

New Mexico Department of Transportation National Environmental Policy Act On-Call Services

New Mexico, Statewide

Client

**New Mexico Department
of Transportation
Environmental Bureau**

Highlights

- ◆ Completed more than 40 task orders
- ◆ Biological evaluations
- ◆ Threatened and endangered species surveys and monitoring
- ◆ Archaeological and historical architectural surveys
- ◆ Bat remediation
- ◆ NEPA evaluations
- ◆ Reporting in accordance with regulatory guidelines
- ◆ Restoration
- ◆ Monitoring

DBS&A is supporting the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) Environmental Bureau to provide National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, natural and cultural resource inventories, and other tasks as assigned by the Bureau, and has completed more than 40 task orders.

Over the course of our on-call contracts, DBS&A's natural resources and cultural resources team has assisted the Bureau with tasks for NMDOT roadways, bridges, and rights-of-way throughout the State of New Mexico. Our natural resource experts, with their knowledge and experience of biological resources in New Mexico, assist the NMDOT by efficiently performing biological evaluations, wetland delineations, riparian restoration, threatened and endangered species surveys and monitoring. DBS&A oversees the cultural resources team member responsible for conducting cultural resource inventories and reports, including archaeological and historic architecture evaluations and linear surveys, cultural resources monitoring and archival research cultural overviews. While most NEPA documents are prepared directly by the NMDOT, we also assist with the preparation of Categorical Exclusions (CEs) to comply with NEPA requirements of the Federal Highway Administration. Representative tasks include:

◆ **Willow Creek Riparian Restoration Plan, Implementation and Monitoring**

DBS&A developed a restoration plan to develop measures for the revegetation of a site on Willow Creek near Pecos, New Mexico, after the creek banks were impacted by an NMDOT action. The plan contained mitigation measures, performance standards, and monitoring guidelines to be implemented for a two-year period following revegetation. DBS&A conducted the riparian plantings and the first year monitoring of the site. The plan was approved by the site's jurisdictional agencies (i.e., New Mexico Environment Department [NMED] and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish [NMDGF]). Due to the success rate of revegetation, the monitoring event was moved up with the approval of the NMED; the monitoring event was completed in the same year and no further corrective measures were required.



Biologists implementing the Willow Creek Riparian Restoration Plan



NMDOT NEPA On-Call Services continued page 2**♦ Biological Evaluations (including water resources evaluation for wetland features and documenting of the Ordinary High Water Mark)**

- » NM 6 Los Lunas (including CE) – Conducted for 14 miles of NM Highway 6 for roadway improvement project.*
- » NM 246 Lincoln County – Right-of-way (ROW) clearing and fencing project on NM Highway 246 (NM 246) from milepost 27.0 to 33.0.*
- » US 285 Eddy County – Along U.S. Highway 285 from mile post 0.0 at the Texas State Line to 11.0 in Eddy County. The evaluation included USFWS and NMDGF listed species, as well as BLM sensitive species.*
- » NM 95 at Rio Chama Bridge – Conducted for bridge renovation and reconstruction project.*

♦ Threatened and Endangered Species and Other Natural Resource-Related Tasks

- » Galisteo Bridge Threatened and Endangered Species Monitoring – Conducted USFWS protocol surveys for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) at the Galisteo North Bridge in Santa Fe County during a bridge replacement project. A total of 11 surveys were performed utilizing the methodology described by the U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods 2A-10.
- » I-40 Rio San Jose wetland delineation – Conducted a wetland delineation at a drainage crossing of a tributary to the Rio San Jose located along Interstate 40 (I-40) in Cibola County. The delineation was conducted using the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (USACE, 1987) and the protocol outlined in Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (Version 2.0).
- » I-40, MP 238 Bridge Nesting Survey

* included cultural resources services



NMDOT's proactive mitigation measures enable demolition activities to proceed mitigating the impacts to the bat species.



Biologists document observations at the Figueredo Wash crossing within Navajo Nation

