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memorandum

Environmental Protection Division
Ecology and Air Quality Group

REVIEW OF REACHES IN THE CAÑADA DEL BUEY SYSTEM FOR THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ECOLOGICAL SCREENING/RISK ASSESSMENT.

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 **Cañada del Buey 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 Cañada del Buey system** are in potential Mexican spotted owl nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat. The **Mexican Spotted Owl** can be conservatively assumed to forage at the following levels at each of the following reaches:

Cañada del Buey Reach	Foraging Habitat Rating	Habitat Types (N)esting, (R)ooting, (F)oraging.	Location Activity Considerations	Species
CDB-1	Very Low	100% F	Tree Thinning	Mexican spotted owl
CDB-2C	Very High	80% N, 10% R, 10% F	Tree Thinning	Mexican spotted owl
CDBS-1E	Very Low	20% R, 80% F	Tree Thinning	Mexican spotted owl
CDB-3W	None	None	Tree Thinning	Mexican spotted owl
CDB-3E	None	None	Tree Thinning	Mexican spotted owl
CDB-4	None	None	Tree Thinning	Mexican spotted owl
CDBS-1W	Moderate	90% R, 10% F	Tree Thinning	Mexican spotted owl
CDB-2W	High	60% N, 30% R, 10% F	Tree Thinning	Mexican spotted owl



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

DCK:alb

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