

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Environmental Review for Federal Trust Resources

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for several Federal trust resources including endangered species (Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.)), bald and golden eagles (Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC 668-668c)), and migratory birds (Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 USC 703-712)). You can now get help in evaluating the effects of your project on these trust resources through the Service's online Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPAC) System. IPAC can provide you an official letter for documentation of your environmental review. Once you receive your official letter you have one more step to complete to determine the effects of your project on the endangered species listed in the letter. You can find instructions on how to obtain an official letter and make a determination at

http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/newmexico/documents/IPAC_Help.pdf

From our review of numerous CDBG projects we determined that most (more than 95 percent) are within existing developed areas. If a project is within an existing developed area then it is not likely to have suitable habitat for a federally listed species. If there is no suitable habitat then you can use this as your rationale for making a "no effect" determination. If you make a no-effect determination for all species listed in your letter then no further consultation with the Service is necessary. File your official letter and determination table with your project as documentation of your environmental review.

When could a project have an impact on a federally-listed species?

When native habitat will be disturbed, especially large trees such as cottonwoods or willows. If the native habitat area is large (greater than 10 acres) and not adjacent to existing development the chances that it may be suitable for a federally listed species goes up considerably. In these cases we recommend that you engage a professional biologist to help with your determination.

Once you obtain an official letter if you need further assistance in reviewing your project you can submit a project description and the official letter to the Service electronically at nmesfo@fws.gov to get a biologist assigned to the review or call 505-346-2525 to discuss your project.