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Environmental Restoration
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ESH-20, Ecology Group

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Date: January 7, 1999

Refer to: ESH-20/Ecol-99-0080

Rich Mirenda
Program Management Company
Bldg 2, 1st Floor
2237 Trinity Drive
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Dear Mr. Mirenda:

**SUBJECT: Review of PRS #00-017 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 and endangered (T&E) species may be present in Environmental Restoration Potential Release Sites (PRS's) that are under consideration for ecological screening and/or risk assessment purposes. 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 determine whether there are proposed activities relating to the ecoscreen/risk assessment that might impact T&E species at the PRS,
- (3) to notify, when necessary, risk assessors to pay particular attention to relevant contaminant Toxicity Reference Values primarily for birds,
- (4) to notify, when necessary, risk assessors to pay particular attention to PRS aggregation issues relative to foraging patterns of T&E species.

Information about PRS 00-017 was reviewed to determine whether or not this site is in or near federally-listed T&E nesting habitat, whether it is in a foraging area and, if so, to indicate the relative amount of time spent foraging that can be expected at or in the vicinity of the specific PRS.

PRS location information maintained by FIMAD was intersected with T&E species habitat using GIS databases maintained by the Ecology Group, ESH-20. PRS 00-017 is entirely within Mexican spotted owl nesting habitat and is within an area in which the owl can be conservatively assumed to forage at a high frequency. It is also in the vicinity of potential American peregrine falcon nesting habitat, which is approximately 1.2 km away. PRS 00-017 is entirely within an area in which the falcon can be conservatively assumed to forage at a relatively high frequency.

Your request did not propose any ground-disturbing activities.

APR 07 1999

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

Sincerely,



Gil Gonzales, Ph.D.
Biology Team Leader
Ecology Group

GG/JP:rm

Cy: Elizabeth Kelly, TSA-11, MS K557