



To/MS: Steven Reneau, EES-9, D452
From/MS: David Keller, ENV-EAQ, J978
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REVIEW OF REACHES IN THE SANDIA CANYON SYSTEM FOR THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ECOLOGICAL SCREENING/RISK ASSESSMENT

Dear Mr. Reneau:

Resulting from your request, the purpose of this memo is to communicate whether threatened or endangered (T&E) species may be present in Environmental Restoration Potential Release Sites (PRS's) or reaches that are under consideration for ecological screening and/or risk assessment. This information will help:

- (1) to establish whether contaminant pathways might exist to T&E species nesting within or in the vicinity of a PRS,
- (2) to notify, when necessary, risk assessors to pay particular attention to relevant contaminant Toxicity Reference Values primarily for birds,
- (3) to notify, when necessary, risk assessors to pay particular attention to PRS aggregation issues relative to foraging patterns of T&E species.

Information about **Reaches in the Sandia Canyon System** was reviewed to determine whether or not these sites are in or near nesting habitat of federally-listed T&E species, whether it is in a foraging area and, if so, the relative amount of potential foraging at or in the vicinity of the specific reaches.

PRS location information maintained by the Environmental Programs - Environment and Remediation Support Services (EP-ERSS) Division was intersected with T&E species habitat using GIS databases maintained by the Ecology and Air Quality Group (ENV-EAQ). **Reaches in the Sandia Canyon System** are in potential Mexican spotted owl core and buffer (nesting, roosting, and foraging) habitat, and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher potential (nesting, roosting, and foraging) habitat in areas with wetland vegetation. The **Mexican Spotted Owl** and the **Southwestern Willow Flycatcher** can be conservatively assumed to forage at the following levels at each of the following reaches:



Sandia Canyon Reach	Foraging Habitat Rating	Location Activity Considerations	Species
S-1	Moderate	None	Mexican spotted owl
S-2	Moderate	Wetlands / Floodplain	Mexican spotted owl
S-2 (Wetland Areas)	Moderate	Wetlands / Floodplain	Southwest Willow Flycatcher
S-3W	High	Floodplain	Mexican spotted owl
S-3E	High	Floodplain	Mexican spotted owl
S-4W	Moderate	Floodplain	Mexican spotted owl
S-4E	Low	Floodplain	Mexican spotted owl
S-5C	Low	Floodplain	Mexican spotted owl
S-5E	Low	Floodplain	Mexican spotted owl

If you need more detailed or more extensive information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



David C. Keller
Biological Compliance Assurance Team
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