

TR-30 Old Barn Staging Area and Construction Access Road

The Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) at Colorado State University conducted a search of their database of natural heritage elements (“occurrences of significant natural communities and rare, threatened or endangered plants and animals”) for the area within and 1.5 miles outside the permit area. The results of that search identified the wolverine (presumed extirpated in Colorado since 1979) and the Townsend’s big-eared bat (a species of concern for the BLM and Forest Service). No candidate or federally listed species were identified within or adjacent to the permit area. The June 15, 2017 CNAP report can be found in Appendix 8(3).

An endangered species field assessment for the construction access road was performed on October 22, 2018 by SME Environmental Consultants as part of an OSMRE permit revision addressing a low-cover crossing and access route. The access route included the section of road beginning at the Old Barn and ending at the boundary of CDRMS permit C-1981-035. This report is included as King II Appendix 8(8).

This report concluded:

In summary, SME personnel did not observe suitable habitat for any species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 in the project area for the proposed low cover crossing, along the access route to the low cover crossing site, or in the vicinity (minimum 330 feet) of the project area or access route. SME feel that the project is unlikely to have any impact on the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse or southwestern willow flycatcher.