

Senate Bill 228

New Mexico
Wildlife Corridors Act

Senator Mimi Stewart

Representatives Joanne Ferrary and Georgene Louis



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Wildlife Corridors Act Plan

- Existing **highway crossings** and other human caused **barriers** to elk, mule deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, black bear and cougar movement
- Wildlife habitat and movement **needs**
- How **drought and other stressors** might affect habitats
- Habitat quality needed to support **viable populations**
- How increased wildlife movement can benefit impacted and overused habitats
- Maps of populations of concern, existing wildlife crossings, and areas requiring additional monitoring
- Post completion **monitoring protocols**
- Economic benefits of preserving wildlife movement
- Opportunities for collaboration with Tribes and federal government
- Wildlife Corridors **Project list**



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Department of Transportation Request for Proposals



Photograph courtesy Jim Hirsch, NMDOT

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

Wildlife Corridors Action Plan
RFP No. 20-05

August 14, 2019

Prepared for
NMDOT Environmental Bureau
1120 Cerrillos Road, Room 113
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Prepared by
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Daniel B. Stevens and Associates

Public Meetings



Public meetings in Raton, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Farmington, and Las Cruces
4 meetings cancelled due to pandemic restrictions



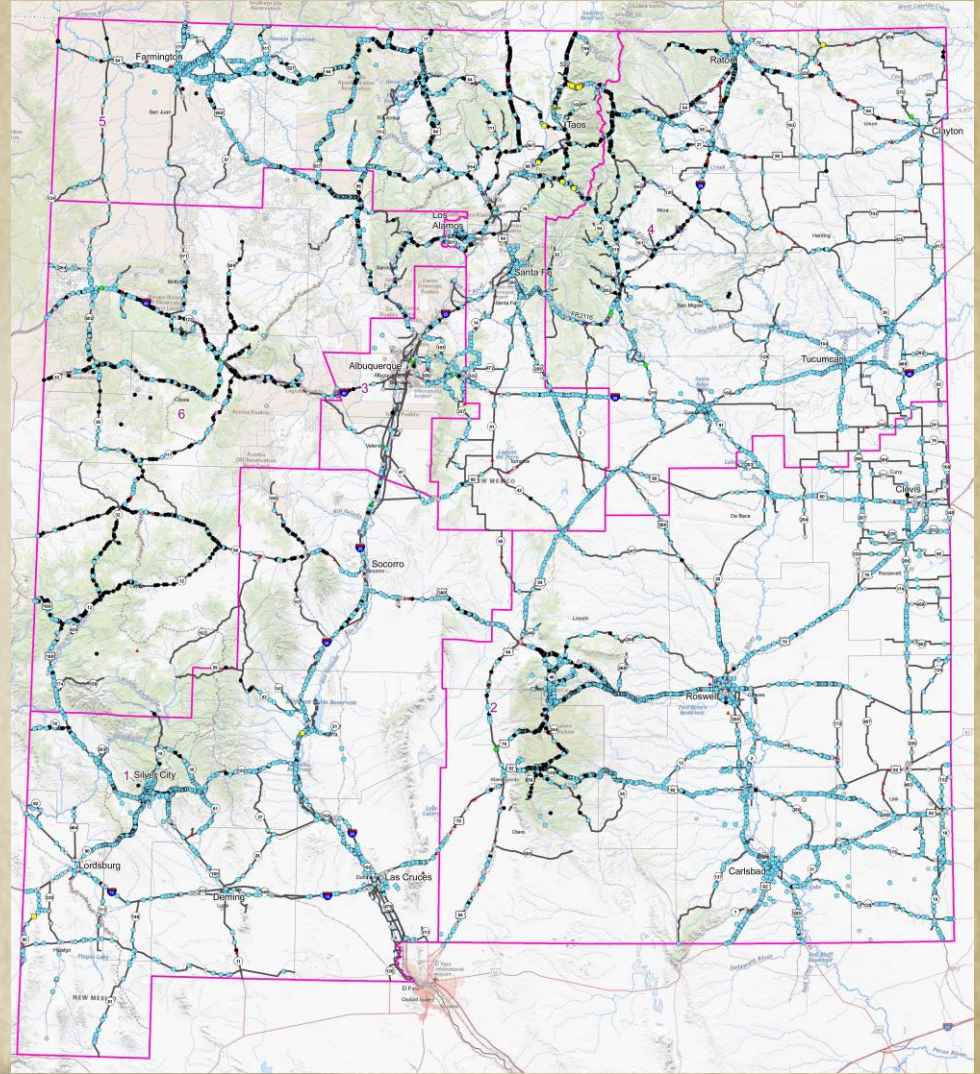
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Data Collection and Analyses

Statewide accident report data

Animal type

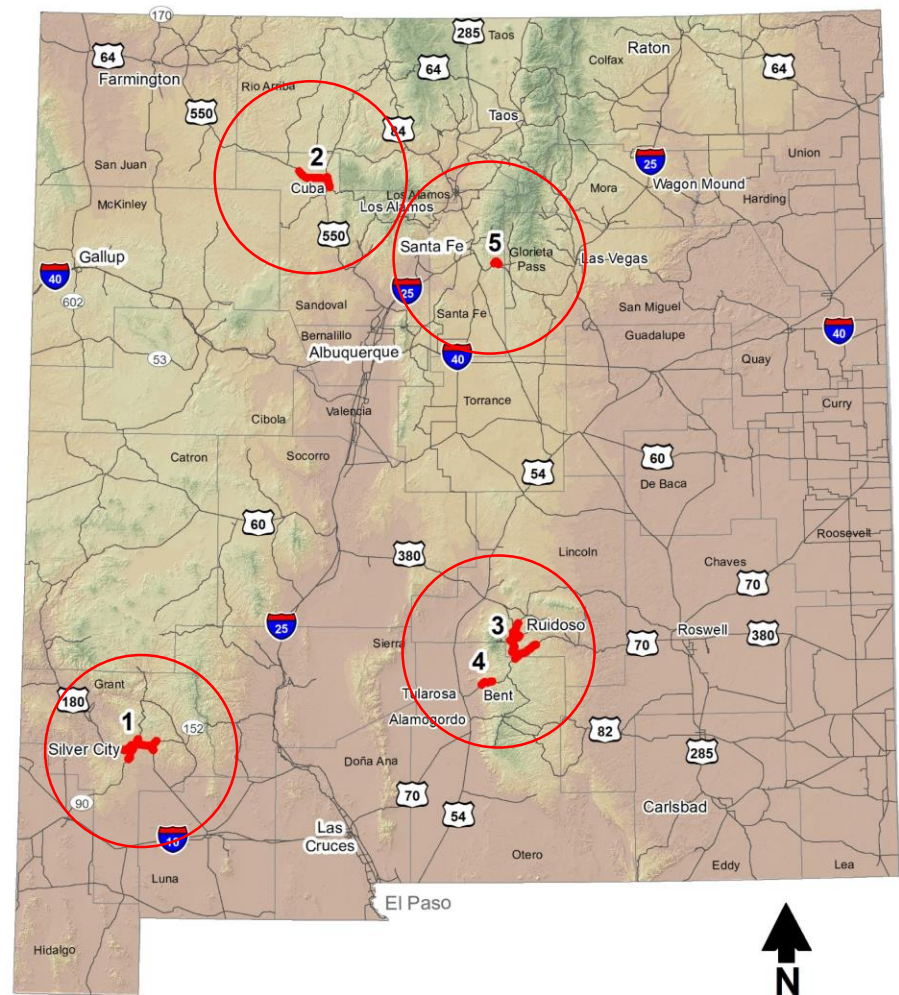
- ▲ Antelope
- ★ Bear
- Bighorn sheep
- Cougar
- Deer
- Elk



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Top 5 Large Game Animal-Vehicle Collision Hotspots

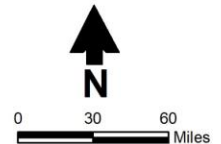
1. Silver City area: portions of US 180, NM 90, NM 15 and NM 152 (primarily mule deer but also elk)
2. US 550 from Cuba north to Continental Divide (primarily elk but also mule deer)
3. Ruidoso area: portions of US 70, NM 48, NM 220 (mule deer and elk)
4. US 70 at Bent (primarily elk but also mule deer)
5. I-25 Glorieta Pass (black bears, mule deer, elk and cougar)



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Explanation

 Top 5 collision hotspot



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NMDOT WILDLIFE CORRIDORS ACTION PLAN
Top 5 Collision Hotspots

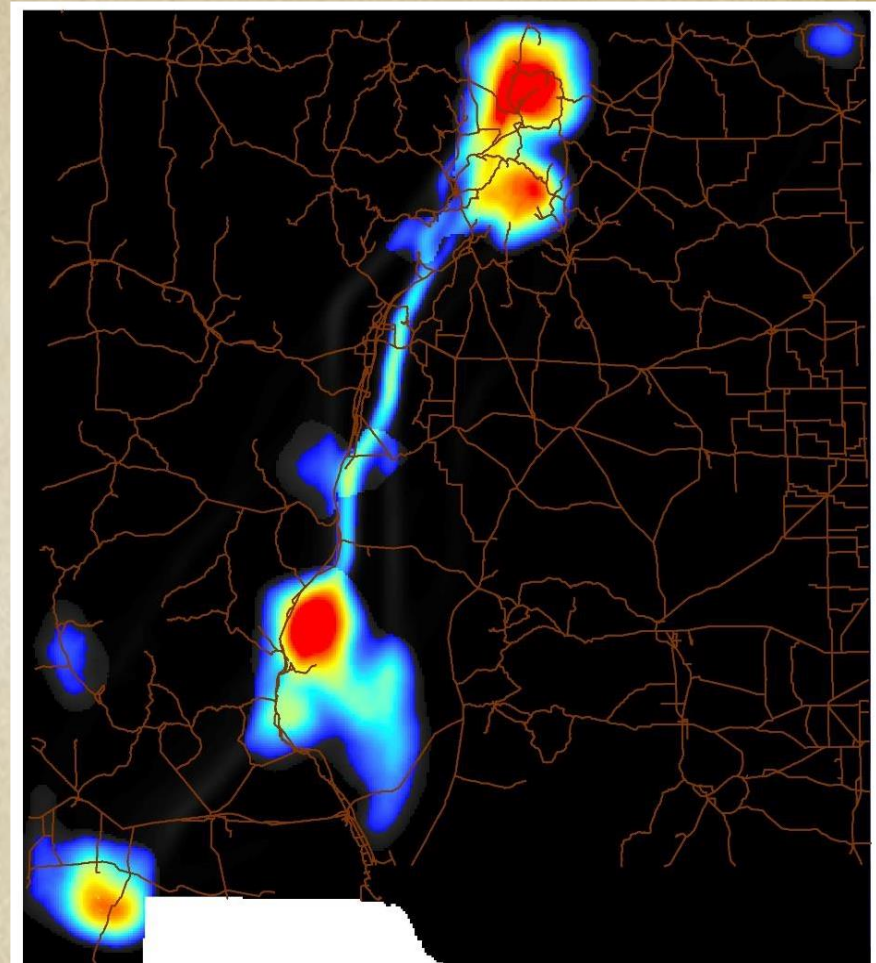
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NM 38 near Questa



Potential wildlife overpass location
I-10 near Steins (Photos by M. Watson)



Bighorn sheep predictive corridor model



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Photo M. Watson

Taos Plateau - San Antonio Mountain; one of the WCA top 5 ecological corridors.



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NM Corridor Evaluation

https://azgfd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/attachmentviewer/index.html?appid=52c0b8274050

NM Corridor Evaluation

Possible Wildlife Crossing

Possible Wildlife Crossing - Cut (Overpass)

Recorder
Mark W

Date and Time
04/08/2021 10:42

Crash Hotspot Name
I-10 Peloncilla Moutnains - Linkage

Sub-Site Name
MarkW - 04/08/2021 10:42

Location Type
Possible Wildlife Crossing

Maxar | NMDOT, Roadway Inventory Program | Original data procured from Bridge Section (PONTIS Database - 1/12/2015). Data revised and upgraded by Roadway Inventory Progr... Powered by Esri

Interstate 10 Steins to Arizona border ecological corridor possible overpass location



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Data Viewer

Draft Action Plan due late June; public meetings to follow



U.S. 550 bridge over Rio Puerco south of Cuba



Image courtesy NMDOT



Image courtesy NMDOT



Photo M. Watson



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Questions



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