

Interim Report – Year 2 (February – June 2026)
NM Wildlife Conservation Teacher Training: Engineering Design in Action
Professional Services Contract #26-516-0000-00016

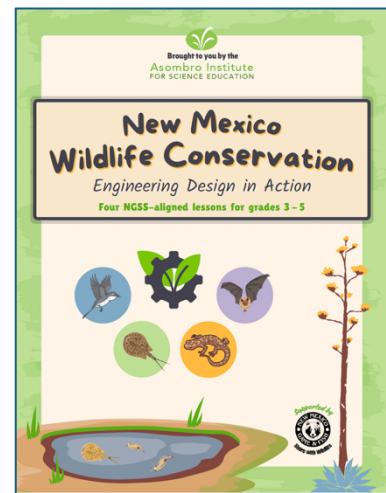
Project Objective and Summary of Accomplishments

The NM Wildlife Conservation Teacher Training: Engineering Design in Action project will help 3rd through 5th-grade educators teach their students about New Mexico wildlife conservation using engineering design standards. Approximately 40 educators and 800 students will engage in hands-on lessons featuring Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) through teacher workshops, classroom lessons, and public events.

Year 1 Accomplishments

Our tasks for the first year of the 22-month project included six major activities that we successfully completed. We submitted a final report for Year 1 accomplishments on January 19, 2026. All the details about these accomplishments are given in that report.

- Developed four 3rd-5th grade activities that focus on NM wildlife (each lesson includes one SGCN) and address the NM STEM Ready engineering standards for 3rd through 5th grades
- Submitted lessons to the Share with Wildlife Coordinator for review by the Agency's Conservation Educator on June 2, 2025
- Purchased and made supply kits with classroom sets of materials for all four lessons
- Planned and delivered a workshop for 18 teachers on July 15, 2025
- Planned and hosted a public event, Wildlife Conservation Day, on August 30, 2025 at Asombro's outdoor classroom, the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park
- Finalized the date and venue for the second teacher workshop to be held in March 2026, at the New Mexico Department of Wildlife office in Albuquerque



Year 2 Accomplishments from February to June 2026

In the first five months of the second year of the project, we accomplished three major activities:

- **Purchased and made supply kits with classroom sets of materials for all four lessons** – Asombro staff and volunteers purchased and made materials for 20 new supply kits to distribute to teachers at the March 21 teacher workshop. Each kit contains approximately \$350 of materials that allow them to teach all four new wildlife conservation lessons to their students. Asombro staff and volunteers prepared and labeled all materials, making it easy for teachers to use in their classrooms immediately after taking the workshop.
- **Planned and hosted a teacher workshop on March 21, 2026, at the NM Department of Wildlife office in Albuquerque** – We began advertising and accepting applications for the workshop in January 2026 with the assistance of several statewide organizations, including the New Mexico STEM Innovation Network, the New Mexico Public Education Department, and Environmental Education of New Mexico. We accepted 21 applicants; three teachers either cancelled the day before the workshop or were no-shows, so 18 teachers attended the workshop. Teachers were from Albuquerque, Belen, Edgewood, Jemez Pueblo, Santa Fe, and Tohatchi. Teachers all received a \$100 stipend in addition to the kit of supplies.

With the assistance of Storm Usrey, NM Department of Wildlife's Conservation Education Manager, we selected and prepared the venue for the workshop in the New Mexico Department of Wildlife building in Albuquerque.

The workshop agenda included an introduction to Species of Greatest Conservation Need, an introduction to Share with Wildlife by Karen Gaines, NM Department of Wildlife's Share with Wildlife Coordinator, a talk by scientist Domonic Jimenez, and hands-on demonstrations of all four new lessons Asombro developed for the project. The full agenda is shown below:



- 9:30 Welcome and icebreaker SGCN, teacher introductions
- 9:50 Introduction to Asombro and engineering design
- 9:55 Introduction to the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan and the Share with Wildlife program
- 10:15 **Gray Vireo**
- 11:05 **Bats and Agaves**
- 12:05 Lunch
- 12:35 Endless Forms
- 12:50 **Sponge Salamander**
- 1:50 Guest speaker – Domonic Jimenez from New Mexico State University
- 2:15 **Playa Shrimp**
- 3:15 Evaluations, distribute stipends and kits, wrap up
- 3:30 End of day

On post-workshop evaluations, 100% of the teachers agreed or strongly agreed with the following prompts:

- I will use knowledge that I gained to inform my teaching.
- I will use one or more activities from the workshop with my students.
- The material was aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards.
- The material in this workshop was presented clearly.
- I would like to participate in future Asombro Institute programs.

In addition, 17 of the teachers reported that the workshop increased their knowledge of New Mexico Species of Greatest Conservation Need (one did not answer this question). Fifteen of the 18 teachers reported increased knowledge about teaching engineering design standards using conservation examples; one teacher did not fully answer the question and two reported that they already had substantial knowledge before the workshop. Teachers added many other comments, including:

- “Hands down the BEST workshop I’ve been to in a long time. No notes! Perfection”
- “I love how we see each lesson first hand! I also appreciate that you provide a class set of materials to use with our classes! It makes implementing the information so much easier. Thank you for a great workshop.”
- “The example of the lessons was very helpful. I can’t wait to get back and get started. Thank you.”
- “Every activity was well planned and will be easy to implement in the classroom. I love that it is relevant to New Mexico!”

- **Began planning the second public program on wildlife conservation at the** Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park on Friday, October 16 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Going Batty! The Desert After Dark will highlight nocturnal wildlife species with a special focus on SGCN like the Lesser Long-Nosed Bat.

Next Steps (July - November 2026)

In the final 5 months of the project, we will:

- Host the second public program on wildlife conservation at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park on Friday, October 16.
- Compile results for the entire project and submit the final project report.

Acknowledgements

Funding for this project was provided by the Share with Wildlife program of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Contracts #24-516-0000-00027, #25-516-0000-00020, and #26-516-0000-00016.

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