

Mr. James Duran, Supervisor  
Carson National Forest  
208 Cruz Alta Road  
Taos, New Mexico 87571

March 22, 2023

Re: Taos Ski Valley, Gondola and other 'improvements'

Mr. Duran:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My comments are below.

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## OVERVIEW

If the goal of the NEPA draft Environmental Assessment and Wildlife Report documents (DEA) is to assess the Direct, Indirect, Short Term, Long Term and Cumulative potential impacts to the resources of the project area and surroundings, the DEA deserves a **GRADE of 'F'**.

It seems clear the Forest Service considers Taos Ski Valley (TSV) and surroundings to be a sacrifice zone for wildlife, forest and water. Of the spruce-fir habitat birds known from Taos County, 75 are covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), but only 5 are addressed in the DEA. Of the 11 species of birds known from Taos County and known to use alpine tundra, 10 are covered by the MBTA. Only 1 is discussed in the DEA. An additional bird species not even mentioned in the DEA is **State of NM THREATENED**. One bird species known to use the alpine habitat on the project area is **State of NM ENDANGERED** and not even mentioned in the DEA. Further, 1 species discussed in the DEA is apparently not known from the State of New Mexico or Taos County (BISON-M, NMDG&F). However, in one book the species is shown extending into northern NM in winter, apparently a guess without any data.

The DEA states it analyzes species on the USFS Region 3 Sensitive Species List. There are 9 spruce-fir species on the R3 list, none of which were mentioned or analyzed in the DEA. There are 5 alpine tundra species on the R3 list, none of which were mentioned or analyzed in the DEA.

The DEA states it analyzes USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern. There are 3 species that use spruce-fir on that list, 1 of which was analyzed, the other 2 were not mentioned in the DEA. There are 2 species that use alpine tundra on that list, 1 was analyzed and 1 was not even mentioned.

**In total, there are 11 high profile species (Federal Threatened, State of NM Threatened or Endangered, USFS R3 Sensitive, and/or USFWS Birds of**

**Conservation Concern) which may occur on the project area that are not even mentioned in the DEA, much less analyzed for impacts.**

There is NO REAL WILDLIFE CUMULATIVE AFFECTS analysis for the project area and surrounding area! There are massive past, present and foreseeable future impacts to the project area and surroundings. The DEA does allude to some of these impacts by repeatedly mentioning that the habitat in the project area is currently significantly degraded by ongoing management and recreational activities. The DEA, in the MBTA section, repeatedly claims that there is plenty of high quality habitat near the project area and that displaced birds can just move. Unfortunately, when animals are displaced into occupied habitat they will likely die or the original occupants will likely die.

SPRUCE-FIR FOREST; Marten and other spruce-fir dependent species.

Pacific marten, *Martes caurina*, (**State of New Mexico THREATENED & USFS R3 Sensitive**), are at the southern limit of their range in New Mexico. They occur in the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo Mountains of the northern part of the state primarily on the Carson National Forest. Their habitat is mature and old growth spruce-fir forest with considerable dead and down course woody debris (down logs). Additionally, 7 other species (listed below) are dependent on similar habitat. **None of these species were even mentioned in the DEA, much less assessed for impacts. They include both federal and state listed THREATENED species.**

The continued presence of marten and other spruce-fir dependant species in New Mexico appears to be tenuous, at best, due to extensive habitat degradation and loss which has occurred during recent decades, currently continues, and is forecast to become worse. The habitat loss is from logging, thinning and mastication, "glading" in ski areas, climate change, severe wind events, and possibly increased fire in spruce-fir. Extreme noise from snow making equipment may also be a factor and not discussed in the DEA.

In the San Juan Mountains, there has been extensive logging of spruce-fir on private land (summit of highway US 64 between Tierra Amarilla and Tres Piedras), and significant logging by the US Forest Service in the same general area (east of the summit), during recent times. Based on Forest Service comments and proposed actions, the Forest Service plans to continue logging New Mexico's limited and at risk spruce-fir forest.

**In the Sangre de Cristo range, the best population of marten in NM occurs in the area of Taos Ski Valley (TSV).** On the private lands, adjacent to and related to TSV, there has recently been a significant amount of mastication of the mature and old growth spruce-fir forest (some of the best marten habitat in New Mexico) for development of a subdivision. On US Forest Service lands under permit to TSV, there has been extensive "glading" of prime marten habitat. "Glading" is a process of removing the dead and down logs, lower limbs and some trees from prime marten habitat to allow skiing through the trees. The process destroys marten habitat. Areas that have been "gladed" are no longer marten habitat but have become habitat for pocket gophers instead. Your previous EA for glading took prime marten habitat, converted it to non-marten habitat and you

claimed it would be good for marten! Planned future projects apparently include more glading. Further, there was a recent severe wind event at TSV and adjacent private land which felled a considerable number of spruce trees. Although leaving them on the ground would have been good for the health of the forest and marten, they were logged. There was no NEPA analysis for that logging.

Climate change is making an already bad situation much worse. Under warmer and drier conditions spruce-fir forest is susceptible to bark beetles. The Rio Grande National Forest in Colorado, adjacent to New Mexico, has lost all of their mature and old growth Engleman Spruce (500,000 acres) to bark beetles caused by climate change. There is every reason to expect massive losses of spruce-fir forest in New Mexico. This loss appears to be well underway in the El Valle area and likely elsewhere, possibly including TSV and surrounding area (Photo: Dead spruce TSV area in 2012 attached, page 13). In southern NM on the Gila National Forest, it appears that all spruce-fir has already been lost. Presumably the US Forest Service and NM State Forestry are aware of the State-wide situation. In New Mexico, much of the spruce-fir forest is at or near the tops of the mountains. With climate change, much of this life zone will be "pushed off the tops" of the mountains as the life zones move up. We can expect to see a significant loss of our limited spruce-fir habitat in New Mexico due to climate change and many species of wildlife will be affected. This also means a massive loss of alpine tundra habitat in New Mexico and associated wildlife.

Historically, fire in spruce-fir has been uncommon with a natural fire return interval of 200+ years. Restoration practices, such as thinning and controlled burning, which are appropriate for systems such as ponderosa pine, are destructive in spruce-fir, not restorative. When fire does occur in this habitat, it is normally a stand replacing event. With extreme drought related to climate change, this situation may be changing and fire in spruce-fir may become more common. The Luna fire on the Carson National Forest in the fall of 2020 was a high elevation intense fire with an extreme spotting distance greater than 1.5 miles. If fire in spruce-fir becomes more common, we can expect to lose even more habitat and likely species of wildlife.

While the comments above focused on marten, **there are numerous spruce-fir dependent species, besides marten, whose continued existence in New Mexico is at risk. These include, but may not be limited to: snowshoe hare, lynx (federal THREATENED & USFS R3 Sensitive), boreal owl (State of NM THREATENED & USFS R3 Sensitive), southern red-backed vole, heather vole, dusky grouse, and band-tailed pigeon.**

The bottom line is that a massive loss of habitat for marten and other spruce-fir dependent species has occurred, continues to occur, and is expected to get much worse. The continued existence of marten and other spruce-fir dependent species in New Mexico is tenuous at best.

A summer long survey for marten in the Pecos Wilderness, using wildlife cameras and snow tracking, obtained one photograph (Carson NF side) and one set of tracks in snow

(Santa Fe NF side). Marten were first detected in NM in the Pecos Wilderness but appear to be very rare there now.

Restoration of spruce-fir forest appears to be very difficult or perhaps impossible with the warming climate. An area in Osha Pass on the Carson NF that was clear cut in the 1950s or '60s is still not a spruce-fir forest, 60 to 70 years later. It was reportedly replanted about 5 times. Some spruce trees are now present but no fir trees. It currently looks like a tree farm, it is not a forest.

The above information needs to be part of the impacts assessment in the DEA or EIS, including an honest cumulative effects analysis. In addition, the following information about spruce-fir needs to be included: How many acres have been lost to logging? How many acres are planned? How many acres have been lost to subdivisions, and planned future development? How many acres have been lost to "glading" at ski areas, and how many are planned? How many acres have been lost to fire? How many acres have been lost to spruce mortality from bark beetles? What is the current and expected bark beetle situation in northern NM? How many acres of spruce-fir and alpine tundra are predicted to be lost at the tops of mountains due to climate change as life zones move up?

Lynx, *Lynx lynx*, (**federal THREATENED & USFS R3 Sensitive**) were restored to Colorado and have moved down the Sangre de Cristo Mountains from Colorado to near Santa Fe and back several times. Lynx are dependant on snowshoe hares, a spruce-fir dependant species, as their primary food and therefore lynx are also spruce-fir dependant. TSV and adjacent private land (related to TSV) are located along the spine of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. While the radio tracking data does not record the route that Lynx have followed down the mountain chain, they likely pass along the spine of the mountains and through the TSV area. **Lynx are not even mentioned in the DEA, much less assessed. The assessment needs to include the impacts of the massive year round disturbance from construction and thousands of people, snow making sound, and the cumulative impacts from destruction of spruce-fir.**

## ALPINE TUNDRA

Alpine tundra occurs at the top of the project area on Kachina Peak. The peak is known habitat and used by White-tailed Ptarmigan, *Lagopus leucurus*, (**State of NM ENDANGERED & USFS R3 Sensitive**) according to the people that researched ptarmigan in New Mexico. Ptarmigan were not even mentioned in the DEA. Your previous EA claimed it wasn't habitat but you failed to do your research or ask the researchers. You have since built a lift to the peak to deliver lots of skiers. In addition, the jet engine noise of snow making may be impacting the species and needs to be assessed.

Rocky Mt. Bighorn Sheep, *Ovis canadensis*, inhabit alpine tundra on and in the vicinity of TSV. Ewes spend the summer in the Gold Hill area north of TSV and the rams summer on Vallecito Peak south of TSV. The rams move to Gold Hill for the rut and then return south after the rut. They migrate through the TSV area including spruce-fir

forest. Bighorns were not even mentioned in the DEA. The impacts of many people in their habitat year round plus the jet engine sound of the snow making equipment needs to be assessed.

## SOUND & DISTURBANCE

I was amazed at the deafening sound on a recent trip to the Kachina Basin. It sounded like numerous jet engines roaring at the same time and it filled the entire basin, well beyond TSV. It was TSV snow making equipment. While this was during the day, I think they usually do the snow making at night. The noise of the snow making was not even mentioned in the DEA. There are 7 species of owls known from Taos County and known to utilize spruce-fir habitat. All 7 are covered by the MBTA. The DEA in the MBTA section mentions only 1, the long-eared owl. The Boreal Owl, a **State of NM THREATENED** species and spruce-fir dependant species is not even mentioned or assessed. The Mexican Spotted Owl (**Federal THREATENED**) is discussed elsewhere in the document. Owls are nocturnal and depend on vocalization for communication. It seems unlikely any owls could occupy any habitat impacted by the snow making equipment sound. TSV has likely eliminated suitable owl habitat, and perhaps other species habitat, for a considerable distance beyond TSV. The jet engine type sound was not even mentioned in the DEA and needs to be assessed.

The long-eared owl, which is a MBTA covered species, is discussed in the DEA. This species is known to utilize spruce-fir forest although the prime habitat is apparently more mixed conifer which occurs at the bottom of the project area. However, the openings created by the ski runs may in fact have created suitable or good habitat for the species. The DEA states, "suitable habitat is considered marginal to absent ...due to significant modification and consistent human presence. ... Therefore, no long term effects to the species are anticipated". Are there any surveys? As life zones, including mixed conifer, move up the mountain due to climate change the area may become prime habitat, if it isn't already. Climate change needs to be considered and assessed in the DEA or EIS. However, due to noise from snow making, TSV probably already has eliminated the habitat.

Mexican Spotted Owls (**Federal THREATENED**) are discussed under "Federal Threatened and Endangered Species". The species is known from Taos County and known to utilize spruce-fir, although primarily a mixed conifer species. There are no known nesting sites on or near the project area, at this time, and the area is not listed as critical habitat. However, as life zones, including mixed conifer, move up the mountain due to climate change the area may become good habitat. The DEA concluded "No effect on this species". Climate change needs to be considered and assessed in the DEA or EIS. Due to noise from snow making and the human activity, TSV probably has already eliminated the potential habitat.

TSV claims their "comfortable capacity" after this project is 4,480 people per day, sometimes going up to 5,600. What is the planned number of people per day after all the

planned development is done? Plus, how many people are expected to occupy the adjacent private land which is being developed?

## WATER & SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Apparently, TSV and the village each have 200 acre feet (total 2,330,000 gallons/year) of water rights. TSV claims they currently use their 200 acre feet. If, especially during drought, 2.3 million gallons are remove from the Rio Hondo, springs and/or wells, there will be significant impacts to the Rio Hondo and the downstream areas of Valdez, Arroyo Seco and Arroyo Hondo which depend on the Rio Hondo for water. The addition of a 5 million gallon tank and thousands of people does not bode well for nearby communities. That tank will hold over 4 years of TSV allotted water. It needs to be thoroughly assessed in the DEA or EIS. Has TSV ever used more than their allotted water? The water use of the planned addition of new housing facilities on TSV and adjacent private lands, the new restaurant and other facilities needs to be fully assessed.

## WILDERNESS AND TAOS PUEBLO LANDS

The Wheeler Peak Wilderness (WPW) is adjacent to TSV and the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness (CHW) is close to the parking lot on the north. The CHW is mentioned but not included in any discussion in the DEA. Clearly, more people at TSV will mean more people in the Wilderness Areas. The Williams Lake trail in the WPW is already very crowded and will clearly become more so as the number of people at TSV increases. How long will it be before permits and fees will be required to enter the WPW? Judging from the cars in the over full trail head parking lot, almost none are from NM. Likely, most are from TSV.

There is concern that some people entering WPW on the Williams Lake trail continue beyond the lake and trespass on Taos Pueblo lands. The situation will likely get worse with more TSV visitors.

The loud jet engine noise from snow making extends well into the WPW. There is no solitude for a considerable distance into WPW. The snow making noise is not even mentioned in the DEA.

## JOBS & MONEY

The claim is that TSV is good for the communities, bringing in money and jobs. I think this was true when it was a small to medium size winter ski area that started in the 1950s. The claim of money and jobs has probably been true during the significant construction of the past few years. In the long term when the construction is done, it is probably not true. TSV flies people in on their plane, wisks them up to TSV where they stay in the resorts facilities and eat at the resorts facilities. After their vacation, they are wisked back to the TSV plane. The communities end up with degraded resources, less water, and a forest area that is crowded with people. TSV was one of the reasons we moved to Taos in 1974 for skiing, hiking and solitude. Now, it is the one place in Taos County we

avoid. TSV has gone from being an asset to a detriment. The public has a right to know the full picture and all the impacts. A full complete honest EIS is needed, breaking the development down into the smaller EAs which has gone on for years, is not adequate or legal.

## SUMMARY

TSV began as a small to medium sized winter ski area under special use permit from the Forest Service in the 1950s. Over the years, there have been numerous Environmental Assessments (EAs) for various smaller changes. NEPA forbids breaking up projects into smaller segments to avoid significance. Most if not all of the EAs have failed to adequately address the cumulative impacts or the wider area. While the developments have been incremental, and perhaps not done intentionally to avoid significance, the bottom line is the area is going from a medium sized winter ski area to a massive year round resort, a major change which includes significant impacts to the resource and local communities. The current DEA appears to be a continuation of the piecemeal approach and may be intentional. NEPA requires that if there are significant impacts then a full EIS is required. The impacts to the resources have already been very significant and will become worse. **It seems clear, it is long past time for a complete, thorough and honest Environment Impact Statement (EIS). The DEA fails completely as an assessment of impacts.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have questions I can be reached at (b) (5) .

Jon Klingel  
Santa Fe, NM

**WILDLIFE KNOWN TO OCCUR IN TAOS COUNTY, NM**  
**and**  
**UTILIZE SPRUCE-FIR FOREST (136 TAXA)**

Species in **BOLD** (75) are covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.  
 State of NM and Federal **THREATENED & ENDANGERED** status is indicated.  
 USFS Region 3 Sensitive Species & USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern  
 are indicated.

Tiger Salamander  
 Mt. Short-horned Lizard  
 hernandesi  
 Wandering Garter Snake

Ambystoma tigrinum  
 Phrynosoma douglasii  
 Thamnophis elegans

Turkey Vulture  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk  
 Cooper's Hawk  
 Northern Goshawk      USFS R3 Sensitive  
 Red-tailed Hawk  
 Golden Eagle  
 American Kestrel  
 American Peregrine Falcon -NM **THREATENED**  
    USFS R3 Sensitive  
    USFWS Conservation concern

Cathartes aura  
 Accipiter striatus velox  
 Accipiter cooperii  
 Accipiter gentilis  
 Buteo jamaicensis  
 Aquila chrysaetos canadensis  
 Falco sparverius sparverius  
 Falco peregrinus anatum

Blue Grouse  
 Flammulated Owl

Dendragapus obscurus obscurus  
 Otus flammeolus

USFWS Conservation concern

Great-horned Owl  
 Northern Pygmy Owl  
 Mexican Spotted Owl      -FED **THREATENED**  
 Band-tailed Pigeon  
 Long-eared Owl  
 Boreal Owl      -NM **THREATENED**  
    USFS R3 Sensitive

Bubo virginianus  
 Glaucidium gnoma californicum  
 Strix occidentalis lucida  
 Columba fasciata fasciata  
 Asio otus  
 Aegolius funereus

Northern Saw-whet Owl  
 Common Nighthawk  
 White-throated Swift  
 Calliope Hummingbird  
 Broad-tailed Hummingbird  
 platycercus  
 Rufous Hummingbird  
 Acorn Woodpecker  
 formicivorus  
 Red-naped Sapsucker  
 Williamson's Sapsucker  
 nataliae  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Hairy Woodpecker  
 Three-toed Woodpecker  
 Northern Flicker  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher  
 Western Wood Pewee  
 Hammond's Flycatcher  
 Dusky Flycatcher  
 Cordilleran Flycatcher  
 Solitary Vireo

Aegolius acadicus acadicus  
 Chordeiles minor  
 Aeronautes saxatalis saxatalis  
 Stellula calliope  
 Selasphorus platycercus  
  
 Selasphorus rufus  
 Melanerpes formicivorus  
  
 Sphyrapicus nuchalis  
 Sphyrapicus thyroideus  
  
 Picoides pubescens leucurus  
 Picoides villosus  
 Picoides tridactylus dorsalis  
 Colaptes auratus  
 Contopus cooperi  
 Contopus sordidulus  
 Empidonax hammondi  
 Empidonax oberholseri  
 Empidonax occidentalis  
 Vireo solitarius



Cassin's Vireo  
 Plumbeous Vireo  
 Warbling Vireo  
 Gray Jay  
 Steller's Jay  
 Clark's Nutcracker  
 American Crow  
 Common Raven  
 Tree Swallow  
 Violet-green Swallow  
 Mountain Chickadee  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch  
 White-breasted Nuthatch  
 Pygmy Nuthatch  
 Brown Creeper  
 Bewick's Wren  
 House Wren  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
 Western Bluebird  
 Mountain Bluebird  
 Townsend's Solitaire  
 Swainson's Thrush  
 Hermit Thrush  
 American Robin  
 Orange-crowned Warbler  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler  
 Townsend's Warbler  
 Macgillivray's Warbler  
 Wilson's Warbler  
 Western Tanager  
 Chipping Sparrow  
 Dark-eyed Junco  
 Black-headed Grosbeak  
 Black Rosy Finch

USFWS Conservation concern

Pine Grosbeak  
 Cassin's Finch  
 Red Crossbill  
 White-winged Crossbill  
 Pine Siskin  
 Evening Grosbeak

Masked Shrew      **USFS R3 Sensitive**  
 Dusky Shrew  
 Water Shrew      **USFS R3 Sensitive**  
 Merriam's Shrew  
 W. Small-footed Myotis Bat  
 Yuma Myotis Bat  
 Little Brown Myotis Bat  
 Occult Little Brn. Myotis Bat  
 Long-legged Myotis Bat  
 Fringed Myotis Bat  
 Long-eared Myotis Bat  
 Silver-haired Bat  
 Western Pipistrelle Bat  
 Big Brown Bat

Vireo cassinii  
 Vireo plumbeus  
 Vireo gilvus swainsonii  
 Perisoreus canadensis  
 Cyanocitta stelleri macrolopha  
 Nucifraga columbiana  
 Corvus brachyrhynchos  
 Corvus corax sinuatus  
 Tachycineta bicolor  
 Tachycineta thalassina lepida  
 Poecile gambeli gambeli  
 Sitta canadensis  
 Sitta carolinensis nelsoni  
 Sitta pygmaea melanotis (NM)  
 Certhia americana  
 Thryomanes bewickii  
 Troglodytes aedon parkmannii  
 Regulus satrapa  
 Regulus calendula calendula  
 Sialia mexicana bairdi  
 Sialia currucoides  
 Myadestes townsendi townsendi  
 Catharus ustulatus  
 Catharus guttatus  
 Turdus migratorius  
 Vermivora celata  
 Dendroica coronata  
 Dendroica townsendi  
 Oporornis tolmiei  
 Wilsonia pusilla  
 Piranga ludoviciana  
 Spizella passerina arizonae  
 Junco hyemalis  
 Pheucticus melanocephalus  
 Leucosticte atrata

Pinicola enucleator montana  
 Carpodacus cassinii  
 Loxia curvirostra  
 Loxia leucoptera leucoptera  
 Carduelis pinus pinus  
 Coccothraustes vespertinus

Sorex cinereus cinereus  
 Sorex monticolus  
 Sorex palustris navigator  
 Sorex merriami leucogenys  
 Myotis ciliolabrum  
 Myotis yumanensis yumanensis  
 Myotis lucifugus carissima  
 Myotis lucifugus occultus  
 Myotis volans interior  
 Myotis thysanodes thysanodes  
 Myotis evotis evotis  
 Lasionycteris noctivagans  
 Pipistrellus hesperus  
 Eptesicus fuscus pallidus

Hoary Bat  
Pale Townsend's Big-eared Bat

**USFS R3 Sensitive**

American Pika  
Nuttall's Cottontail Rabbit  
Snowshoe Hare  
Least Chipmunk  
Colorado Chipmunk  
Yellow-bellied Marmot  
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel  
Rock Squirrel  
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel  
Abert's Squirrel  
Red Squirrel  
Northern Pocket Gopher  
Botta's Pocket Gopher  
American Beaver  
Western Harvest Mouse  
Deer Mouse  
Mexican Wood Rat  
Bushy-tailed Wood Rat  
Southern Red-backed Vole  
Heather Vole  
intermedius  
Meadow Vole  
modestus  
Long-tailed Vole  
Western Jumping Mouse  
Common Porcupine  
Coyote  
Red Fox  
Common Gray Fox  
Black Bear  
Ringtail  
Common Raccoon  
Pacific Marten

**-NM THREATENED**

**USFS R3 Sensitive**

Ermine Weasel  
Long-tailed Weasel  
Striped Skunk  
Southwestern River Otter  
Mountain Lion  
Bobcat  
Lynx

**FED THREATENED**

**USFS R3 Sensitive**

Elk  
Mule Deer  
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn Sheep

Lasiurus cinereus cinereus  
Plecotus townsendii pallescens

Ochotona princeps  
Sylvilagus nuttallii pinetis  
Lepus americanus bairdii  
Tamias minimus  
Tamias quadrivittatus  
Marmota flaviventris  
Spermophilus tridecemlineatus  
Spermophilus variegatus  
Spermophilus lateralis  
Sciurus aberti  
Tamiasciurus hudsonicus  
Thomomys talpoides  
Thomomys bottae  
Castor canadensis  
Reithrodontomys megalotis  
Peromyscus maniculatus  
Neotoma mexicana  
Neotoma cinerea  
Clethrionomys gapperi  
Phenacomys intermedius

Microtus pennsylvanicus

Microtus longicaudus  
Zapus princeps princeps  
Erethizon dorsatum  
Canis latrans  
Vulpes vulpes  
Urocyon cinereoargenteus  
Ursus americanus amblyceps  
Bassariscus astutus  
Procyon lotor  
Martes caurina

Mustela erminea muricus  
Mustela frenata  
Mephitis mephitis  
Lutra canadensis sonora  
Felis concolor  
Lynx rufus baileyi  
Lynx lynx

Cervus elaphus nelsoni  
Odocoileus hemionus  
Ovis canadensis canadensis

**WILDLIFE KNOWN TO OCCUR IN TAOS COUNTY, NM**  
**and**  
**UTILIZE ALPINE TUNDRA (46 TAXA)**

Species (10) shown in BOLD are covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

State of NM and Federal THREATENED & ENDANGERED status is shown.  
 USFS Region 3 Sensitive Species & USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern are indicated.

Mt. Short-horned Lizard

*Phrynosoma douglasii*

**Northern Harrier**

**Circus cyaneus hudsonius**

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**

**Accipiter striatus velox**

**Cooper's Hawk**

**Accipiter cooperii**

**Red-tailed Hawk**

**Buteo jamaicensis**

**American Peregrine Falcon -NM THREATENED**

**Falco peregrinus anatum**

USFS R3 Sensitive

USFWS Conservation concern

White-tailed Ptarmigan -NM ENDANGERED

*Lagopus leucurus altipetens*

USFS R3 Sensitive

**Horned Lark**

**Eremophila alpestris**

**Mountain Bluebird**

**Sialia currucoides**

**American Pipit**

**Anthus rubescens**

**White-crowned Sparrow**

**Zonotrichia leucophrys**

**Black Rosy Finch**

**Leucosticte atrata**

USFWS Conservation concern

Masked Shrew

USFS R3 Sensitive

*Sorex cinereus cinereus*

Dusky Shrew

*Sorex monticolus*

Little Brown Myotis Bat

*Myotis lucifugus carissima*

Fringed Myotis Bat

*Myotis thysanodes thysanodes*

Long-eared Myotis Bat

*Myotis evotis evotis*

Silver-haired Bat

*Lasionycteris noctivagans*

Big Brown Bat

*Eptesicus fuscus pallidus*

Hoary Bat

*Lasiurus cinereus cinereus*

Pale Townsend's Big-eared Bat

*Plecotus townsendii pallescens*

USFS R3 Sensitive

American Pika

USFS R3 Sensitive

*Ochotona princeps*

Snowshoe Hare

*Lepus americanus bairdii*

Least Chipmunk

*Tamias minimus*

Yellow-bellied Marmot

*Marmota flaviventris*

Rock Squirrel

*Spermophilus variegatus*

Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel

*Spermophilus lateralis*

Northern Pocket Gopher

*Thomomys talpoides*

Deer Mouse

*Peromyscus maniculatus*

Mexican Wood Rat

*Neotoma mexicana*

Bushy-tailed Wood Rat

*Neotoma cinerea*

Heather Vole

*Phenacomys intermedius*

Long-tailed Vole

*Microtus longicaudus*

Common Porcupine

*Erethizon dorsatum*

Coyote

*Canis latrans*

Red Fox

*Vulpes vulpes*

Black Bear

*Ursus americanus amblyceps*

Common Raccoon

*Procyon lotor*

Ermine Weasel

*Mustela erminea muricus*

Long-tailed Weasel  
Striped Skunk  
Mountain Lion  
Bobcat  
Elk  
Mule Deer  
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn Sheep

*Mustela frenata*  
*Mephitis mephitis*  
*Felis concolor*  
*Lynx rufus baileyi*  
*Cervus elaphus nelsoni*  
*Odocoileus hemionus*  
*Ovis canadensis canadensis*

