

DRAFT

WILDLIFE CONSIDERATIONS GUIDE

1. Purpose

This Guide supports implementation of the AMAFCA Wildlife Considerations Policy.

It provides a practical framework for identifying when additional wildlife consideration may be appropriate, incorporating biological expertise into work planning, improving staff awareness, and coordinating with other agencies and professionals.

This Guide is intended to evolve as AMAFCA gains additional information about its facilities and the wildlife and environmental conditions associated with them.

2. Guiding Principles

Public Safety and Infrastructure Function

AMAFCA's responsibility to protect life and property and maintain functional flood control and stormwater quality infrastructure remains paramount.

Risk-Based Review

Wildlife review should be proportional to the conditions and potential concerns associated with the facility or activity.

Additional biological review should be focused where wildlife is known or reasonably likely to be encountered, where staff observe wildlife activity or evidence, or where site or seasonal conditions warrant additional attention.

Professional Biological Expertise

AMAFCA staff observe, document, and report wildlife concerns.

AMAFCA personnel do not capture, handle, transport, or relocate wildlife. Biological surveys, formal species determinations, wildlife handling, and relocation are performed by qualified wildlife professionals or appropriate agencies.

Adaptive Field Management

Conditions may change during work. AMAFCA may adjust methods, sequencing, equipment operations, access, or other activities as appropriate based on field conditions and coordination with qualified professionals.

Urban Wildlife Interface

AMAFCA facilities are part of a larger urban environment that may include utility infrastructure, public access and recreation, other governmental activities, private development, open space, the bosque, the Rio Grande corridor, and wildlife.

Planning and field decisions should recognize that these uses and responsibilities may overlap.

3. Strategic Facility Review

AMAFCA will periodically review its facilities and typical work activities with qualified biological professionals.

The review should consider available information regarding:

- Known or observed wildlife activity
- Evidence of wildlife use
- Standing or seasonal water
- Previous significant wildlife encounters
- Nesting, breeding, roosting, or denning activity
- Confined structures or limited wildlife access and egress

- Vegetation and surrounding environmental conditions
- Seasonal changes in wildlife activity
- Potential presence of threatened, endangered, or otherwise sensitive species
- Type, timing, and potential effects of anticipated work
- Utility or third-party infrastructure and activities
- Public use of the facility where relevant

The purpose of the strategic review is to identify where additional biological information would meaningfully assist AMAFCA in planning and performing work.

4. Targeted Biological Assessment

Based on the strategic review or changing field conditions, AMAFCA may request targeted biological assessment when:

- Wildlife is known or reasonably likely to be present
- Staff observe wildlife activity or evidence that may be affected by planned work
- A facility or activity has previously presented significant wildlife concerns
- Seasonal conditions increase the likelihood of wildlife activity
- Site conditions change in a manner that may attract wildlife
- Potential threatened, endangered, or otherwise sensitive species concerns are identified
- Management determines that additional biological expertise would improve work planning

Assessment may include field observations, identification of wildlife use or occupancy, documentation of conditions, recommendations for planned work, and coordination with AMAFCA.

Biological recommendations are used to inform AMAFCA's work planning and field decisions.

5. Seasonal Considerations

Wildlife activity may vary throughout the year based on nesting, breeding, migration, roosting, temperature, rainfall, water availability, and other environmental conditions.

Strategic reviews should identify significant seasonal considerations associated with individual facilities or types of work.

Where appropriate, seasonal considerations may be incorporated into work planning, scheduling, or decisions regarding additional biological review.

6. Staff Awareness

AMAFCA staff should be aware of observable conditions that may warrant additional review.

Examples may include:

- Nests, eggs, or dependent young
- Burrows, dens, or roosting areas
- Tracks, scat, feathers, shells, or other evidence of repeated wildlife use
- Concentrations of wildlife within or immediately adjacent to a work area
- Wildlife using confined structures or areas with limited egress
- Changes in standing water or vegetation that may attract wildlife
- Dead or injured wildlife
- Conditions identified through training as potentially associated with threatened, endangered, or otherwise sensitive species

Staff should document what they observe and notify appropriate management.

Staff are not expected to formally identify species or determine regulatory status.

7. Wildlife Encounters During Field Activities

When wildlife is encountered and may be affected by AMAFCA activities, staff will follow the Wildlife Encounter Field Directive:

STOP. DOCUMENT. CONTACT. COORDINATE. PROCEED.

The Field Directive establishes the immediate response process. This Guide provides the broader framework for evaluating and managing wildlife considerations.

8. Interagency and Professional Coordination

AMAFCA may coordinate with organizations including:

- Qualified biological consultants
- City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department, Urban Biology Division
- City of Albuquerque Open Space Division
- New Mexico Department of Wildlife
- Tribal governments
- Federal agencies
- Utility owners
- Other appropriate environmental, wildlife, or regulatory organizations

When multiple organizations are involved in field work, AMAFCA will work closely with participating agencies and professionals to establish a coordinated approach appropriate to the conditions encountered.

9. Contractors, Utilities, and Other Authorized Users

Wildlife activity or evidence observed during authorized third-party work on AMAFCA facilities should be reported to the designated AMAFCA representative when it may be affected by the work.

Contractors, utilities, consultants, permittees, and other authorized users shall comply with applicable AMAFCA requirements and project-specific biological or environmental conditions.

Wildlife handling or relocation shall not be performed unless specifically authorized and conducted by appropriately qualified personnel.

10. Public Use

Members of the public may use portions of AMAFCA facilities for recreation, transportation, access, or other purposes.

Public wildlife observations or concerns reported to AMAFCA will be evaluated based on the circumstances and referred or coordinated with the appropriate agency when warranted.

AMAFCA may establish temporary access restrictions, safety perimeters, or other controls when necessary to protect public safety, conduct agency work, support wildlife response activities, or protect sensitive areas.

11. Documentation

Significant biological assessments, wildlife encounters, outside agency coordination, and material changes to planned work should be documented as appropriate.

Documentation should focus on observed conditions, actions taken, recommendations received, coordination performed, and significant operational decisions.

12. Training

AMAFCA will provide wildlife awareness training appropriate to employee duties.

Training should address:

- Recognition of sensitive environmental conditions
- Observable evidence of wildlife activity
- Seasonal considerations
- Conditions that warrant additional biological review
- Awareness of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species concerns relevant to AMAFCA facilities
- Use of the Wildlife Encounter Field Directive
- Employee responsibilities and limitations regarding wildlife handling

Training may include classroom instruction, field-based instruction, reference materials, or assistance from qualified biological professionals and wildlife agencies.

13. Technical Appendices

Technical information supporting this Guide may be maintained as appendices and updated as additional information becomes available.

Appendix A: Strategic Wildlife Assessment and Facility Screening

Qualified biological review of AMAFCA facilities, activities, and areas warranting additional consideration.

Appendix B: Seasonal Considerations Matrix

Facility-specific or activity-specific seasonal considerations and recommended periods for additional review.

Appendix C: Facilities and Activities Recommended for Additional Biological Review

Practical reference identifying facilities, conditions, or activities where targeted biological assessment may be appropriate.

Appendix D: Wildlife Awareness Reference Materials

Training materials and field references addressing sensitive environments, observable wildlife evidence, and species of particular concern.

Appendix E: Wildlife Agency and Professional Contacts

Current contact information for agencies, consultants, and other wildlife resources.

APPENDIX A

STRATEGIC WILDLIFE ASSESSMENT AND FACILITY SCREENING

Reserved for the strategic facility review and assessment prepared by AMAFCA's qualified biological consultant. This appendix may include facility screening, field observations, identified conditions of concern, and recommendations for future review.

APPENDIX B

SEASONAL CONSIDERATIONS MATRIX

Reserved for facility-specific or activity-specific seasonal considerations developed through the strategic wildlife review and qualified biological input.

APPENDIX C

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES RECOMMENDED FOR ADDITIONAL BIOLOGICAL REVIEW

*Reserved for the practical reference identifying facilities, site conditions,
work activities, or circumstances where targeted biological review may be
appropriate.*

APPENDIX D

WILDLIFE AWARENESS REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reserved for staff training materials and field references addressing sensitive environments, observable wildlife activity or evidence, seasonal considerations, and conditions that warrant additional professional review.

APPENDIX E

WILDLIFE AGENCY AND PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS

Current agency and professional contacts used to support AMAFCA wildlife coordination. This appendix should be reviewed and updated periodically as contacts or responsibilities change.

Appendix E - Wildlife Agency and Professional Contacts

Contact information verified September 15, 2026. Staff should use the internal notification chain before initiating outside coordination unless otherwise directed by O&M management.

AMAFCA Internal Notification Chain

1. Operations Manager
2. Director of Operations and Maintenance
3. Executive Engineer

City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department

Urban Biology Division
Phone: 505-452-5300
City 311: 311 or 505-768-2000

City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department

Open Space Division / Open Space Administration
Phone: 505-768-4200
City 311: 311 or 505-768-2000

New Mexico Department of Wildlife

Northwest Office
7816 Alamo Rd NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
Phone: 505-222-4700

Qualified Biological Consultant

DBS&A - On-call biological support under AMAFCA contract
Specific project contact information to be added when the strategic wildlife review task order is finalized.

Other Wildlife or Regulatory Contacts

Additional local, state, federal, tribal, utility, or specialty contacts may be added as the strategic review identifies appropriate resources.