

New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF  
**TRANSPORTATION**  
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

# New Mexico Wildlife Corridors Action Plan Highlights and Implementation





# Senate Bill 228 – Wildlife Corridors Act

Directed NMDOT and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) to develop a Statewide Wildlife Corridors Action Plan

## How did this pass?

- “The Wildlife Corridors Action Plan or provisions of the Wildlife Corridors Act do not apply to private property or private property owners, unless private property owners choose to participate voluntarily.”
- No Funding
  - NMDOT made commitment to fund development of Wildlife Corridors Action Plan



# New Mexico Wildlife Corridors Action Plan

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**DBS&A**  
Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.  
a Geo-Logic Company



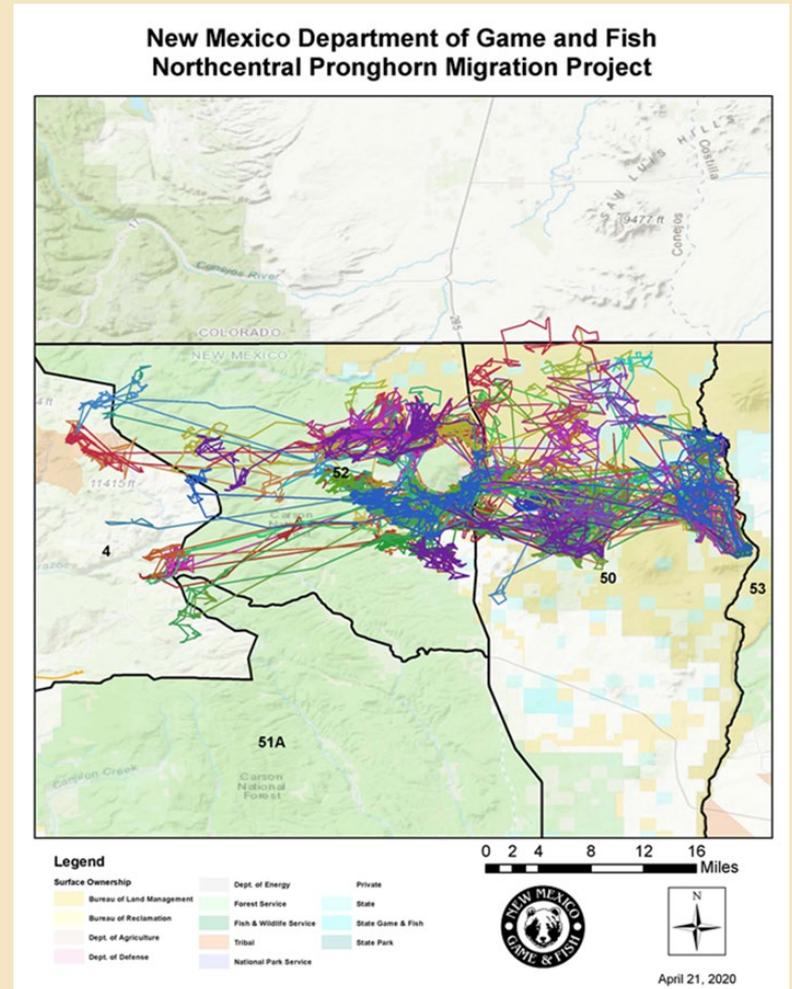
New Mexico Department  
of Transportation and  
New Mexico Department  
of Game & Fish

# Wildlife Corridors Action Plan Components

## Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions



## Wildlife Corridors



# Prioritization of Wildlife-Vehicle Collision (WVC) Hotspots

## Factors:

- WVCs/mile/year
- % of Total Crashes Involving Wildlife
- Property Damage Only vs Injury Crashes
- Vulnerable Species
- Landownership (Public vs Private)
- Public/NGO/Agency Support

# The Top 5 Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Hotspots

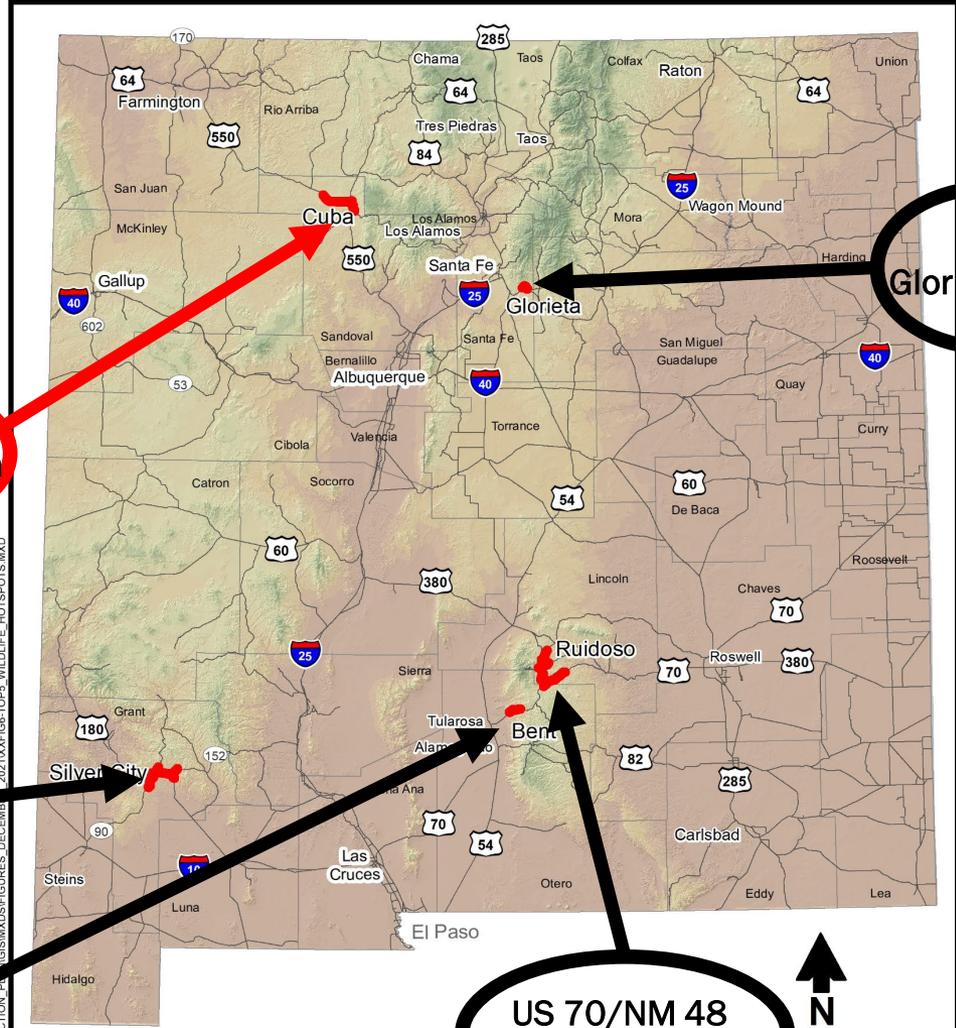
US 550  
North of Cuba

I-25  
Glorieta Pass

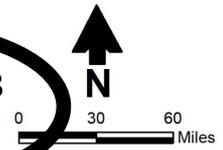
US 180/NM 90  
Silver City

US 70 Bent

US 70/NM 48  
Ruidoso



**Explanation**  
 Top 5 vehicle collision hotspot



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# Identification and Prioritization of Wildlife Corridors

- Modeling Wildlife Movements
  - Habitat Suitability
  - Resistance Layers
- Validation/Calibration of Modeling Results
  - GPS/Radio Collar Data
  - Reported Crash Data
- Additional Validation/Calibration
  - Past Modeling Studies
  - Input from Public Agencies, Non-Gov't Organizations, Tribes, and General Public

# The Top 6 Wildlife Corridors

US 64/84  
Chama

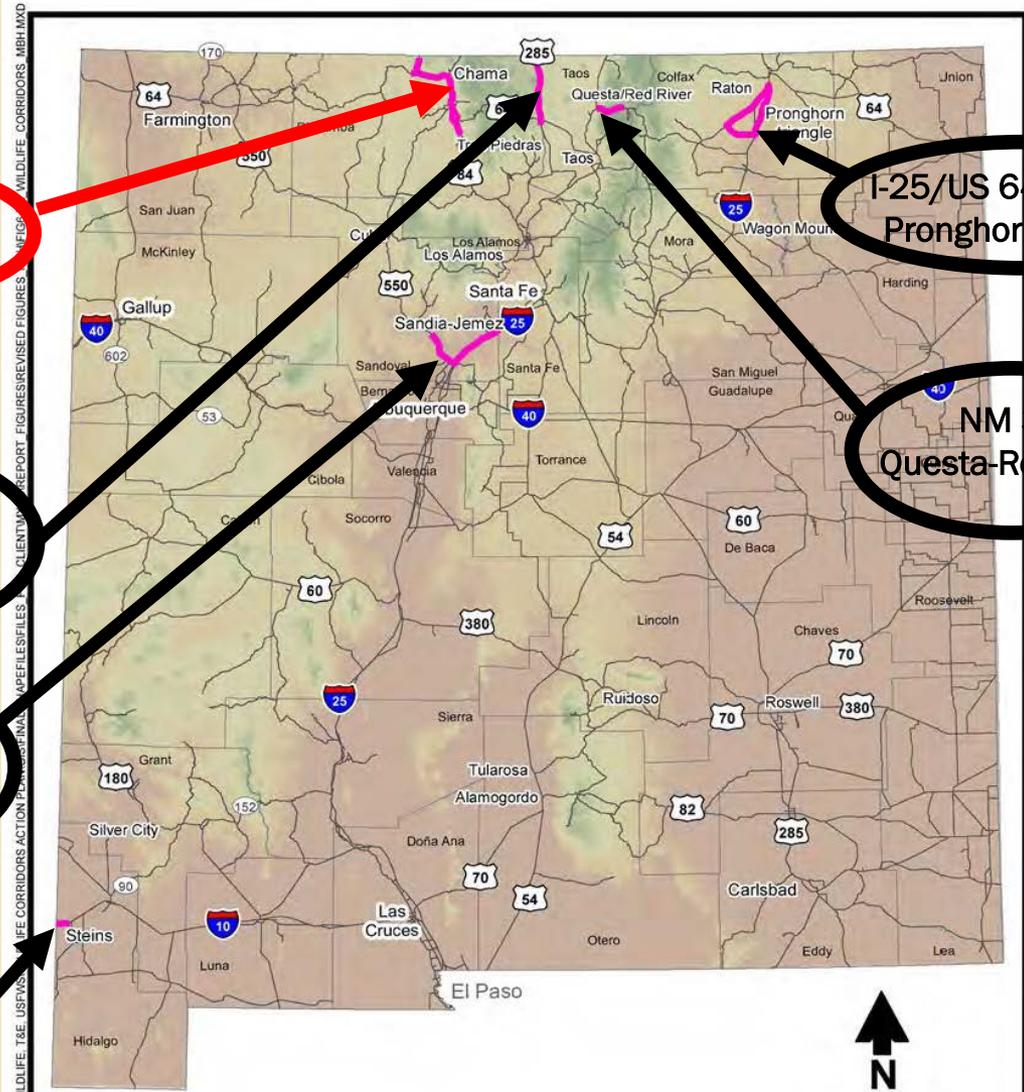
US 285  
Rio Grande Del Norte

I-25/US 550  
Sandia-Jemez Mountains

I-10  
Peloncillo Mountains

I-25/US 64/NM 505  
Pronghorn Triangle

NM 38  
Questa-Red River



Explanation  
Wildlife corridor

NMDOT WILDLIFE CORRIDORS ACTION PLAN

Top 6 Wildlife Corridors  
Recommended for Mitigation

**We Have a Plan**

**Let's Build It!**

**But How?**



## Wildlife Corridors Action Plan Planning/Design Funding

- \$2 Million - 2022 NMDOT Legislative Budget
  - \$5 Million - 2023 NMDOT Legislative Budget
  - \$5 Million - 2024 NMDOT Legislative Budget
  - Non-Gov't Organizations lobbying for Funding during 2025 New Mexico Legislative Session
- 



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**Horrocks.**

**US-550 MP 64.93 TO MP 80.64  
WILDLIFE VEHICLE COLLISION (WVC)  
MITIGATION  
SCOPING REPORT**

**Prepared For:** NMDOT; Central Region Design  
Sandoval County, New Mexico

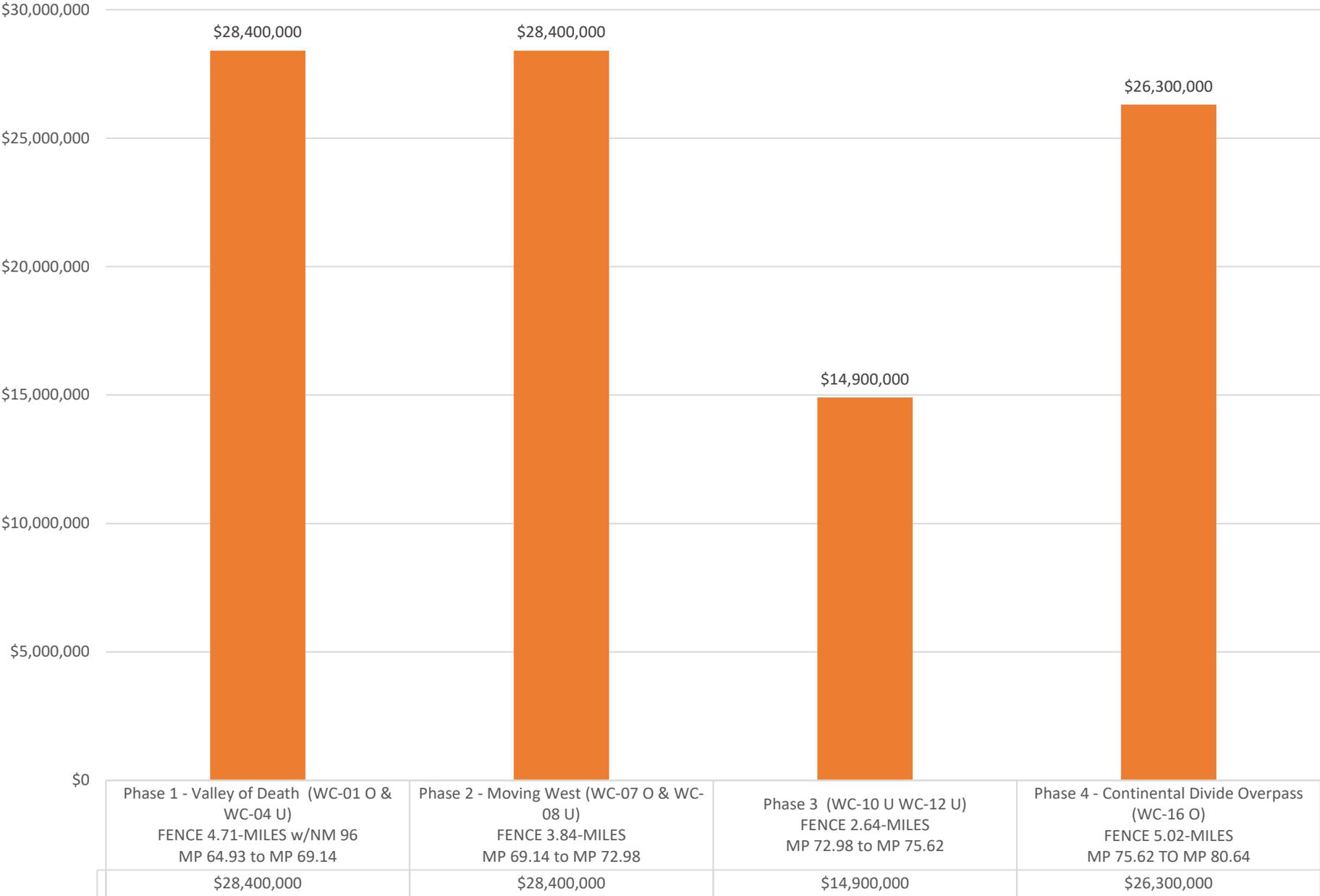
**Prepared By:** Horrocks  
6001 Indian School Road NE, Suite 250  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

**Date:** July 2023

# US 550 Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Project Area

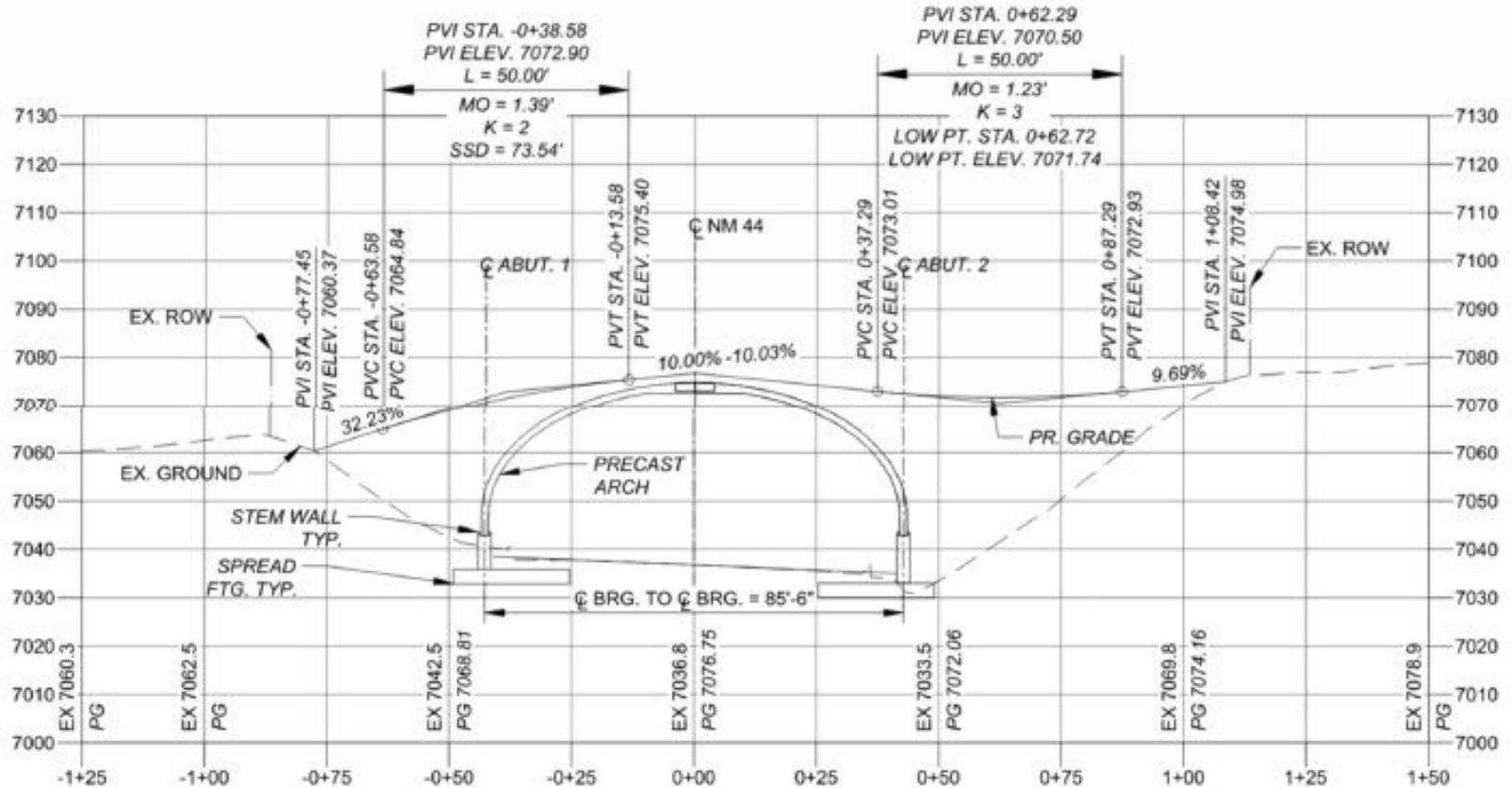


# US 550 WVC Mitigation Construction Phasing

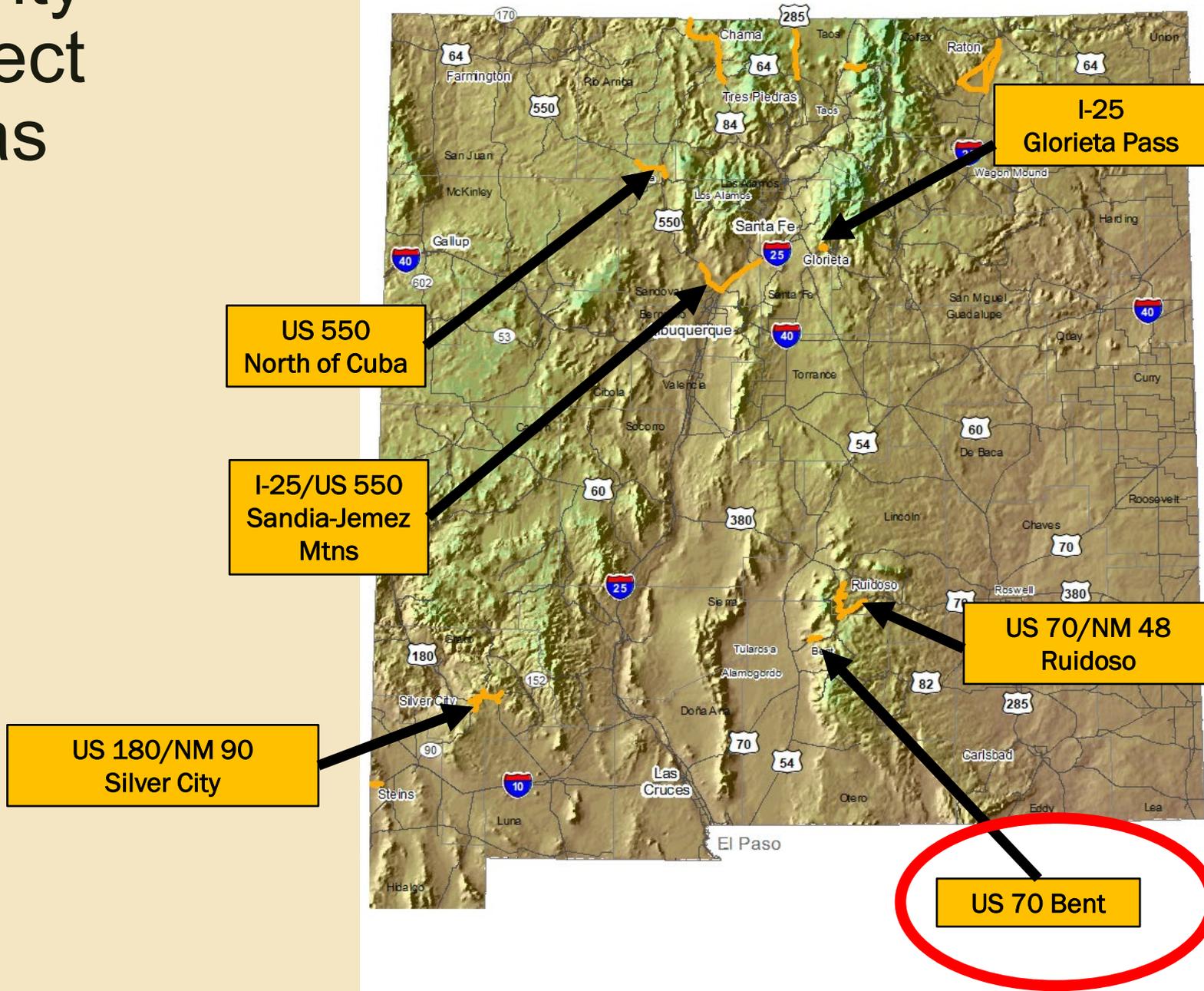




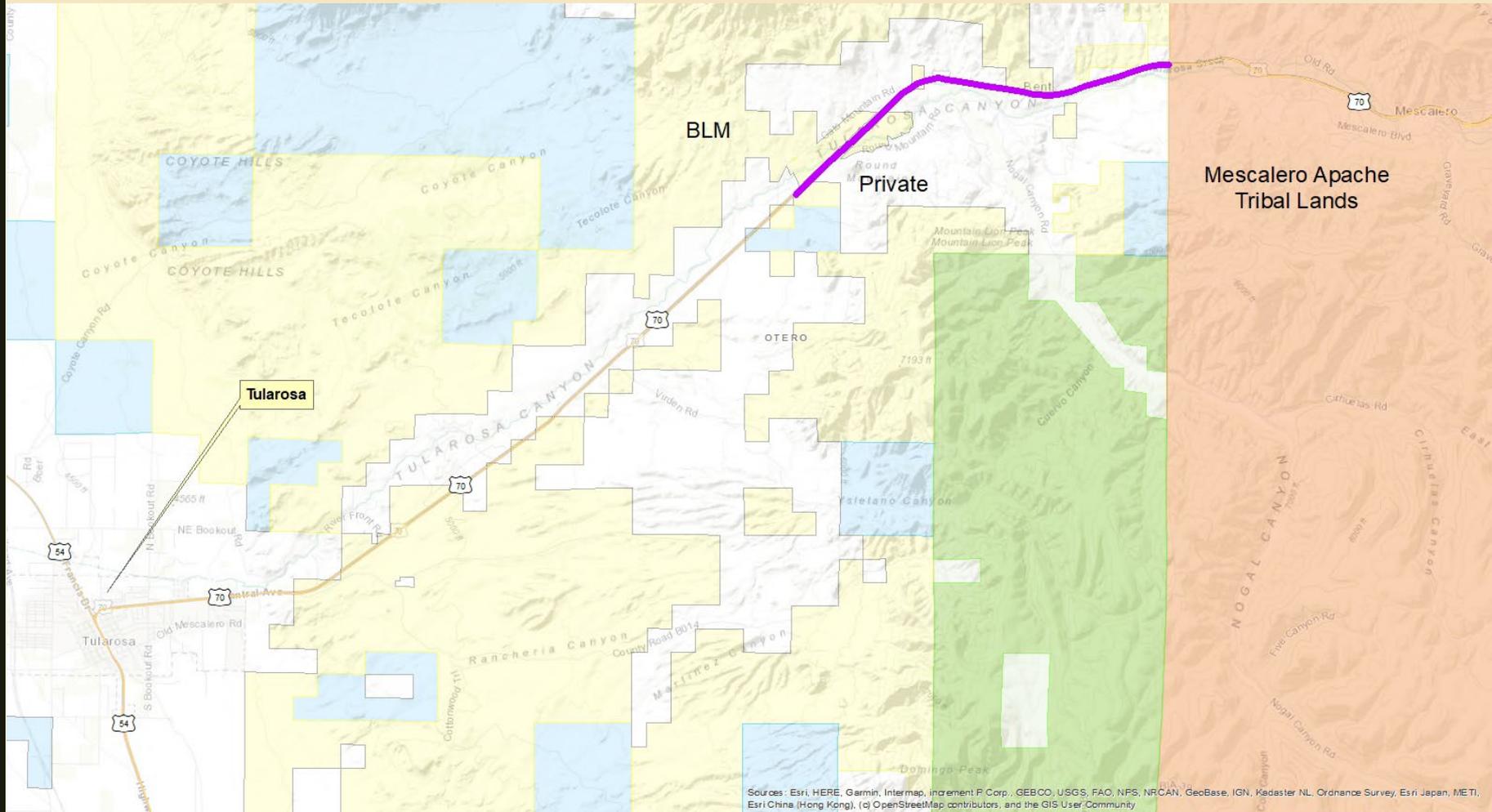
# US 550 Wildlife Crossing Project



# Priority Project Areas



# US 70 Bent Project Area



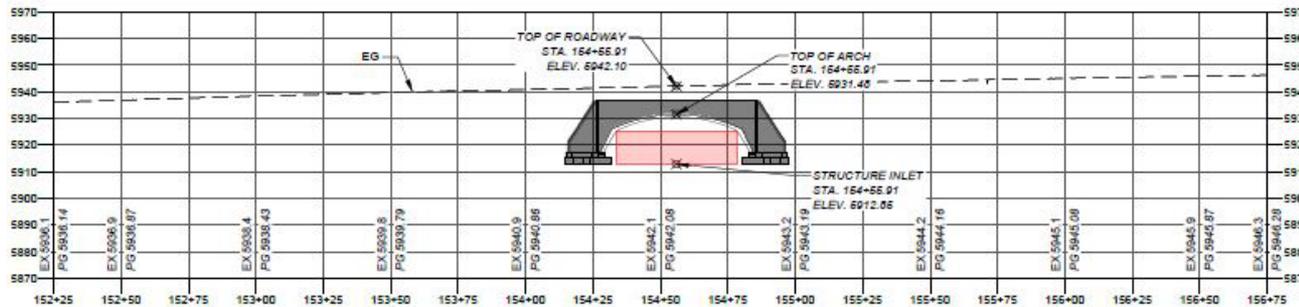




PLAN DRAWING SCALE: 1" = 45'

HORIZONTAL SCALE: 1" = 45' VERTICAL SCALE: 1" = 10'

**MP 239.9 - STA: 152+25.00' TO 156+75.00'**



LEGEND	
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #FF69B4; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	WILDLIFE CLEAR SPACE
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #D2B48C; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	UNDERPASS STRUCTURE
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #A9A9A9; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	CONCRETE HEADWALL & WING WALL

Structure No.	Mile Post	Ranking	Existing Structure	Proposed Structure
CR-2.1	239.9	Span Bridge	METAL CULVERT	Contech O-Series Span: 55'0" With Stem Walls

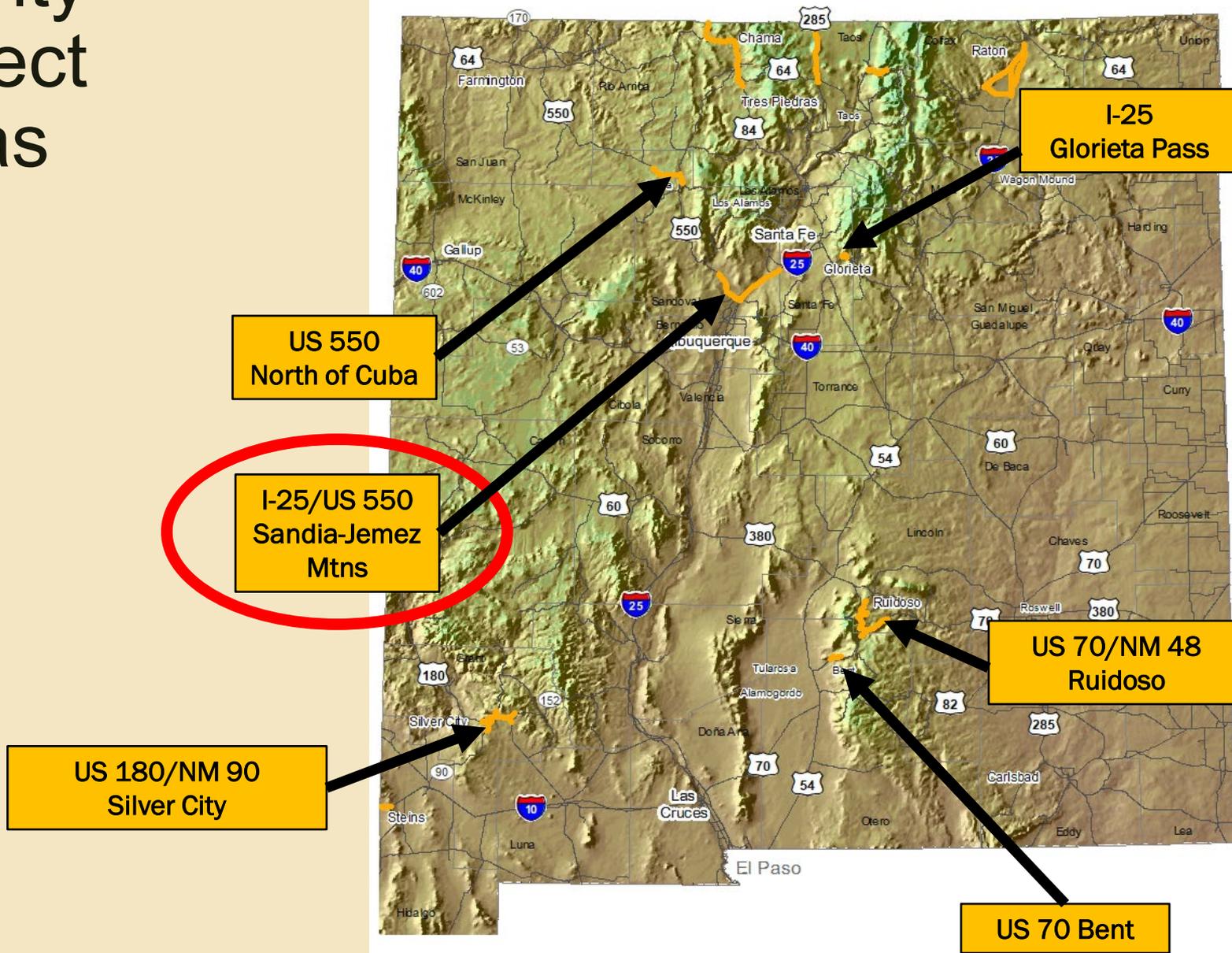


**NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY
1			
2			
3			

**US-70 WILDLIFE MITIGATION  
MP 239.9 ALTERNATIVE 1**

# Priority Project Areas



## Wildlife Corridors Action Plan Construction Funding

- Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program
  - Very Competitive Grant
  - Future?
- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
  - Competitive Grant (Internal)
  - Relatively low funding available
- Incorporate Wildlife Crossings into Major Roadway Reconstruction Projects



# Wildlife Corridors Action Plan Construction Funding

- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant
  - Very large dollar projects involving major infrastructure replacements – not just crossings
- PROTECT Grant
  - Improve Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency
  - May co-benefit aquatic and terrestrial connectivity



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