

APPENDIX H

Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Consultation Letters

APPENDIX H

**CONSULTATION LETTER – ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT,
SECTION 7**



United States Department of the Interior

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

February 11, 2002

Cons. # 2-22-00-I-081

John W. Sigler, Ph.D.
Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
3150 Carlisle Blvd., Suite 210
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Dear Mr. Sigler:

This is in response to your January 31, 2002, letter requesting information on threatened or endangered species or important wildlife habitats that could be affected by the City of Albuquerque (City) Drinking Water Project, and is part of the Albuquerque Water Resources Management Strategy adopted by the City in 1997. The draft EIS for this project will analyze three action alternatives for the diversion of the City's San Juan-Chama project water and a like amount of native water to meet water demands for the City. The project area extends from the outlet works of Heron Reservoir to the headwaters of Elephant Butte Reservoir and includes portions of the following counties along the Rio Chama and Rio Grande in New Mexico: Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Sandavol, Bernalillo, Valencia, Socorro, and Sierra.

We have enclosed a current list of federally-endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species, and species of concern that may be found in Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Sandavol, Bernalillo, Valencia, Socorro, and Sierra counties, New Mexico. Additional information about these species is available on the Internet at <<http://nmrareplants.unm.edu>>, and <<http://nmmhp.unm.edu/bisonm/bisonm.cfm>>. Under the Endangered Species Act, as amended (Act), it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or its designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with us further. If your action area has suitable habitat for any of these species, we recommend that species-specific surveys be conducted during the flowering season for plants and at the appropriate time for wildlife to evaluate any possible project-related impacts. Please keep in mind that the scope of federally listed species compliance also includes any interrelated or interdependent project activities (*e.g.*, equipment staging areas, offsite borrow material areas, or utility relocations) and any indirect or cumulative effects.

Candidates and species of concern have no legal protection under the Act and are included in this document for planning purposes only. We monitor the status of these species. If significant declines are detected, these species could potentially be listed as endangered or threatened. Therefore, actions that may contribute to their decline should be avoided. We recommend that candidates and species of concern be included in your surveys.

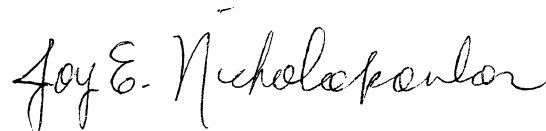
Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. We recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure no net loss of wetlands function and value.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking of migratory birds, nests, and eggs, except as permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to all birds protected under the MBTA, we recommend construction activities occur outside the general migratory bird nesting season of March through August, or that areas proposed for construction during the nesting season be surveyed, and when occupied, avoided until nesting is complete.

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 fish, wildlife, and plants of State concern.

Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species and New Mexico's wildlife habitats. In future correspondence regarding this project, please refer to consultation # 2-22-00-I-081. If you have any questions about the information in this letter, please contact Anna Maria Muñoz at the letterhead address or at (505) 346-2525, ext.110.

Sincerely,



Joy E. Nicholopoulos
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: (w/o enc)

Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Director, New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry
Division, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Rev: December 2001

FEDERAL ENDANGERED, THREATENED,
PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES
AND SPECIES OF CONCERN IN NEW MEXICO

Consultation Number 2-22-00-I-081

February 11, 2002

Bernalillo County

ENDANGERED

Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)**
Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
Whooping crane (*Grus americana*) nonessential experimental
Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*)

THREATENED

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) with critical habitat

PROPOSED THREATENED

Mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*)

CANDIDATE

Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) ✓

SPECIES OF CONCERN

New Mexican meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*)
Pecos River muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus ripensis*)
Penasco (Least) chipmunk, (*Tamias minimus atristriatus*)
Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)
American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)
Arctic peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*)
Baird's sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*)
Black tern (*Chlidonias niger*)
Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
Millipede (*Comanchelus chihuanus*)

Los Alamos County

ENDANGERED

Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)**
Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
Whooping crane (*Grus americana*) nonessential experimental

THREATENED

- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) with critical habitat

CANDIDATE

- Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)

SPECIES OF CONCERN

- Goat Peak pika (*Ochotona princeps nigrescens*)
- New Mexican meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*)
- American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)
- Arctic peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*)
- Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
- Jemez Mountains salamander (*Plethodon neomexicanus*)
- New Mexico silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria nokomis nitocris*)

Rio Arriba County

ENDANGERED

- Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)**
- Interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum*)
- Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
- Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus****)
- Whooping crane (*Grus Americana*) nonessential experimental

THREATENED

- Canada lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*) †
- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) with critical habitat

PROPOSED THREATENED

- Mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*)

CANDIDATE

- Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)
- Boreal western toad (*Bufo boreas boreas*)

SPECIES OF CONCERN

- Goat Peak pika (*Ochotona princeps nigrescens*)
- New Mexican meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*)
- Penasco (Least) chipmunk, (*Tamias minimus atristriatus*)
- Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)
- Southwestern otter (*Lutra canadensis sonora*)
- American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)
- Arctic peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*)

Baird's sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*)
Black tern (*Chlidonias niger*)
Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentiles*)
Rio Grande cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki virginalis*)
Rio Grande sucker (*Catostomus plebeius*)
Roundtail chub (*Gila robusta*)
Jemez Mountains salamander (*Plethodon neomexicanus*)
New Mexico silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria nokomis nitocris*)
Arizona willow (*Salix arizonica*)
Ripley milk-vetch (*Astragalus ripleyi*)

Sandoval County

ENDANGERED

Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)**
Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*)
Whooping crane (*Grus Americana*) nonessential experimental

THREATENED

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) with critical habitat

PROPOSED THREATENED

Mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*)

CANDIDATE

Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)

SPECIES OF CONCERN

Goat Peak pika (*Ochotona princeps nigrescens*)
New Mexican meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*)
Penasco (Least) chipmunk, (*Tamias minimus atristriatus*)
Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)
American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)
Arctic peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*)
Baird's sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*)
Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentiles*)
Rio Grande cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki virginalis*)
Rio Grande sucker (*Catostomus plebeius*)
Jemez Mountain salamander (*Plethodon neomexicanus*)
New Mexico silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria nokomis nitocris*)
San Ysidro tiger beetle (*Cicindela willistoni funaroi*)
William Lar's tiger beetle (*Cicindela fulgida williamlarsi*)
Gypsum phacelia (*Phacelia* sp. nov.)

Gypsum townsendia (*Townsendia gypsophila*)
Knight's milk-vetch (*Astragalus knightii*)
Parish's alkali grass (*Puccinellia parishii*)

Santa Fe County

ENDANGERED

Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)**
Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
Whooping crane (*Grus americana*), experimental, non essential population
Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus****)

THREATENED

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*), with critical habitat

PROPOSED THREATENED

Mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*)

CANDIDATE

Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)

SPECIES OF CONCERN

New Mexican meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*)
Penasco (Least) chipmunk, (*Tamias minimus atristriatus*)
Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)
American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)
Arctic peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*)
Baird's sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*)
Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
Rio Grande sucker (*Catostomus plebeius*)
Chiricahua dock (*Rumex orthoneurus*)
Santa Fe cholla (*Opuntia viridiflora*)

Sierra County

ENDANGERED

Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)**
Northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*)
Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
Whooping crane (*Grus americana*), experimental, non essential population
Gila trout (*Oncorhynchus gilae*)
Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus****)
Todsens pennyroyal (*Hedeoma todsenii*), with critical habitat

THREATENED

- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*), with critical habitat

PROPOSED THREATENED

- Chiricahua leopard frog (*Rana chiricahuensis*)

CANDIDATE

- Black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)*
- Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)

SPECIES OF CONCERN

- Organ Mountains Colorado chipmunk (*Eutamias quadrivittatus australis*)
- Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)
- Southwestern otter (*Lutra canadensis sonora*)
- White Sands woodrat (*Neotoma micropus leucophaea*)
- American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)
- Arctic peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*)
- Baird's sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*)
- Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii*)
- Black tern (*Chlidonias niger*)
- Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
- Desert sucker (*Catostomus clarki*)
- Rio Grande cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki virginalis*)
- Sonora sucker (*Catostomus insignis*)
- White Sands pupfish (*Cyprinodon tularosa*)
- Desert viceroy butterfly (*Limenitis archippus obsoleta*)
- Mineral Creek mountainsnail (*Oreohelix pilsbryi*)
- Duncan's pincushion cactus (*Coryphantha duncanii*)
- Pinos Altos flame flower (*Talinum humile*)
- Sandhill goosefoot (*Chenopodium cycloides*)

Socorro County

ENDANGERED

- Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)**
- Interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum*)
- Northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*)
- Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
- Whooping crane (*Grus americana*) nonessential experimental
- Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*)
- Socorro isopod (*Thermosphaeroma thermophilus*)
- Alamosa tryonia (springsnail) (*Tryonia alamosae*)
- Socorro pyrg (springsnail) (*Pyrgulopsis neomexicana*)

THREATENED

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) with critical habitat
Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

PROPOSED THREATENED

Mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*)
Chiricahua leopard frog (*Rana chiricahuensis*)

CANDIDATE

Black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)
Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)
Chupadera pyrg (springsnail) (*Pyrgulopsis chupaderae*)

SPECIES OF CONCERN

Allen's big-eared bat (*Idionycteris phyllotis*)
Desert pocket gopher (*Geomys bursarius arenarius*)
New Mexican meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*)
Organ Mountains Colorado chipmunk (*Eutamias quadrivittatus australis*)
Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)
Pecos River muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus ripensis*)
American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)
Arctic peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*)
Baird's sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*)
Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii*)
Black tern (*Chlidonias niger*)
Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
Rio Grande sucker (*Catostomus plebeius*)
Desert viceroy butterfly (*Limenitis archippus obsoleta*)
Fugate's blue-star (*Amsonia fugatei*)
Sandhill goosefoot (*Chenopodium cycloides*)

Index

- Endangered = Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- Threatened = Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- Candidate = Candidate Species (taxa for which the Service has sufficient information to propose that they be added to list of endangered and threatened species, but the listing action has been precluded by other higher priority listing activities).

Species of Concern = Taxa for which further biological research and field study are needed to resolve their conservation status OR are considered sensitive, rare, or declining on lists maintained by Natural Heritage Programs, State wildlife agencies, other Federal agencies, or professional/academic scientific societies. Species of Concern are included for planning purposes only.

* = Introduced population

** = Survey should be conducted if project involves impacts to prairie dog towns or complexes of 200-acres or more for the Gunnison's prairie dog (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) and/or 80-acres or more for any subspecies of Black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*). A complex consists of two or more neighboring prairie dog towns within 4.3 miles (7 kilometers) of each other.

*** = Extirpated in this county

† = May occur in this county from re-introductions in Colorado.



ORIGINAL

United States Department of the Interior

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

September 10, 2001

Memorandum

To: Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque Area Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico

From: Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Subject: The City of Albuquerque's Water Resources Management Strategy

This memorandum provides comments and suggestions on the Draft Environmental Enhancement Program (Program) dated August 8, 2001, prepared by the City of Albuquerque. The Program is a more detailed description of restoration activities proposed in a previous draft presented to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) during a meeting with the City of Albuquerque (City) on May 2, 2001.

As stated in our June 1, 2001 letter, we do not consider the City's proposed curtailment of their diversions during low flows to be an operational enhancement. The proposed curtailment plan would reduce diversions when native river flows above the diversion point reach an average of 135 cubic feet per second (cfs). The City will cease diversions when native river flows at the diversion point reach 70 cfs. The continued operation of the diversion during low flows, even at a reduced rate, will continue to impact the river below the diversion. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should evaluate the potential impacts associated with the designation of the above threshold values, and provide comparative information on higher threshold values so that reviewers can evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of different low flow scenarios. We suggest the City study and predict the condition of aquatic habitat at various flows so that a sound impact assessment can occur. We are very concerned about low flows and suggest the City consider assisting in maintaining adequate flows for fish and wildlife once this project is completed.

The projects described in the Program may or may not be sufficient to reduce/avoid/minimize adverse affects to threatened and endangered species resulting from the implementation of the project. Impacts federally listed species cannot be determined until the Service receives adequate information regarding the potential impacts associated with this project. The Service will then provide a response required under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

ALBUQUERQUE AREA OFFICE

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Classification ENV-6-00
Project G-1
Control No.
Folder No.

DATE	INITIALS	CODE
9-14	Sec	100
9-12	DJ	105
9-21	JMP	153
9-24	WL	153

ACTION

The Service provides the following comments and recommendations for your consideration:

- The Environmental Enhancement Program should include monitoring to assess the success of completed restoration projects and discuss provisions for replacing projects or aspects of projects that are unsuccessful.
- The City should provide the Service an annual report detailing the status of projects initiated during the previous year and discussing the proposed projects for the upcoming year.

Metering and Measuring:

- The Service recommends that the City install river gages directly above and below the diversion structure to provide the most accurate flow information at the diversion point. Flow data should be placed on real-time web access, preferably the U.S. Geological Survey site.
- The City should include a monitoring plan to validate the seepage rates used in the hydrology modeling for the EIS.

Diversion Reporting:

- Upon project implementation, the Service recommends that the City closely coordinate operations with other water users.
- Real time diversion data should be made available upon request.

Operational Enhancement:

- We encourage native water storage in Abiquiu Reservoir since it may benefit endangered species by allowing more flexibility in water management, and may contribute to Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance.
- The City should define the time parameters for determining when flows are "an average of 135 cfs or less."

Endangered Species:

- The City should clarify to whom they plan to provide funding for restoration projects associated with the development and enhancement of endangered species habitat. In addition, the City should provide information on how much funding they plan to allocate to these activities.

- Shallow water habitats for the Rio Grande silvery minnow (minnow) should be developed and monitored in cooperation with the biologists at the New Mexico Ecological Services Office (NMESFO) and other experts as needed, in addition to coordination with the biologists at the Albuquerque Aquarium.
- The City should clarify that the funding of no more than \$165,000 per year is for the development of a naturalized refugium for the minnow and may not reflect the total amount of funding available for minnow enhancement in a given year.
- All reintroductions of RGSM will be coordinated with the NMESFO and New Mexico Fishery Resources Office
- The shallow water habitats for the southwestern willow flycatcher (flycatcher) and minnow should be developed and monitored in cooperation with the biologists at the NMESFO and City Open Space.
- If the development of shallow water habitats will consist of active river restoration, then this objective should be tied in with the "Bosque Improvements" section as well.

Bosque Improvements:

- We prefer that these improvements be titled "Riverine and Riparian Habitat Improvements" and include active river restoration projects that will benefit the minnow, flycatcher and bosque health.
- We recommend that the initial studies occur prior to the implementation of the project.
- The Program should identify the amount of land to be restored over time (i.e., 2 river miles per year for 20 years). The City should provide commitments for the amount of land they plan to restore and provide a time frame for the implementation.

Fire Management/Fuel Reduction:

- The individual projects listed in this section will require site specific consultations prior to project implementation.
- Fuel removal may be beneficial in increasing the biodiversity within the bosque, however, the City should keep in mind that dense vegetation is preferred by the flycatcher. Perhaps by adding more water to these areas, the City could reduce the fire hazard while maintaining and creating better habitats for the flycatcher.

Exotic species removal:

- Projects focused on the removal of exotics may require site specific consultations since the flycatcher has been known to nest in thick stands of saltcedar and Russian olive. Areas providing suitable habitat will require consultation with the Service, even if they are not currently occupied by the flycatcher.
- The City should replace the removed exotic species with plantings of native species.

Sediment Sources:

- The riverbed through the Albuquerque Reach is not "large gravel." The median sediments particle is sand size.
- When searching for sediment sources, the City should avoid disturbing diverse habitats that may be associated with arroyo mouths or other sediment sources. Connecting intermittent drainages that have been cut off from the Rio Grande may provide needed sediment.

Pole Plantings:

- The City should consider planting black willow poles in addition to the proposed cottonwood pole plantings. In addition to pole planting, using rooted stock could also be successful.

The City's proposed Environmental Enhancement Program as part of the Drinking Water Project, will be long-term, and therefore, we requests continued involvement in the development and implementation of this program. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Anna Maria Muñoz at (505)346-2525, ext. 110 or Brian Hanson at (505) 346-2525 ext. 108.



Joy E. Nicholopoulos

cc:

Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Fishery Resources Office,
Albuquerque, New Mexico



United States Department of the Interior

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

August 17, 2000

Cons. # 2-22-98-I-286

John Sigler, Ph. D
Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
3150 Carlisle Blvd., Suite 210
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113-1001

Dear Dr. Sigler:

This responds to your August 1, 2000, letter requesting information on species federally-listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered occurring in Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Sandoval, Bernalillo, Valencia, Socorro, and Sierra counties, New Mexico. It is our understanding the proposed Drinking Water Project will include an area from the outlet works of Heron Reservoir to the headwaters of Elephant Butte which includes both Rio Chama and Rio Grande.

We have enclosed current lists of federally-endangered, threatened, candidate species, and species of concern that may be found in Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Sandoval, Bernalillo, Valencia, Socorro, and Sierra Counties, New Mexico. This list provides pre-project planning information. Under the Endangered Species Act, as amended (Act), it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or its designated representative to determine whether a proposed action "may affect" any listed or proposed species. Section 7 of the Act requires Federal agencies to consult with us should it be determined that their actions (permitting, authorizing, or carrying out) may affect a listed threatened or endangered species. We recommend that adequate species-specific surveys be conducted within suitable habitat during the appropriate flowering or breeding seasons to address project-related impacts on these species. Candidates and species of concern have no legal protection under the Act and are included in this document for planning purposes only. We are concerned and would appreciate receiving any status information that is available or gathered on these species. If any candidates or species of concern decline significantly, they could be listed as endangered or threatened species. Therefore, actions which may contribute to the decline of these species should be avoided. The scope of federally-listed species compliance also includes any other interrelated or interdependent project activities as indicated at 50 CFR, Part 402.02.

The environmental document should assess the impacts of the proposal and its alternatives on species populations and their habitats, with an emphasis on wetlands, waters of the United States, and native wildlife and plants. The document should clearly state the purpose and need for the project, and should include a thorough description of the development areas that

are part of the proposal. A map accurately depicting proposed project features in relation to natural features of the project area should also be included. Please keep in mind that the scope of federally-listed species compliance also includes any interrelated or interdependent project activities (e.g., equipment staging areas, offsite borrow material areas, or utility relocations) and any indirect and cumulative effects.

Executive Order 11990 states that Federal agencies will minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out their responsibilities. If your proposed project could impact wetlands, we recommend that you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for permitting requirements under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Wetland habitat should be conserved through avoidance or mitigated to ensure no net loss of functions and values. Mitigation for wetland impacts will be assessed by the Corps 404 permitting process. Still, we suggest that all unavoidable direct or indirect impacts to wetlands be mitigated by in-kind acquisition, restoration, or enhancement.

You should ensure the project complies with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. 703-712; Ch. 128; July 13, 1918; 40 Stat 755, as amended). The MBTA prohibits the take of migratory game birds, nests, eggs, and nestlings. The Federal list of migratory birds (50 CFR 10) includes nearly every bird species found in the State of New Mexico. Efforts should be made to ensure proposed project protects migratory birds and their habitats.

We recommend contacting the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry and Resources Conservation Division for information concerning fish, wildlife, and plants of State concern.

Thank you for your concern for endangered species and New Mexico's wildlife habitats. If you have any questions, please contact Jude Smith of my staff at the letterhead address or at (505) 346-2525, extension 104.

Sincerely,



for Joy E. Nicholopoulos
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc:

Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Threatened, Endangered, Candidate Species,
and Species of Concern
Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Sandoval, Bernalillo, Valencia, Socorro, and Serria
Counties, New Mexico
August 15, 2000

Rio Arriba

Big free-tailed bat, Nyctinomops macrotis (=Tadarida m., T. molossa), SC
Black-footed ferret, Mustela nigripes, E**
Canada Lynx, Lynx canadensis, T †
Goat Peak pika, Ochotona princeps nigrescens, SC
Long-eared myotis, Myotis evotis, SC
New Mexican meadow jumping mouse, Zapus hudsonius luteus, SC
Occult little brown bat, Myotis lucifugus occultus, SC
Townsend's big-eared bat, Corynorhinus townsendii, SC
Southwestern otter, Lutra canadensis sonora, SC
Spotted bat, Euderma maculatum, SC
American peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus anatum, SC
Arctic peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus tundrius, SC
Baird's sparrow, Ammodramus bairdii, SC
Bald eagle, Haliaeetus leucocephalus, T
Black tern, Chlidonias niger, SC
Ferruginous hawk, Buteo regalis, SC
Harlequin duck, Histrionicus histrionicus, SC
Interior least tern, Sterna antillarum athalassos, E
Loggerhead shrike, Lanius ludovicianus, SC
Mexican spotted owl, Strix occidentalis lucida, T w/PCH
Northern goshawk, Accipiter gentilis, SC
Southwestern willow flycatcher, Empidonax traillii extimus, E
White-faced ibis, Plegadis chihi, SC
Whooping crane, Grus americana, XN
Yellow-billed cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus, SC
Rio Grande silvery minnow, Hybognathus amarus, E***
Flathead chub, Platygobio (=Hybopsis) gracilis, SC
Roundtail chub, Gila robusta, SC
Rio Grande sucker, Catostomus plebeius, SC
Boreal western toad, Bufo boreas boreas, C
Jemez Mountains salamander, Plethodon neomexicanus, SC
New Mexico silverspot butterfly, Speyeria nokomis nitocris, SC
Arizona willow, Salix arizonica, SC
Ripley milk-vetch, Astragalus ripleyi, SC

Santa Fe

Black-footed ferret, Mustela nigripes, E**
Fringed myotis, Myotis thysanodes, SC
New Mexican meadow jumping mouse, Zapus hudsonius luteus, SC
Occult little brown bat, Myotis lucifugus occultus, SC
Townsend's big-eared bat, Corynorhinus townsendii, SC
Spotted bat, Euderma maculatum, SC
American peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus anatum, SC
Arctic peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus tundrius, SC
Baird's sparrow, Ammodramus bairdii, SC
Bald eagle, Haliaeetus leucocephalus, T
Ferruginous hawk, Buteo regalis, SC
Loggerhead shrike, Lanius ludovicianus, SC
Mexican spotted owl, Strix occidentalis lucida, T w/PCH
Mountain plover, Charadrius montanus, PT
Northern goshawk, Accipiter gentilis, SC
Southwestern willow flycatcher, Empidonax traillii extimus, E
White-faced ibis, Plegadis chihi, SC
Whooping crane, Grus americana, XN
Yellow-billed cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus, SC
Rio Grande silvery minnow, Hybognathus amarus, E***
Flathead chub, Platygobio (=Hybopsis) gracilis, SC
Rio Grande sucker, Catostomus plebeius, SC
Texas horned lizard, Phrynosoma cornutum, SC
Chiricahua dock, Rumex orthoneurus, SC
Santa Fe cholla, Opuntia viridiflora, SC

Los Alamos

Big free-tailed bat, Nyctinomops macrotis (=Tadarida m., T. molossa), SC
Black-footed ferret, Mustela nigripes, E**
Goat Peak pika, Ochotona princeps nigrescens, SC
New Mexican meadow jumping mouse, Zapus hudsonius luteus, SC
Occult little brown bat, Myotis lucifugus occultus, SC
Spotted bat, Euderma maculatum, SC
American peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus anatum, SC
Arctic peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus tundrius, SC
Bald eagle, Haliaeetus leucocephalus, T
Ferruginous hawk, Buteo regalis, SC
Mexican spotted owl, Strix occidentalis lucida, T w/PCH
Loggerhead shrike, Lanius ludovicianus, SC
Northern goshawk, Accipiter gentilis, SC
Southwestern willow flycatcher, Empidonax traillii extimus, E
White-faced ibis, Plegadis chihi, SC
Whooping crane, Grus americana, XN
Yellow-billed cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus, SC

Los Alamos (Continued)

Flathead chub, Platygobio (=Hybopsis) gracilis, SC
Jemez Mountains salamander, Plethodon neomexicanus, SC
New Mexico silverspot butterfly, Speyeria nokomis nitocris, SC

Sandoval

Big free-tailed bat, Nyctinomops macrotis (=Tadarida m., T. molossa), SC
Black-footed ferret, Mustela nigripes, E**
Fringed myotis, Myotis thysanodes, SC
Goat Peak pika, Ochotona princeps nigrescens, SC
Long-eared myotis, Myotis evotis, SC
New Mexican meadow jumping mouse, Zapus hudsonius luteus, SC
Occult little brown bat, Myotis lucifugus occultus, SC
Townsend's big-eared bat, Corynorhinus townsendii, SC
Spotted bat, Euderma maculatum, SC
American peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus anatum, SC
Arctic peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus tundrius, SC
Baird's sparrow, Ammodramus bairdii, SC
Bald eagle, Haliaeetus leucocephalus, T
Ferruginous hawk, Buteo regalis, SC
Loggerhead shrike, Lanius ludovicianus, SC
Mexican spotted owl, Strix occidentalis lucida, T w/PCH
Mountain plover, Charadrius montanus, PT
Northern goshawk, Accipiter gentilis, SC
Southwestern willow flycatcher, Empidonax traillii extimus, E
Western burrowing owl, Athene cunicularia hypugaea, SC
White-faced ibis, Plegadis chihi, SC
Whooping crane, Grus americana, XN
Yellow-billed cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus, SC
Flathead chub, Platygobio (=Hybopsis) gracilis, SC
Rio Grande silvery minnow, Hybognathus amarus, E w/CH
Rio Grande sucker, Catostomus plebeius, SC
Jemez Mountain salamander, Plethodon neomexicanus, SC
New Mexico silverspot butterfly, Speyeria nokomis nitocris, SC
San Ysidro tiger beetle, Cicindela willistoni funaroj, SC
William Lar's tiger beetle, Cicindela fulgida williamlarsi, SC
Gypsum phacelia, Phacelia sp. nov./ined., SC
Gypsum townsendia, Townsendia gypsophila, SC
Knight's milk-vetch, Astragalus knightii, SC
Parish's alkali grass, Puccinellia parishii, SC

Bernalillo

Big free-tailed bat, Nyctinomops macrotis (=Tadarida m., T. molossa), SC
Black-footed ferret, Mustela nigripes, E**
Fringed myotis, Myotis thysanodes, SC
New Mexican meadow jumping mouse, Zapus hudsonius luteus, SC
Occult little brown bat, Myotis lucifugus occultus, SC
Townsend's big-eared bat, Corynorhinus townsendii, SC
Pecos River muskrat, Ondatra zibethicus ripensis, SC
Spotted bat, Euderma maculatum, SC
American peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus anatum, SC
Arctic peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus tundrius, SC
Baird's sparrow, Ammodramus bairdii, SC
Bald eagle, Haliaeetus leucocephalus, T
Black tern, Chlidonias niger, SC
Ferruginous hawk, Buteo regalis, SC
Loggerhead shrike, Lanius ludovicianus, SC
Mexican spotted owl, Strix occidentalis lucida, T w/PCH
Mountain plover, Charadrius montanus, PT
Northern goshawk, Accipiter gentilis, SC
Southwestern willow flycatcher, Empidonax traillii extimus, E
Yellow-billed cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus, SC
Western burrowing owl, Athene cunicularia hypugaea, SC
White-faced ibis, Plegadis chihi, SC
Whooping crane, Grus americana, XN
Flathead chub, Platygobio (=Hybopsis) gracilis, SC
Rio Grande silvery minnow, Hybognathus amarus, E w/CH
Texas horned lizard, Phrynosoma cornutum, SC
Millipede, Toltecus chihuanus, SC

Valencia

Big free-tailed bat, Nyctinomops macrotis (=Tadarida m., T. molossa), SC
Black-footed ferret, Mustela nigripes, E**
Fringed myotis, Myotis thysanodes, SC
Long-eared myotis, Myotis evotis, SC
New Mexican jumping mouse, Zapus hudsonius luteus, SC
Occult little brown bat, Myotis lucifugus occultus, SC
Pecos River muskrat, Ondatra zibethicus ripensis, SC
Spotted bat, Euderma maculatum, SC
American peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus anatum, SC
Arctic peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus tundrius, SC
Baird's sparrow, Ammodramus bairdii, SC
Bald eagle, Haliaeetus leucocephalus, T
Ferruginous hawk, Buteo regalis, SC
Valencia (Continued)
Loggerhead shrike, Lanius ludovicianus, SC
Mexican spotted owl, Strix occidentalis lucida, T w/PCH

Valencia (continued)

Mountain plover, Charadrius montanus, PT
Northern goshawk, Accipiter gentilis, SC
Southwestern willow flycatcher, Empidonax traillii extimus, E
Western burrowing owl, Athene cunicularia hypugaea, SC
White-faced ibis, Plegadis chihi, SC
Whooping crane, Grus americana, XN
Yellow-billed cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus, SC
Flathead chub, Platygobio (=Hybopsis) gracilis, SC
Rio Grande silvery minnow, Hybognathus amarus, E w/CH
Pecos sunflower, Helianthus paradoxus, T

Socorro

Allen's (Mexican) big-eared bat, Idionycteris (=Plecotus) phylotis, SC
Black-footed ferret, Mustela nigripes, E**
Black-tailed prairie dog, Cynomys ludovicianus, C
Desert pocket gopher, Geomys bursarius arenarius, SC
Fringed myotis, Myotis thysanodes, SC
Lappet-eared bat, Idionycteris phyllotis, SC
Long-eared myotis, Myotis evotis, SC
New Mexican meadow jumping mouse, Zapus hudsonius luteus, SC
Occult little brown bat, Myotis lucifugus occultus, SC
Organ Mountains Colorado chipmunk, Eutamias quadrivittatus australis, SC
Townsend's big-eared bat, Corynorhinus townsendii, SC
Pecos River muskrat, Ondatra zibethicus ripensis, SC
Spotted bat, Euderma maculatum, SC
American peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus anatum, SC
Arctic peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus tundrius, SC
Baird's sparrow, Ammodramus bairdii, SC
Bald eagle, Haliaeetus leucocephalus, T
Black tern, Chlidonias niger, SC
Ferruginous hawk, Buteo regalis, SC
Interior least tern, Sterna antillarum, E
Loggerhead shrike, Lanius ludovicianus, SC
Mexican spotted owl, Strix occidentalis lucida, T w/PCH
Mountain plover, Charadrius montanus, PT
Northern aplomado falcon, Falco femoralis septentrionalis, E
Northern goshawk, Accipiter gentilis, SC
Piping plover, Charadrius melodus, T
Southwestern willow flycatcher, Empidonax traillii extimus, E
White-faced ibis, Plegadis chihi, SC
Whooping crane, Grus americana, XN
Yellow-billed cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus, SC
Flathead chub, Platygobio (=Hybopsis) gracilis, SC
Longfin dace, Agosia chrysogaster*, SC
Rio Grande silvery minnow, Hybognathus amarus, E w/CH

Socorro (Continued)

Rio Grande sucker, Catostomus plebeius, SC
Arizona southwestern toad, Bufo microscaphus microscaphus, SC
Texas horned lizard, Phrynosoma cornutum, SC
Chiricahua leopard frog, Rana chiricahuensis, PT
Desert viceroy butterfly, Limenitis archippus obsoleta, SC
Socorro isopod, Exosphaeroma thermophilus, E
Alamosa springsnail, Tryonia alamosae, E
Chupadera springsnail, Pyrgulopsis chupaderae, C
Socorro springsnail Pyrgulopsis neomexicana, E
Fugate's blue-star, Amsonia fugatei, SC
Sandhill goosefoot, Chenopodium cycloides, SC

Sierra

Black-footed ferret, Mustela nigripes, E**
Black-tailed prairie dog, Cynomys ludovicianus, C*
Fringed myotis, Myotis thysanodes, SC
Greater western mastiff bat, Eumops perotis californicus, SC
Long-eared myotis, Myotis evotis, SC
Occult little brown bat, Myotis lucifugus occultus, SC
Organ Mountains Colorado chipmunk, Eutamias quadrivittatus australis, SC
Townsend's big-eared bat, Corynorhinus townsendii, SC
Southwestern otter, Lutra canadensis sonorae, SC
Spotted bat, Euderma maculatum, SC
White Sands woodrat, Neotoma micropus leucophaea, SC
American peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus anatum, SC
Arctic peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus tundrius, SC
Baird's sparrow, Ammodramus bairdii, SC
Bald eagle, Haliaeetus leucocephalus, T
Black tern, Chlidonias niger, SC
Ferruginous hawk, Buteo regalis, SC
Loggerhead shrike, Lanius ludovicianus, SC
Mexican spotted owl, Strix occidentalis lucida, T w/PCH
Northern aplomado falcon, Falco femoralis septentrionalis, E
Northern goshawk, Accipiter gentilis, SC
Southwestern willow flycatcher, Empidonax traillii extimus, E
Western burrowing owl, Athene cunicularia hypugaea, SC
White-faced ibis, Plegadis chihi, SC
Whooping crane, Grus americana, XN
Yellow-billed cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus, SC
Desert sucker, Catostomus clarki, SC
Gila trout, Oncorhynchus gilae, E
Longfin dace, Agosia chrysogaster*, SC
Rio Grande silvery minnow, Hybognathus amarus, E
Sonora sucker, Catostomus insignis, SC
Speckled dace, Rhinichthys osculus (Gila drainage), SC

Sierra (Continued)

White Sands pupfish, Cyprinodon tularosa, SC
Arizona southwestern toad, Bufo microscaphus microscaphus, SC
Chiricahua leopard frog, Rana chiricahuensis, PT
Texas horned lizard, Phrynosoma cornutum, SC
Desert viceroy butterfly, Limenitis archippus obsoleta, SC
Mineral Creek mountainsnail, Oreohelix pilsbryi, SC
Duncan's cory cactus, Coryphantha duncanii, SC
Pinos Altos fameflower, Talinum humile, SC
Sandhill goosefoot, Chenopodium cycloides, SC
Todsens pennyroyal, Hedeoma todsenii, E w/CH

Index

E	=	Endangered (in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range).
PE	=	Proposed Endangered
PE w/CH	=	Proposed Endangered with critical habitat
T	=	Threatened (likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range).
PT	=	Proposed Threatened
PT w/CH	=	Proposed Threatened with critical habitat
PCH	=	Proposed critical habitat
C	=	Candidate Species (taxa for which the Service has sufficient information to propose that they be added to list of endangered and threatened species, but the listing action has been precluded by other higher priority listing activities).
SC	=	Species of Concern (Taxa for which further biological research and field study are needed to resolve their conservation status <u>OR</u> are considered sensitive, rare, or declining on lists maintained by Natural Heritage Programs, State wildlife agencies, other Federal agencies, or professional/academic scientific societies). Species of Concern are included for planning purposes only.
S/A	=	Similarity of Appearance
*	=	Introduced population
†	=	May occur in this county from re-introductions in Colorado.
XN	=	Nonessential experimental
**	=	Survey should be conducted if project involves impacts to prairie dog towns or complexes of 200-acres or more for the Gunnison's prairie dog (<u>Cynomys gunnisoni</u>) and/or 80-acres or more for any subspecies of Black-tailed prairie dog (<u>Cynomys ludovicianus</u>). A complex consists of two or more neighboring prairie dog towns within 4.3 miles (7 kilometers) of each other.
***	=	Extirpated in this county

