



**New Mexico
Wildlife Center**

DATE

June 27, 2025

INTERIM REPORT

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

ATTENTION

Karen H. Gaines, M.A.
BISON-M/Share with Wildlife Coordinator
Ecological and Environmental Planning 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 through June 30, 2025: \$15,309.81
Amount available 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 is to build an appropriate pre-release habitat space for aquatic birds and/or mammals, depending on New Mexico Wildlife Center's (NMWC). The space will be appropriately sized for both large aquatic bird flight, high perching and aquatic mammal use.

Since its founding in 1986, NMWC has remained one of a very few facilities providing high level veterinary care and rehabilitation services to the native wildlife of New Mexico. NMWC cares for all allowed native wildlife species, including amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

Within New Mexico, NMWC serves as a referral resource for independent rehabilitators and other centers with less advanced medical and/or rehabilitation capabilities. 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, rehab expertise and specialized diets. Currently, NMWC is the best equipped facility in the state to provide these care requirements for aquatic patients. However, NMWC does not yet have a dedicated outdoor pre-release enclosure and large pool setup for aquatic patients, which is ideal for optimal rehab success. Smaller temporary pool setups have been built by NMWC staff and installed in flight barns designed for non-aquatic species to serve this need in the interim. These ad hoc systems are much more time and resource consuming to maintain with appropriate water quality than a purpose-built system. Given that NMWC is receiving many of the state's aquatic birds and mammals for care, a dedicated enclosure and pool setup is needed to provide optimal care and pre-release conditioning for these species.

WORK TO DATE

Work to date on the project has centered on planning, design and contracting with suppliers for the enclosure, pool, and filtration system. Tasks completed or in progress include:

1. An appropriate site within NMWC's outdoor rehab enclosure area was identified by NMWC Wildlife Hospital staff. (*See attached photos*)
2. Electrical service in place.
3. A required pre-project archaeological site survey was conducted by Jack Young, NMDGF Archaeologist. The survey determined no archaeological findings within the proposed site. The determination was posted for comment and none were received.
4. For enclosure construction NMWC has been contracted with Charly Landscaping of Santa Fe. The company has:
 - conducted a pre-build site survey and flagged the site
 - ordered the materials for the enclosure including: welded wire panels, no-dig barrier, metal frame posts and bracing
 - begun off-site fabrication of the welded structural components
5. Power Pipe & Tank of Amarillo, TX has been contracted to fabricate, deliver and install the specialized 16'x4' 6,000gal. fiberglass pool. Delivery and installation is anticipated

prior to the end of July 2025. The exact date will be coordinated with the completion of the enclosure no-dig barrier installation.

6. The filtration system has been designed by Mount Olympus Water of Santa Fe. Required modifications to the pool to accommodate the filter system have been communicated to Power Pipe & Tank. Installation of the filter will follow the completion of the build and tank placement.

While the project is behind the initial anticipated timeline it remains on track for completion within the contract period.

PROJECT PHOTOS



East-West Site Face 20ft



North-South Site Face 40ft



Electrical connection Southwest corner