





## **APPENDIX H**

### **Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife – Description of Wildlife Areas**

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### NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE – DESCRIPTION OF WILDLIFE AREAS

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#### **AREA 1: HIGHLY SENSITIVE WILDLIFE RESOURCES.**

This area contains the best habitat for endangered and rare plant, animal and game species, and the highest concentration of these species on the Navajo Nation. The purpose of this area is to protect these valuable and sensitive biological resources to the maximum extent practical. **The general rule for this area is no development.** Restricted development is allowable only if the following criteria are met. All development requires the preparation of a BE. An acceptable BE must fully consider alternatives to the proposed development, and provide a compelling reason to develop in this area.

##### Criteria for Allowable Development:

- A. Residential/business development is allowed within Area 1 if it is:
  - 1. Not within or close enough to the habitat to cause significant impacts
  - 2. Located on the perimeter of the area
    - a. If not on the perimeter, there must be no reasonable alternatives
  - 3. Located within 1/8 mile of similar development
- B. Other types of development are allowed in Area 1 if:
  - 1. It is not within or close enough to habitat to cause significant impacts
  - 2. There are no reasonable alternatives outside the area

#### **AREA 2: MODERATELY SENSITIVE WILDLIFE RESOURCES.**

This area has a high concentration of rare, endangered, sensitive and game species occurrences or has a high potential for these species to occur throughout the landscape. The purpose of this area is to minimize impacts on these species and their habitats within Area 2, and to ensure the habitats in Area 1 do not become fragmented. **The rule for this area is that all development be placed to avoid species and their habitat.** Avoidance needs to include an adequate buffer to address long-term and cumulative impacts. The buffer distance will depend on the species and the situation, and may be up to one mile. All development requires the preparation of a BE.

##### Criteria for allowable development:

- A. Must not be within or close enough to habitat to cause significant impacts

#### **AREA 3: LOW SENSITIVITY WILDLIFE RESOURCES.**

This area has a low, fragmented concentration of species of concern. Species in this area may be locally abundant on 'islands' of habitat, but islands are relatively small, limited in number and well spaced across the landscape. Small-scale development to serve the private needs of individuals, such as home sites and service lines for utilities, can proceed without the development of a BE. However, documentation of the development shall be submitted to the NNDFW for its files. All other development requires preparation of a BE. Any proposed development in this area does not preclude the need to meet the requirements of Federal law, as applicable.

#### **AREA 4: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.**

The Department has determined that areas around certain communities do not support the habitat for species of concern and therefore development can proceed without further biological evaluation. This applies to all development except that which may have significant impacts outside the community. An example of this is industrial development that may impact air or water quality. For certain communities, there are exceptions where

one or two species have the potential to occur. For these exceptions, the biological evaluation need only address that one or two species, and be submitted to the Department for approval. Small-scale development to serve the private needs of individuals, such as home sites and service lines for utilities, can proceed without the development of a BE. However, documentation of the development shall be submitted to the NNDFW for its files.

#### **AREA 5: BIOLOGICAL PRESERVE.**

These areas contain excellent, or potentially excellent, wildlife habitat and are recommended by the Department for protection from most human-related activities, and in some cases are recommended for enhancement. Only a few of these areas have been developed, to date. Future areas will be identified for each chapter on a case-by-case basis. A variety of protection and enhancement techniques are available, and the Department is interested in working with the chapter and land-user to protect/enhance these habitats by providing technical assistance, and possibly materials and labor. The Department is interested in receiving proposals from chapters and land-users for these types of areas. Ultimately, the Department maintains the authority for designating and managing biological preserves. However, the Department may delegate certain management responsibilities to the local level, under Department oversight. Any development within this area must be compatible with the purpose of the management plan for the area.

#### **AREA 6: RECREATIONAL.**

These areas are used for recreation that involves wildlife, or have potential for development for this purpose. Recreation can involve consumptive and/or non-consumptive uses of wildlife resources, and is often a part of a broader outdoor experience. Examples include fishing lakes, camping and picnic areas and hiking trails. Several areas have been identified as Recreation Areas. Future areas will be identified for each chapter on a case-by-case basis. A variety of management techniques are available, and the Department is interested in working with the chapter and land-user to develop and/or manage these areas. The Department is also interested in receiving proposals from chapters and land-users for these types of areas. Ultimately, the Department maintains the authority for designating and managing recreational areas that involve wildlife. However, the Department may delegate certain management responsibilities to the local level, under Department oversight. **The Department encourages chapters to plan development in this area compatible with purpose, for example nature trails, interpretive displays and picnic areas.**