

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM¹
(REVISED APRIL 2026)

State: _____ PA # _____

Project Name: _____

Project Type: ☐ SMCRA Title V ☐ SMCRA Title IV

Project Description:

I. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES
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Extraordinary circumstances exist if an action that is normally categorically excluded may meet any of the following criteria:

Significant impacts on public health or safety? No ☐ Yes ☐

Significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas? No ☐ Yes ☐

¹ Executive Order 14154, Unleashing American Energy (Jan. 20, 2025), and a Presidential Memorandum, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity (Jan. 21, 2025), require the Department to strictly adhere to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq. Further, such Order and Memorandum repeal Executive Orders 12898 (Feb. 11, 1994) and 14096 (Apr. 21, 2023). Because Executive Orders 12898 and 14096 have been repealed, complying with such Orders is a legal impossibility. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement verifies that it has complied with the requirements of NEPA, including the Department's regulations and procedures implementing NEPA at 43 C.F.R. Part 46 and Part 516 of the Departmental Manual, consistent with the President's January 2025 Order and Memorandum. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has also voluntarily considered the Council on Environmental Quality's rescinded regulations implementing NEPA, previously found at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500–1508, as guidance to the extent appropriate and consistent with the requirements of NEPA and Executive Order 14154.

If yes, check the ones that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Historic or Cultural Resources | ☐ Prime Farmlands |
| ☐ Park, Recreation, or Refuge Lands | ☐ Wetlands |
| ☐ Wilderness Areas | ☐ Floodplains |
| ☐ Wild or Scenic Rivers | ☐ National Monuments |
| ☐ National Natural Landmarks | ☐ Migratory Birds |
| ☐ Sole or Principal Drinking Water
Aquifers | ☐ Other Ecologically Significant or
Critical Areas |

Highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No ☐	Yes ☐
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Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No ☐	Yes ☐
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Directly related to other actions that implicate potentially significant environmental effects?	No ☐	Yes ☐
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Significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau?	No ☐	Yes ☐
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Significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No ☐	Yes ☐
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Significantly limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal Lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites?	No ☐	Yes ☐
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Contribute to potentially significant effects resulting from the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non- native invasive species known to occur in the area or other actions that promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act)?	No ☐	Yes ☐
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II. RESOURCE IMPACT EXCEPTIONS

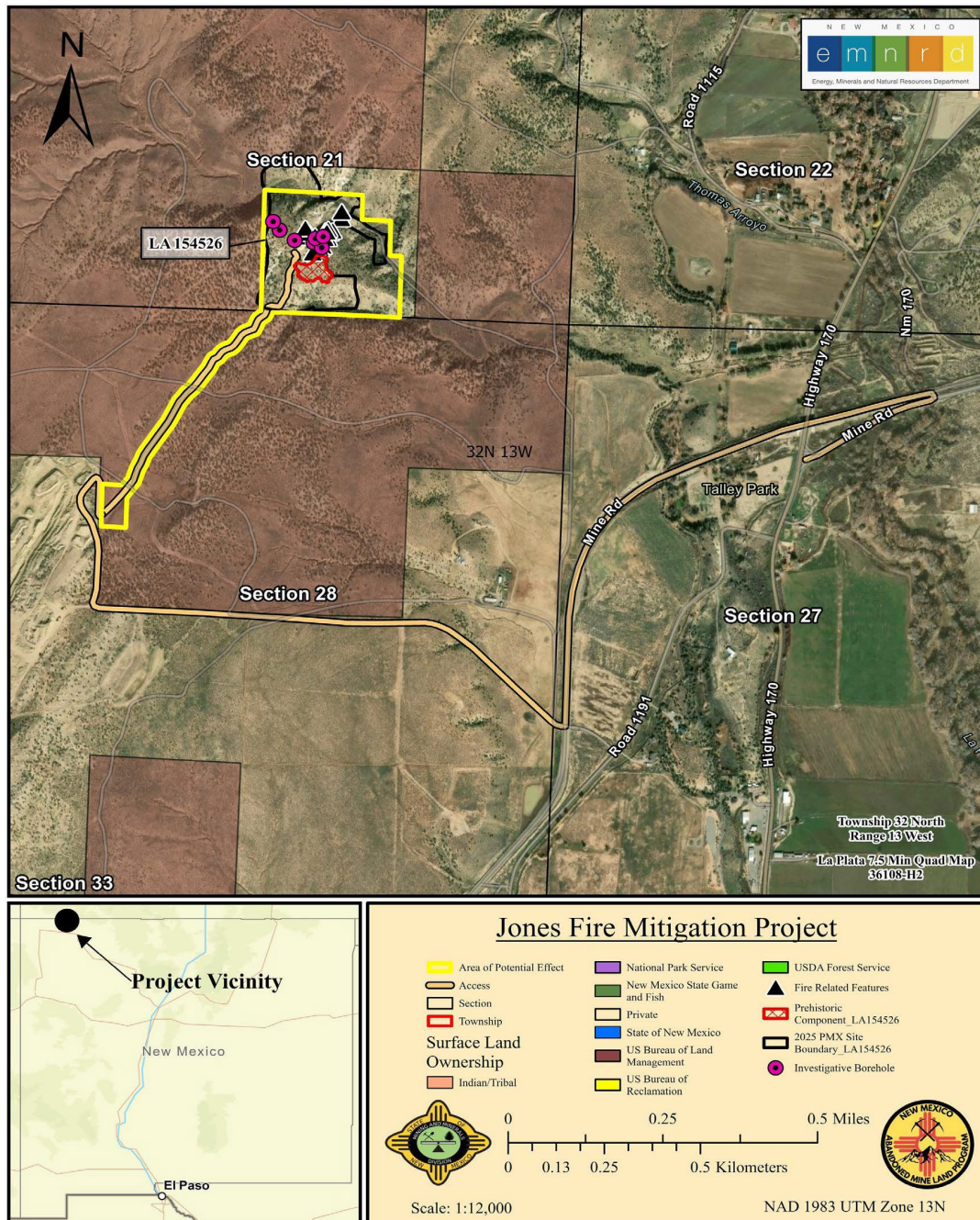
Are there any unresolved issues with agencies, persons, or groups?

No ☒ Yes ☐

Are there any adverse effects on resources requiring specialized mitigation?

No ☒ Yes ☐

III. ATTACH CONSULTATION LETTERS AND A LOCATION MAP



IV.**OSM DETERMINATION**

Determination criteria: **Any “Yes” responses in Section I or II require submission of an Environmental Assessment.**

- [] This project qualifies for a categorical exclusion in 516 DM Chapter 13, and is excluded from further NEPA compliance.
- [] This project qualifies for a categorical exclusion in 516 DM Chapter __, and is excluded from further NEPA compliance.
- [] This project does not conform with the exclusion criteria in 516 DM Chapter 13, and requires an Environmental Assessment. As such, OSM will complete an *Evaluation of a Proposed Action*.

OSM Reviewer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name and Title: _____

Responsible Official Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name and Title: _____

Attachment 1: NM AML Program Categorical Exclusion Narrative

New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program
Jones Coal Mine Fire Geotechnical Drilling
eAMLIS Key: NM000055 – Jones Mine Fire
Categorical Exclusion - Detailed Explanation Document

Project Description/Proposed Action:

The New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program proposes to conduct geotechnical exploration drilling to advance subsurface boreholes at the Jones Mine Fire Mitigation Project, an active underground abandoned coal mine fire located on private land near La Plata in San Juan County, New Mexico. Geotechnical drilling will allow the AML Program to assess and sample the substrate to determine the ultimate size of the underground coal fire, which will provide technical information required to mitigate the effects of the fire in a future construction project.

Investigation activities may include the drilling of approximately 10 to 20 boreholes to depths of up to 100 feet below ground surface to characterize subsurface conditions, delineate the extent and intensity of the underground fire, and identify the location and condition of underground mine workings, if present.

The project area/APE lies at approximately 7,120 feet above mean sea level and supports vegetation including sagebrush, rabbitbrush, western ragweed, and cheatgrass. The APE consists of approximately 34 acres of private land owned by Patricia Ida Mead and is accessed through Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Farmington Field Office lands. The project is located three miles north-northwest of La Plata (USGS La Plata 7.5' quadrangle), within Township 32N, Range 13W, Sections 21 and 28 (36.96701, -108.20707), and approximately one mile northwest of Talley Park. Site access is via the old La Plata Mine access road and then a locked gate along San Juan County Road 1120. AML is authorized by the landowner to conduct mitigation and safeguarding work through an infinite period, including entry and use of specific tracts of land owned by Patricia Ida Mead of Las Vegas, N.V. pursuant to a signed EMNRD AML right of entry form.

Previous and current compliance:

Previous safeguarding efforts performed by the NM AML Program at the Jones site include backfilling six abandoned mine features using mechanized means in Spring of 2010. No fire was observed during the 2010 construction. The NM AML Program first documented the fire in 2012. NM AML has prepared this Categorical Exclusion for the current Jones Mine Fire Mitigation Project for compliance with the OSMRE NEPA process pursuant to 43 CFR 46.215(33).

Agency, Tribal Consultation and Public Involvement:

The cultural resource investigation included a full-coverage pedestrian survey by Parametrix, Inc. The full-coverage pedestrian survey and the site recordings took place between June 1 and July 14, 2025. No new cultural sites were recorded during the survey.

Drilling activity will include access to selected drilling sites with the drill rig and support equipment. NM AML's engineering contractor overseeing drilling activities will assist the NM AML Program to minimize the disturbance caused by the drilling activities and limit off-roading activities to the maximum extent practicable. Established roads will be utilized whenever possible. Contractor shall ensure that geotechnical exploration activities remain outside the limits of cultural resources

exclusion boundaries defined by the NM AML Program. Representatives of the NM AML Program will flag these boundaries and be on site during the first day of construction to discuss avoidance practices and assist in locating approach routes for the drill rig and support equipment.

Following the above protocol, AML has assessed that the proposed undertaking will result in ***no adverse effect on historic properties***. The New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) provided concurrence with the AML's project affects assessment on February 26, 2025 (HPD Log 124713).

The Acoma Pueblo, Hopi Tribe, Laguna Pueblo, Kiowa Indian Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Tesuque Pueblo, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Zia Pueblo were all consulted on the proposed undertaking and the potential cultural resource survey in May 2025. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe provided the only response, requesting a copy of the final cultural resource report. A copy was provided on January 23, 2026, and the southern Ute provided a concurrence letter on January 26, 2026. As of this submission, the AML program has not received any responses from the remaining tribes.

Additionally, AML consulted NM Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) through the New Mexico Environmental Review Tool and via email with a concurrence received on March 31, 2025. NMDGF indicated no concerns with the project if AML complies with all mine safeguarding and mitigation measures as proposed.

Public Involvement: Public involvement for the Proposed Action included the creation of an informational page that will be posted in both English and Spanish along with the Categorical Exclusion and attachments on the New Mexico Energy, Mineral and Natural Resources Department, Mining and Minerals Division website under the public notices link: www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/public-notices this notice will be available on the website for a period of 30 days.

Biological Conditions and Consultation:

NM AML staff conducted desktop analyses of the APE on July 20, 2026, for potential effects of the drilling project on the landscape. In compliance with the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, a desktop review was completed by NM-AML utilizing the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation tool (IPaC), the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Environmental Review Tool (ERT), Biota Information System of New Mexico (BISON-M), and The New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council (NMRPTC) to determine any potential effects on the natural landscape and potential wildlife inhabitants. Based on the information generated from the desktop reviews and survey, several lists summarizing the plant and animal species that could occur have been compiled documenting species of concern, presence of suitable habitat for each species, likelihood of occurrence, and potential for adverse effect. No critical habitat was identified by the USFWS or NMDGF and no adverse effects to wildlife or critical habitats are anticipated.

Prior to construction, NM-AML biological staff will conduct quadrant surveys for presence/absence of nesting migratory birds near the mine feature if construction occurs in the summer, to mitigate any potential for effect by the proposed undertaking.

Hazard and Protection, Public Health and Safety: Based on the proximity of the project to nearby landowners, Jones Abandoned Coal Mine Fire poses a hazard to the health and safety of both the public and the landowner. Unaddressed, the fire may migrate laterally underground, create additional hazards, or ignite wildfires. Hot vents and unstable subsidence features pose risks of burns, falls, smoke inhalation, and suffocation. Eventually, control and containment of the fire is

needed to protect human health and safety, reduce wildfire risk, and stabilize hazardous subsurface conditions.

Proposed Scope of Work: AML proposes implementing Investigation activities that include the drilling of approximately 10 to 20 boreholes to depths of up to 100 feet below ground surface to characterize subsurface conditions, delineate the extent and intensity of the underground fire, and identify the location and condition of underground mine workings, if present.

Equipment required: Includes, but is not limited to: tracked drill rig with tooling and equipment necessary to advance vertical borings with a combination of 5-inch air rotary with a tri-cone bit, downhole hammer (ODEX), and/or downhole hammer (DRHH) drilling methods; support vehicles, including water buffalo and light trucks; access support equipment, including a skid-steer for minor road touch-ups and small dozer on standby to free the drill rig should it become immovable during any point while drilling; UTVs, wheelbarrows, and hand tools.

Closure/ Safeguard Methods:

Surface disturbance will be localized to the immediate vicinity of the borehole locations and access routes only. Boreholes will be backfilled with bentonite cement grout following drilling. Several borings will be cased with steel casing and thermocouple instrumentation installed to monitor future subsurface temperatures of the fire.

Attachment 2: BLM Consultation/Concurrence Letter

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Erin Taylor
Acting Cabinet Secretary

Benjamin Shelton
Deputy Secretary

Drew Roybal-Chavez, Deputy Director
Mining and Minerals Division



July 28, 2026

Maureen Joe
Field Manager/Acting District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Farmington Field Office
6251 College Blvd., Suite A
Farmington, NM 87402

Via email: mjoe@blm.gov

RE: FONSI Request for Geotechnical Drilling at the Jones Coal Mine Fire Mitigation Project, San Juan County, New Mexico

Dear Ms. Joe,

The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Mining and Minerals Division, Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program, in cooperation with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), has completed preliminary biological, cultural, and environmental investigations for proposed geotechnical drilling at the Jones Coal Mine Fire Mitigation Project. The project area includes private land and lands managed by the BLM Farmington Field Office (BLM-FFO). The purpose of the Proposed Action (PA) is to control, contain, and potentially extinguish the active underground coal mine fire at the Jones Mine. If unaddressed, the fire may expand, create hazards, or ignite wildfires. Existing hot vents, unstable subsidence features, and hazardous gases pose risks to public health and safety. The PA is needed to reduce wildfire risk, stabilize hazardous subsurface conditions, and support development of a fire mitigation plan.

A Contractor will conduct geotechnical drilling to obtain subsurface data that will help characterize the fire's extent and support mitigation design. A thermal aerial survey will also be completed to update the fire's growth pattern and movement. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) totals approximately 34 acres (7.75 acres BLM-managed; 26.25 acres private). Exhibit 1 includes the APE map within Township 32N, Range 13W, Sections 21 and 28. Access to the Project will occur via existing two-track roads. A temporary staging area is planned on BLM-managed land due to unsuitable terrain near the burn area. All ground-disturbing work will occur on private land and no conflicts with private landowners, rights-of-way, permits, or leases are anticipated.

Maureen Joe, Field Manager, BLM-FFO

July 28, 2026

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The AML Program operates under SMCRA Title IV and all work must comply with OSMRE requirements. The PA may be funded under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and, since federal funding is used, NEPA compliance must be completed prior to OSMRE authorization to proceed. The Categorical Exclusion (CE) serves as a preliminary NEPA step limited to the proposed geotechnical drilling activities. Because OSMRE will require completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) before authorizing any future coal fire mitigation construction, the AML Program will initiate additional NEPA review and consultation with the BLM-FFO as the project advances. The BLM-FFO can expect continued coordination and future consultation requests regarding the EA once drilling results are available and fire mitigation design alternatives are developed.

The AML Program documented the mine fire in 2012. It appears to be burning within the Carbonero coal seam of the Fruitland Formation. Fire venting, fissures, denuded vegetation, and elevated surface temperatures have been observed, with some readings exceeding 230°F. Trace levels of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen sulfide have also been recorded. In June 2026, the AML Program noted expansion in fire features and increased temperatures. Cultural resource inventory results were transmitted January 21, 2026, with BLM-FFO concurrence issued February 24, 2026. The CE, biological survey, and supporting documentation are available at:

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/public-notice/>

Based on these data and analyses, the AML Program finds that the PA will not result in significant impacts to cultural, human, or natural resources. Accordingly, the AML Program respectfully requests BLM-FFO concurrence and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). **If BLM-FFO concurs, please return a signed copy of this correspondence by August 14, 2026.**

Following concurrence, AML will forward the final CE and supporting documents to OSMRE for final review and request for authorization to proceed. All OSMRE correspondence will also be provided to the BLM-FFO for project records. Please contact me at (505) 231-8332 or james.hollen@emnrd.nm.gov with any questions. Thank you for your coordination.

Sincerely,



James Hollen
AML NEPA Manager

Enclosure: Exhibit 1 – Project Vicinity and APE Map

Cc (via email):

Lloyd Moiola, AML Environmental Manager
Andrew Zink, AML Cultural Resources Manager
Laurence D'Alessandro, AML Project Manager

Maureen Joe, Field Manager, BLM-FFO

July 28, 2026

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Chris Teske, BLM AML Coordinator

Concurrence:  Digitally signed by MAUREEN JOE
Date: 2026.07.30 14:31:44 -06'00' Date: _____
BLM-FFO Field Manager

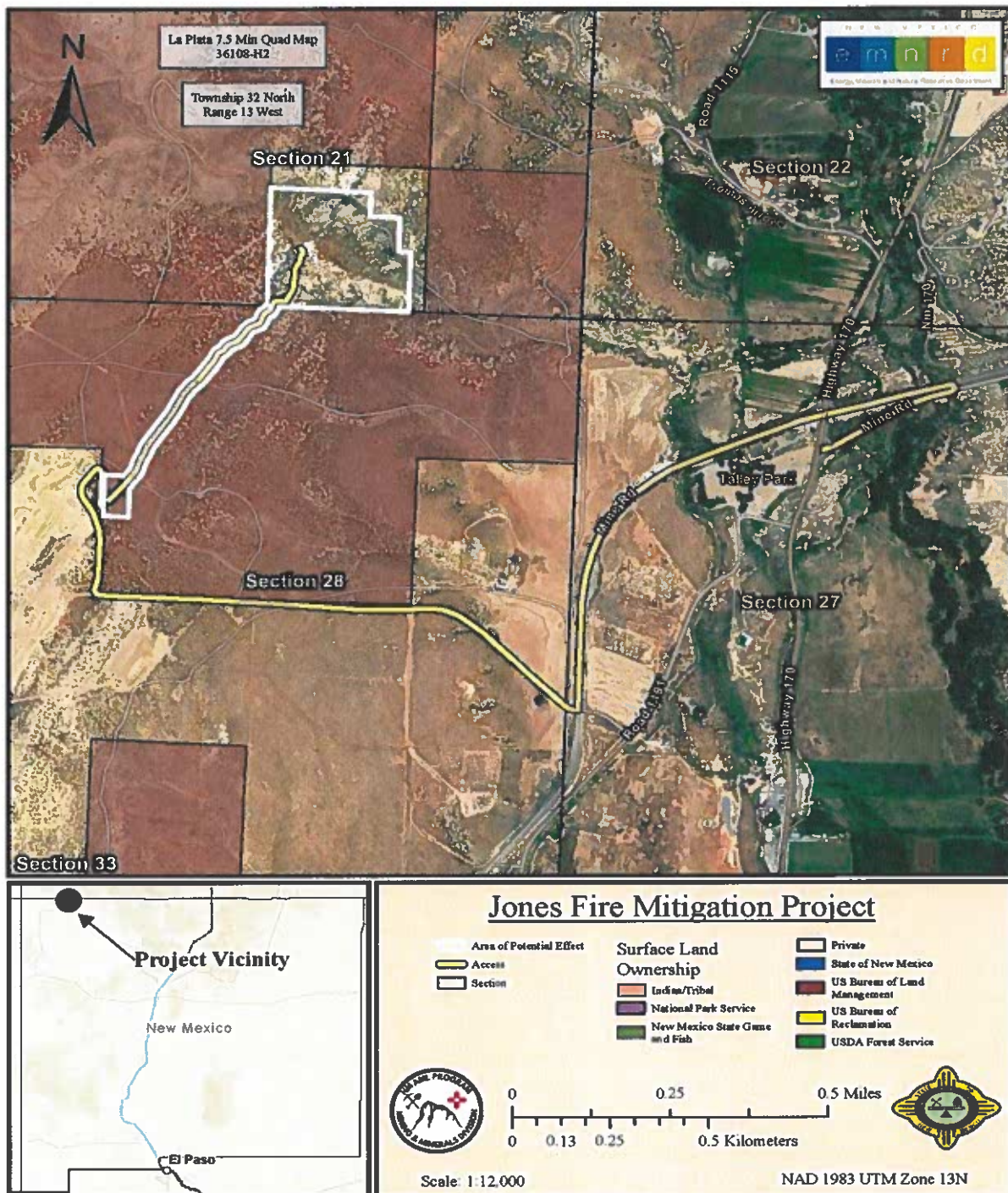
Comments: _____

Maureen Joe, Field Manager, BLM-FFO

July 28, 2026

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Exhibit 1 – Project Vicinity and APE Map



Attachment 3: Archaeological Consultation Documents

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Erin Taylor
Acting Cabinet Secretary

Benjamin Shelton
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Drew Roybal-Chavez, Deputy Director
Mining and Minerals Division



March 23, 2026

HPD Log 127710
Received 3/23/2026

Mrs. Michelle Ensey
State Historic Preservation Officer (Interim)/
State Archaeologist
Historic Preservation Division
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Bataan Memorial Bldg.
Santa Fe, NM 87501
michelle.ensey@dca.nm.gov

RE: Cultural Resources Survey for Fire Mitigation at Jones Coal Mine in San Juan County, New Mexico (NMCRIS 159280)

Dear Ms. Ensey,

The New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program (AML), in partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI), Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), is conducting preliminary environmental studies for proposed mine fire mitigation at the abandoned Jones Coal Mine located on private land and includes access though land managed by the Farmington Field Office of the USDI-Bureau of Land Management (BLM-FFO). The Jones Mine Fire (Enclosure 1) is in San Juan County, approximately 2.5 miles north-northwest of La Plata, NM, within Township 32N, Range 13W, Sections 21 and 28. The project area is within the USGS 7.5' Series La Plata quadrangle. The proposed project is designed to protect the public from dangers associated with coal mine fires such as fire spreading to the surface, release of noxious gas and odors, and subsidence.

As a federally funded program this proposed AML undertaking is subject to Section 106 (54 U.S.C. 306108) of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, as revised August 2004). The above referenced report (NMCRIS Activity No. 159280) and cultural resource documentation (LA Forms) can be accessed through the NMCRIS online database. The AML is requesting review from the New Mexico Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding the identification of historic properties with specific attention to the AML's National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility recommendations and our assessment of project effects based on the four treatment options as proposed in this letter (Table 2).

The APE is determined in consultation with project managers and engineers, and accounts for environmental concerns, including cultural resources. The APE is expected to encompass all the physical actions of the undertaking and covers an area of approximately 34 acres. The mine fire will be accessed via a two-track road through BLM-FFO managed lands. Because the terrain at the mine fire is not conducive to staging the large mechanical equipment typically used in extinguishing mine fires, a temporary use area or staging area is planned for a portion of BLM-FFO managed lands at the southwest end of the APE where the two-track access originates, adjacent to the Mead family property. In total, there is approximately 7.75 acres of BLM-FFO managed lands within the current APE. Construction and any surface disturbing studies will be restricted to the private lands where the mine fire is active. Most of the APE is on private land (~26.25 acres)

The portion of BLM Land addressed in the Jones Coal Mine Fire Project (T:32N, R:13W, S:21 & 28) includes activities covered in the *Memorandum of Understanding between the State of New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and natural Resources Department (EMNRD) and the United States department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office Concerning Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation* (BLM MOU NM- 920-2019-004/EMNRD No. 19-521-0620-0200). Attachment 1 is a copy of the AMLP's consultation with the BLM-LCDO.

The Acoma Pueblo, Hopi Tribe, Laguna Pueblo, Kiowa Indian Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Tesuque Pueblo, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Zia Pueblo were all consulted on the proposed undertaking and the potential cultural resource survey in May 2025. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe provided the only response, requesting a copy of the final cultural resource report. A copy was provided on January 23, 2026, and the southern Ute provided a concurrence letter on January 26, 2026 (Attachment 2) As of this letter, the AML program has not received any responses from the remaining tribes.

Public health and safety is the primary directive of the AML and involves mitigating the dangers associated with coal mines abandoned prior to 1977. There are numerous types of features or dangers that can result from the abandonment of mines. These include but are not limited to the clogging of streams, flooding, dangerous waste piles, subsidence, hazardous or explosive gases, polluted water, and vertical and horizontal openings. At the Jones Mine, the AML is planning to mitigate the public health and safety dangers associated with an underground mine fire (UMF) that exhibits continuous smoke, heat, and venting of hazardous gases. There are also indications that the fire has previously escaped its underground enclosure igniting a surface burn (SB) as parts of the APE exhibit charred vegetation and carbon-stained sediments.

The Jones Mine is an abandoned coal mine that was intermittently mined by several private operators between 1905 and 1930. Although the mine was never open after 1930, the surrounding region contains large amounts of natural resources, including coal, oil, and gas. Consequently, the surrounding vicinity has undergone numerous cultural resource surveys since the 1970s ahead of energy exploration and development.

Prior to the AML's involvement with the Jones Mine Fire in the 2000s, portions the APE had been subject to cultural resource investigations. In total, seven cultural resource surveys either overlap or are adjacent to the proposed APE (NMCRIS Activity Nos. 4614, 41488, 44431, 54015, 56445, 62202, and 80380). These surveys did not record cultural resources that plot within the APE. They did document five archaeological sites adjacent to the APE. LA 27052 is located ~50-m north of the APE. LA 27061, LA 117455, and LA 124337 are located west of the APE's south end along the

access route through BLM lands. LA 99926 is also located west of the APE ~300-m, but the 1992 site form under NMCRIS 41488 plots the site much closer, <100-m, possibly boarding the APE.

In 2006, the AML had the Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS) conduct a cultural resource survey, *Archaeological Survey of the Jones Mine, Farmington, New Mexico, Archaeology Note 387 (NMCRIS 102091)*, of a 2.3-acre area ahead of planned safeguarding activities at the mine. The only cultural resource recorded was the Jones Mine site itself (LA 154526). Additional Cultural Resource surveys, NMCRIS Activity Nos. 110211, *Archaeological Survey of the Jones Mine, Farmington,*

Figure 1. Tetra Tech 2025 Map Showing Features Abated by AML in 2010

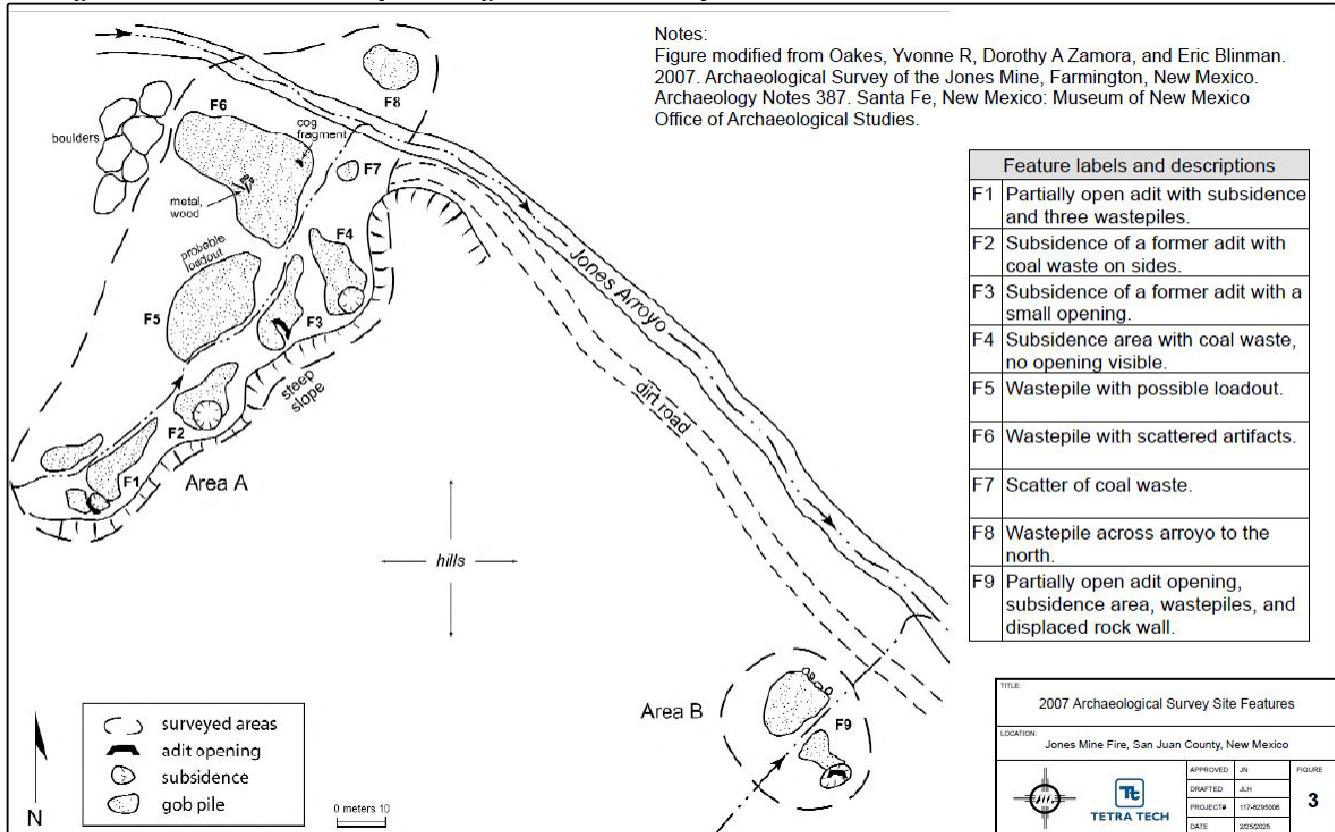


Photo 1.) Previous AML Program Abatement at Jones Mine Looking South (2010)



Photo 2.) Previous AML Program Abatement at Jones Mine Looking North (2010)

New Mexico, Archaeology Note 387, Addendum, and 111556, Update of Archaeology Note 387, were conducted in May and September of 2008 respectively. Each of these subsequent surveys expanded the boundary of LA 154526 further south to include additional mining features, two of which (shaft and subsidence) were included in the 2010 abatement. All the previous reviews of NRHP eligibility for LA 154526 resulted in a NRHP determination of *not eligible* (HPD Log Nos. 80836, 84361, and 85291). Figure 1 is a map adopted from Tetra Tech's recent 2025 fire investigation report (Attachment 3) and shows the locations of abandoned mine features abated by the AML in 2010 (Photos 6 & 7).

In preparation for the fire mitigation, the AML program contracted Parametrix to complete an intensive pedestrian cultural resource survey of the APE, updating any previously recorded sites, and recording any newly encountered sites. The full-coverage pedestrian survey took place on August 15, 2025, under the supervision of Parametrix archaeologists Lindsay Mitchell and Kent Mead. The resulting cultural resource report (NMCRIIS Activity No. 159280) is titled, *Cultural Resource Survey for Fire Mitigation at Jones Coal Mine in San Juan County, New Mexico*.



Photo 3. Jones Mine Fire - Location of mine fire includes venting smoke, toxic fumes, subsidence, and soft ground.

During the current investigation, Parametrix revisited LA 154526 completing a full site update. The site boundary again expended, increasing in size to the southeast to include three previously unrecorded subsidence features. They also recorded a previously undocumented locus of prehistoric artifacts adding a prehistoric Unknown Aboriginal component (A.D. 500 to 1800) to the site that had previously been strictly associated with early 20th Century coal mining (A.D. 1903 to 1930). Although features were not recorded within the prehistoric locus, several areas had artifacts eroding from banks of shallow drainage rills. Since the site is exhibiting intact prehistoric cultural deposits and a potential for significant subsurface cultural materials, Parametrix recommended LA 154526 eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D, but only the intact prehistoric component. Impacts to areas of LA 154524 outside the prehistoric artifact locus would not affect the site's NRHP eligibility. ***The AML agrees with Parametrix's recommendations and has determined LA 154526 eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D, for its information potential retained***

by the prehistoric artifact locus. Parametrix also investigated LA 124337 which could not be located, but according to the NMCRIS Map Service Database, the site’s “filler” boundary partially plots within the current APE on BLM land. ***Since the site could not be located, AML recommends the NRHP eligibility for LA 124337 be maintained as unevaluated.*** Nine IOs were encountered in the project area and are not considered eligible for listing in the NRHP. A site summary table (Table 1.) is included below.

Table 1.) Jone Mine Fire – Summary of Sites (NMCRIS 159280)

LA No.	Occupation Type	Land Status	Recorder’s ROE	BLM-FFO DOE	AML ROE	NM SHPO ROE
LA 124337 (not relocated)	Ancestral Pueblo -Basketmaker III to Pueblo I	BLM-FFO, Private	Unevaluated	NA	Unevaluated	TBD (2026), Unevaluated (1999)
LA 154526	Anglo – US Territorial to NM Statehood & Unknown Aboriginal	BLM-FFO, Private	E, D	E, D	E, D	TBD

Typical AML projects have a suite of standard procedures for reclaiming and safeguarding mining features. For this undertaking, all the dangerous mine features were abated in 2010 during an earlier AML project that predates this current set of procedures. This previous AML work resulted in the erasure of a suite of mine features (Figure 1) at LA 154526, that included adits, subsidence, and gob waste piles (HPD Log Nos. 80836, 84361, and 85291).

Enclosure 2 (also see Attachments 3 & 4) provides a map of the surface expression of the Jones Mine Fire in relation to the prehistoric artifact locus at LA 154526. The primary expression of the mine fire, referred to here as the Main Fire, is located directly north and down slope from the prehistoric component approximately 55-m (~180-ft). Currently, features such as vents, fractures, hot spots, soft spots, and odoriferous areas are being used anecdotally to estimate the extent of the underground mine fire. Geotechnical studies (Attachment 3) planned by Tetra Tech for later in 2026 should provide information on both the horizontal and vertical extent of the fire. Currently, there are four fire related features located approximately 15-m (50-ft) north of the prehistoric artifact locus. Tetra Tech plans to excavate a borehole near these four features to characterize the fire in this area.

Tetra Tech has provided four options for mitigating the fire (see Attachment 3, Section 5). An annotated summary of the options are provided in Table 2., below. Tetra Tech’s recommended option is Mass Excavation (Excavation) and is the option AML is pursuing if feasible.

Because Excavation is the recommended fire mitigation option, and the most destructive, the following includes a summary of this method. The general construction approach for excavating a fire is to methodically excavate hot material or spots, most often burning veins of coal, previously located in drilling and geotechnical surveys. Once a hotspot is identified construction crews will excavate these hotspot veins until the end of the hotspot is located. Hot material is then spread and blended with cool inert native or imported fill and water. Once the blended matrix of materials has cooled to below 90°F, these materials are used to backfill the excavated areas. The excavated areas are compacted, recontoured, and seeded to facilitate their return to natural vegetation.

Table 2. Fire Mitigation Options

Mitigation Method	Summary Description
1. No Action	Leave the site in its current state and install warning signs describing the hazards to the public. A high-risk option with unpredictable outcomes including continued mine fire, surface fires, and high levels of toxins releasing to the atmosphere.
2. Secure Site in Current State & Annual Monitoring	Similar to “No Action” but with the addition of installing fencing and warning signs to encapsulate all the associated mine features and to limit access. As the fire will likely grow, the fencing may not capture all the fire related features in the future.
3. Mass Excavation (Recommended Option)	A method used to extinguish the underground fire by excavating the burning coal waste and mixing/blending the ‘hot’ coal waste with locally sourced inert fill material thus reducing the concentration of combustible material and reducing the ability for the waste material to reignite. The excavated landscape is regarded and reclaimed.
4. Drilling and Grouting	Flow fill grouting fills subterranean voids reducing risk of subsidence, slowing the progression of the fire, and restricting air flow to limit fueling the fire. Requires a large amount of grout which requires water and ‘fly ash’ type materials which are limited in availability. It would also require more extensive subsurface investigations.

During surface disturbing activities such as the geotechnical studies (drilling) proposed by Tetra Tech (Enclosure 4, Attachment 2) and during the construction phase, the AML will avoid those parts of the site outside the treatment areas with all equipment, vehicles, foot traffic, and any other ground surface disturbing activities during construction. AML will use the existing BLM two-track road through Section 28 in Township 32N, Range 12W (Attachment 1) to access the mine fire and have designated a small portion of BLM adjacent to the active materials mine (Mead family property) as a staging/laydown area. When working near designated avoidance areas such as the prehistoric artifact locus, and where construction access routes pass next to this location, high visibility barrier/indicators will be installed along the locus perimeter. The Contractor, AML Cultural Resource Manager/Archaeologist, and AML Project Manager shall cooperate fully with avoidance practices to preserve archaeological and historic artifacts found within the project area. Moving, removal, or collecting of archaeological or historic materials from the project area or vicinity is prohibited.

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Lastly, if previously unidentified archaeological sites, deposits, or in situ artifacts are encountered, all operation in that immediate area shall be terminated (100-ft. radius, 30 meters) until the proper

March 23, 2026

Page 7

preservation agencies and Native American groups have been notified and offered the opportunity to assess the discovery site.

Following the above protocol, AML has assessed that the proposed undertaking will result in ***no adverse effect on historic properties***. The AML is seeking concurrence from the SHPO on site eligibility determinations and on the AML's project effect assessment. Accordingly, please review Parametrix's report and site forms and provide AML with any comments, recommendations, or corrections for sites involving lands managed by the BLM-FFO (small portions of LA 124337 and LA 154526). The report (NMCRIS Activity No. 159280) and cultural resource documentation (LA Forms) can be accessed through the NMCRIS online database.

If the results of upcoming investigative studies expand the expected disturbance footprint to include the prehistoric artifact locus, AML will reevaluate project effects and reconsult. At the time of this letter, all surface disturbance activities will avoid the prehistoric artifact locus by a minimum of 50-ft.

If the SHPO has no objections, please return a signed copy of this correspondence to concur with the AML determinations as presented. Lastly, the AML will forward any project related correspondence it receives from the SHPO to the BLM-FFO for their project file.

If you would like additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at andrew.zink@emnrd.nm.gov or by phone at 505-490-7379.

Thank you for your coordination in this project.

Sincerely,



Andrew Zink
AML Cultural Resources Manager
EMNRD-MMD

CC: Geoff Cunner, HPD Archaeological Review
Lloyd Moiola, AML Environmental Manager
Laurence D'Alessandro, AML Project Manager
James Hollen, AML NEPA Coordinator
Project File



Concurrence: _____ Date: 3/30/2026

For: New Mexico SHPO

Comments:

Enclosures:

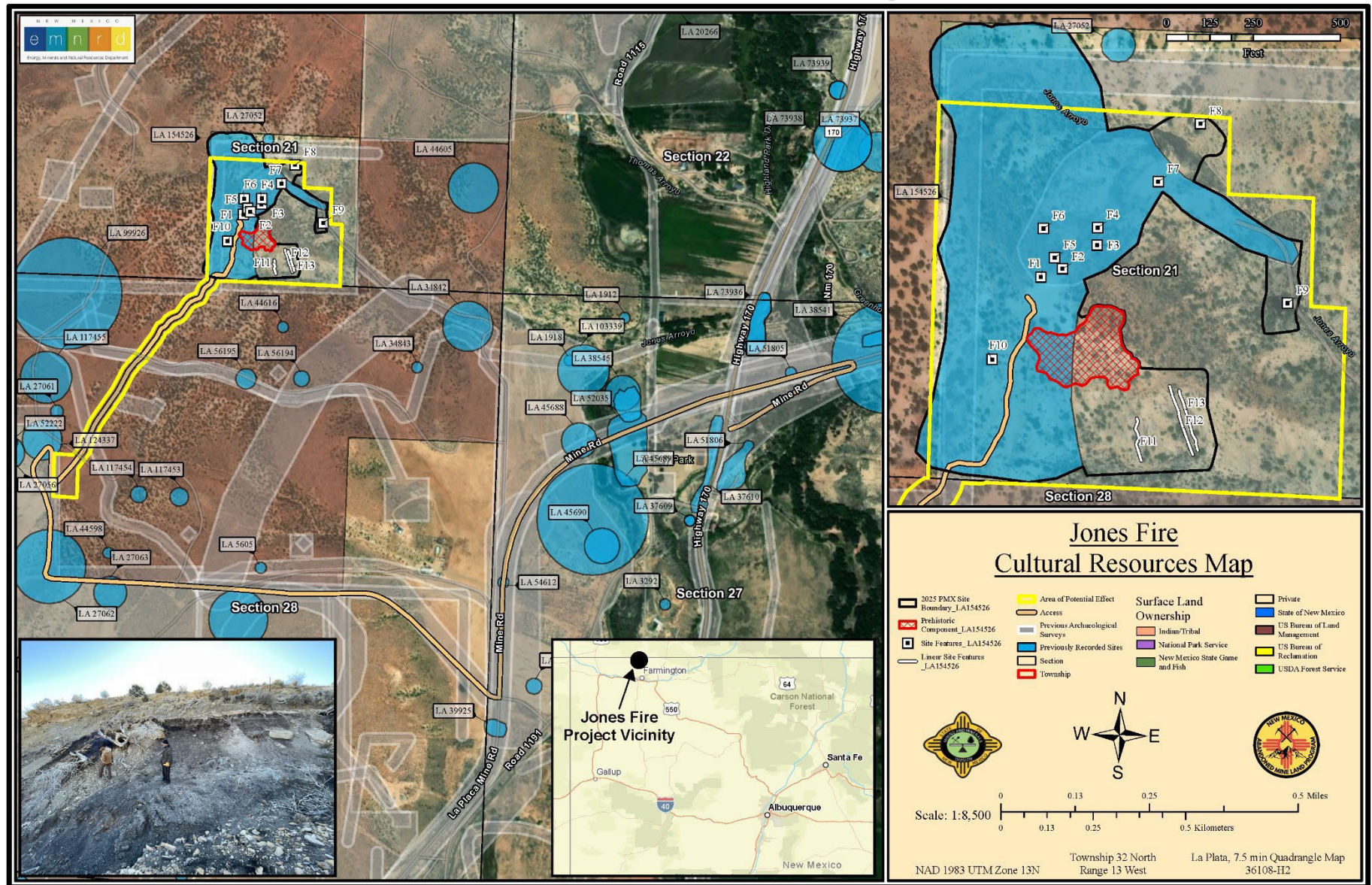
1. Jones Fire Project Area Cultural Resource Overview Map
2. Jones Fire Planning map

Attachments:

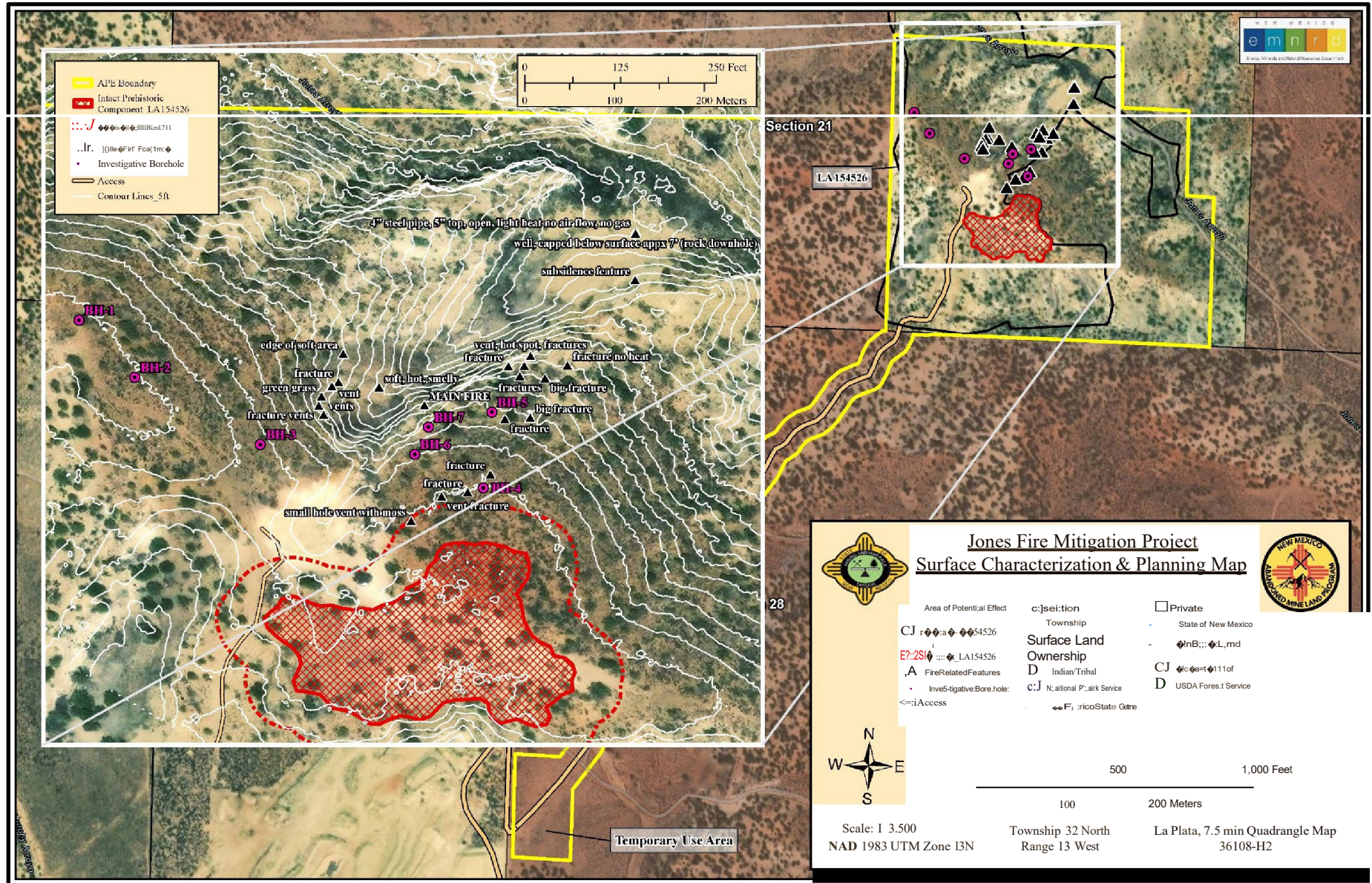
1. Signed BLM-FFO Consultation letter
2. Southern Ute Tribe Consultation Response Letters
3. Jones Fire Tetra Tech Report_051425 Appendix A
4. Tetra Tech Draft Jones Fire Drilling Work Plan

Note: Archaeological data courtesy of the Archaeological Resource Management System (ARMS) of the NM State Historic Preservation Office. This information may be used only in compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including the New Mexico Cultural Properties Act of 1978 [NMSA 1978, §§18-6-1 to 18-6-17}, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 [16 U.S.C. §470aa et. seq.]. Anyone misusing such information may be subject to prosecution under the Federal Computer Security Act of 1987 [15 U.S.C. §§271, 272, 278g-4, 278h].

Enclosure 1 – APE and Cultural Resources Map



Enclosure 2 – Fire Characterization & Planning Map





Outlook

Project Jones MFne FFre MFtFgatFon Project has been marked Complete

From Supportt Accountst DCA <AccountssSupport@dca.nm.gov>

Date Mon 3/30/2026 10.: AM

To Zs n kt An d rew t , M N RD < An d rewsZs n k@em n rd s n m sg ov>

Hello Andrew Zsn kt

Your project has been marked Complete

HPD Jog Nos. 12nn1 0

Reviewer Comments: "Attached is the stamped consultation letter HPD Jog 127710" - Geoff Cunnar

You can view the full submission details and decision status using this link. [Jones Msne Usre Mstsgatson Projects](#)

If you have any questions please contact the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division at nmshpo@dca.nm.gov and reference the HPD Job Numbers

This project is locked and can no longer be edited.



Project Name

Jones Mine Fire Mitigation Project

Project Number

—

Point of Contact

Contact Name

Andrew Zink

Contact Email

andrew.zink@emnrd.nm.gov

Project Information

Sender Agency

NMEMNRD/MMD/Abandoned Mine Lands Bureau

Counties

San Juan

Program Area

Project Review

Lead Agency

NM Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

NMCRIS Activity No.

159280

Project Details

Ms. Ensey-

Please accept AMLP’s Section 106 consultation letter and accompanying documentation for our planned mine fire mitigation at the abandoned Jones Coal Mine. The project is located on private land and includes access though land managed by the Farmington Field Office of the USDI-Bureau of Land Management (BLM-FFO). The Jones Mine Fire is in San Juan County, approximately 2.5 miles north-northwest of La Plata, NM, within Township 32N, Range 13W, Sections 21 and 28. The project area is within the USGS 7.5’ Series La Plata quadrangle. The proposed project is designed to protect the public from dangers associated with coal mine fires such as fire spreading to the surface, release of noxious gas and odors, and subsidence.

In preparation for the fire mitigation, the AML program contracted Parametrix to complete an intensive pedestrian cultural resource survey of the APE, updating any previously recorded sites, and recording any newly encountered sites. The full-coverage pedestrian survey took place on August 15, 2025, under the supervision of Parametrix archaeologists Lindsay Mitchell and Kent Mead. The resulting cultural resource report (NMCRIS Activity No. 159280) is titled, Cultural Resource Survey for Fire Mitigation at Jones Coal Mine in San Juan County, New Mexico.

The AML is seeking concurrence from the SHPO on site eligibility determinations and on the AML’s project effect assessment. Accordingly, please review Parametrix’s report and site forms and provide AML with any comments, recommendations, or corrections for sites involving lands managed by the BLM-FFO (small portions of LA 124337 and LA 154526). The report (NMCRIS Activity No. 159280) and cultural resource documentation (LA Forms) can be accessed through the NMCRIS online

database.

Sincerely

Andrew Zink
Cultural Resource Manager
New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
8801 Horizon Blvd. NE, Suite 260
Albuquerque, NM 87113
(505) 490-7379
andrew.zink@emnrd.nm.gov

Project Attachments

6 files

30.7 MB

Name

AML_Jone Fire_NMCRIS 159280_SHPO NAE Consultation Letter.pdf

2.6 MB

File Type

PDF document

Attachment Type

Letter

Name

Attachment 1-BLM-FFO NAE Consultaion Letter - Signed.pdf

809.5 KB

File Type

PDF document

Attachment Type

Other

Name

Attachment 2 - S.Ute Response Letters - Jones Coal Mine Fire Project_ San Juan County_ NM - June2025 & Jan2026.pdf

3.5 MB

File Type

PDF document

Attachment Type

Other

Name Attachment 3-JonesFire Tetra Tech Report_051425_Only Appendix A_compressed.pdf 19.1 MB
File Type PDF document
Attachment Type Plans/Specifications

Name Attachment 4-Draft_Jones_Drilling_WorkPlan_v1_compressed.pdf 2.1 MB
File Type PDF document
Attachment Type Plans/Specifications

Name 127710.pdf 2.6 MB
File Type PDF document
Attachment Type Other

Comments

Oldest First ▲

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Erin Taylor
Acting Cabinet Secretary

Benjamin Shelton
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Erin McCullough, Director
Mining and Minerals Division

Drew Roybal-Chavez, Deputy Director
Mining and Minerals Division



January 21, 2026

Maureen Joe
Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Farmington Field Office
6251 College Blvd, Suite A
Farmington, NM
mjoe@blm.gov

RE: Cultural Resources Survey for Fire Mitigation at Jones Coal Mine in San Juan County, New Mexico (NMCRIS 159280)

Dear Ms. Joe,

The New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program (AML), in partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI), Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), is conducting preliminary environmental studies involving land managed by the Farmington Field Office of the USOI-Bureau of Land Management (BLM-FFO). The Jones Mine Fire (Enclosure 1) is in San Juan County, approximately 2.5 miles north-northwest of La Plata, NM, within Township 32N, Range 13W, Sections 21 and 28. The project area is within the USGS 7.5' Series La Plata quadrangle. Proposed activities are covered in the *Memorandum of Understanding between the State of New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and natural Resources Department (EMNRD) and the United States department of the Interior Bureau of land Management, New Mexico State Office Concerning Abandoned Mine land Reclamation* (BLM MOU NM- 920-2019-004/EMNRD No. 19-521-0620-0200).

As a federally funded program this proposed AML undertaking is subject to Section 106 (54 U.S.C. 306108) of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, as revised August 2004). The above referenced report (NMCRIS Activity No. 159280) and cultural resource documentation (LA Forms) can be accessed through the NMCRIS online database. In continued coordination under the MOU, the AML is requesting comments from the BLM-FFO regarding the identification of historic properties on BLM managed lands with specific attention to the AML's National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility recommendations and our assessment of project effects based on four treatment options as proposed in this letter.

The APE is determined in consultation with project managers and engineers, and accounts for environmental concerns, including cultural resources. The APE is expected to encompass all the physical actions of the undertaking and covers an area of approximately 34 acres. The mine fire will be accessed via a two-track road through BLM-FFO managed lands. Because the terrain at the mine fire is not conducive to staging the large mechanical equipment typically used in extinguishing mine fires, a temporary use area or staging area is planned for a portion of BLM-FFO managed lands at the southwest end of the APE where the two-track access originates, adjacent to the Mead family property. In total, there is approximately 7.75 acres of BLM-FFO managed lands within the current APE. Construction and any surface disturbing studies will be restricted to the private lands where the mine fire is active. Most of the APE is on private land (~26.25 acres)

The Acoma Pueblo, Hopi Tribe, Laguna Pueblo, Kiowa Indian Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Tesuque Pueblo, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Zia Pueblo were all consulted on the proposed undertaking and the potential cultural resource survey in May 2025. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe provided the only response, requesting a copy of the final cultural resource report. As of this letter, the AML program has not received any responses from the remaining tribes.

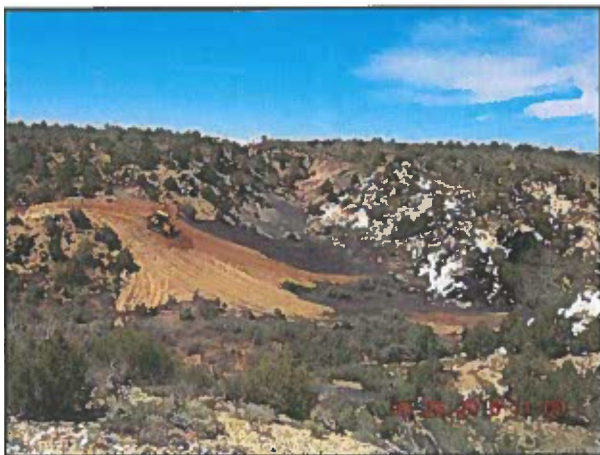
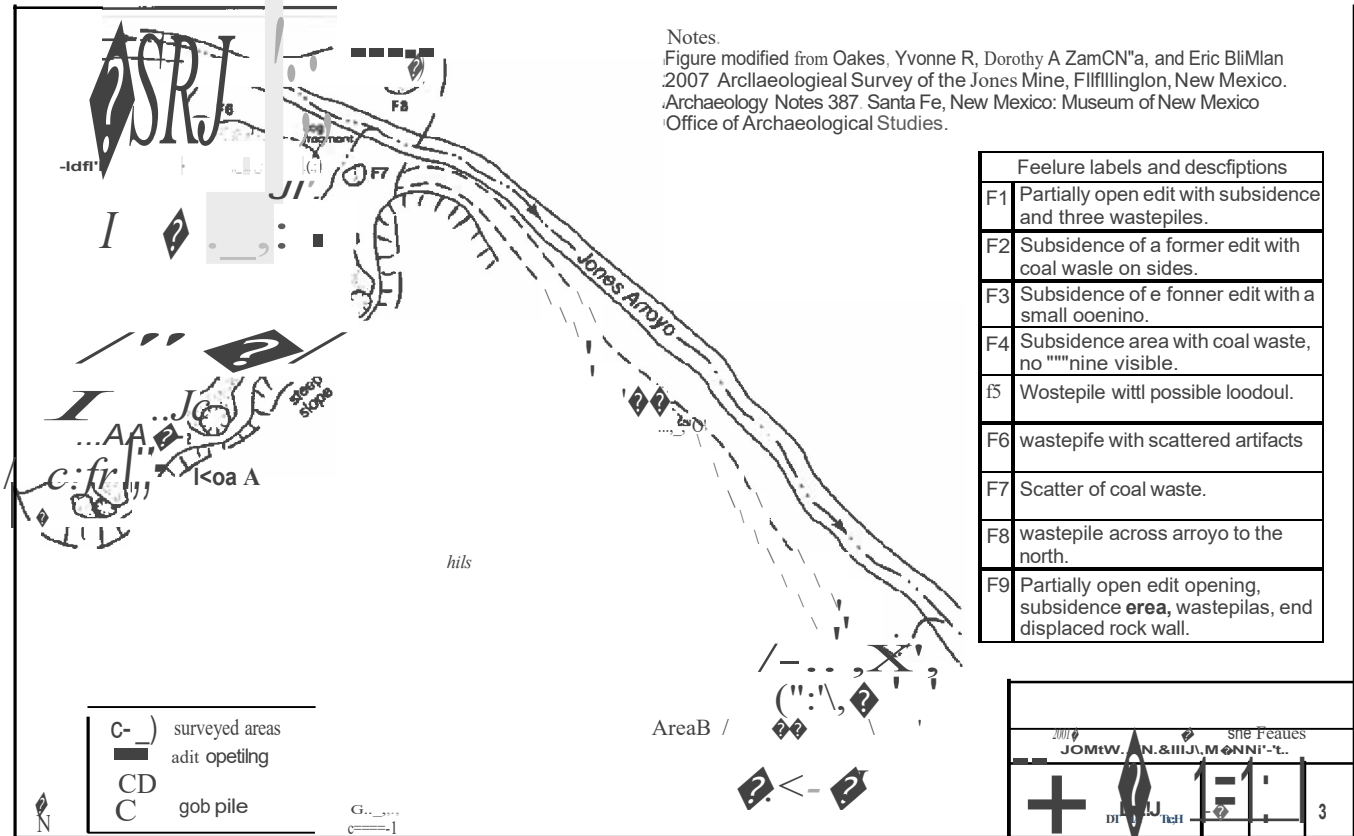
Public health and safety is the primary directive of the AML and involves mitigating the dangers associated with coal mines abandoned prior to 1977. There are numerous types of features or dangers that can result from the abandonment of mines. These include but are not limited to the clogging of streams, flooding, dangerous waste piles, subsidence, hazardous or explosive gases, polluted water, and vertical and horizontal openings. At the Jones Mine, the AML is planning to mitigate the public health and safety dangers associated with an underground mine fire (UMF) that exhibits continuous smoke, heat, and venting of hazardous gases. There are also indications that the fire has previously escaped its underground enclosure igniting a surface burn (SB) as parts of the APE exhibit charred vegetation and carbon-stained sediments.

The Jones Mine is an abandoned coal mine that was intermittently mined by several private operators between 1905 and 1930. Although the mine was never open after 1930, the surrounding region contains large amounts of natural resources, including coal, oil, and gas. Consequently, the surrounding vicinity has undergone numerous cultural resource surveys since the 1970s ahead of energy exploration and development.

Prior to the AML's involvement with the Jones Mine Fire in the 2000s, portions of the APE had been subject to cultural resource investigations. In total, seven cultural resource surveys either overlap or are adjacent to the proposed APE (NMCRIS Activity Nos. 4614, 41488, 44431, 54015, 56445, 62202, and 80380). These surveys did not record cultural resources that plot within the APE. They did document five archaeological sites adjacent to the APE. LA 27052 is located ~50-m north of the APE. LA 27061, LA 117455, and LA 124337 are located west of the APE's south end along the access route through BLM lands. LA 99926 is also located west of the APE ~300-m, but the 1992 site form under NMCRIS 41488 plots the site much closer, <100-m, possibly bordering the APE.

In 2006, the AML had the Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS) conduct a cultural resource survey, *Archaeological Survey of the Jones Mine, Farmington, New Mexico, Archaeology Note 387 (NMCRIS 102091)*, of a 2.3-acre area ahead of planned safeguarding activities at the mine. The only cultural resource recorded was the Jones Mine site itself (LA 154526). Additional Cultural Resource surveys, NMCRIS Activity Nos. 110211, *Archaeological Survey of the Jones Mine, Farmington,*

Figure 1. Tetra T_{e-h} 2025 Map Showing Features Abated by AML in 2010



*P/roto 1.) Previous AML Program Abatement at Jones
Mille Lookillg South (2010)*



*Plwto 2.) Previous AML Program Abatement at Jones
Mille Looki1lg Nortl, (2010)*

New Mexico, Archaeology Note 387, Addendum, and 111556, *Update of Archaeology Note 387*, were conducted in May and September of 2008 respectively. Each of these subsequent surveys expanded the boundary of LA 154526 further south to include additional mining features, two of which (shaft and subsidence) were included in the 2010 abatement. All the previous reviews of NRHP eligibility for LA 154526 resulted in a NRHP determination of *not eligible* (HPD Log Nos. 80836, 84361, and 85291). Figure I is a map adopted from Tetra Tech's recent 2025 fire

investigation report (Attachment I) and shows the locations of abandoned mine features abated by the AML in 2010 (Photos 6 & 7).

In preparation for the fire mitigation, the AML program contracted Parametrix to complete an intensive pedestrian cultural resource survey of the APE, updating any previously recorded sites, and recording any newly encountered sites. The full-coverage pedestrian survey took place on August 15, 2025, under the supervision of Parametrix archaeologists Lindsay Mitchell and Kent Mead. The resulting cultural resource report (NMCRIS Activity No. 159280) is titled, *Cultural Resource Survey for Fire Mitigation at Jones Coal Mine in San Juan County, New Mexico*.



Photo 3. Jones Mille Fire - Location of mine fire btcludes ve11ti11g smoke, toxic fumes, s11hside11ce, and soft gro,md.

During the current investigation, Parametrix revisited LA 154526 completing a full site update. The site boundary again expended, increasing in size to the southeast to include three previously unrecorded subsidence features. They also recorded a previously undocumented locus of prehistoric artifacts adding a prehistoric Unknown Aboriginal component (A.O. 500 to 1800) to the site that had previously been strictly associated with early 20th Cenrury coal mining (A.D. 1903 to 1930). Although features were not recorded within the prehistoric locus, several areas had artifacts eroding from banks of shallow drainage rills. Since the site is exhibiting intact prehistoric cultural deposits and a potential for significant subsurface cultural materials, Parametrix recommended LA 154526 eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D, but only the intact prehistoric component. Impacts to areas of LA 154524 outside the prehistoric altifact locus would not affect the site's NRHP eligibility. ***The AML agrees with Parametrx's reco11111e11datio11s a11d has determined LA 154526 eligible for listing i11 the NRHP 1111der Criterion D, fol' its i11formatio11 potential retai11e,I by the prehistoric artifact locus.*** Parametrix also investigated LA 124337 which could not be located, but according to the NMCRIS Map Service Database, the site's "filler" boundary partially plots within the cmTent APE on BLM land. ***Since the site could ,wt be located, AML recomme11ds the NRHP eligibility for LA 124337 be mai11tabted as 1111evaluated.*** Nine IOs were encountered in the project area and are not considered eligible for listing in the NRHP. A site summary table (Table 1.) is included below.

Table J.) Jo11e Mine Fire - S11mmmary of Sites (NMCJRJS 159280)

LANo.	Occupation Type	Land Status	Recorder's ROE	BLM-FFO DOE	AML P ROE	NMSHPOROE
LA 124337 (not relocated)	Ancestral Pueblo -Basketmaker III to Pueblo I	BLM FFO, Private	Unevaluated	TBD	Unevaluated	TBD (2026), Unevaluated (1999)
LA 154526	Anglo - US Territorial to NM Statehood & Unknown Aboriginal	BLM-FFO, Private	E,D	TBD	E,D	TBD

Typical AML projects have a suite of standard procedures for reclaiming and safeguarding mining features. For this undertaking, all the dangerous mine features were abated in 2010 during an earlier AML project that predates this current set of procedures. This previous AML work resulted in the erasure of a suite of mine features (Figure 1) at LA 154526, that included adits, subsidence, and gob waste piles (HPD Log Nos. 80836, 84361, and 85291).

Enclosure 2 (also see Attachments I & 2) provides a map of the surface expression of the Jones Mine Fire in relation to the prehistoric artifact locus at LA 154526. The primary expression of the mine fire, referred to here as the Main Fire, is located directly north and down slope from the prehistoric component approximately 55-m (~180-ft). Currently, features such as vents, fractures, hot spots, soft spots, and odoriferous areas are being used anecdotally to estimate the extent of the underground mine fire. Geotechnical studies (Attachment 2) planned by Tetra Tech for later in 2026 should provide information on both the horizontal and vertical extent of the fire. Currently, there are four fire related features located approximately 15-m (50-ft) north of the prehistoric artifact locus. Tetra Tech plans to excavate a borehole near these four features to characterize the fire in this area.

Tetra Tech has provided four options for mitigating the fire (see Attachment 1, Section 5). An annotated summary of the options are provided in Table 2., below. Tetra Tech's recommended option is Mass Excavation (Excavation) and is the option AML is pursuing if feasible.

Table 2. Fire Mitigation Options

Mitigation Method	Summary Description
1. No Action	Leave the site in its current state and install warning signs describing the hazards to the public. A high-risk option with unpredictable outcomes including continued mine fire, surface fires, and high levels of toxins releasing to the atmosphere.
2. Secure Site in Current State & Annual Monitoring	Similar to "No Action" but with the addition of installing fencing and warning signs to encapsulate all the associated mine features and to limit access. As the fire will likely grow, the fencing may not capture all the fire related features in the future.
3. Mass Excavation (Recommended Option)	A method used to extinguish the underground fire by excavating the burning coal waste and mixing/blending the 'hot' coal waste with locally sourced inert fill material thus reducing the concentration of combustible material and reducing the ability for the waste material to reignite. The excavated landscape is re:stated and reclaimed.
4. Drilling and Grouting	Flow fill grouting fills subterranean voids reducing risk of subsidence, slowing the progression of the fire, and restricting air flow to limit fueling the fire. Requires a large amount of grout which requires water and 'fly ash' type materials which are limited in availability. It would also require more extensive subsurface investigations.

Because Excavation is the recommended fire mitigation option, and the most destructive, the following includes a summary of this method. The general construction approach for excavating a fire is to methodically excavate hot material or spots, most often burning veins of coal, previously located in drilling and geotechnical surveys. Once a hotspot is identified construction crews will excavate these hotspot veins until the end of the hotspot is located. Hot material is then spread and blended with cool in situ native or imported fill and water. Once the blended matrix of materials has cooled to below 90°F, these materials are used to backfill the excavated areas. The excavated areas are compacted, recontoured, and seeded to facilitate their return to natural vegetation.

During surface disturbing activities such as the geotechnical studies (drilling) proposed by Tetra Tech (Enclosure 2, Attachment 2) and during the construction phase, the AML will avoid those parts of the site outside the treatment areas with all equipment, vehicles, foot traffic, and any other ground surface disturbing activities during construction. AML will use the existing BLM two-track road through Section 28 in Township 32N, Range 12W (Attachment 1) to access the mine fire and have designated a small portion of BLM adjacent to the active materials mine (Mead family property) as a staging/laydown area. When working near designated avoidance areas such as the prehistoric artifact locus, and where construction access routes pass next to this location, high visibility barrier/indicators will be installed along the locus perimeter. The Contractor, AML Cultural Resource Manager/Archaeologist, and AML Project Manager shall cooperate fully with avoidance practices to preserve archaeological and historic artifacts found within the project area. Moving, removal, or collecting of archaeological or historic materials from the project area or vicinity is prohibited.

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Lastly, if previously unidentified archaeological sites, deposits, or in situ artifacts are encountered, all operation in that immediate area shall be terminated (100-ft. radius, 30 meters) until the proper preservation agencies and Native American groups have been notified and offered the opportunity to assess the discovery site.

Following the above protocol, AML has assessed that the proposed undertaking will result in *no adverse effect on historic properties*. The AML is seeking concurrence from the BLM-FFO on site eligibility determinations for sites located on BLM Land, and on the AML's project effect assessment. Accordingly, please review Parametrix's report and site photos and provide AML with any comments, recommendations, or corrections for sites involving lands managed by the BLM-FFO (small portions of LA 124337 and LA 154526). The report (NMCRIS Activity No. 159280) and cultural resource documentation (LA Photos) can be accessed through the NMCRIS online database.

If the results of upcoming investigative studies expand the expected disturbance footprint to include the prehistoric artifact locus, AML will reevaluate project effects and reconsult. At the time of this letter, all surface disturbance activities will avoid the prehistoric artifact locus by a minimum of 50-ft.

If the BLM-FFO has no objections, please return a signed copy of this correspondence to concur with the AML determinations as presented. Along with BLM-FFO's responses, the AML will forward copies of the final report and administrative documents to the SHPO for final review and concurrence. Lastly, the AML will forward any project related correspondence it receives from the SHPO to the BLM-FFO for their project file.

If you would like additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at [andrew.zink\(a\).emnrd.nm](mailto:andrew.zink(a).emnrd.nm) or by phone at 505-490-7379.

Thank you for your coordination in this project.

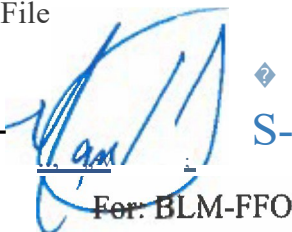
Sincerely,



Andrew Zink
AML Cultural Resources Manager
EMNRD-MMD

CC: Cody Walton, BLM-FFO Archaeologist
Erik Simpson, BLM-FFO Archaeologist
Lloyd Moiola, AML Environmental Manager
Laurence D'Alessandro, AML Project Manager
James Hollen, AML NEPA Coordinator
Project File

Concurrence:

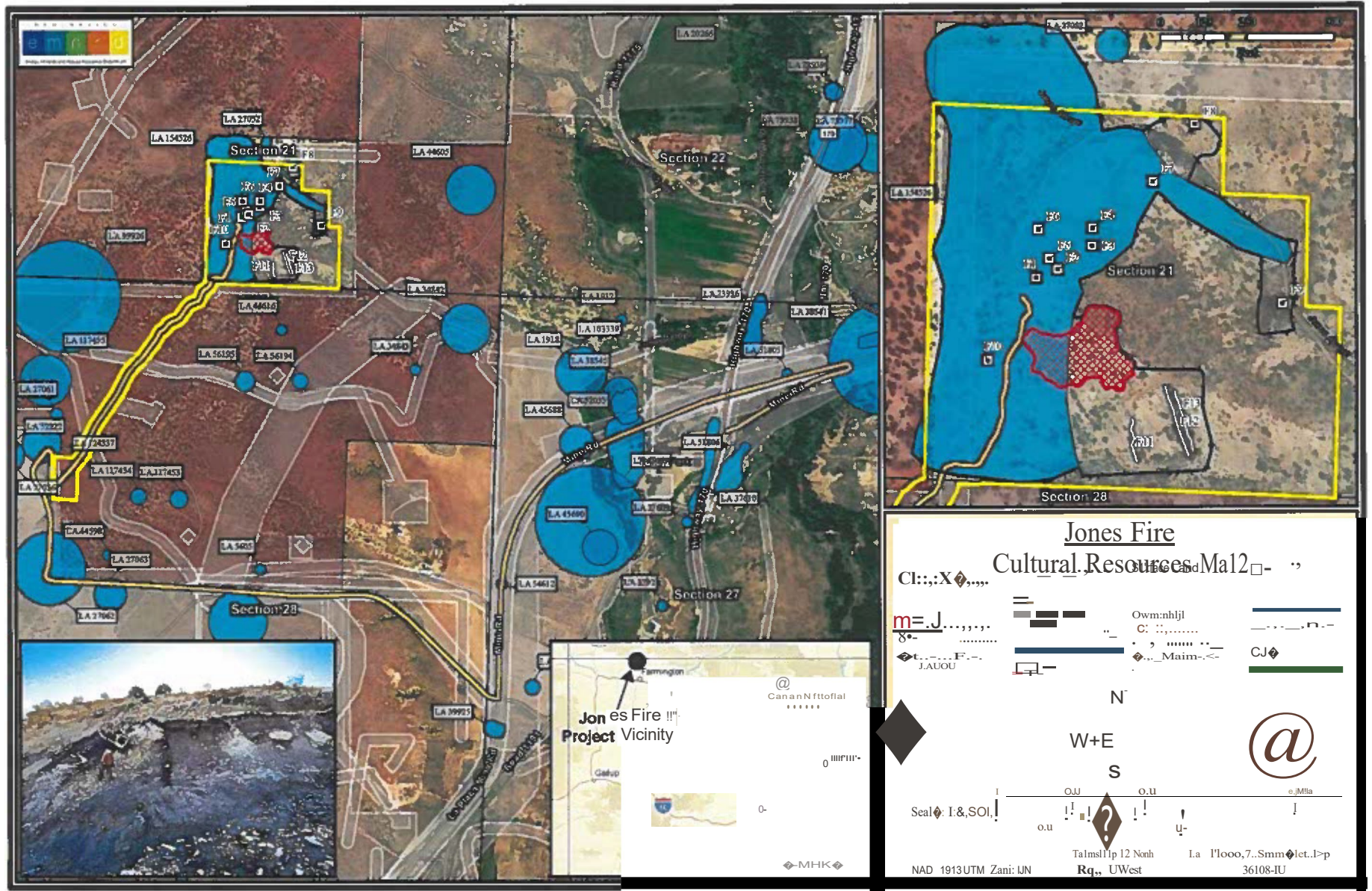

For: BLM-FFO Field Manager

Date: (gfc_ / JI(j) / ?

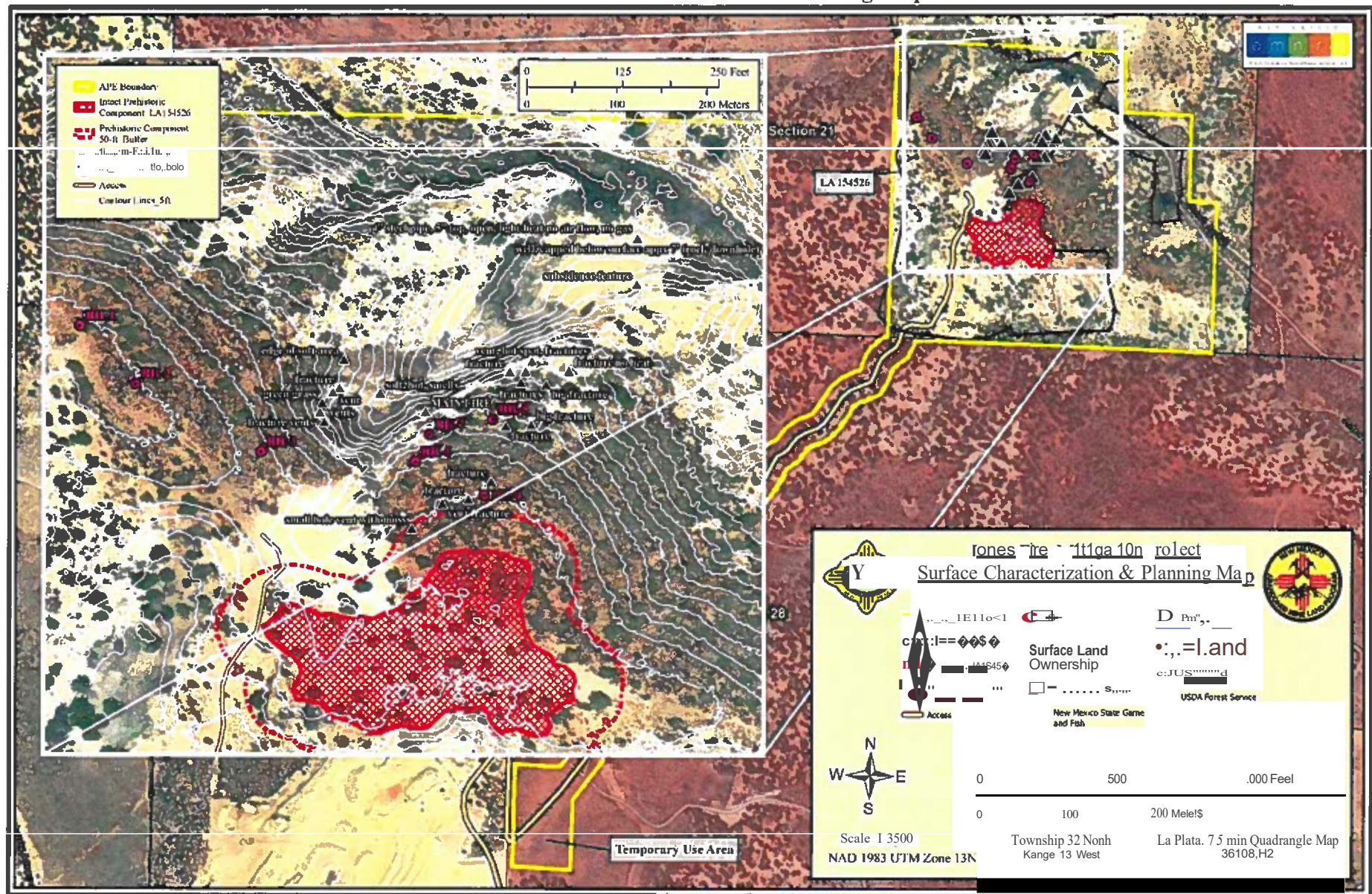
Comments:

Note: Archaeological data courtesy of the Archaeological Resource Management System (ARMS) of the NM State Historic Preservation office. This information may be used only in compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including the New Mexico Cultural Properties Act of 1978 (NMSA 1978, §§18-6-1 to 18-6-17), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 [16 U.S.C. §470aa et. seq.]. Anyone misusing such information may be subject to prosecution under the Federal Computer Security Act of 1987 [15 U.S.C. §§271, 272, 278g-4, 278h].

Enclosure 1 - APE and Cultural Resources Map



Enclosure 2 – Fire Characterization & Planning Map





Ou t ook

Re :[EXT[ERNAL] AMLL Jones Coa Itie Mttiatton Lioject #NMCR\$ S &59280)

liom Z'nkl Andrew1 , MN RD <Andrew=Z'nk@emnrd=n m=gov>

Cate Wed 4/8/2026 7:39 AM

To Wa ton1 Cody R <cwa ton@b m=gov>

Cc TSmpson1 David ll,rk) <dsmpson@b m=gov>

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HPD ^og 12771 0 - Jones MSne aSre - Con su taSon ^etter TSgned=pdf;

HS, Cody-

lor your fies, atached Ss the compieted 106 consuitaton wSth the NM SHPOO

Andrew Zink

Cullural Resource Manager

New Mex co Abandoned Mine Land Program

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

8801 Horizon Blvd NE, Suite 260

Albuquerque, NM 8,11 3

(505) 490-,3,9

andrew.zink@emnrd.nm.gov

ÂFomc Waiton, Cody R <cwaiton@bim0gov>

Sentic Wednesday, March 11, 2026 8:17 AM

To: ZSink, Andrew, MN RD <Andrew.ZSink@emnrd0nm0gov>

Ccc SSmpson, DavSd ll,rk) <dsmpson@bim0gov>

Subject: ReF : ,XT,RN AçL AMçP Jones Coai lSre MStgaton Project lNM CRRS 159280)

Here you go!

Cody Waóton Bhe/hSm)

AFchaeoóogist and Paóeontology CoofdinatoF

Bureau of çand Management

IarmSnaton lSeid Office

6251 College Blvd, Suite A

IarmSnaton, NM

OllF 505 564-7712

From: Walton, Cody R <cwalton@blm.gov>
 Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2016 8:02 AM
 To: Zink, Andrew, (MNRD <andrew.zink@emnrd.nm.gov>
 Cc: Simpson, David B (rsi) <dssimpson@blm.gov>
 Subject: Re: (ET/RN A@L AM@L Jones Coal Isre Mitigation Project 8NM CRRS 159280)

Hey Andrew, sorry about that. It must have been in a rush and neglected to double check the pdf. I'll get that sent over this morning.

Cody Walton (he/him)
 Archaeologist and Paleontology Coordinator

Bureau of Land Management
 Las Alamos Field Office
 6251 College Blvd, Suite A
 Las Alamos, NM

OIF 505 564-7712

From: Zink, Andrew, (MNRD <Andrew.Zink@emnrd.nm.gov>
 Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2016 7:51 AM
 To: Walton, Cody R <cwalton@blm.gov>
 Cc: Simpson, David B (rsi) <dssimpson@blm.gov>
 Subject: Re: (ET/RN A@L AM@L Jones Coal Isre Mitigation Project 8NM CRRS 159280)

Hi, Cody-

Believe it or not, I just opened the signed pdf... and found you only scanned in every other page, the odd pages (like that never happens). Can you resend the signed letter with all the pages scanned?

Thank you.

Andrew Zink
 Cultural Resource Manager
 New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program
 Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
 8801 Horizon Blvd NE, Suite 260
 Albuquerque, NM 87113
 (505) 490-3399
andrew.zink@emnrd.nm.gov

From: Zink, Andrew, (MNRD <Andrew.Zink@emnrd.nm.gov>
 Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2016 7:44 AM
 To: Walton, Cody R <cwalton@blm.gov>
 Cc: Simpson, David B (rsi) <dssimpson@blm.gov>
 Subject: Re: (ET/RN A@L AM@L Jones Coal Isre Mitigation Project 8NM CRRS 159280)

Thanks, Cody-

We'll have hi-visibility temporary fencing around the prehistoric component.
Andrew

From: Walton, Cody R <cwalton@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 4:41 PM
To: Zink, Andrew, EMNRD <Andrew.Zink@emnrd.nm.gov>
Cc: Simpson, David >Erik) <dsimpson@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] AMLP Jones Coal Fire Mitigation Project >NMCRRS 159280)

Good afternoon Andrew,

Here is that signed letter. R completed a record of review for this out of habit, recommending that the prehistoric component of the site be fenced, but since you are lead agency R'm not going to file that with SHPO and R'll defer to your management recommendation.

Thank you T

Cody Walton >he/him)
Archaeologist and Paleontology Coordinator

Bureau of Land Management
Farmington Field Office
6251 College Blvd, Suite A
Farmington, NM

OFF 505 564-7712

From: Walton, Cody R <cwalton@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 4:22 PM
To: Zink, Andrew, EMNRD <andrew.zink@emnrd.nm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] AMLP Jones Coal Fire Mitigation Project >NMCRRS 159280)

Hey Andrew,

R figured you would be getting official SHPO consultation. We have to do it on our end when we submit report reviews. Helps to cover our bases. R'll CC Geoff too to help out.

R'll talk with Maureen to confirm, but R don't see an issue with getting a signed letter. R'll be submitting a RoR with DOE of No Adverse Effect.

Thanks T

Cody Walton >he/him)

Archaeologist and Paleontology Coordinator

Bureau of Land Management
Farmington Field Office
6251 Coelege Blvd, Suite A
Farmington, NM

OFF 505 564-7712

From: Z'nk, Andrew, EMNRD <AndrewsZ'nk@emnrdsnms.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 3:41 PM
To: Wae ton, Cody R <cwae ton@bems.gov>
Subject: Re: EXTERNAL] AMLP Jones Coale Fire Mitigation Project UNMCRRS 159280)

Hi Cody. I will be conducting an official SHPO consultation on this project. Once I have an official response from you/your office. Geoff Cunnner is our reviewer so if you can Cc him on your email to Cash, I will give him a heads up on what is coming in from our end.

We are federally funded so all our undertakings go through SHPO after we consult with any federal or even State land managing agencies.

Let me know when you have entered your EO into NMC, IS. Also, will I be receiving a signed copy of the consultation letter submitted or will we receive an email confirmation? I'd prefer the signed letter because I will go into our EA.

Thanks,

Andrew

Get [Outlook for "OS"](#)

From: Wae ton, Cody R <cwae ton@bems.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 2:26:03 PM
To: Z'nk, Andrew, EMNRD <AndrewsZ'nk@emnrdsnms.gov>
Subject: Re: EXTERNAL] AMLP Jones Coale Fire Mitigation Project UNMCRRS 159280)

Hey Andrew,

Regarding the response you find on the SFNCE LA 154526 is a multi-component fee schedule with a not fee component, we are supposed to consult with SHPO on making that complex determination. I'm going to reach out to our SHPO rep, Cash Ffcke, and double check with him. I don't expect much of an issues.

Thanks,

Cody Wae ton (he/him)

Archaeologist and Paleontology Coordinator

Bureau of Land Management
Farmington Field Office
6251 College Blvd, Suite A
Farmington, NM

OFF 505 564-7712

From: ZFNK, Andrew, [MN RD <Andrew.ZFNK@emnr.dtn.mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 8:50 AM
To: Walton, Cody R <cwalton@blmt.gov>
Subject: Re: [ET] RALAM L Jones Coal Fire Mitigation Project VNM CRRS 159280)

Thanks, Cody-

I'll reach out to LaramieFix and let them know

Andrew Zdnk
Cultural Resource Manager
New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
8801 Horizon Blvd NE, Suite 260
Albuquerque, NM 87113
(505) 490-3319
andrew.zdnk@emnr.dtn.mt.gov

From: Walton, Cody R <cwalton@blmt.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 8:43 AM
To: ZFNK, Andrew, [MN RD <Andrew.ZFNK@emnr.dtn.mt.gov>
Subject: Re: [ET] RALAM L Jones Coal Fire Mitigation Project VNM CRRS 159280)

Good morning Andrew,

I have finished reviewing the AML Jones Coal Fire Mitigation Project report. I don't have any comments on the content, and I've finished the paperwork on my end. The only thing I need for this report, is that I will need a copy of the old NRAF form completed for the project, and a copy of the site form for A154526. Our office is not accepting the NRAF forms that are generated by NMCRRS.

Thank you,

Cody Walton (he/him)
Archaeologist and Paleontology Coordinator

Bureau of Land Management
Farmington Field Office
6251 College Blvd, Suite A
Farmington, NM

OFF F 505 564 7712

From ZSni, AndEew, (MNRD <AndEewZSni@em nEdsnmsgov>
 Sent Thursday, January 22, 2026 8:42 AM
 To Walton, Cody R <cwalton@blmsgov>< Joe, MauEeen A <mjoe@blmsgov>
 Cc Smpson, David B(ESi) <dsmpson@blmsgov>< MoSola, Lloyd, (MNRD <lloydsMoSola@em nEdsnmsgov>< Adams, ESmbeElyL <iadam s@blmsgov>< ;ollen, James, (MNRD <jamesshollen@em nEdsnmsgov>< DIAlessandEo, LauEence, (MNRD <LauEencesDAlessandEo@em nEdsnmsgov>
 Subject ReF : (ET(RN ALL AMLL Jones Coal FSEe MSitgaiton LEoject BNMCRRS 159280)

Thank you, Cody's

Andrew ZYnk
 Cultural Resource Manager
 New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program
 Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
 8801 Horizon Blvd NE, Suite 260
 Albuquerque, NM 8,113
 (505) 490,3,9
andrew.zynk@emnrn.gov

From Walton, Cody R <cwalton@blmsgov>
 Sent Wednesday, January 21, 2026 4:53 PM
 To ZSni, AndEew, (MNRD <AndEewZSni@em nEdsnmsgov>< Joe, MauEeen A <mjoe@blmsgov>
 Cc Smpson, David B(ESi) <dsmpson@blmsgov>< MoSola, Lloyd, (MNRD <lloydsMoSola@em nEdsnmsgov>< Adams, ESmbeElyL <iadam s@blmsgov>< ;ollen, James, (MNRD <jamesshollen@em nEdsnmsgov>< DIAlessandEo, LauEence, (MNRD <LauEencesDAlessandEo@em nEdsnmsgov>
 Subject ReF : (ET(RN ALL AMLL Jones Coal FSEe MSitgaiton LEoject BNMCRRS 159280)

Thank you AndEew,

RIll get ths EevSew and Eeach out to you wSth any commen tss

Cody Wa"ton Bhe/hSm)
 AFchaeo"ogdist and Pa"eonto"ogy Coofddnatof

BuEeau of Land Management
 FaEmSngton FseId Office
 6251 College Blvd, Suite A
 FaEmSngton, NM

OFF F 505 564 7712

Fom Zrni, AndEew, (MNRD <AndEewsZrni@em nEdsnmsgov>
Sent Wednesday, January 21, 2026 4:41 PM
To Joe, MauEeen A <mjoe@blmsgov>
Cc Walton, Cody R <cwalton@blmsgov>8 Srpmpson, Davrd ;(Erii <dsrmpson@blmsgov>8 Morola, Lloyd, (MNRD
<lloydsmorola@em nEdsnmsgov>8 Adams, >rmbelyl <iadams@blmsgov>8 ollen, James, (MNRD
<jamesshollen@em nEdsnmsgov>8 DAAlessandEo, LauEence, (MNRD <LauEencesDAlessandEo@em nEdsnmsgov>
Subject Re: : (ET(RNALL AMLP Jones Coal IrEe Mrtgatton PEOject ;NMCRRS 159280k

Thank you for the acknowledgment, Maureen

Andrew Zink
Cultural Resource Manager
New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
8801 Horizon Blvd NE, Suite 260
Albuquerque, NM 87113
(505) 490-1399
andrew.zink@emnr.dnm.gov

Fom Joe, MauEeen A <mjoe@blmsgov>
Sent Wednesday, January 21, 2026 4:39 PM
To: Zrni, AndEew, (MNRD <AndEewZrni@emnEdsnmsgov>
Cc: Walton, Cody R <cwalton@blmsgov>; Srpmpson, Davrd; (Erii <dsrpmpson@blmsgov>; Morola, Lloyd, (MNRD <lloydsmorola@emnEdsnmsgov>; Adams, >rmbEly L <iadams@blmsgov>; ollen, James, (MNRD <jameshollen@emnEdsnmsgov>; DAAlessandEo, LauEen ce, (MNRD <LauEen cesDAlessandEo@emnEdsnmsgov>
Subject: Re: (ET(RNALL AMLP Jones Coal IrEe Mrtgatton PEOject; NMCRRS 159280k

Good AfteEnoon ,

We have received your email and will respond accordingly.

Th a n i You ,

Mau Een

MauEen Joe
Ireland Manager/Acting District Manager
BLM LaEmrington Ireland Office / 6251 College Blvds, Suite A / LaEmrington, NM 87402 / Office ;505k 564-7671

Fom Zrni, AndEew, (MNRD <AndEewsZrni@em nEdsnmsgov>
Sent Wednesday, JanuaEy 21, 2026 3-23 PM
To Joe, MauEeen A <mjoe@blmsgov>
Cc Walton, Cody R <cwalton@blmsgov>8 Srmpson, Davrd ;(Erii <dsrm pson @blmsgov>8 Morola, Lloyd, (MNRD
<lloydsmorola@em nEdsnmsgov>8 Adams, >rmbEly L <iadams@blmsgov>8 ;ollen, Jam es, (MNRD
<jam ess hollen @em nEdsnmsgov>8 DAAlessan dEo, Lau Een ce, (MNRD <Lau Een ces DAlessan dEo@em nEdsnmsgov>
Subject : (ET(RN ALL AMLP Jones Coal IrEe Mrtgaton PEoject ;NM CRRS 159280k

This email has been received from outside of BLM. Use caution before clicking on links or opening attachments of responding.

Ms. Doe-

Please see the attached correspondence regarding BLM-FFO review of the below report (Updated to NMCRIS 15m28p) (Attachment Nos. F5218) conducted to the purpose of our ongoing environmental studies for AML's Jones Cote Mine Fire Mitigation Project. AML is requesting comments from the BLM-FFO regarding the identification of historic properties on BLM managed lands with respect to the AML's National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility recommendations and our assessment of project effects based on four alternative options proposed in the EA.

- Cultural Resources Survey for Fire Mitigation at Jones Coal Mine in San Juan County, New Mexico (NMCRIS 15m28p)

The information in the below signature can be used if there are any questions regarding the project and the correspondence.

I hereby



Andrew Zink
 Cultural Resource Manager/Archaeologist
 State of New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program
 Cell: (505) 490-7199
 Email: andzeew@zink@emnrd.nm.gov



Attachment 4: New Mexico Department of Wildlife Consultation (BISON-M)



PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Jones Mine Fire Drilling Investigation
Project Type: MINING, Minimal Impact
Latitude/Longitude (DMS): 36.962529 / -108.202906
County(s): SAN JUAN
Project Description: The New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program (AML) proposes to use drilling equipment and drill bore holes for assessment and sampling of underground substrate for determining the ultimate size of the underground coal seam fire, with a goal of safeguarding and mitigating the safety issues identified at the Jones Mine Fire. Investigation activities may include the drilling of approximately 10 to 20 boreholes to depths of up to 100 feet below ground surface to characterize subsurface conditions, delineate the extent and intensity of the underground fire, and identify the location and condition of underground mine workings.

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Project Organization:
Contact Name: Laurence Dalessandro
Email Address: laurence.dalessandro@emnrd.nm.gov
Organization: State of New Mexico
Address: 1220 S St Francis Drive, Santa Fe NM 87105
Phone: 5054690511

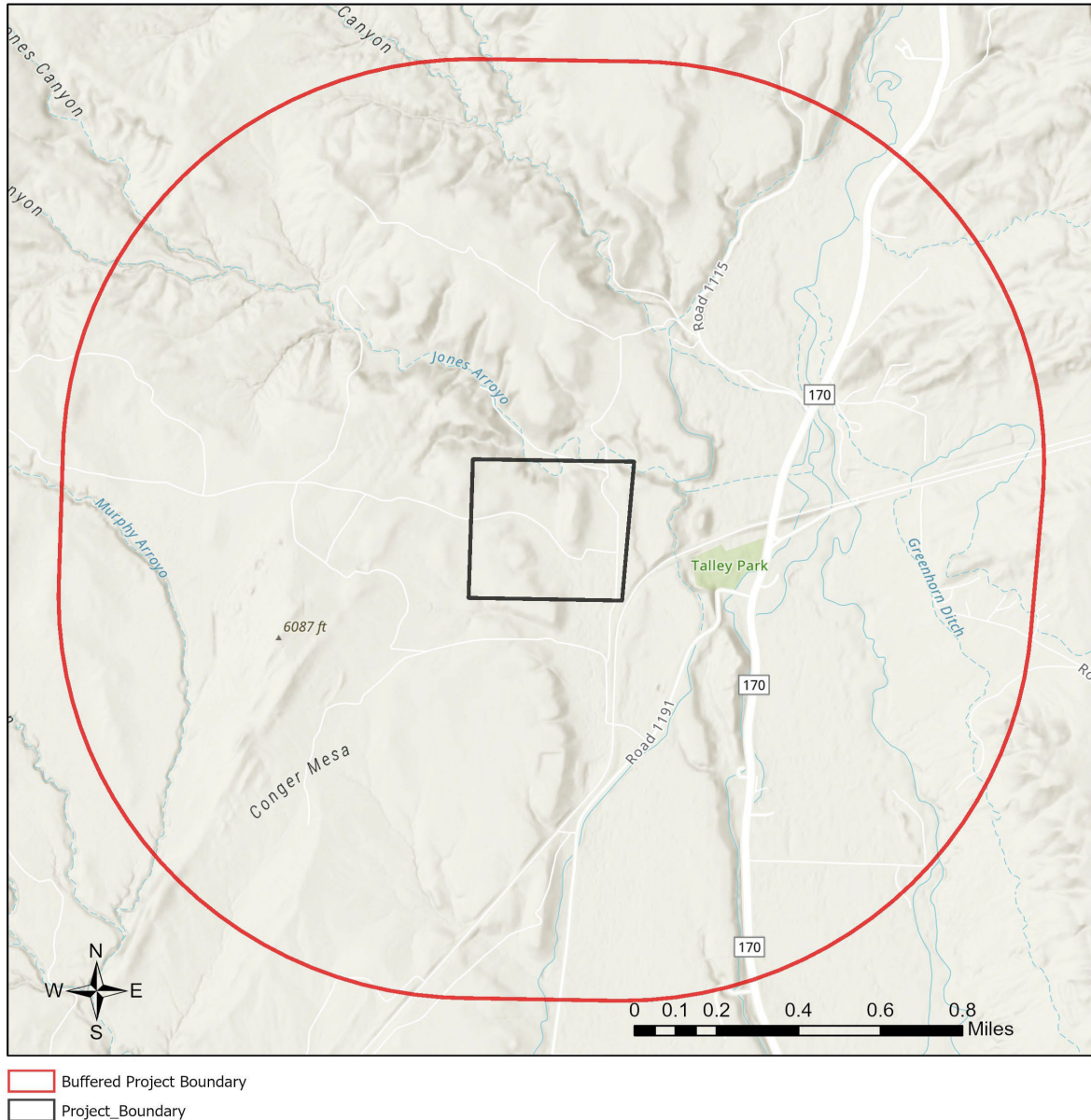
OVERALL STATUS

The information contained within this report comprises the recommendations of the New Mexico Department of Wildlife (Department) for management and mitigation of proposed project impacts to wildlife and habitat resources; see the Project Recommendations section below for further details. No further consultation with the Department is required based on the project's location and, with implementation of mitigation measures described in the Project Recommendations section below, no adverse effects to wildlife or important habitats are anticipated. However, a Department biologist may be in touch within 30 days if they determine that further review is required.

About this report:

- This environmental review is based on the project description and location that was entered. The report must be updated if the project type, area, or operational components are modified.
- This is a preliminary environmental screening assessment and report. It is not a substitute for the potential wildlife knowledge gained by having a biologist conduct a field survey of the project area. Federal status and plant data are provided as a courtesy to users. The review is also not intended to replace consultation required under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), including impact analyses for federal resources from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) using their [Information for Planning and Consultation tool](#).
- This report contains information on wildlife species protected under the ESA and the [Wildlife Conservation Act \(WCA\)](#), [Species of Greatest Conservation Need \(SGCN\)](#) (page 18, table 5), and Species of Economic and Recreational Importance (SERI). Species listed under the ESA are protected from take at the federal level and under the WCA are protected from take at the state level. SGCN are identified in the [State Wildlife Action Plan \(SWAP\) for New Mexico](#); all of these species are considered to be of conservation concern but not all of them are protected from take at the state or federal level. The harvest of all SERI is regulated at the state level. The Department has no authority to designate critical habitat for species listed under the WCA; only the USFWS can designate critical habitat for species listed under the ESA.
- The New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (ERT) utilizes species observation locations and species habitat suitability models, both of which are subject to ongoing change and refinement. Inclusion or omission of a species within a report cannot guarantee species presence or absence within your project area. To determine occurrence of any species listed in this report, or other wildlife that may be present within your project area, onsite surveys conducted by a qualified biologist during appropriate, species-specific survey timelines may be necessary. Any surveys including handling or capturing wildlife may require a scientific collection permit; contact the Department's Wildlife Permits Manager at dgf.permits@dgf.nm.gov for more information.
- The Department encourages use of the ERT to modify proposed projects for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of wildlife impacts. However, the ERT is not intended to be used in a repeatedly iterative fashion to adjust project attributes until a previously determined recommendation is generated. The ERT serves to assess impacts once project details are developed. The [New Mexico Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool](#), the data layers from which are included in the ERT, is the appropriate system for advising early-stage project planning and design to avoid areas of anticipated wildlife concerns and associated regulatory requirements.

Jones Mine Fire Drilling Investigation



San Juan County, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDOW (WCA)	NMDOW SGCN/SERI	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Boreal Chorus Frog	Pseudacris maculata			SGCN			
Northern Leopard Frog	Lithobates pipiens			SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Clark's Grebe	Aechmophorus clarkii			SGCN			
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus		T	SGCN			BLM WATCH
Western Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia hypugaea			SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor			SGCN			
Williamson's Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus thyroideus			SGCN			
Olive-Sided Flycatcher	Contopus cooperi			SGCN			
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia			SGCN			
Pinyon Jay	Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Clark's Nutcracker	Nucifraga columbiana			SGCN			
Juniper Titmouse	Baeolophus ridgwayi			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Pygmy Nuthatch	Sitta pygmaea			SGCN			
Western Bluebird	Sialia mexicana			SGCN			
Mountain Bluebird	Sialia currucoides			SGCN			
Bendire's Thrasher	Toxostoma bendirei			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Gray Vireo	Vireo vicinior		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Virginia's Warbler	Leiothlypis virginiae			SGCN			BLM SENSITIVE
Black-Throated Gray Warbler	Setophaga nigrescens			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Vesper Sparrow	Poocetes gramineus			SGCN			

Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDOW (WCA)	NMDOW SGCN/SERI	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Cassin's Finch	Haemorhous cassinii			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Evening Grosbeak	Coccothraustes vespertinus			SGCN			
Roundtail Chub	Gila robusta		E	SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Gunnison's Prairie Dog	Cynomys gunnisoni			SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Elk	Cervus canadensis			SERI			
Mule Deer	Odocoileus hemionus			SERI			
Pronghorn	Antilocapra americana			SERI			

Common Name hyperlink takes you to species account in [bison-m.org](https://www.bison-m.org/); Scientific Name hyperlink takes you to information in [NatureServe Explorer](https://www.natureserve.com/explorer/); ESA = Endangered Species Act, C = Candidate, LE = Listed Endangered, LT = Listed Threatened, XN = Non-essential Experimental Population, for other ESA codes see this [website](#); WCA = Wildlife Conservation Act, E = Endangered, T = Threatened; SERI = Species of Economic and Recreational Importance; SGCN = Species of Greatest Conservation Need; USFS = U.S. Forest Service, Sensitive Species = A species likely to occur on USFS lands that is of concern for a potential reduction in population viability; SCC = Species of Conservation Concern; BLM = Bureau of Land Management, BLM SENSITIVE = A species that occurs on BLM lands and whose viability is at risk, BLM WATCH = Species that may be added to the sensitive species list in future pending new information regarding species status.

Special Status Plant Species Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMAC	NMRPCS	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Clover's cactus	Sclerocactus cloverae		E				BLM SENSITIVE
Aztec Gilia	Aliciella formosa		E				BLM SENSITIVE

NMAC = New Mexico Administrative Code, E = Endangered; NMRPCS = [New Mexico Rare Plant Conservation Strategy](#), SS = NM Rare Plant Conservation Strategy Species; USFS = U.S. Forest Service, Sensitive Species = A species likely to occur on USFS lands that is of concern for a potential reduction in population viability; SCC = Species of Conservation Concern; BLM = Bureau of Land Management, BLM SENSITIVE = A species that occurs on BLM lands and whose viability is at risk, BLM WATCH = Species that may be added to the sensitive species list in future pending new information regarding species status.

Project Recommendations

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) may occur within your project area. Burrowing owls are protected from take by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and under New Mexico state statute. Before any ground disturbing activities occur, the Department recommends that a preliminary burrowing owl survey be conducted by a qualified biologist using the Department's [Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol](#). Surveys including audio calls may require a scientific collection permit; contact the Department's Wildlife Permits Manager at dgf.permits@dgf.nm.gov for more information. Should burrowing owls be documented in the project area, please contact the Department or USFWS for further recommendations and information on any permitting requirements regarding relocation or avoidance of impacts.

Your project area intersects an Important Plant Area (IPA) that contains one or more species of plants listed as threatened or endangered by the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) under New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 75-6-1 or by the USFWS under the federal ESA. Although IPAs have no legal designation, they have been identified as areas that support either a high diversity of sensitive plant species or contain the last remaining locations of New Mexico's most endangered plants. The Department recommends that you consult with EMNRD's [Endangered Plant Program Coordinator](#) regarding any state-listed plants and the USFWS's [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPAC\)](#) system for any federally-listed plants and reaching out to the appropriate federal species lead(s) with the [New Mexico Ecological Services Office of USFWS](#). The Department does not have any authority to designate or advise on state- or federally-listed plants.

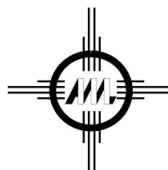
Prairie dog colonies may occur within the vicinity of your project area. Both black-tailed prairie dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) and Gunnison's prairie dogs (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) are designated as New Mexico SGCN, and their colonies provide important habitat for other grassland wildlife. Wherever possible, occupied prairie dog colonies should be left undisturbed, and all project activities should be directed off the colony. Any burrows that are located on the project site should be surveyed by a qualified biologist to determine whether burrows are active or inactive and whether burrowing owls may be utilizing the site. Colonies within the range of the black-tailed prairie dog can be surveyed by a qualified biologist diurnally, year-round using binoculars. Colonies within the range of the Gunnison's prairie dog can be surveyed by a qualified biologist diurnally, using binoculars during the warmer months from April through October and by searching for fairly fresh scat and lack of cobwebs or debris at the mouths of burrows during the cold months (November through March). If ground-disturbing activities cannot be relocated off the prairie dog colony, or if project activities involve control of prairie dogs, the Department recommends live-trapping and relocation of prairie dogs. A scientific collection permit may be required; contact the Department's Wildlife Permits Manager at dgf.permits@dgf.nm.gov for more information. The Department can provide recommendations regarding suitability of potential translocation areas and procedures. If a project will only impact 10 or fewer burrows and there is a large, active colony adjacent to the site the continued existence of which will not cause future conflicts, the Department suggests use of reverse dispersal translocation methods as outlined in [Creating Prairie Dog Management Plans Part three: Appendices and Attachments](#) (see Attachment 1). Methods include setting up a wire door over active burrows followed by monitoring and closure of the few burrows in the project disturbance area after prairie dog evacuation and barrier installation to prevent recolonization of closed areas. Removal activities should be performed after the spring breeding and birthing seasons and prior to winter hibernation (e.g., mid-June to mid-November). Prairie dogs in southern New Mexico may remain active in the winter, extending the potential removal period beyond mid-November. Removal activities should also begin roughly one month before construction or other disturbance occurs as it can take between one week and one month for the animals to disperse.

The proposed project occurs within or near a riparian area. Because riparian areas are important wildlife habitats, the project footprint should avoid removing any riparian vegetation or creating ground disturbance either directly within or affecting the riparian area, unless the project is intended to restore riparian habitat through non-native plant removal and replanting with native species. If your project involves removal of non-native riparian trees or planting of native riparian vegetation, please refer to the Department's habitat handbook guideline for [Restoration and Management of Native and Non-native Trees in Southwestern Riparian Ecosystems](#). In addition to these guidelines, consider planting a diversity of flowering native plants, including shrubs, and plants that provide bee nesting sites including pithy or hollow-stemmed species. The [New Mexico Riparian Habitat Map \(NMRipMap\)](#) may also provide useful information on local riparian habitat composition and structure.

Disclaimers regarding recommendations:

- The Department provides technical guidance to support the persistence of all protected species of native fish and wildlife, including game and nongame wildlife species. Species listed within this report include those that have been documented to occur within the project area, and others that may not have been documented but are projected to occur within the project vicinity.
- Recommendations are provided by the Department under the authority of § 17-1-5.1 New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978, to provide "communication and consultation with federal and other state agencies, local governments and communities, private organizations and affected interests responsible for habitat, wilderness, recreation, water quality and environmental protection to ensure comprehensive conservation services for hunters, anglers and nonconsumptive wildlife users".
- The Department has no authority for management of plants or Important Plant Areas. The [New Mexico Endangered Plant Program](#), under the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department's Forestry Division, identifies and develops conservation measures necessary to ensure the survival of plant species within New Mexico. Plant status information is provided within this report as a courtesy to users. Recommendations provided within the ERT may not be sufficient to preclude impacts to rare or sensitive plants, unless conservation measures are identified in coordination with the Endangered Plant Program.
- Additional coordination and/or consultation may also be necessary under the federal ESA or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Further site-specific mitigation recommendations may be proposed during ESA consultation and/or NEPA analyses or through coordination with affected federal agencies.
- Unless a project is marked as confidential in the title or description by the project proponent and if a ERT-generated report is the only response that the project proponent receives from the Department, then the report will be made publicly accessible via the [Public Comment Letters](#) page on the ERT website.

Attachment 5: Public Notice

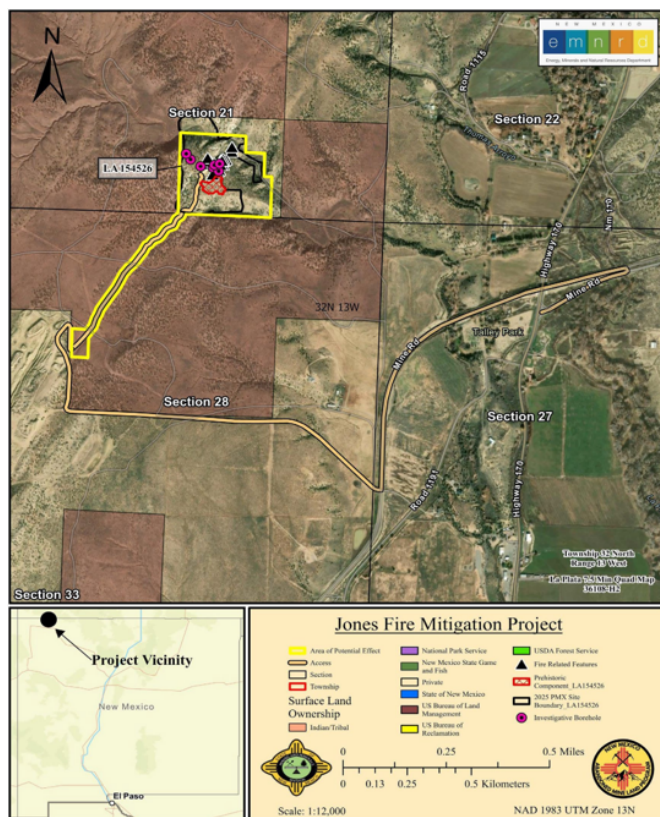


Jones Coal Mine Fire Geo-technical Drilling Project

The New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program proposes to conduct geotechnical exploration drilling to advance subsurface boreholes at the Jones Mine Fire Mitigation Project, an active underground abandoned coal mine fire. Environmental reviews of the project including cultural and biological resources evaluations, and tribal consultation have been completed as part of supporting documentation for the preparation of a Categorical Exclusion (CE).

Project

The project area/APE lies at approximately 7,120 feet above mean sea level and supports vegetation including sagebrush, rabbitbrush, western ragweed, and cheatgrass. The APE consists of approximately 34 acres of private land owned by Patricia Ida Mead and is accessed through Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Farmington Field Office lands. The project is located three miles north-northwest of La Plata (USGS La Plata 7.5' quadrangle), within Township 32N, Range 13W, Sections 21 and 28 (36.96701, -108.20707), and approximately one mile northwest of Talley Park.



You are invited to review the draft CE and provide comments on the project at the following link:
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/public-notices/> Public comments will be accepted until August 31, 2026. You may contact James Hollen at james.hollen@emnrd.nm.gov or (505) 231-8332 with questions, comments, or for more information.

Thank you for your interest.

Abandoned Mine Land Program

Attachment 6: IPAC



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna Road Ne
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In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2026-0118696
Project Name: Jones Mine Fire Drilling Investigation

07/20/2026 21:35:12 UTC

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your recent request for information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of New Mexico wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 *et seq.*), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as amended (16 USC 701-715), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act as amended (16 USC 668-668(c)). We are providing the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may or may not occur within your project area, and to recommend some conservation measures that can be included in your project design.

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the ESA of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and

the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 USC 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>.

Candidate Species and Other Sensitive Species

A list of candidate and other sensitive species in your area is also attached. Candidate species and other sensitive species are species that have no legal protection under the ESA, although we recommend that candidate and other sensitive species be included in your surveys and considered for planning purposes. The Service monitors the status of these species. If significant declines occur, these species could potentially be listed. Therefore, actions that may contribute to their decline should be avoided.

Lists of sensitive species including State-listed endangered and threatened species are compiled by New Mexico State agencies. These lists, along with species information, can be found at the following websites.

Biota Information System of New Mexico (BISON-M): www.bison-m.org

New Mexico State Forestry. The New Mexico Endangered Plant Program:
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/rare-plants/>

New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council, New Mexico Rare Plants: nmrareplants.unm.edu

Natural Heritage New Mexico, online species database: nhnm.unm.edu

WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value.

We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's NWI program website, www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html, integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the ESA, there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the Service (50 CFR 10.12 and 16 USC 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a Federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no Federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>. We also recommend review of the Birds of Conservation Concern list (<https://www.fws.gov/media/birds-conservation-concern-2021>) to fully evaluate the effects to the birds at your site. This list identifies migratory and non-migratory bird species (beyond those already designated as federally threatened or endangered) that represent top conservation priorities for the Service, and are potentially threatened by disturbance, habitat impacts, or other project development activities.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 thereby provides additional protection for both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. Please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds> for information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186.

We suggest you contact the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the New Mexico

Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division for information regarding State protected and at-risk species fish, wildlife, and plants.

For further consultation with the Service we recommend submitting inquiries or assessments electronically to our incoming email box at nmesfo@fws.gov, where it will be more promptly routed to the appropriate biologist for review.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna Road Ne
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001
(505) 346-2525

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2026-0118696

Project Name: Jones Mine Fire Drilling Investigation

Project Type: Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation

Project Description: The New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program (AML) proposes to use drilling equipment and drill bore holes for assessment and sampling of underground substrate for determining the ultimate size of the underground coal seam fire, with a goal of safeguarding and mitigating the safety issues identified at the Jones Mine Fire. Investigation activities may include the drilling of approximately 10 to 20 boreholes to depths of up to 100 feet below ground surface to characterize subsurface conditions, delineate the extent and intensity of the underground fire, and identify the location and condition of underground mine workings.

The project area/APE lies at approximately 7,120 feet above mean sea level and supports vegetation including sagebrush, rabbitbrush, western ragweed, and cheatgrass. The APE consists of approximately 34 acres of private land owned by Patricia Ida Mead and is accessed through Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Farmington Field Office lands. The project is located three miles north-northwest of La Plata (USGS La Plata 7.5' quadrangle), within Township 32N, Range 13W, Sections 21 and 28 (36.96701, -108.20707), and approximately one mile northwest of Talley Park. Site access is via the old La Plata Mine access road and then a locked gate along San Juan County Road 1120. AML is authorized by the landowner to conduct mitigation and safeguarding work through an infinite period, including entry and use of specific tracts of land owned by Patricia Ida Mead of Las Vegas, N.V. pursuant to a signed EMNRD AML right of entry form.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@36.967320799999996,-108.20752051539418,14z>



Counties: San Juan County, New Mexico

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 2 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> Population: Western U.S. DPS There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/VVMWQLTXAFCPZIWRKYFIGK7GAQ/documents/generated/9183.pdf	Threatened

FISHES

NAME	STATUS
Colorado pikeminnow <i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i> Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: Water depletions in the upper Colorado River basin adversely affect this species and its critical habitat. Effects of water depletions must be considered even outside of occupied range. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3531 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/VVMWQLTXAFCPZIWRKYFIGK7GAQ/documents/generated/8995.pdf	Endangered
Razorback sucker <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: Water depletions in the upper Colorado River basin adversely affect this species and its critical habitat. Effects of water depletions must be considered even outside of occupied range. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/530 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/VVMWQLTXAFCPZIWRKYFIGK7GAQ/documents/generated/9173.pdf	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened
Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee <i>Bombus suckleyi</i> Population: No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10885	Proposed Endangered

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Mesa Verde cactus <i>Sclerocactus mesae-verdae</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6005	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

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