



**New Mexico
Wildlife Center**

DATE

January 30, 2026

FINAL REPORT

New Mexico Wildlife Center: Wildlife Rehabilitation
Contract #25-516-0000-00031

ATTENTION

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BISON-M/Share with Wildlife Coordinator
Ecological and Environmental Planning Section
Wildlife Management Division
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
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ORGANIZATION

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CONTACT

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REFERENCE

Professional Services Contract #25-516-0000-00031
Total Amount of Contract: \$20,000
Amount available July 1, 2025 through February 2, 2026: \$4,690.19
Contract Start Date: February 2, 2025; Proposed Termination Date: February 2, 2026

PROJECT TITLE: Aquatic Bird and Mammal Enclosure

NARRATIVE

Our objective for this project was to build an appropriate pre-release habitat space for aquatic birds and/or mammals. The enclosure space of 20' wide x 40' long x 10' high is sufficient for the pre-release containment and conditioning of waterfowl, semi-aquatic mammals (e.g., beaver, muskrat, otter) and aquatic turtle species. Additionally, the design of the enclosure will allow for species specific modifications related to flight, swimming, perching, climbing, blinds/hides, and feeding/foraging areas.

Aquatic birds and mammals have highly specific rehabilitation requirements for successful care and release. Providing for these patients appropriately requires specialized facilities, housing, medical care, specialized diets and rehab expertise. With the completion of this new facility, the New Mexico Wildlife Center (NMWC) is now the best-equipped facility in the state of New Mexico to provide these unique care requirements for aquatic patients.

NMWC receives many of the state's rescued aquatic birds and mammals for care, either directly from rescuers or as transfers from other wildlife rehabilitators. This dedicated enclosure and pool setup, coupled with the Center's existing medical facilities and staff expertise, will greatly enhance NMWC's capacity and capability to provide optimal care and pre-release conditioning for these species. NMWC's hospital team of Staff Veterinarian and Wildlife Rehabilitators is extremely grateful to the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish and the Share with Wildlife program for making this addition to our wildlife rehabilitation facility possible.

Work to complete the project included overseeing the on-site fabrication and construction of the enclosure; reviewing and approving design modifications to the enclosure entrances; supervising placement and installation of the 6,000-gallon tank; identifying a replacement supplier for the pump/filter system and overseeing the system's design and installation.

KEY DELIVERABLES

1. Contractors (Charly Landscaping and Temo's Welding, both of Santa Fe) completed all building work on the enclosure. On-site supervision and design modification approval was conducted by NMWC staff from July 12, 2025 – December 19, 2025.
2. NMWC staff coordinated delivery and supervised the placement and installation by Power Pipe & Tank of Amarillo, TX of the 16' diameter x 4' deep 6,000-gallon fiberglass pool within the aquatic pre-release enclosure from July 21-23, 2025.
3. The initial company engaged to design, build and install the pump/filter system was unable to deliver the system within the project time frame and budget. A new company, Enchantment Refrigeration of Santa Fe, was identified as a supplier. The NMWC staff oversaw the design, configuration and installation of the new pump/filter system to ensure that it met the original required specifications. December 23, 2025.

FINAL EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Personnel	Oversight of all project phases including construction; enclosure entrances modifications; tank placement and installation; design and installation of pump/filter system	\$4,690.19
	TOTAL	\$4,690.19

In addition to Share with Wildlife funding further project funding was supplied by:

- The Carroll Petrie Foundation
- The Foxwynd Foundation
- The Land of Enchantment Wildlife Foundation
- Anonymous Donor

PROJECT PHOTOS



Site Prep (July 1, 2025)

PROJECT PHOTOS, continued



Enclosure Frame and No Dig (July 12, 2025)



Assembled Tank in Place (July 22, 2025)



Final Build (December 19, 2025)

PROJECT PHOTOS, continued



Aquatic pre-release enclosure site  (figure is not to scale) on New Mexico Wildlife Center's property in Espanola, NM. The enclosure is located within the complex of other New Mexico Wildlife Center outdoor pre-release enclosures. (aerial photo 2021)