

**APPENDIX B3 – ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF
SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES**

APPENDIX B3 – ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

INTRODUCTION

This document provides a discussion of the mapping approach used in the impact analysis for special-status species. Table B3-1 provides additional detail on species distribution to complement the discussion of each subroute in sections 3.6.9 and 4.6.5 of the EIS. The purpose of the impact analysis was to allow a comparison of alternatives to aid in selection of a preferred alternative, based on available data and initial field reconnaissance. These estimated distributions are not intended to substitute for any requirements under the ESA. Continuing coordination with other agencies, and the results of Section 7 consultation on the preferred alternative, will refine these estimates and set committed species-specific and site-specific mitigation.

The first group of species discussed includes those that are known or expected to occur in specific areas, and sufficient information was available to allow that distribution to be estimated. Information is provided on how that distribution was estimated.

The second group includes species with unclear distributions, poor or no available information, species that would not be affected by the proposed Project, or species that may occur nearly anywhere in the region. A brief discussion is included that provides information on the status of the species, or of any information gaps that prevented an estimation of their distribution.

SPECIES WITH ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTIONS

Lesser Long-nosed Bat

Areas with likely saguaro or agave presence were included in the milepost distribution, from the Peloncillo Mountains westward.

Mexican Long-nosed Bat

The species has been detected in New Mexico only once, in the southern Peloncillo Mountains. Link B150a is potentially within foraging range (approximately 40 miles) of that record.

Aplomado Falcon

Any areas that appeared to be relatively intact grassland, based on LANDFIRE and aerial imagery, were included in the milepost distribution.

Yuma Clapper Rail

This species has been detected infrequently at Picacho Reservoir. Flight patterns are unknown, although rails are most likely flying from the Gila River or wetlands in the Phoenix area. The milepost distribution includes portions of links north and west of Picacho Reservoir.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

All river crossings with large trees were included, although not all have habitat patches large enough to support nesting. Foraging or floater individual presence is possible.

Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl

Areas with potential saguaros or large trees were included from San Pedro River Valley westward.

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

All river crossings with large trees were included, although not all have habitat patches large enough to support nesting. Foraging or floater individual presence is possible.

Sprague's Pipit

Areas were included in the milepost distribution that were mapped as greater than 75 percent grassland by LANDFIRE, extending to areas of greater than 50 percent grassland at the margins of large, contiguous grassland blocks.

Sonoran Desert Tortoise

The upper, eastern limit of the milepost distribution for Desert Tortoise was set at approximately 4500 feet in the San Pedro River Valley. All links in and west of the San Pedro River Valley were included, with the exception of urban Tucson, farmland, and low-elevation valley bottoms that appeared to lack substantial topographical relief.

Arizona Striped Whiptail

The milepost distribution includes valley bottom habitat near known populations in the Sulphur Springs Valley.

Tucson Shovel-nosed Snake

The milepost distribution includes valley-bottom creosote bush-bursage communities in Pima and Pinal counties.

Northern Mexican Garter Snake

Links crossing Cienega Creek were included in the milepost distribution.

Gila Chub

Links crossing Cienega Creek were included in the milepost distribution.

Roundtail Chub

The species is present in Aravaipa Canyon downstream from Link C170.

Rio Grande Silvery Minnow

Both crossing locations of the Rio Grande were included in the milepost distribution.

Spikedace

The species is present in Aravaipa Canyon downstream from Link C170. Critical habitat is designated in Hot Springs and Redfield canyons, but the Project would cross those canyons below any permanent water.

Loach Minnow

The species is present in Aravaipa Canyon downstream from Link C170. Critical habitat is designated in Hot Springs and Redfield canyons, but the Project would cross those canyons below any permanent water.

Gila Topminnow

Links crossing Cienega Creek were included.

Socorro Springsnail

Link A161b would pass very close to the sole known spring supporting this species.

Pima Pineapple Cactus

The milepost distribution includes all undeveloped, relatively flat areas from Cienega Creek Preserve to the southern boundary of Tucson.

Acuña Cactus

The milepost distribution includes areas with rocky slopes or near exposed bedrock in vicinity of a known population.

Huachuca Water-umbel

Links crossing Cienega Creek were included.

Three-nerved Scurfpea

Chihuahuan Desert scrub in the San Simon Valley was included in the milepost distribution.

SPECIES WITHOUT ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTIONS

New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse

This species is only known from within Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in the study area. No impacts are expected to occur.

Mexican Gray Wolf

This species is not expected to occur in areas that would be crossed by the proposed Project.

Jaguar

The potential for Jaguar movement in the Southwest, particularly north of I-10, is not clearly understood at present.

Ocelot

The potential for Ocelot movement in the Southwest, particularly north of I-10, is not clearly understood at present.

Jaguarundi

No clear evidence has been found to indicate that Jaguarundis have been present in Arizona in recent decades.

Golden Eagle

All undeveloped portions of the proposed Project are within or near Golden Eagle foraging or nesting habitat.

Bald Eagle

No nests are known near the proposed Project, although Bald Eagles may occur along major rivers in winter.

Piping Plover

The species has been recorded as only as an accidental near the proposed Project.

Mexican Spotted Owl

The species occurs in the northern Galiuro Mountains and southern Rincon Mountains, but no suitable wooded canyon habitat is crossed by the proposed Project.

Chiricahua Leopard Frog

All occupied Chiricahua Leopard Frog habitat is located no closer than approximately 3 miles upstream from any proposed stream crossing.

Apache Trout

No suitable habitat is present on Link C130a.

Desert Pupfish

Suitable habitat is present only upstream from links C331 and C470 in Hot Springs and Redfield canyons.

Todsen's Pennyroyal

The USFWS indicated suitable habitat for this species occurs on Chupadera Mesa. However, no indication was given of the extent of that habitat, and the species has not been detected in that area.

This page intentionally left blank.

