U.S. Department of the Interior

Draft Environmental Assessment

Demolition and Construction of Administrative Buildings and a Bridge

San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex

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September 2023

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Date: August 2023

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. Section 4321-4347) is a Federal stature requiring the identification and analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with proposed Federal actions before those actions are taken. The intent of NEPA is to help decisionmakers make well-informed decisions based on an understanding of the potential environmental consequences, and take actions to protect, restore, or enhance the environment. This Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to evaluate the effects associated with this proposed action and to comply with NEPA in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500–1508) and U.S. Department of the Interior (43 CFR 46; 516 DM 8) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (550 FW 3) regulations and policies. NEPA requires examination of the effects of proposed actions on the natural and human environment. Appendix A identifies laws and executive orders not otherwise evaluated within this EA.

Proposed Action

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is proposing to demolish a bridge and 17 buildings and construct 3 new buildings on the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex (SLVNWRC). The SLVNWRC consists of three National Wildlife Refuges and two Conservation Areas in south-central Colorado. On Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge (MVNWR), one bunkhouse, three quarters, and one office will be demolished and not replaced. On Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), a bridge, two offices, and two mobile homes along with an associated well house will be demolished and not replaced, and one quarters with an associated garage will be demolished and replaced with a newly constructed bunkhouse. On Baca National Wildlife Refuge (BNWR), two mobile homes, one garage, and one house will be demolished and not replaced, and one house will be demolished and replaced with a newly constructed quarters. Additionally, one new maintenance shop will be constructed.

The demolition process will include a survey and identification of any hazardous materials, such as asbestos and lead-based paint removal, hazardous waste disposal, utilities capping and grounds restoration. Prior to demolition and construction of any new buildings, all applicable clearances will be obtained including National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7.

The buildings that will be demolished and not replaced will be demolished in their entirety, including building footings and foundations, support systems (e.g., mechanical, electrical), site utilities servicing the buildings, concrete pads, and associated exterior concrete walkways would be removed from the site and properly disposed of according to material type and applicable State and Federal regulations. Building sites would be returned to predevelopment conditions, where feasible, resembling natural topography in order to promote natural surface drainage patterns and vegetation growth. Disturbed areas will be seeded with a native seed mix appropriate for each building demolition location. For the buildings that will be demolished but replaced with a new structure, demolition will follow, for the most part, the same process described above. However, not all utilities may be completely removed such as septic systems and electrical lines and services.

Additionally, the building sites would not be returned to predevelopment conditions, but rather the grounds would be modified to accommodate the construction of a new building.

The 2015 SLVNWRC Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) described the need for the construction of a new office building/visitor center/contact station on either ANWR or MVNWR because existing offices were not ideally designed to meet the needs of either office space or visitor services. For example, the ventilation systems are not adequate, the buildings are not energy efficient, they required frequent and substantial financial investments for repairs and upgrades and are not universally accessible for members of the public or employees with disabilities. The 2015 CCP specifically described the need to remove the "Lillipop house" (i.e., a house that was acquired as part of a land purchase that acted as the SLVNWRC headquarters and office space) as well as adjacent double-wide and single-wide trailers at ANWR. In 2023, a new office/visitor center/contact station was constructed on ANWR, further negating the need for keeping current offices/visitor contact stations on ANWR or MVNWR. Demolition and/or the new construction of other buildings was not addressed in the 2015 CCP. However, within the last 8 years, it has been determined that these buildings are no longer necessary and/or are in such disrepair and pose health risks that the most economical and functional solution is to demolish these buildings and replace where needed.

The bridge proposed for demolition on ANWR spans the Rio Grande, is in a severely dilapidated condition, non-functional, and poses a significant safety hazard. The bridge is situated on a portion of the refuge that is closed to the public and has never been used by either the public or refuge staff for any reason. The bridge existed at the time when that portion of the refuge was acquired. The bridge will be demolished in its entirety and riverbanks will be restored to appropriate conditions to prevent riverbank/soil erosion.

Background

The environmental consequences of the action alternative are evaluated in accordance with NEPA. The proposed action must be compatible with the purposes for which the refuges were established and must be consistent with agency policies directing the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System).

Refuges are managed to achieve the mission and goals of the Refuge System. Designated purpose(s) of a refuge are described in establishing legislation, executive orders, or other enabling documents. Key legal authorities, obligations, and guidance for the Refuge System are provided in the Refuge System Administration Act of 1962, Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the Service Manual, and most recently, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Improvement Act). The Improvement Act amended the Refuge System Administration Act by providing a unifying mission for the Refuge System, establishing a new process for determining compatible public uses on refuges, and requiring that each refuge be managed under the guidance of an approved CCP.

Furthermore, the Improvement Act states that wildlife and their habitats shall come first on refuges and that the Secretary of the Interior shall ensure that the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of refuge lands are maintained. Finally, the Improvement Act allows continuation of existing compatible wildlife-dependent public uses on lands added to the Refuge System after March 25, 1996, on an interim basis pending completion of a CCP. The mission of the Refuge System is:

> *"To administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant*

resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans." (Improvement Act)

The administration, management, and growth of the Refuge System are guided by the following goals:

A. Conserve a diversity of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats, including species that are endangered or threatened with becoming endangered.

B. Develop and maintain a network of habitats for migratory birds, anadromous and interjurisdictional fish, and marine mammal populations that is strategically distributed and carefully managed to meet important life history needs of these species across their ranges.

C. Conserve those ecosystems, plant communities, wetlands of national or international significance, and landscapes and seascapes that are unique, rare, declining, or underrepresented in existing protection efforts.

D. Provide and enhance opportunities to participate in compatible wildlife-dependent recreation including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

E. Foster understanding and instill appreciation of the diversity and interconnectedness of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats.

Monte Vista and Alamosa NWRs were set aside under the same authority and consequently have identical purposes. They were established under the authority of the 1929 Migratory Bird Conservation Act (45 Stat. 1222; 16 U.S.C §715d) "…or use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds". Monte Vista NWR was established in 1952 and Alamosa NWR was established in 1962.

Baca NWR was authorized with passage of Public Law 106-530 (16 U.S.C. 410hhh-4), the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000. The refuge was established by Secretarial Order in 2003. The authorizing legislation was amended in part by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Public Law No. 111-11, resulting in the following purpose:

The purpose of the Baca National Wildlife Refuge shall be to restore, enhance, and maintain wetland, upland, riparian, and other habitats for native wildlife, plant, and fish species in the San Luis Valley. In administering the Baca National Wildlife Refuge, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable - (A) emphasize migratory bird conservation; and (B) take into consideration the role of the Refuge in broader landscape conservation efforts; and (C) subject to any agreement in existence as of the date of enactment of this paragraph, and to the extent consistent with the purposes of the Refuge, use decreed water rights on the Refuge in approximately the same manner that the water rights have been used historically.

In 2015, the SLVNWRC completed their CCP and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (USFWS 2015). The purpose of the CCP was to describe the role of each refuge in the Complex in supporting the mission of the Refuge System and to provide long-term guidance, including specific goals and objectives, for the management of refuge programs and activities.

As identified in the CCP, the long-term management goals of the San Luis Valley NWR Complex are:

- Goal 1. Conserve, restore, and enhance the ecological diversity and function of the San Luis Valley ecosystem to support healthy populations of native fish and wildlife, with an emphasis on migratory birds.
- Goal 2. As climate patterns change, we will protect, acquire, and manage surface and ground water resources to maintain and support management objectives.
- Goal 3. Provide safe, accessible, and quality wildlife-dependent recreation and perform outreach to visitors and local communities to nurture an appreciation and understanding of the unique natural and cultural resources of the Refuge complex and the San Luis Valley.
- Goal 4. Secure and effectively use funding, staffing, and partnerships for the benefit of all resources in support of the Refuge complex purposes and the mission of the Refuge System. Actively pursue and continue to foster partnerships with other agencies, organizations, the water community, and private landowners to conserve, manage, and provide for the long-term sustainability of working landscapes within the San Luis Valley ecosystem.
- Goal 5. Protect significant cultural resources within the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex.
- Goal 6. Use sound science, applied research, monitoring, and evaluation to advance the understanding of natural resource functions, changing climate conditions, and wilderness values in the management of the habitats within the San Luis Valley ecosystem.

Please refer to the SLVNWRC 2015 CCP for more information on the Complex's goals and objectives.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to reduce long-term operational and maintenance costs and health and safety concerns by completing the demolition of 17 buildings and a bridge. SLVNWRC has several facilities (buildings) that are underutilized and are no longer suitable for their intended purpose. These facilities cannot be economically repaired and maintained. Demolition of these buildings and the bridge are part of an effort to reduce maintenance, operation, and utility costs and remove unsightly facilities from the SLVNWRC. The buildings and the bridge proposed for demolition are in deteriorating condition, detract from overall refuge appearance, and are no longer feasible to maintain and repair. In addition, because of their deteriorated condition, several of these facilities pose a health and safety hazard to staff and/or the public as many of the buildings are falling down, infested with mice and other rodents, and contain potentially harmful toxins. The construction of new facilities (i.e., quarters/bunkhouse) within the same footprint of some of the buildings will provide improved living opportunities for refuge staff, seasonal employees, and volunteers and replace existing sub-standard living space.

The primary need for the Proposed Action is for the SLVNWRC to eliminate the costs associated with the repair and maintenance of excess, obsolete, deteriorated, and under-used infrastructure in order to meet current and future refuge purpose requirements. By eliminating the costs to repair and maintain more infrastructure than is necessary, those funds can then be used to meet wildlife habitat management goals and objectives. Another need for the Proposed Action is to reduce the number of facilities no longer necessary to meet mission goals as mandated by the 2015 *Reduce the Footprint Policy* (Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, 2015). This policy directs Federal agencies to "…identify, declare, and dispose of excess properties held by the Federal Government and make more efficient use of the Government's real property assets". It also provided a strategic framework by which agencies would manage their real property portfolios to

improve efficiency, consolidate and dispose of unneeded properties, and improve mission effectiveness. Additionally, the 2020 Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) provides funding for maintenance and infrastructure/facility needs. Funding for this project is supported by funds received through GAOA.

The primary need of the proposed construction of new quarters/bunkhouse is to provide adequate short-term living opportunities for seasonal employees and volunteers and sufficient housing conditions for refuge staff. Current buildings do not allow for the appropriate size or configuration, are now dated and antiquated, and cannot support the different space allocations to meet current industry standards. There is a need to reduce the cost of ongoing maintenance and repair and the current buildings pose a safety and health risk to tenants due to their structural condition and presence of potentially hazardous materials. The primary need of the proposed construction of a new maintenance shop is to provide a functional, safe, and accessible work environment for staff and that meets the multitude of maintenance needs for the refuge.

Alternatives

Alternative A – Continue with existing buildings and infrastructure (No Action Alternative)

Under the No Action Alternative, the Service would not demolish the 17 identified buildings and bridge or construct 3 new buildings (quarters/bunkhouse/shop) on the SLVNWRC. The buildings and bridge proposed for demolition would remain as they are today and continue to deteriorate, utilize funds for repair and maintenance, and pose safety threats to refuge staff, seasonal employees, volunteers, and the public. The buildings and bridge would fall into a greater state of disrepair and would not satisfy the needs to reduce the facility footprint and associated operational and maintenance costs nor reduce human health, safety, and facility security risks. No new construction of a quarters, a bunkhouse, or a maintenance shop would occur.

Although the No Action Alternative does not satisfy the stated needs, the No Action Alternative is carried forward for comparison to the Proposed Action Alternative in compliance with NEPA.

Alternative B – Demolish and construct new administrative buildings and infrastructure (Proposed Action Alternative)

Under Alternative B (Proposed Action Alternative), the Service would demolish 17 buildings and a bridge and construct 2 new buildings (quarters/bunkhouse) within the same footprint as 2 of the demolished buildings on the SLVNWRC. Additionally, construction of a new maintenance shop would occur at BNWR. The buildings that will be demolished and not replaced will be demolished in their entirety, including building footings and foundations, support systems (e.g., mechanical, electrical), site utilities servicing the buildings, concrete pads, and associated exterior concrete walkways would be removed from the site and properly disposed of according to material type and applicable State and Federal regulations. Building sites would be returned to predevelopment conditions, where feasible, resembling natural topography in order to promote natural surface drainage patterns and vegetation growth. Disturbed areas will be seeded with a native seed mix appropriate for each building demolition location. For the buildings that will be demolished but replaced with a new structure, demolition will follow, for the most part, the same process described above. However, not all utilities may be completely removed such as septic systems and electrical lines and services. Additionally, the building site would not be returned to predevelopment

conditions, but rather the grounds would be modified to accommodate the construction of a new building.

The demolition of 17 buildings and a bridge will reduce long-term operational and maintenance costs as well as safety concerns to refuge staff as well as the public. SLVNWRC has several buildings that are underutilized and are no longer suitable for their intended purpose. These facilities cannot be economically repaired and maintained. Demolition of these buildings are part of an effort to reduce maintenance, operation, and utility costs and remove unsightly facilities from the SLVNWRC. The buildings proposed for demolition are in deteriorating condition, detract from overall refuge appearance, and are no longer feasible to maintain and repair. In addition, because of their deteriorated condition, several of these facilities pose a safety hazard to staff and/or the public. The construction of new buildings (i.e., quarters/bunkhouse) within the same footprint of two of the buildings will provide improved living opportunities for refuge staff, seasonal employees, and volunteers and replace existing sub-standard living space. Construction of a new maintenance shop at BNWR would provide a functional, safe, and accessible work environment for staff at BNWR.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This section is organized by affected resource categories and for each affected resource discusses: (1) the existing environmental and socioeconomic baseline in the action area for each resource, and (2) the effects and impacts of the proposed action and any alternatives on each resource. The effects and impacts of the proposed action considered here are changes to the human environment, whether adverse or beneficial, that are reasonably foreseeable and have a reasonably close causal relationship to the proposed action or alternatives. This EA includes the written analyses of the environmental consequences on a resource only when the impacts on that resource could be more than negligible and therefore considered an "affected resource." Any resources that would not be affected by the action have been dismissed from further analyses.

Located in south-central Colorado, the San Luis Valley (SLV) is a large intermontane basin with an elevation of approximately 7,700 feet, extending approximately 100 miles north to south and 60 miles east to west.

The SLVNWRC encompasses about 120,805 acres in three separate units: Alamosa NWR (12,026 acres), Monte Vista NWR (16,279 acres), and Baca NWR (92,500 acres), as shown in Figure 1. The distribution and area of the habitats on each refuge vary, but in general include terrestrial shrubland and grassland, wet meadow and wetland, and riparian/stream. Each refuge was established primarily to support water bird conservation interests, but they also host a diversity of migratory bird and resident wildlife species.

For a more in-depth description of the SLV and SLVNWRC, please refer to the 2015 Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), which is available online:

Comprehensive Conservation Plan, San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex (fws.gov)

The resources in Table 1 below either (1) do not exist within the project area, or (2) would either not be affected or only negligibly affected by the proposed action.

Table 1. Potential for Adverse Impacts from Proposed Action and Alternatives

Resources	Not Applicable: Resource does not exist in project area	No/Negligible Impacts: Exists but no or negligible impacts	Greater than Negligible Impacts: Impacts analyzed in this EA
Wildlife and Aquatic Species	☐	☒	☐
Threatened and Endangered Species and Other Special Status Species	☐	☒	☐
Habitat and Vegetation (Including Vegetation of Special Management Concern)	☐	☒	☐
Geology and Soils	☐	☒	☐
Air Quality	☐	☒	☐
Water Resources	☐	☒	☐
Floodplains	☐	☒	☐
Wilderness	☒	☐	☐
Visitor Use and Experience	☐	☒	☐
Cultural Resources	☐	☐	☒
Socioeconomics	☐	☒	☐

Tables 2 through 6 provide the following for each resource of the San Luis Valley NWR Complex:

1. A brief description of the relevant general features of the affected environment;
2. A description of relevant environmental trends and planned actions;
3. A brief description of the affected resources in the proposed action area; and
4. Impacts of the proposed action and any alternatives on those resources, including direct and indirect effects.

Table 2. Natural Resources

Wildlife and Aquatic Species

Affected Environment Description

The SLVNWRC provides habitat for many bird species including greater sandhill cranes, waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and passerines such as the endangered south-western willow flycatcher. The entire Rocky Mountain population of greater sandhill cranes passes through the SLV during spring and fall migration.

The SLVNWRC provides a variety of wetland habitats important for nesting and migration habitat for a diversity of waterbirds including ducks, white-faced ibis, American bitterns, and black-crowned night-herons. There is a high diversity of waterfowl and, locally, the refuges provide important nesting habitat. Wetland on the refuges provide large areas of habitat for birds in the flyway.

Baca NWR includes extremely important populations of both Rio Grande sucker and Rio Grande chub.

The proposed project sites are already highly disturbed with existing buildings and associated infrastructure (e.g., parking areas). As such, the vegetation on the project sites is, for the most part, dominated by non-native plant species (e.g., invasive plants, ornamental shrubs) that are used by some native songbird species, however, the majority of use by wildlife on the project sites is dominated by non-native species such as house sparrows, European startling, and Eurasian collard doves.

Environmental Trends and Planned Actions Description

The 2015 CCP identified several objectives for various wildlife species. For the most part, these objectives described habitat-based management actions that would be implemented to protect and promote wildlife species using the variety of habitats across the SLVNWRC. These actions include management of water resources, use of prescribed fire, and prescriptive livestock grazing and haying, to create diverse hydrologic and vegetative conditions necessary to provide habitat for a wide array of wildlife species. The goal of this approach was to emphasize maintaining or restoring the composition, structure, and function of natural and modified habitats with the goal of long-term sustainability.

The SLV has experienced significant alterations over the last century, such as habitat loss and fragmentation, introduction of exotic plants, increased presence of chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides, and altered disturbance regimes such as the frequency, timing, and magnitude of fire, herbivory, and hydrology. These alterations have affected habitat quantity, quality, and sustainability. The effects of these stressors are likely being exacerbated by climate change, which is projected to include higher temperatures, changes in the hydrologic cycle that affect aquatic species, including reduction in overall streamflow, an ongoing shift to earlier spring runoff, and warming of water temperatures, northward and upward shift in plant and animal ranges, causing shifts in ecosystem composition; increase in plant mortality because of drought stress; increased risk of desertification in dryland ecosystems; and an overall reduction in biodiversity because of the above effects.

Anticipated Impacts

Alternative A: Under the No Action Alternative, all the buildings and a bridge would not be demolished and no new buildings would be constructed. This alternative would have minimal negative impact on habitat or wildlife species. However, because of the dilapidated condition of these buildings, nest predators such as skunk and raccoon may use these sites for denning or cover, potentially increasing predation of ground nesting birds. Additionally, invasive plants may become more prevalent in areas surrounding these building sites as maintenance of grounds would not occur.

Alternative B: Implementation of Alternative B (Proposed Action) may have positive effects on habitat and wildlife species. Because building sites would be returned to predevelopment conditions (approximately

14 acres), where feasible, resembling natural topography in order to promote natural surface drainage patterns and native vegetation growth, there would be a potential decrease in presence of non-native plants and an increase of native plants used by insect and other wildlife species. Additionally, for the locations where new buildings would not be constructed, there would be a decrease in human presence, allowing wildlife species more area without the potential impacts from human disturbance. For the most part, because the location of existing buildings is located in areas that are already disturbed, there would be no impacts on sensitive habitats such as wetlands and riparian areas. Locations where new buildings would be constructed are either on the same footprint as buildings proposed for demolition or immediately adjacent to existing buildings and other facilities, there would be no additional negative impacts. Therefore, implementation of Alternative B would not cause negative impacts in migratory patterns, daily movements, or breeding/nesting of songbirds, waterfowl and other waterbirds on the SLVNWRC and surrounding area.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Other Special Status Species

Affected Environment Description

There are three federally listed and/or proposed threatened and endangered (T&E) species that occur within the vicinity of the proposed project:

- Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) (Endangered) – Nesting and migration habitat is within close proximity of some of the buildings proposed for demolition and two of the sites where new buildings are proposed to be constructed.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) (Threatened) – The refuges are within the range of yellow-billed cuckoo, but the project area does not consist of any yellow-billed cuckoo suitable habitat or habitat that could potentially provide habitat for yellow-billed cuckoo.
- Silverspot Butterfly (*Speyeria Nokomis Nokomis*) (Proposed Threatened) – The refuges are within the range of silverspot butterfly but the project area, due primarily to the lack of appropriate hydrologic conditions, does not consist of any silverspot butterfly suitable habitat or habitat that potentially could provide habitat for the silverspot butterfly.

Environmental Trends and Planned Actions Description

Climate change or warming in Colorado, whether it results from anthropogenic or natural sources, is expected to affect a variety of natural processes and associated resources in the future. The complexity of ecological systems means there is significant uncertainty about the potential magnitude of climate change impacts, and localized effects are still a matter of debate. Current trends suggest that the average temperature in southern Colorado is becoming warmer and that overall water availability is decreasing along with earlier snowmelt and runoff (NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information 2022). However, there is no definitive information on how exactly changes in climate would impact species populations. Potential impacts could include earlier stop overs in bird migration patterns, changes in insect richness and abundance, increased frequency of wildfires, altered habitat conditions, and decreased water availability for wetland and riparian habitats.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Other Special Status Species

Anticipated Impacts

Alternative A: Alternative A would result in no impacts on T&E and other special status species as no land alterations would occur.

Alternative B: An Intra-Service Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation was conducted (see Appendix ??), which resulted in a finding of No Effect. Alternative B (Proposed Action) would be unlikely to have any impact on the listed T&E species or candidate species that may exist in the area.

- Southwestern Willow Flycatcher – Although suitable habitat for this species does exist in close proximity to some of the project sites, no riparian vegetation (i.e., willow species) would be removed or impacted in any way that could serve as migration or nesting habitat, and forage resources should not be impacted either. No effects are expected.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo – Although the project area is within the range of this species, there is no suitable habitat within the project sites. This species has not been documented on any of the refuges. No effects are expected.
- Silverspot Butterfly - Although the project area is within the range of this species, there is no suitable habitat within the project sites. This species has not been documented on any of the refuges. No effects are expected.

The proposed project, even coupled with the effects of climate change, would not have a negative impact on the quality or availability of habitat to T&E species.

Habitat and Vegetation

Affected Environment Description

As previously described, the proposed project sites are already highly disturbed with existing a bridge, buildings, and associated infrastructure (e.g., parking areas). As such, the vegetation on the project sites is, for the most part, dominated by non-native plant species (e.g., invasive plants, ornamental shrubs).

Environmental Trends and Planned Actions Description

The 2015 CCP identified numerous habitat objectives for all primary habitat types across the SLVNWRC. These habitat objectives and management strategies focused on maintaining or mimicking natural hydrologic regimes, both spatially and temporally, with the assumption that if the integrity of the system is maintained or restored, the key resources required by wildlife species will be provided. Additionally, management actions such as the use of prescribed fire, prescriptive livestock grazing and haying, as well as herbicide application to manage invasive plants would occur to help maintain or promote healthy habitats.

Climate change or warming in Colorado, whether it results from anthropogenic or natural sources, is expected to affect a variety of natural processes and associated resources in the future. The complexity of ecological systems means there is significant uncertainty about the potential magnitude of climate change impacts, and localized effects are still a matter of debate. Current trends suggest that the average temperature in southern Colorado is becoming warmer and that overall water availability is decreasing along with earlier snowmelt and runoff (NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information 2022). However, there is no definitive information on how exactly changes in climate would impact species populations. Potential impacts could include earlier stop overs in bird migration patterns, changes in insect

richness and abundance, increased frequency of wildfires, altered habitat conditions, and decreased water availability for wetland and riparian habitats.

Anticipated Impacts

Alternative A: Under the No Action Alternative, all the buildings and a bridge would not be demolished and no new buildings would be constructed. This alternative would have no impact on habitat or vegetation.

Alternative B: Implementation of Alternative B (Proposed Action) may have positive effects on habitat and native vegetation for the project sites where buildings will be demolished and not replaced with new buildings. Because building sites would be returned to predevelopment conditions, where feasible, resembling natural topography to promote natural surface drainage patterns and native vegetation growth, there would be a potential decrease in presence of non-native plants and an increase of native plants used by insect and other wildlife species. For the most part, because the location of existing buildings are located in areas that are already disturbed, there would be no impacts on sensitive habitats such as wetlands and riparian areas. Locations of where new buildings will be constructed are either on the same footprint of existing buildings to be demolished or, in the case of the BNWR new maintenance shop, on an extremely disturbed area (i.e., gravel parking area/equipment storage area). Therefore, implementation of Alternative B would not cause negative impacts on habitats across the SLVNWRC and surrounding area. The proposed project, even coupled with the effects of climate change, would not have a negative impact on the quality or availability of habitat for wildlife species.

Geology and Soils

Affected Environment Description

All of the proposed project sites occur on relatively flat topography. However, several of the buildings were constructed on top of foreign fill material brought in to elevate the buildings to appropriate elevations above the water table and ensure adequate water runoff. Some of the buildings also have excavated crawl spaces.

Environmental Trends and Planned Actions Description

There are no known environmental trends or planned actions that would affect soils in the project area. Habitat management actions surrounding the project area are designed to reduce soil erosion and improve overall soil health.

Anticipated Direct and Indirect Impacts

Alternative A: Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts on geology and soils.

Alternative B: Because soils at the project sites is already heavily disturbed, there would be no impacts on natural, undisturbed areas. Within the project sites, soil disturbance would be temporary and occur in response to removal of the buildings and supporting infrastructure. A demolition plan, including an assessment of soil condition, would be completed for each building site prior to beginning demolition. Depending on the size of the area of disturbance, development of a soil and erosion control plan may be necessary and would be implemented to minimize soil erosion, stormwater runoff, or contamination based on existing site conditions.

Excavation and material removal activities during demolition are anticipated to be relatively shallow (less than 15 feet below the ground surface) and would be evaluated on a site-by-site basis so as not to disturb underlying geology. Additional Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented to manage stormwater runoff from entering adjacent drainages, streams, or wetlands, where applicable. When all structural components of the site are removed and disposed of properly, excavated areas would be filled

with clean, native soil and the area would be graded to provide positive drainage. The extent of grading and site restoration would be considered according to the predevelopment conditions where feasible, as well as proximity to remaining structures, accessible roads/drives, and active utilities. Following demolition and grading, each demolition site would be stabilized with a seed mix or plantings consistent with the site's historical native vegetation, where feasible, to minimize surface erosion and colonization by invasive species.

Project sites where two new buildings (quarters/bunkhouse) will be constructed will follow the same demolition process as described above, however, site conditions would not be returned to predevelopment conditions but would be developed in an appropriate manner for the construction of new buildings. The area where the construction of a new maintenance shop at BNWR would also be developed in an appropriate manner. BMPs would be implemented to manage stormwater runoff and soil erosion during construction activities and into the future.

Air Quality

Affected Environment Description

The Clean Air Act (CAA), enacted in 1977 and amended in 1990, requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. Ambient air is defined as "that proportion of the atmosphere, external to buildings, to which the general public has access" (40 CFR 50.1(e)). The EPA has set NAAQS for six criteria air pollutants – carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), particulate matter (PM), and sulfur dioxide (SO_2).

States are required to regularly report ambient air quality data to the EPA, which the EPA utilizes to determine whether the state meets the NAAQS for each criteria pollutant (attainment) or does not meet NAAQS for each criteria pollutant (nonattainment).

The SLV is in attainment for the NAAQS. The primary emission sources in the project area include vehicles and agricultural-related equipment traveling near the project sites.

Environmental Trends and Planned Actions Description

There are no known environmental trends or planned actions that would affect air quality in the project area.

Anticipated Impacts

Alternative A: Under the No Action Alternative, existing activities in the project area would continue, including vehicle and other human use activities. No additional emissions from demolition or construction activities would be generated.

Alternative B: The demolition and construction phases of the proposed project would likely result in minor short-term impacts on air quality, anticipated to last throughout the demolition and construction phases. These minor air quality impacts would be associated with vehicular emissions and fugitive dust from the use of heavy equipment and other vehicles at the building site, during roadway improvement activities, and along the proposed utility rights-of-way. As identified for geology and soils, implementation of BMPs to minimize fugitive dust and soil erosion would result in negligible short-term air quality impacts.

Water Resources

Affected Environment Description

Areas of riparian habitat and wetlands surround many of the proposed project sites. Two of the buildings that are to be demolished and replaced with new buildings (quarters/bunkhouse) are located immediately adjacent to streams and two of the buildings (single wide trailers) are also located immediately adjacent to a stream. The bridge over the Rio Grande is within the riparian area and active river channel.

Environmental Trends and Planned Actions Description

The 2015 CCP identified numerous habitat (riparian and wetland) objectives as well as water resources objectives. These objectives include such things as ensuring the continued application of irrigation water to wetland habitats and the protection of riparian and stream habitats across the SLVNWRC. Additionally, a Habitat Management Plan (2021) was completed which identified specific water management infrastructure changes that would be made to more efficiently and sustainably use the SLVNWRC's limited water resources for wetland and riparian management.

Anticipated Impacts

Alternative A: There would be no land disturbance, and consequently, no impacts on water resources under Alternative A (No Action Alternative).

Alternative B: Minor, short-term, and temporary impacts could occur to water resources resulting from excavation, grading, and fill at all the proposed project sites. While no waters of the United States, including wetlands, are mapped within the proposed building demolition and construction sites, several (four) buildings are located in relatively close proximity (from approximately 50 to 100 feet) to Palustrine Forested (PFO) wetlands. The location of the bridge is within waters of the United States (i.e., Rio Grande) and the demolition process has the potential to have a level of impact. However, following U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) protocols, all project activities will be cleared by USACE to ensure there are no impacts to waters of the United States as a result of demolition or construction activities. BMPs would be in place to minimize runoff or soil erosion into waters of the United States. BMPs would also be implemented to ensure that potential contamination of surface or groundwater from toxic (e.g., asbestos, lead) substance does not occur.

Table 3. Affected Visitor Use and Experience

Visitor Use and Experiences
Affected Environment Description The refuges in the SLVNWRC offer outstanding opportunities for hunting, wildlife observation, photography, and environmental education. It is estimated that visitation for all wildlife dependent activities on the SLVNWRC (all refuges combined) is 37,400 visits per year, mostly attributed to hunting and wildlife observation (Service 2022). BNWR constructed a new office/visitor contact station in 2015 and a new office/visitor center/contact station was completed at ANWR in 2023. At MNWR, an old office/visitor contact station exists. Due to staffing shortages, regular public hours are difficult to maintain at the office/visitor center/contact stations and, as a consequence, hours that these facilities are open to the public are opportunistic.
Environmental Trends and Planned Actions Description The 2015 CCP identified numerous visitor services and operations objectives geared towards increasing the number of visitors, type of opportunity available, and quality of wildlife dependent recreational activities across the SLVNWRC. In partnership with the Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges, attempts are being made to recruit volunteers to help operate the visitor center/contact stations on ANWR and BNWR, thereby increasing the availability of information and opportunities for the visiting public.
Anticipated Impacts **Alternative A:** Under the No Action Alternative, the number of visitors and quality of experience would not change. **Alternative B:** Under Alternative B (Proposed Alternative), with the exception of one of the buildings (MNWR office/visitor contact station), there would not be any expected impacts to visitor use or quality of experiences as a result of building demolition or construction. All but two of the buildings (MNWR office/contact station and ANWR former office/contact station) are not open or accessible to the public. As a result of the recent construction of a new office/visitor center/contact station at ANWR, the former office/visitor center/contact station is no longer necessary as the new building offers all the same amenities, information, and opportunities. At MNWR, demolition of the existing office/contact station may have some impacts to visitor experiences at that refuge. Although demolition of this building is not expected to impact the total number of visitors to MNWR, it may detract from the quality of experience to some visitors during certain times of the year. As described earlier, due to shortages of staff, the hours of operation for the public is opportunistic and, for the most part, the only regular time periods that the contact station is open to the public (staffed by volunteers) is during several weeks in the spring when the peak of the sandhill crane migration is occurring (primarily the first 3 weeks in March). When the contact station is open to the public, an estimated 300 (annually) visitors would enter the contact station to receive information (brochures) and learn about cranes, other wildlife, and the importance of quality habitat. Under the Proposed Alternative, those opportunities will not exist. Demolition of the bridge would not impact visitor use numbers or quality of experience as the bridge is not open to public access.

Table 4. Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources
Affected Environment Description
Cultural resources are the non-renewable physical remnants of past human activities that have cultural or historical value and meaning to a group of people or society. Various legal authorities use different terminology and definitions when discussing cultural resources. The term "cultural resources" includes historic properties, as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA: 54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq); National Historic Landmarks, as defined in 36 CFR Part 65; archaeological resources, as defined by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA; 16 U.S.C. § 470aa-470mm); sacred sites, as defined by Executive Order 13007 to which access is afforded in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (AIRFA; 42 U.S.C. § 1996); collections, as defined in 36 CFR Part 79; cultural items, as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA; 25 U.S.C. § 3001 et seq.), and heritage assets, as defined by the Service in the report required by Section 3 of Executive Order 13287 "Preserve America." While not technically a cultural resource, paleontological resources, as defined by the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (PRPA; 16 U.S.C. 470aaa 1-11), do fall under the purview of the Service's Cultural Resources Management Program. Eleven of the 17 buildings and the bridge to be demolished are over 50 years of age and are considered cultural resources. At ANWR, the well house has been determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP, while the quarters with associated garage and the bridge have not been evaluated for inclusion in the NRHP. At MVNWR, the bunkhouse, three quarters, and office have not been evaluated for inclusion in the NRHP. BNWR is the Baca Ranch Historic District, which is listed in the NRHP. The two residences and garage are not eligible individually for inclusion in the NRHP and do not contribute to the Baca Ranch Historic District.
Environmental Trends and Planned Actions Description
The 2015 CCP identified numerous goals and objectives identifies numerous goals and objectives for both habitat management activities and public use across the SLVNWRC. These actions could potentially have significant impacts to cultural resources. As such, it is important for the Service to continue its efforts to identify the SLVNWRC and evaluate identified cultural resources for inclusion in the NRHP. It is also important for the Service to consult, coordinate, and collaborate with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribes, and other consulting parties on its actions at SLVNWRC.
Anticipated Impacts
Alternative A: Alternative A (No Action Alternative) would not result in any impacts on cultural resources. **Alternative B:** Implementation of Alternative B could potentially cause significant impacts to cultural resources. The Service is required to consider potential effects to historic properties and consult with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Tribes, and other consulting parties on the finding of effects in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800. This consultation must be completed prior to the expenditure of funding for these projects. If any of the buildings or bridge to be demolished are determined to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, then the Service will first attempt to avoid and minimize adverse effects. If unable to avoid or minimize those adverse effects through de-scoping or other efforts, then the Service will mitigate those adverse effects in consultation with the SHPO, Tribes, and other consulting parties in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6.

Table 5. SLVNWRC Management and Operations

Land Use and Land Cover

Affected Environment Description

Across the SLVNWRC, land cover includes diverse wetlands, riparian areas, playas, grasslands, and shrublands that provide important resource for many migratory birds, elk, deer, and a variety of other wildlife species. Land use includes the management of these various habitats using a suite of management activities such as water management, prescribed fire, prescriptive livestock grazing and haying, and invasive plant control. Public use (approximately 37,400 visits annually) of the SLVNWRC occurs throughout the year, especially in the spring and fall. Public use opportunities available include hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education. Several auto tour routes and hiking trails are available to the public.

Environmental Trends and Planned Actions Description

The 2015 CCP identifies numerous goals and objectives for both habitat management activities and public use across the SLVNWRC. None of those goals and objectives would affect land use or land cover within the project sites.

Anticipated Impacts

Alternative A: Under Alternative A (No Action Alternative), there would be no land use or land cover impacts.

Alternative B: Under Alternative B (Proposed Alternative), there would be no impacts on land use and land cover across the habitats managed to promote and sustain wildlife species on SLVNWRC. Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in the removal of vacant and/or deteriorating buildings. Removing these buildings, their supporting infrastructure, and access roads and parking areas would convert small pockets of previous development to open undeveloped areas. Following demolition and grading, with the exception of the two building sites where new buildings will be constructed, each project site would be stabilized with a native seed mix or plantings to minimize surface erosion and colonization by invasive species. The sites would be returned to as close to predevelopment conditions as feasible.
The bridge would be demolished in its entirety and the riverbanks and bed would be restored to natural conditions appropriate for that area, thus, there would be no negative impacts to land use or land cover.

Administration

Affected Environment Description

The SLVNWRC staff currently consists of 12 permanent and seasonal employees. This staff is responsible for all aspects of habitat, facilities, law enforcement, and fire management and operation of the Complex, which is spread across a four-county area of the SLV, Colorado.

Environmental Trends and Planned Actions Description

There are no known environmental trends or planned actions that would affect Administration in the project area or as a result of the proposed action.

Anticipated Impacts

Alternative A: Under Alternative A (No Action Alternative), there would be no impact on staffing levels, however, there would continue to be funding and staff time required to repair or maintain some of the buildings. Additionally, funding (Deferred Maintenance) to maintain or repair refuge infrastructure

currently is not adequate to support the continued maintenance and repair of refuge infrastructure, resulting in the continued deterioration of these buildings.

Alternative B: Under Alternative B (Proposed Action), there would be no impact on staffing levels. Although there will be a cost to demolish17 buildings and construction of three new buildings, there would no longer be a need requiring financial inputs and staff time to repair and maintain unnecessary buildings, most of which are not occupied and in severely dilapidated condition that pose a safety and health risk. Additionally, there would be a reduction in utility costs (e.g., electric and propane service). The newly constructed buildings will require some financial inputs and staff time in the future, but because they would be new construction, those needs would be minimal over the next 10 years. Some financial inputs and staff time will also be needed to ensure that areas where buildings and the bridge are demolished are stable (e.g., no or minimal soil erosion) and invasive exotic plants are controlled. However, it is anticipated that these needs will be minimal. Overall, financial needs and staff time are anticipated to be significantly less under Alternative B versus Alternative A.

Table 6. Socioeconomics

Local and Regional Economies

Affected Environment Description

As previously mentioned in this EA, the SLVNWRC encompasses three NWRs in four counties in the SLV. The 2021 population of the SLV was 46,550, which was only a 1 percent increase in the SLV's 2011 population of 46,072. During this same period, to composition of race and ethnicity did not change and has remained fairly consistent with approximately 49.8 percent of the population identified as white, 47 percent as Hispanic, and approximately 3.2 percent comprising Black, Asian, and other race/ethnicities. Across the SLV, the predominant employment is government and agriculture, making up almost 50 percent of the workforce followed by health services, retail trade, accommodation and food services, and construction. Median household income in the SLV is just over $40,000 annually.

Environmental Trends and Planned Actions Description

There are no known actions being planned that would be likely to impact the local and regional economies in the project area.

Anticipated Impacts

Alternative A: Alternative A (No Action Alternative) would not result in any impacts on the local economy.

Alternative B: Under Alternative B (Proposed Alternative), short-term, beneficial impacts on the local economy would be expected from implementation of the Proposed Action due to expenditures associated with demolition and construction activities if local contractors are used to demolish the buildings and the bridge identified in this EA as well as the three buildings identified for construction. The use of local construction workers would produce increases in local sales volumes, payroll taxes, and the purchases of goods and services resulting in short-term beneficial increases in the local economy. There would be no anticipated change to the number of personnel employed at the SLVNWRC as a result of the Proposed Action; therefore, no significant impacts on demographics or social services and conditions would be expected. Over the long-term, the Proposed Action would not substantially affect local and regional sales volumes, income, or employment. Because the Proposed Action would occur entirely within the boundaries of the SLVNWRC, the Proposed Action would not result in any increase in population and would not directly, indirectly, or disproportionately affect low income, minority, or child populations.

Environmental Justice

Affected Environment Description

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, requires all federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice into their missions by identifying and addressing the disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs and policies on minorities and low-income populations and communities.

Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health and Safety Risks, requires all federal agencies to make it a priority to identify and assess environmental health and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children.

Environmental Trends and Planned Actions Description

There are no known actions being planned that would be likely to impact low-income, minority, or youth populations in the project area.

Anticipated Impacts

Alternatives A and B: Because the project sites are located entirely within the boundaries of the SLVNWRC, in areas completely void of residential development and the presence of low-income or minority populations, there would be no disproportionate impacts to low-income or minority populations. Additionally, because there are no residential developments with facilities that support children's activities such as schools, daycare facilities, hospitals, parks, and playgrounds, there would be no disproportionate health and safety impacts to children.

Summary of Analysis

The purpose of this EA is to briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Alternative A – Continue with existing buildings and infrastructure (No Action Alternative)

As described above, the No Action Alternative results in relatively few environmental impacts. The most prominent adverse impact would be the continuation of potential health and safety issues with several of the buildings as they are severely dilapidated, infested with mice and other rodents, and potentially contain harmful toxins. Additionally, trying to repair and/or maintain these buildings creates a financial strain on refuge budgets. The current buildings do not provide adequate quarters or bunkhouse space for the SLVNWRC's needs.

This alternative does not meet the purpose and need previously described.

Alternative B – Demolish and construct new administrative buildings and infrastructure (Proposed Action Alternative)

As described above, Alternative B (Proposed Action Alternative) would result in the demolition of 17 buildings and a bridge and the construction of 3 new buildings (quarters/bunkhouse/shop).

Construction of new buildings (quarters/bunkhouse) will provide adequate short-term living opportunities for seasonal employees and volunteers and sufficient housing conditions for refuge staff. The proposed construction of a new maintenance shop will provide a functional, safe, and accessible work environment for staff and that meets the multitude of maintenance needs for the refuge. The buildings that will be demolished and not replaced will be demolished in their entirety, including building footings and foundations, support systems (e.g., mechanical, electrical), site utilities servicing the buildings, concrete pads, and associated exterior concrete walkways would be removed from the site and properly disposed of according to material type and applicable State and Federal regulations. Building sites would be returned to predevelopment conditions, where feasible, resembling natural topography in order to promote natural surface drainage patterns and vegetation growth. For the buildings that will be demolished but replaced with a new structure, demolition will follow, for the most part, the same process described above. However, not all utilities may be completely removed such as septic systems and electrical lines and services. Additionally, the building site would not be returned to predevelopment conditions, but rather the grounds would be modified to accommodate the construction of a new building.

In general, it is anticipated that the demolition and construction process may result in negligible short-term negative impacts due to heavy equipment and worker activity. However, any impacts would be temporary and cease with the completion of the demolition and construction process. Because building sites, where a new building would not be constructed, would be returned to predevelopment conditions resembling natural topography in order to promote natural surface drainage patterns and native vegetation growth, there would be a potential decrease in presence of non-native plants and an increase of native plants used by insect and other wildlife species. Additionally, for the building sites where a new building would not be constructed, there would be

a decrease in human presence, allowing wildlife species more area without the potential impacts from human disturbance. Implementation of Alternative B could potentially cause significant impacts to cultural resources. The Service is required to consider potential effects to historic properties and consult with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Tribes, and other consulting parties on the finding of effects in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800. This consultation must be completed prior to the expenditure of funding for these projects. If any of the buildings or bridge to be demolished are determined to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, then the Service will first attempt to avoid and minimize adverse effects. If unable to avoid or minimize those adverse effects through de-scoping or other efforts, then the Service will mitigate those adverse effects in consultation with the SHPO, Tribes, and other consulting parties in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6..

This alternative meets the purpose and need of the Service by eliminating unnecessary costs associated with the repair and maintenance of these buildings as well as removing health and safety risks to refuge staff and the public. Additionally, construction of the new quarters and bunkhouse space will provide adequate and safe living space for refuge staff, seasonal employees, and volunteers while the construction of a new maintenance shop at BNWR will provide a functional, safe, and accessible work environment for staff and that meets the multitude of maintenance needs for the refuge.

List of Preparers

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Jen Kolise, Regional Historic Preservation Officer, Mountain-Prairie Region (Region 6)

Appendix A: Other Applicable Statutes, Regulations, and Executive Orders

This appendix lists all applicable statutes, regulations, and executive orders not otherwise addressed in this EA.

Cultural Resources

American Indian Religious Freedom Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1996–1996a; 43 CFR Part 7

Antiquities Act of 1906, 16 U.S.C. 431–433; 43 CFR Part 3

Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, 16 U.S.C. 470aa–470mm; 18 CFR Part 1312; 32 CFR Part 229; 36 CFR Part 296; 43 CFR Part 7

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470–470x-6; 36 CFR Parts 60, 63, 78, 79, 800, 801, and 810

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3001–3013; 43 CFR Part 10

Executive Order 11593 – Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment, 36 Fed. Reg. 8921 (1971)

Executive Order 13007 – Indian Sacred Sites, 61 Fed. Reg. 26771 (1996)

Fish and Wildlife

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668–668c, 50 CFR 22

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 36 CFR Part 13; 50 CFR Parts 10, 17, 23, 81, 217, 222, 225, 402, 450

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, 16 U.S.C. 742a-m

Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 703–712; 50 CFR Parts 10, 12, 20, and 21

Executive Order 13186 – Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds, 66 Fed. Reg. 3853 (2001)

Natural Resources

Executive Order 13112 – Invasive Species, 64 Fed. Reg. 6183 (1999)

Appendix B: Figures

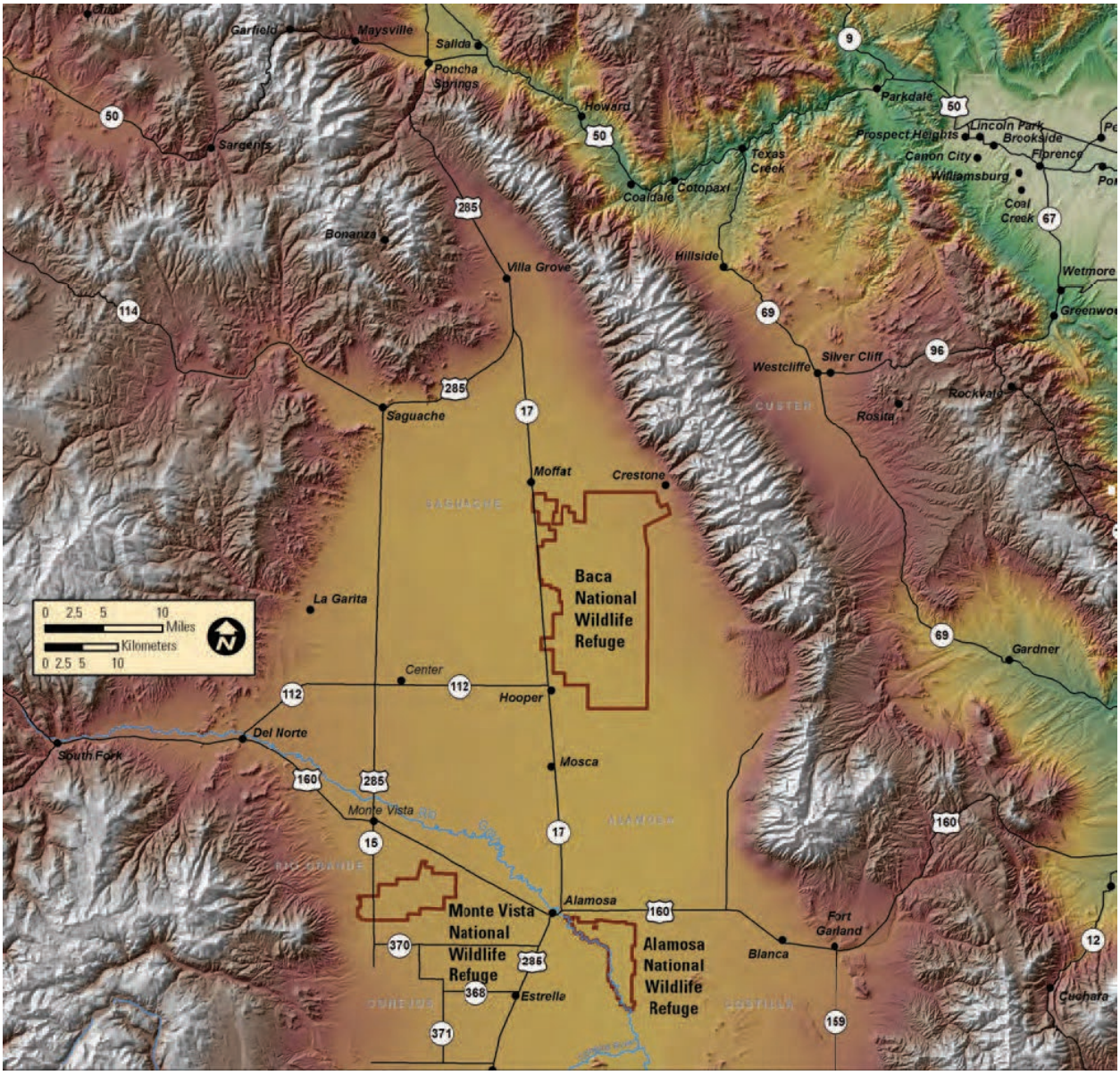

Figure 1. Regional Location Map

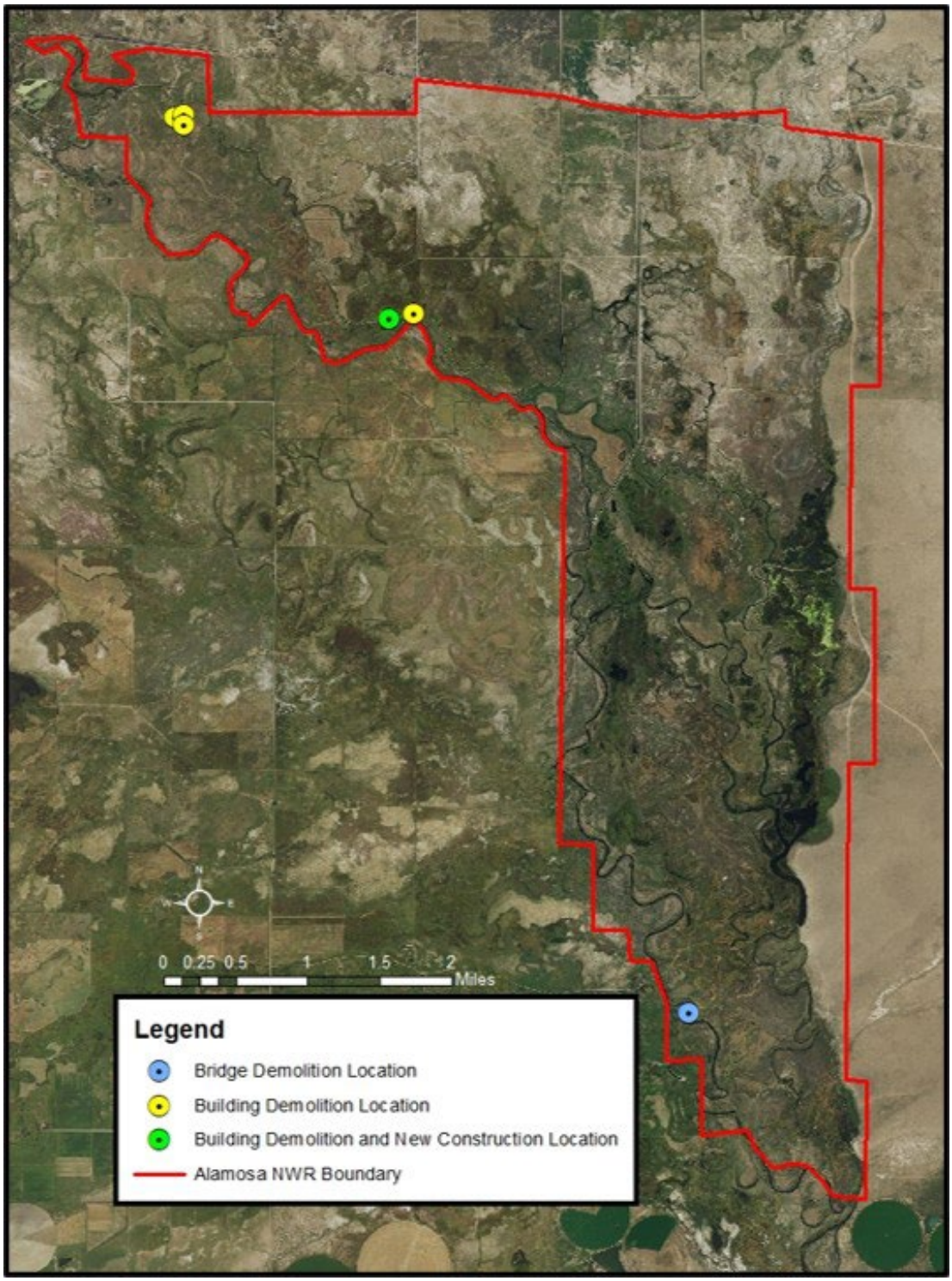

Figure 2. Alamosa NWR Project Locations

Figure 3. Old Alamosa NWR Office

Figure 4. Alamosa NWR Doublewide

Figure 5. Alamosa NWR Singlewide

Figure 6. Alamosa NWR Quarters

Figure 7. Old Alamosa NWR Office

Figure 8. Alamosa NWR Bridge

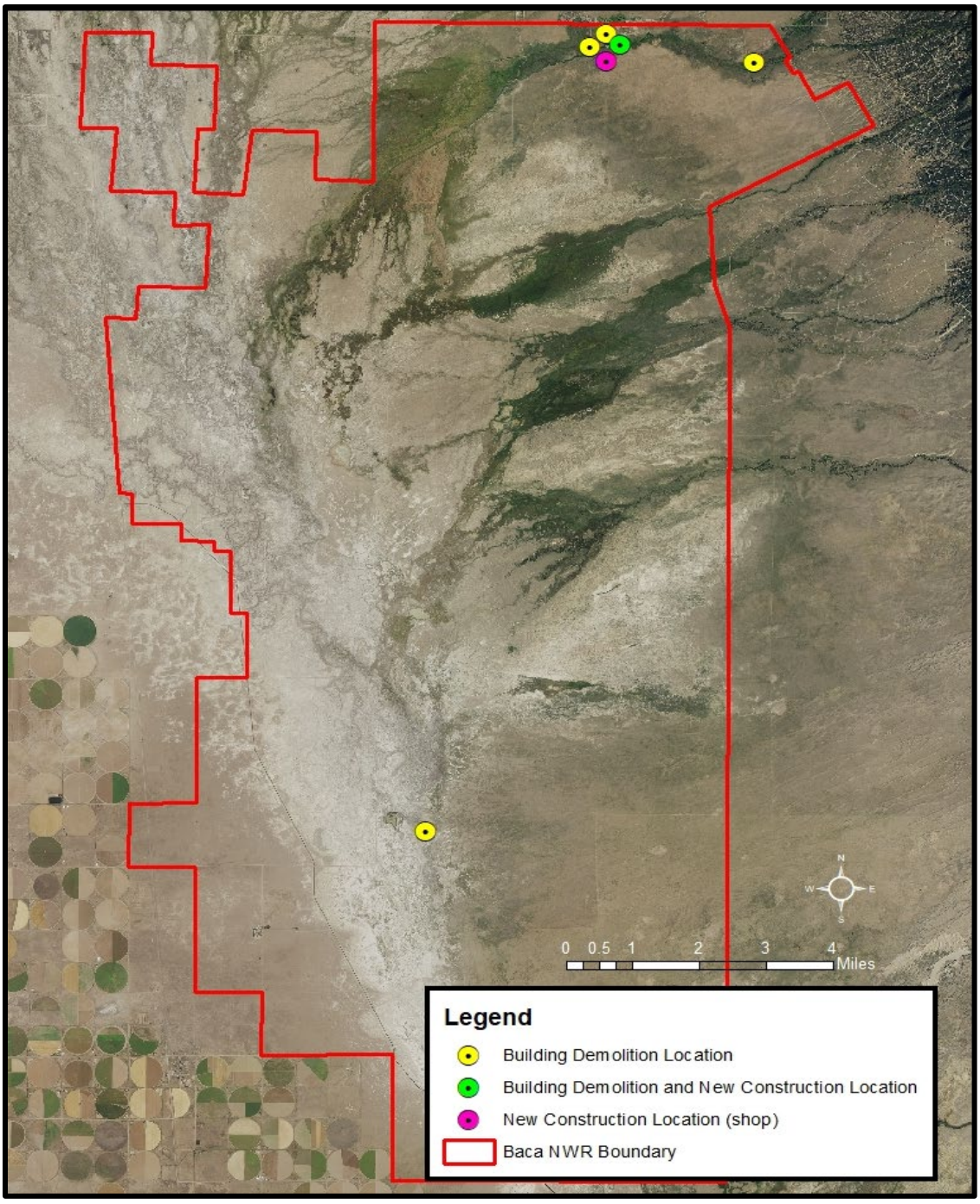

Figure 9. Baca NWR Project Locations

Figure 10. Baca NWR House

Figure 11. Baca NWR Residence

Figure 12. Baca NWR Singlewide Trailers

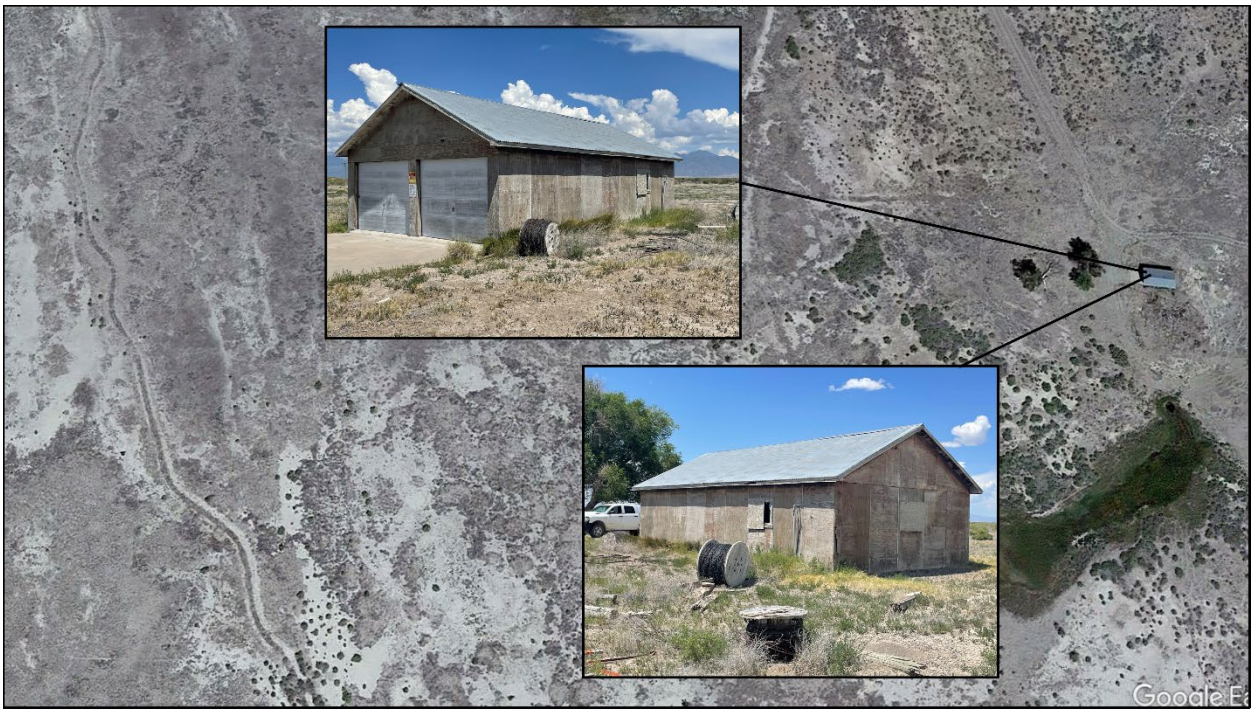

Figure 13. Baca NWR Garage

Figure 14. Baca NWR New Shop Location

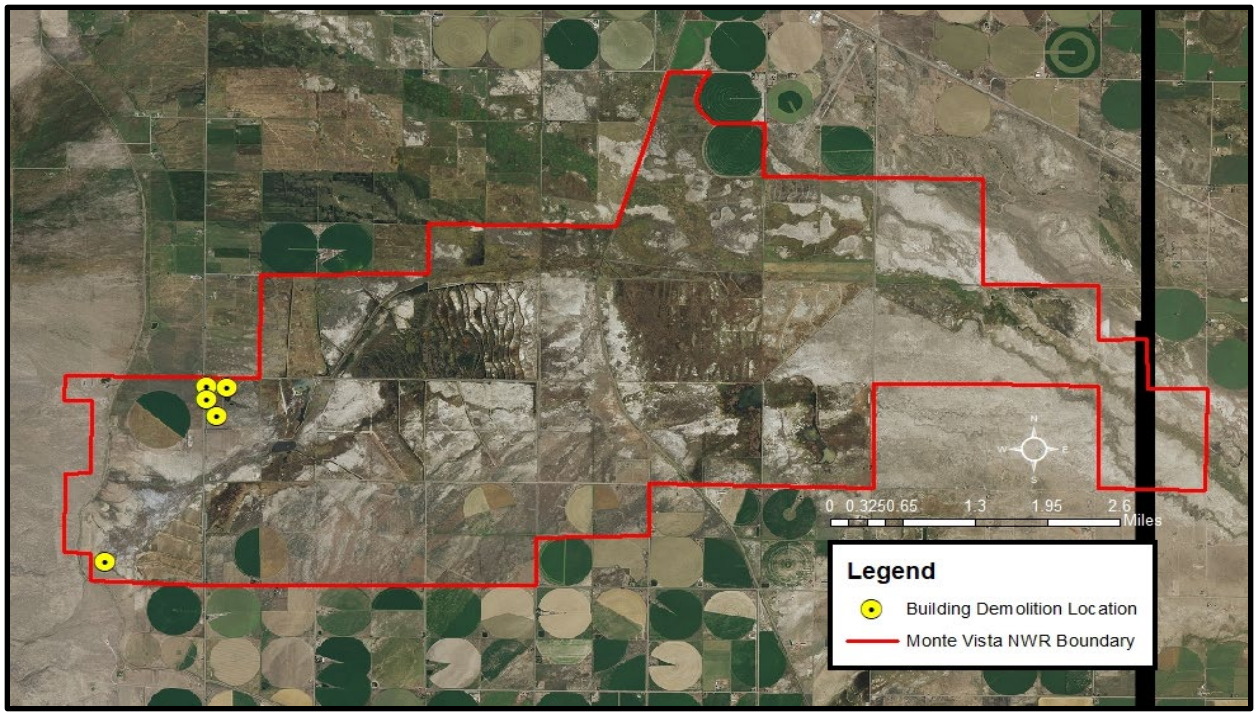

Figure 15. Monte Vista NWR Project Locations

Figure 16. Monte Vista NWR Bunkhouse

Figure 17. Monte Vista NWR Quarters

Figure 18. Monte Vista NWR Office