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Date: November 10, 2010  
Refer to: ENV-ES: 10-240

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EES-16: Computational Earth Science  
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**SUBJECT: REACHES IN THE POTRILLO, FENCE, ANCHO, CHAQUEHUI,  
AND INDIO CANYON SYSTEMS FOR THREATENED AND ENDANGERED  
SPECIES HABITAT FOR ECOLOGICAL SCREENING/RISK ASSESSMENT.**

Steve:

As per your request, this letter reports on the presence/absence of threatened or endangered (T&E) species in Environmental Restoration Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) or reaches under consideration for ecological screening and/or risk assessment. This information will help:

- (1) to identify contaminant pathways that maybe within or in the vicinity of the nesting area of a T&E species nesting area
- (2) to notify, risk assessors record/identify relevant contaminant Toxicity Reference Values primarily for birds,
- (3) to notify, risk assessors to record/identify SWMU aggregation issues relative to foraging patterns of T&E species.

Data from Potrillo, Fence, Ancho, Chaquehui, and Indio Canyon systems were reviewed to determine whether or not SWMUs are in or near nesting habitat of federally-listed T&E species. In addition, these data were reviewed to determine if they are in a foraging area and if so, the amount of potential foraging at or in the vicinity of the specific reaches. SWMU location information, maintained by the Environmental Programs, Environment and Remediation Support Services (EP-ERSS) Division, was intersected with T&E species habitat using Geographic Information Systems databases maintained by the Environmental Stewardship Group (ENV-ES). Reaches in Potrillo, Fence, Ancho, Chaquehui, and Indio Canyon systems are in potential Mexican spotted owl nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat.

Suitable habitats for the species, along with a protective buffer area surrounding the habitats, have been designated as Areas of Environmental Interest (AEIs). Site plans provide information on the location of AEIs and guidelines for their management. In general, an AEI consists of a core area that contains important breeding or wintering



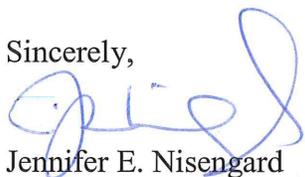
habitat for a specific species and a buffer area around the core area. The buffer protects the core area from disturbances that would degrade the value of the core area to the species. There are Mexican spotted owl and Southwestern willow flycatcher AEIs currently on LANL property. Table 1 identifies the reaches of the Mexican Spotted Owl.

**Table 1 Mexican Spotted Owl AEIs.**

AEI	Foraging Habitat Rating	Habitat Types (N)esting, (R)ooting, (F)oraging.	Location Activity Considerations	Species
<b>Potrillo and Fence Canyons</b>				
PO-1	High	60% N, 40% R	Cañon de Valle AEI	Mexican spotted owl
PO-2	High	70% N, 30% R	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
PO-3	High	40% N, 60%R	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
PO-4	Low	None	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
POS-1	High	60% N, 40% R	Cañon de Valle AEI	Mexican spotted owl
F-1	High	60% N, 40% R	Cañon de Valle AEI	Mexican spotted owl
F-2	Very High	80% N, 20% R	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
F-3	Low	10% R	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
FS-1	High	60% N, 40% R	Cañon de Valle AEI	Mexican spotted owl
<b>Ancho, Chaquehui, and Indio Canyons</b>				
A-1	None	None	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
A-2	None	None	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
A-3	High	80% N, 20% R	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
AN-1	Very High	100% N	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
AN-2	Very High	100% N	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
AN-3	Very High	100% N	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
AN-4	Very High	100% N	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
CH-1	Very High	80% N, 20% R	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
CH-2	Very High	100% N	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
CHN-1	Low	5% R	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl
I-1	Very High	100% N	Non-AEI	Mexican spotted owl

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me (505) 667-7912 ([jnisengard@lanl.gov](mailto:jnisengard@lanl.gov)) or Dave Keller (505) 667-7037 ([dckeller@lanl.gov](mailto:dckeller@lanl.gov)).

Sincerely,



Jennifer E. Nisengard  
 Resources Management Team Leader, ENV-ES

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