis's Woodpecker</a>	<a href="#">Melanerpes lewis</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Williamson's Sapsucker</a>	<a href="#">Sphyrapicus thyroideus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Olive-Sided Flycatcher</a>	<a href="#">Contopus cooperi</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Bank Swallow</a>	<a href="#">Riparia riparia</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Pinyon Jay</a>	<a href="#">Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Juniper Titmouse</a>	<a href="#">Baeolophus ridgwayi</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Pygmy Nuthatch</a>	<a href="#">Sitta pygmaea</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Western Bluebird</a>	<a href="#">Sialia mexicana</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Mountain Bluebird</a>	<a href="#">Sialia cumuoides</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Loggerhead Shrike</a>	<a href="#">Lanius ludovicianus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Gray Vireo</a>	<a href="#">Vireo vicinior</a>		T	SGCN
<a href="#">Virginia's Warbler</a>	<a href="#">Leiostyris virginiae</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Thick-billed Longspur</a>	<a href="#">Rhynchophanes mccownii</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Chestnut-Collared Longspur</a>	<a href="#">Calcarius ornatus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Cassin's Finch</a>	<a href="#">Haemorhous cassinii</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">White Bass</a>	<a href="#">Morone chrysops</a>			SERI
<a href="#">Smallmouth Bass</a>	<a href="#">Micropterus dolomieu</a>			SERI
<a href="#">Largemouth Bass</a>	<a href="#">Micropterus salmoides</a>			SERI
<a href="#">Walleye</a>	<a href="#">Sander vitreus</a>			SERI
<a href="#">Least Shrew</a>	<a href="#">Cryptotis parva</a>		T	SGCN
<a href="#">Pale Townsend's Big-Eared Bat</a>	<a href="#">Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Black-Tailed Prairie Dog</a>	<a href="#">Cynomys ludovicianus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Pronghorn</a>	<a href="#">Antilocapra americana</a>			SERI
<a href="#">Gray-Checkered Whiptail</a>	<a href="#">Aspidoscelis tessellata</a>		E	SGCN
<a href="#">Western Ribbon Snake</a>	<a href="#">Thamnophis proximus</a>		T	SGCN
<a href="#">Desert Massasauga</a>	<a href="#">Sistrurus catenatus edwardsii</a>			SGCN

Common Name hyperlink takes you to species account in [bison-m.org](https://bison-m.org/); Scientific Name hyperlink takes you to information in [NatureServe Explorer](https://www.natureserve.org/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.

### Project Recommendations

Your proposed project activities may require a custom review for assessment of potential effects to wildlife. See the "OVERALL STATUS" section above to determine the likelihood that your project will be reviewed further based on its location. A Department biologist will confirm whether any additional conservation measures are needed. You should expect to receive any additional project recommendations within 30 days of your project submission. If the "OVERALL STATUS" section indicates that no further consultation with the Department is required based on its location, then you will only receive additional project feedback from the Department if a biologist deems it necessary.

**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.



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**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.

## Rare Plants and New Mexico EMNRD Coordination

### New Mexico Rare Plant List, San Miguel County

Scientific Name	NMRPTC status	USFWS status	State of NM status
<i>Asclepias uncialis</i>	D		
<i>Calochortus gunnisonii</i> var. <i>perpulcher</i>	R		
<i>Carex chihuahuensis</i>			
<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>	D		E
<i>Delphinium sapellonis</i>	D		
<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>	D		
<i>Erigeron subglaber</i>	R		
<i>Eurybia horrida</i>	D		
<i>Grindelia decumbens</i>			
<i>Hackelia hirsuta</i>	R		
<i>Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus</i>	R	LE	E
<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i> var. <i>andinum</i>			E

Source: New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council. 1999. New Mexico Rare Plants. Albuquerque, NM: New Mexico Rare Plants Home Page. <https://nmrareplants.unm.edu> (Latest update: 15 Mar 2025).

“R” indicates rare species. “D” indicates species dropped from consideration as rare, but having status with an agency; these species are retained for informational purposes.

Characteristics and habitat requirements for the above-listed species was reviewed. None of these species has been observed in the vicinity of Conchas Lake,



# Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

## New Mexico Noxious Weed List

Updated September 2016

### Class A Species

Class A species are currently not present in New Mexico, or have limited distribution. Preventing new infestations of these species and eradicating existing infestations is the highest priority.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Alfombrilla	<i>Drymaria arenariodes</i>
Black henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>
Brazilian egeria	<i>Egeria densa</i>
Camelthorn	<i>Alhagi psuedalhagi</i>
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Dalmation toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>
Dyer's woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>
Giant salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>
Hoary cress	<i>Cardaria spp.</i>
Leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>
Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Purple starthistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>
Ravenna grass	<i>Saccharum ravennae</i>
Scentless chamomile	<i>Matricaria perforata</i>
Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea biebersteinii</i>
Yellow starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>
Yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>

### Class B Species

Class B Species are limited to portions of the state. In areas with severe infestations, management should be designed to contain the infestation and stop any further spread.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
African rue	<i>Peganum harmala</i>
Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>
Halogeton	<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>
Malta starthistle	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>
Perennial pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>
Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>

Quackgrass	<i>Elytrigia repens</i>
Russian knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>
Spiny cocklebur	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>

### **Class C Species**

Class C species are wide-spread in the state. Management decisions for these species should be determined at the local level, based on feasibility of control and level of infestation.

<b><u>Common Name</u></b>	<b><u>Scientific Name</u></b>
Cheatgrass	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>
Curlyleaf pondweed	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>
Eurasian watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
Giant cane	<i>Arundo donax</i>
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>
Jointed goatgrass	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>
Musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
Parrotfeather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>
Russian olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
Saltcedar	<i>Tamarix spp.</i>
Siberian elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>
Tree of heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>

### **Watch List Species**

Watch List species are species of concern in the state. These species have the potential to become problematic. More data is needed to determine if these species should be listed. When these species are encountered please document their location and contact appropriate authorities.

<b><u>Common Name</u></b>	<b><u>Scientific Name</u></b>
Crimson fountaingrass	<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>
Meadow knapweed	<i>Centaurea pratensis</i>
Myrtle spurge	<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>
Pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia sellonana</i>
Sahara mustard	<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>
Syrian beancaper	<i>Zygophyllum fabago L.</i>
Wall rocket	<i>Diploaxis tenuifolia</i>