

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Border Patrol
Program Management Office Directorate

Las Cruces Border Patrol Station

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Environmental Assessment

I have considered the factors mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This environmental assessment represents the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) good-faith effort to fulfill NEPA's requirements by prioritizing documentation of the most important relevant considerations within the statutorily mandated page limits and timeline. This prioritization reflects the BLM's expert judgment; and any considerations addressed briefly or left unaddressed are, in the BLM's judgment, comparatively non-substantive and would not meaningfully inform the BLM's consideration of environmental effects and the decision to be made. The EA is substantially complete, considers the factors mandated by NEPA, and, in my judgment, contains analysis adequate to inform the BLM's decision regarding the Proposed Action.

Responsible Official: _____ Date: _____

Name

_____

Title

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

The Las Cruces Border Patrol Station was created in 1924 when Congress passed on May 28, 1924, the Immigration Act. In 1924, the Las Cruces Border Patrol station had two Patrol Inspectors and since 1924 the BPS has been in continuous operation.

The Las Cruces Border Patrol Station is currently operating in a leased facility that was originally designed for 75 personnel and now accommodates more than twice that number of personnel. At more than double the intended capacity, office space to conduct operations is crowded, with nearly all agents sharing office space. Storage closets have been re-purposed as offices and supplies have been moved outside into cargo containers. Physical security at this leased facility is far below standards set by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

The current Las Cruces Border Patrol Station (BPS) cannot support all requirements for detention and care under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Policy. The Las Cruces Border Patrol Station lacks adequate space to store detainee property or supplies, conduct health screenings, segregate vulnerable detainee populations, and provide necessary detainee nutrition or hygiene facilities such as food prep or showering. If the project is not executed, U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) risks continuing to violate DHS policy, court rulings, and subjects the agency to unwanted public scrutiny and civil liability.

The current facility cannot accommodate the increased personnel and fleet assets, leading to severe overcrowding and operational inefficiencies. The existing processing and detention center is outdated, with systems that compromise safety, regulatory compliance, and overall effectiveness. The suboptimal layout does not support streamlined workflows, thereby reducing efficiency and increasing the time required for critical tasks. This suboptimal working environment adversely affects personnel morale, retention, and job satisfaction.

1.2. Purpose and Need

U.S. Customs and Border Protection's goal is to establish a Border Patrol station near Las Cruces, New Mexico that will accommodate existing staff and the increase in USBP agent force that is expected in support of the National Border Patrol Strategy.

The objective for the Proposed Action is to provide the following:

- To provide a safe and efficient working environment for the agents and support staff.
- To uphold the national strategy and support El Paso CBP's mission to manage operational control of the border.
- Support 2020 USBP Strategy to gain and maintain effective control of the borders of the U.S.
- Increase the probability of apprehension of those that have entered in the U.S. illegally.

The Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action is established by the BLM's responsibility under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) to respond to a right-of-way (ROW) grant application for the construction, operation, and maintenance a new Border Patrol station near Las Cruces, New Mexico. BLM's purpose is to respond to CBP's application for legal use and access across BLM-managed lands by granting a new ROW. The BLM would consider the application in accordance with 43 CFR 2800 "Rights-of-Way" and under the FLPMA. The need for the BLM's action is established by the policies and mandates set forth in the Mimbres Resource Management Plan (RMP), and the BLM's responsibility under Title V of the FLPMA, as amended (43 United States Code [USC] 1761-1771). As such, the BLM is required to respond to the application for ROW submitted by CBP pursuant to 43 CFR 2804.12.

1.3. Decision to be Made

Consideration of the application to issue a ROW for Facilities on Federal Lands and Property (SF-299) is a federal action requiring compliance with NEPA and its implementing regulations. BLM-LCDO would decide whether to issue a new ROW for the construction, operation and maintenance of a new Las Cruces Border Patrol Station (BPS), as established by Title V of FLPMA. The Authorized Office (AO) for the ROW grant is the LCDO District Manager and or representative. Based on the information provided, the AO would decide whether to grant CBP the desired ROW actions to construct, operate, and maintain a new BPS on public land, and if so, under what terms, conditions, and stipulations.

1.4. Conformance with the Land Use Plan

This proposed action conforms to the Mimbres Resource Management Plan (RMP) (BLM 1993) and is consistent with the following program objective: "The program is responsible for granting rights-of-ways across public land," (p. 2-9). In addition, the proposed action is specifically provided for in decision 11 of the Mimbres RMP Record of Decision (BLM 1993a), which states: "Issue ROWs, Leases, and Permits," (p. S-1).

1.5. Scoping and Issues

1.5.1. Internal Scoping

In December 2025, CBP completed a Real Estate Market Survey to screen potential candidate sites on which to construct the new Las Cruces BPS. Site selection was based on agency criteria that included:

- adequate parcel size to allow for initial design construction and anticipated future program functions
- proper location siting to ensure security and safety of the station and agents,
- ease of access allowing multiple entry points for emergency egress
- proximity to roadways
- located within the Las Cruces Border Patrol Station's area of responsibility (AOR).

Seven sites were initially reviewed as part of the screening process, however four did not meet initial screening criteria and were eliminated from consideration. The remaining three were further reviewed with focus placed on the preferred site as it supports all operational criteria identified above.

1.5.2. Public Scoping

As part of the public scoping process, letters to stakeholders were sent on March 4, 2026. The 30-day public scoping period closed on April 4, 2026. CBP received a total of 70 comments during the comment period. All comments provided were received via email to the NEPA BPAM email inbox. Comments received were related to the following themes:

- proximity to school campuses and neighborhoods
- use of public land
- impacts on water quality and wildlife

Of the 70 comments received, 10 were in favor of one or more of the proposed locations, 47 were opposed, and 10 were neither in favor nor opposed. Additional details from the public involvement process can be found in Appendix A.

Issue Development

Using the scoping comments, a list of issues to analyze in detail in this EA was developed in accordance with guidelines set forth in the Department of Interior Handbook of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures, 516 DM 1. The key issues identified during CBP scoping are summarized in Table 1-1. Impact Indicators in Table 1-1 are selected to describe the difference between the baseline condition of the affected environment and the condition of the environment after implementation of the proposed action.

Table 1-1. Issues Identified for Detailed Analysis in this EA.

ISSUE #	ISSUE STATEMENT	IMPACT INDICATOR
Issue 1	How would dust from construction and operation of the proposed Las Cruces Border Patrol Station (BPS) impact air quality?	Tons Per Year (TPY)
Issue 2	How would ground-disturbing activities from the BPS (construction, operation, maintenance) activities potentially impact vegetation resources?	Acres
Issue 3	How would ground-disturbing activities from the BPS (construction, operation, maintenance) activities potentially impact wildlife habitat?	Acres

The following potential issues were evaluated and are not discussed in further detail in this Environmental Assessment (EA) for the reasons described in Table 1-2. The impacts of the Proposed Action were considered to either not be significant or to be sufficiently reduced through design features.

Table 1-2. Resources and Resource Uses Not Significantly Impacted by the Proposed Action.

Non-Issue Statement	Rationale
How would Border Patrol Station (BPS) construction, operation, and maintenance activities impact hazardous materials?	Eliminated from detailed analysis because the impact from hazardous materials is low. Best management practices (BMPs) will be in place during construction and operation to reduce the possibility of any sort of fuel or oil leaks. No structures containing hazardous building materials are present on site. In addition, all equipment used would be well maintained and functioning properly, which will also reduce the risk of inadvertent discharge of hazardous materials to the environment.
How would BPS construction, operation, and maintenance activities impact water resources?	Eliminated from detailed analysis due to design features and BMPs that would reduce impacts to water resources. A drainage basin is proposed on site which would help decrease stormwater flow off the site during rain events. A general construction stormwater permit would be obtained prior to construction and would require approval of a site-specific stormwater pollution prevention plan. In addition, no jurisdictional waterbodies were identified at the project location during the waters of the United States (WOTUS) survey.
How would BPS construction, operation, and maintenance activities impact the soil and mineral resources?	Eliminated from detailed analysis because impact to soils and minerals will be low. The Proposed Action will result in small, localized impact to regionally common soils and minerals. In addition, BMPs will be in place to reduce impacts.
How would BPS construction, operation, and maintenance impact traffic?	Eliminated from detailed analysis because impact to traffic would be low. Construction of the BPS or any new associated road would not require shutting down any major existing roadway. Additionally, the changes in traffic levels would not be expected to exceed current roadway capacity. If necessary, road improvements, such as acceleration and deceleration lanes, would be designed and constructed at facility entrances to maintain roadway performance and traffic safety.
How would BPS construction, operation, and maintenance impact the integrity of cultural sites?	Section 106 consultation was completed with New Mexico SHPO on July 27, 2026. Design features would be implemented to offset any potential adverse impacts to cultural resources. This would include construction contract language that identifies a process for unanticipated archaeological sites or human burials that may be discovered during construction.
How would BPS construction, operation, and maintenance impact paleontological resources?	The Proposed Action is located in the Plio-Pleistocene (3.6-0.8 MYA) Camp Rice Formation geologic unit. Due to the consistent preservation and recovery of scientifically important vertebrate paleontological resources within the wider Camp Rice Formation, it is rated Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 4 (High). A pedestrian survey was conducted in July 2026 and recorded two instances of weathered fossil material. Due to these finds, other known fossil localities to the northwest and south, and the overall high potential for paleontological resources to be in the subsurface in the area of the proposed action, design features will be put in place to reduce potential impacts below the level of

	significance. These will include conducting a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP), unanticipated resource discovery plan, and having continuous monitoring by a qualified and BLM-permitted paleontological consultant for construction and other times of ground disturbance impacting the Camp Rice Formation.
How would BPS construction, operation, and maintenance impact utilities?	Eliminated from detailed analysis because impact to utilities would be low. Energy-saving design features would help offset potential increases in power demand from the larger size of the BPS. Assuming that the average daily consumptive use of potable water per person is 50 gallons per day while at work, the potential capacity of approximately 200 agents and staff would increase daily demand of potable water to approximately 10,000 gallons per day, which is 0.0365 percent of the annual water available from the Las Cruces Utilities wells. The proposed BPS would also not exceed the capacity of the city's sanitary sewer treatment plants, stormwater drainage, communications systems, or landfills.
How would ground-disturbing activities from the BPS construction and operation impact Federally endangered, and threatened species?	There are five endangered, threatened, and proposed species with the potential to be present within the project area, none of which were observed or found to have suitable habitat present during the May 2026 biological resources survey. This issue is eliminated from detailed analysis because no federally threatened or endangered species or critical habitat is present.
How will BPS construction, operation, and maintenance affect BLM Sensitive Species and New Mexico state-listed special status fauna species?	During the May 2026 biological survey, biologists did not observe any New Mexico state-listed species, BLM special-status species, or other special-status species identified as having potential to occur within or near the project Site. No individuals, active nests, dens, burrows, roosts, rare plants, or other direct evidence of use by these species were documented. Based on the Chihuahuan Desert shrub/scrub habitat present, sandy to gravelly upland soils, ephemeral drainage features, lack of perennial surface water or dense riparian vegetation, and absence of species-specific habitat features, the potential for state-listed and other special-status species to occur within the Site is considered low to marginal and would likely be limited to transient foraging, dispersal, or incidental use by mobile species. Therefore, BLM Sensitive Species and New Mexico state-listed special status fauna species are eliminated from further detailed analysis.
How will BPS construction, operation, and maintenance affect nesting migratory birds?	BMPs would be in place to protect migratory birds. Measures would be taken to prevent birds from nesting within construction equipment and the facility, including removal of inactive nests. Active nests would be avoided. Implementation of project design features would minimize potential disturbance to nesting migratory birds and therefore is eliminated from detailed analysis.
How would BPS construction, operation, and maintenance affect noise levels?	Design features and BMP implementation would reduce the impact of noise to nearby sensitive receptors. Increased noise levels could result from helicopter activities, vehicle operations, vehicle maintenance, equipment operation, and animal activities. Helicopters flying overhead at 1,000 feet above ground level can generate noise with a sound exposure level of up to 82 dBA. The 82 dBA noise environment is similar to the ambient noise environment of a large city. Individual pieces of equipment would produce noise levels between 60 and 94 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. Any noise generated would decrease with increasing distance from the construction activities, and these noise levels would attenuate to 76 dBA at approximately 250 feet from the source. To reduce noise impacts on receptors inside the new Las Cruces BPS, sound insulation design features could be implemented such as well-sealed windows and doors, thicker or heavier windows and doors, secondary doors, and the use of sound-insulating materials.

	To reduce noise impacts on receptors outside of the new Las Cruces BPS, CBP would require the contractor to make the maximum use of low-noise emission products, as certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Blasting or use of explosives would not be permitted without written permission from the Contracting Officer, and then only during designated times. Construction activities would be kept under surveillance and controlled to minimize noise.
How would BPS construction, operation, and maintenance impact human health and safety?	The Proposed Action would be conducted in a manner to avoid creating any hazards to public health and safety and in accordance with all applicate state and federal regulations. A project-specific Health and Safety Plan, Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan and emergency response procedures would be implemented to address potential incidents, including injuries, construction emergencies, fires, and extreme weather.
How would BPS construction, operation, and maintenance activities impact land use?	Eliminated from detailed analysis because the potential impact is low. BLM would grant a right of way to CBP or withdraw the parcel for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the new BPS. The parcel would remain as federal lands, resulting in no impact.
How would BPS construction, operation, and maintenance activities impact the socioeconomics within Doña Ana County?	Construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Action would not result in major impacts on socioeconomics. Most of the agents working in the Las Cruces AOR live within Doña Ana County. The anticipated increase in agents and staff would also include family members moving to these areas. There is adequate housing in Doña Ana County to support the additional staff. Substantial population increases during construction would not be expected to occur because construction workers would likely be existing residents. Therefore, this is eliminated from detailed analysis because the construction workforce and the CBP agent workforce would not result in a significant population growth in Doña Ana County.
How would BPS construction, operation, and maintenance activities impact visual resources?	Eliminated from detailed analysis due to design features and BMPs that would reduce impacts to visual resources. Contrast Rating Sheets were completed from Key Observation Points and design features were included. (**APPENDIX** D) Furthermore, the proposed project falls within the VRM Class IV area. VRM Class IV objectives include: The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer's attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements. The proposed project will have moderate change to the landscape, but this is allowed within VRM Class IV, and every attempt is being made with design features to minimize the impacts.

CHAPTER 2. ALTERNATIVES

This chapter describes the Proposed Action and alternatives that are analyzed in **Chapter 3**.

2.1. Proposed Action

U. S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a new Border Patrol Station (BPS) near Las Cruces, New Mexico (See Figure 1). Constructing a new BPS would accommodate existing staff and the increase in agent force that is expected in support of the National Border Patrol Strategy. By providing additional space and facilities, the proposed new station would substantially enhance the overall safety and efficiency of current and future operations within the USBP Las Cruces's AOR.

The total projected space needed to accommodate existing staff, agents and to allow for the additional requested enforcement flexibility would be a total gross building area of 106,642 square feet (sf) (approximately 2.44 acres). Constructed on the approximate 2.44 acres would be a 44,266 sf (approximately 1 acre) main building, a 59,297 sf (approximately 1 acre) auxiliary support space, and 1,014 sf (0.023 acres) for enclosed parking.

2.1.1. Project Requirements

Site selection prioritizes adequate size, proper location, ease of access, proximity to operational area, access to required utilities, and compliance with NEPA requirements. Site selection criteria, derived from the USBP Facilities Design Guide, include the following:

1. *Adequate Size* - The station campus would be of adequate size, sufficient to support initial and anticipated future programmed functions, allow for expanded parking, establish necessary buffer zones for special initiatives, and accommodate future facility expansion.

2. *Proper Location* - The station location must not compromise the security and safety of the station and agents. A generally accepted guideline is to locate the station at least one mile from the International Land Border to prevent visual monitoring by foreign nationals and to ensure agents are not within rifle range. Parcels considered would be large enough in size and sufficient to ensure that expansion can take place in the future and that the site would be usable for decades.

3. *Ease of Access* - The station requires multiple entry points for emergency egress, optimal access for emergency response services, close access to highways, and avoidance of heavily congested roadways or other obstructions.

4. *Area of Operation* - The Las Cruces BPS must be within the Las Cruces area of operation.

5. *Utility Easements* – Potential real estate coordination might be required to support utilities. A geotechnical study shall be included in the preliminary real estate actions (prior to purchase). The project could require the establishment of new utility easements to ensure proper access and infrastructure connections.

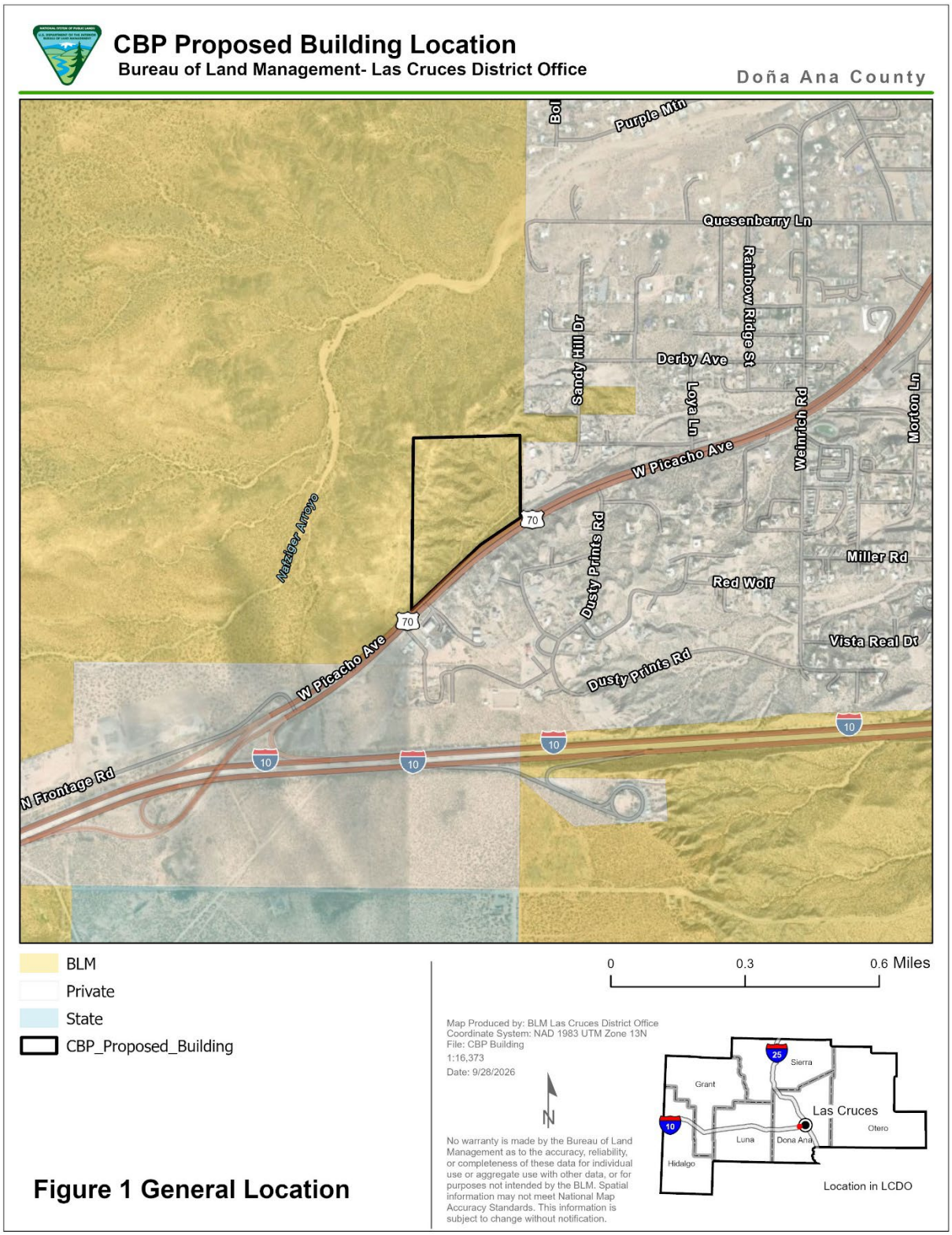


Figure 1 General Location

The main building space would include the following required spaces:

Administration offices, break areas, detention facilities, fitness areas, male and female locker rooms, mechanical/electrical/plumbing equipment space, and storage.

Auxiliary support space would include:

- a vehicle maintenance facility with six bays
- canine patrol facilities for 18 dogs with six kennels
- all-terrain vehicle (ATV)/motorcycle patrol storage for 19 vehicles
- a helipad
- a Command and Control (C2)-command/tactical control/operations center with two consoles
- emergency generators
- a fuel island with two tanks (gasoline/diesel)
- a car wash with two bays,
- an impound lot
- a communication tower
- electronic systems (physical access control systems, closed-circuit video surveillance, security systems, and fire systems). Covered canopies would be provided for 82 vehicles.

Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative is located north of and adjacent to W. Picacho Avenue (U.S Highway 70). The parcel is on public land administered by the BLM Las Cruces District Office and is approximately 44 acres in size. The site has varying topography with vegetation consisting mostly of shrubs and low-lying grasslands. The property is not designated as within a 100-year floodplain, exhibiting minimal chance of flooding. The parcel is within the area of operations with proximity to an airport and major highways, and access to power and water. The site does not currently have access to sewer and gas.

2.1.2 Design Features

Nesting Bird

If the applicant's construction or maintenance activities occur during the migratory bird nesting season (March 1 through September 15), surveys should be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to scheduled activity to determine if active nests are present within the area of impact.

Surveys should be conducted no more than five days prior to the scheduled activity.

- If active nests or breeding behavior (e.g., courtship, nest building, territorial defense, etc.) are detected during these surveys, no vegetation removal activities should be conducted until nestlings have fledged, the nest fails, or breeding behaviors are no longer observed.

- If the activity must occur, establish a buffer zone around the nest and prohibit all activities within the buffer zone until nestlings have fledged and left the nest area. Standard migratory bird nesting buffers should be 50 feet.

- If the nesting species is ESA Listed, a BLM Special Status Species, or raptor, please coordinate with a biologist from BLM LCDO for more specific guidance.

- If burrowing owls are present or suspected on the project site, please follow the NMDOW Guidelines at: https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/download/burrowing-owl-surveys-and-mitigation-2007/?wpdmdl=43123&refresh=6a8ca21ddeefb178760143

Paleontology

- **Paleontological Resource Discovery:** The operator shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The operator shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The operator may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the operator. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

- **Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) for Paleontological Resources:** A qualified paleontologist holding a BLM New Mexico Paleontological Resource Use Permit shall deliver a training program to the project crew prior to the onset of ground disturbance. The program will, at minimum, communicate the laws and regulations under which paleontological and scientific resources are managed, the potential paleontological resources found in the project area, and the requirements and procedures for the inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources during construction.

- **Paleontological Resource Monitoring:** A qualified paleontologist holding a BLM New Mexico Paleontological Resource Use Permit is required to continuously monitor the ground disturbing activity within the authorized area. The monitoring would only occur during construction, operations, and maintenance activities that are within the Camp Rice Formation, which are identified in the attached map. Previously monitored material used as fill may be exempt from additional monitoring. Monitoring of the activity will include a detailed account of the exposed subsurface, supplemented by photographs. Per BLM

policy and permit requirements, a report on the results of the paleontological monitoring (to include applicable GIS data) shall be submitted to the BLM Paleontologist for review upon completion of the activity.

Visual Resources

- Reseed and revegetate the edge of the construction area with random vegetation clumps to break up horizontal line.
- Postconstruction, smooth and contour earthwork area to blend in with the landscape.
- When feasible, paint building to match surrounding landscape.
- Install tan privacy slits in chain-link fence.
- Within the project area, identify locations of facilities that hides the buildings.
- When feasible, install hoods on outdoor lightning.
- When feasible use natural materials, like boulders and trees for landscaping and barriers.
- Include VRM specialist in future design conversations.

2.2. No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would preclude the construction, operation, and maintenance of a new BPS in Las Cruces. USBP would not have a BPS to accommodate an increase in personnel to support the mission of Las Cruces BPS.

The No Action Alternative does not satisfy CBP's purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative is carried forward for analysis in the EA to provide a comparison of baseline conditions to the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative reflects the status quo and serves as a benchmark against which effects of the Proposed Action can be evaluated.

CHAPTER 3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

This section of the EA describes the natural and human environment that exists within the project area, and the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative outlined in Chapter 2 of this document.

The impact analysis presented in this EA is based upon existing regulatory standards, scientific and environmental knowledge, and best professional opinions. Some topics are limited in scope due to the lack of direct effect from the proposed project on the resource.

Impacts (consequence or effect) can be either beneficial or adverse and can be either directly related to the action or indirectly caused by the action. This also includes ecological (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures, and function of affected ecosystems), aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic (such as the effects on employment), social, and health effects.

3.1. Issue 1: How would dust from construction and operation of the proposed Las Cruces BPS impact air quality?

3.1.1. Methodology and Assumptions

Air quality is defined by the concentration of various pollutants in the atmosphere. Under the Clean Air Act (CAA) (42 U.S.C.), the six pollutants defining air quality, called "criteria pollutants," include carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur oxide (SO), nitrogen oxide (NO), volatile organic compounds (VOC), and suspended particulate matter (PM) (measured less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter [PM_{10}] and less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter [$PM_{2.5}$]). Impacts from dust would be measured using the PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ criteria.

Under the CAA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (40 CFR Part 50) for criteria pollutants. Areas that are and have historically been in compliance with the NAAQS or have not been evaluated for NAAQS compliance are designated as attainment areas. Areas that violate a NAAQS are designated as nonattainment areas. Areas that have transitioned from nonattainment to attainment are designated as maintenance areas and are required to adhere to maintenance plans to ensure continued attainment.

The USEPA General Conformity Rule applies to federal actions occurring in nonattainment or maintenance areas and a general conformity determination is required when the total direct and indirect emissions of nonattainment and maintenance criteria pollutants (or their precursors) exceed specified thresholds. The emissions thresholds that trigger requirements for a conformity analysis are called *de minimis* levels. *De minimis* levels (in tons per year [tpy]) vary by pollutant and also depend on the severity of the nonattainment status for the area in question (40 CFR Part 93.153). The General Conformity Rule does not apply to federal actions occurring in attainment areas.

3.1.2. Affected Environment

USEPA Region 6 and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) regulate air quality in New Mexico. The project area is in Doña Ana County, New Mexico, which is within the El Paso-Las Cruces-Alamogordo Interstate Air Quality Control Region (40 CFR § 81.082). The USEPA has designated Doña Ana County as in attainment for all criteria pollutants (USEPA 2018). As such, the General Conformity Rule is not applicable to emissions of criteria pollutants in the county.

3.1.3. Environmental Effects

For this EA, a comparative air quality analysis was performed to estimate the effects on air quality and climate change that would result from the Proposed Action based on previously analyzed effects of similar DHS actions. Effects on air quality are evaluated by comparing the annual net change in emissions for each criteria pollutant against the 250 tpy Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) major source threshold, as defined by USEPA, for attainment pollutants except for lead. The PSD thresholds do not denote a significant impact; however, they do provide a threshold to identify actions that have insignificant impacts on air quality. For

actual operations and regulatory purposes, the PSD major source thresholds only apply to stationary sources; however, they are applied in this EA to both stationary and mobile sources as a surrogate indicator of significance in an attainment area. If a proposed action's emissions are below these threshold levels, the action's impacts on air quality are presumed to be negligible to minor. Impacts on air quality would be significant if a proposed action were to exceed the General Conformity Rule de minimis level for nonattainment pollutants.

3.1.3.1. *Effects of the Proposed Action*

Short-term impacts on air quality would occur from dust during construction of the Las Cruces BPS and ancillary support facilities. During the construction period, dust particles in the air would be directly produced from operation of heavy construction equipment, heavy duty diesel vehicles hauling demolition debris and construction materials to and from the project area, workers commuting daily to and from the project area, and ground disturbance. All such emissions would be temporary in nature and produced only when construction activities are occurring. Long-term impacts on air quality would occur from operation and maintenance of the new BPS and ancillary support facilities. Particulate matter air emissions would be directly produced from the additional personnel commuting to and from the BPS daily. Fugitive dust (PM suspended in the air primarily from soil that has been disturbed by wind or other activities) emissions would be greatest during initial site preparation and site grading activities and would vary from day to day depending on the work phase, level of activity, and prevailing weather conditions.

Table 3-1 provides the estimated annual net air emissions that would result from construction of the Proposed Action. Detailed emissions calculations are included in **Appendix B**. Annual emissions also would not exceed the PSD threshold PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$. Emissions for PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ would also be significantly less than the county level data of 4,843 tpy and 1,191 tpy, respectively (USEPA 2020). Therefore, the dust from the Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts on air quality.

Table 3-1. Estimated Net Annual Air Emissions from the Proposed Action

Year	**PM_{10} (tpy)**	**$PM_{2.5}$ (tpy)**
2020 Doña Ana County Data	4,843	1,191
Project Emissions	40	4
Applicable PSD threshold	250	250
Exceeds threshold?	**No**	**No**

Construction activities would incorporate best management practices (BMPs) and environmental control measures to control and minimize fugitive dust emissions, in accordance with New Mexico Administrative Code Rule §20.2.23. In addition, work vehicles would be well-maintained and use diesel particulate filters to reduce emissions of criteria pollutants. These BMPs and environmental control measures would reduce particulate matter emissions from a

construction site by approximately 50 percent. Project phasing (e.g., clearing and grading specific areas prior to construction) would further reduce particulate matter emissions.

3.1.3.2. *Effects of the No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not occur, and existing air quality would remain unchanged. No significant air quality effects would occur under the No Action Alternative.

3.2. Issue 2: How would ground-disturbing activities from the BPS (construction, operation, maintenance) activities potentially impact vegetation resources?

3.2.1. Methodology and Assumptions

Vegetation is defined as the collective plant cover and recurring assemblages of species that interact within the local environment. Ecosystems and their vegetation can be analyzed according to the USEPA. Protected plant species are defined as those listed as threatened, endangered, or proposed or candidate for listing by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Federal species of concern are not protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA); however, these species could become listed and therefore are given consideration when addressing impacts of an action on biological resources.

Effects on vegetation are measured by the potential for disruption or improvement of existing levels of biodiversity, communities, or populations. Impacts are considered significant if they threaten the long-term viability of a species or result in the substantial loss of a sensitive community that could not be offset or otherwise compensated. Vegetation and habitat conditions observed at the Proposed Action were evaluated based on a combination of publicly available data and biological surveys.

3.2.2. Affected Environment

The proposed site for the new BPS is in the Chihuahuan Deserts Ecoregion of New Mexico; a varied landscape distinguished from other hot deserts in the Southwest by its higher elevation and summer-dominant rainfall (USGS 2012). The Chihuahuan Desert Ecoregion encompasses approximately 160 million acres in total and covers roughly 17 million acres specifically within New Mexico, where it spans the southern third of the state. This ecoregion supports a diverse mosaic of habitats such as desert scrublands, desert grasslands, ephemeral wetlands, riparian corridors, and mountain woodlands (NMSWAP 2026). The Chihuahuan Desert supports approximately 3,500 plant species, including nearly a quarter of the world's cactus species (NPS 2026).

The dominant vegetation near Las Cruces, New Mexico, consists of desert grasslands and Chihuahuan Desert scrub. This landscape is historically dominated by black grama (*Bouteloua eriopoda*) and blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*). However, due to overgrazing and climate shifts, much of this ecoregion has transitioned into shrublands dominated by honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) and creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), with scattered patches of desert grassland species (USDA ARS 2026). Other vegetation common to specific local soil profiles and

landforms includes tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*), which prefers fine-loamy soils of lower piedmont slopes, and fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), which frequently establishes alongside mesquite in floodplains. Acacia species typically prefer woody arroyos and rocky foothills. Additionally, grass communities in this region consist of gyp grama (*Bouteloua breviseta*) and alkali sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*). Other plant species in this area include soaptree yucca (*Yucca elata*) and succulents such as *Opuntia*, *Echinocactus*, and *Ferocactus* species interspersed between the shrubs (USEPA 2006).

Vegetation communities are summarized in **Table 3-2** as interpreted from the National Land Cover Database (NLCD). The NLCD delivers standardized, high-resolution land cover data across the United States to assist in understanding landscape-level changes and integrates spatial data into land management and resource planning (NLCD 2026).

Table 3-2. Vegetation Communities with the Project Area

Habitat Type	Presence and Percent Cover	Description
Shrub/scrub	Yes – 95%	Areas dominated by shrubs; less than 5 meters tall with shrub canopy typically greater than 20% of total vegetation. This class includes true shrubs, young trees in an early successional stage or trees stunted from environmental conditions. In the Las Cruces region, this habitat type could include species such as creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata)*, honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), and tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*) with succulents interspersed.
Barren	Yes – 3%	Areas of bedrock, desert pavement, scarps, talus, slides, volcanic material, glacial debris, sand dunes, strip mines, gravel pits, and other accumulations of earthen material. Generally, vegetation accounts for less than 15% of total cover. In the Las Cruces region, barren habitat could include the rocky limestone slopes, volcanic fields, vertical dirt or rock arroyo banks, and active wind-blown sand dunes.
Low Intensity Development	Yes – 1%	Areas with a mixture of constructed materials and vegetation. Impervious surfaces account for 20% to 49% percent of total cover.
Medium Intensity Development	No	Areas with a mixture of constructed materials and vegetation. Impervious surfaces account for 50% to 79% of the total cover.
Developed Open Space	Yes – 1%	Areas with a mixture of some constructed materials, but mostly vegetation in the form of lawn grasses. Impervious surfaces account for less than 20% of total cover. These areas most commonly include large-lot single-family housing units, parks, golf courses, and vegetation planted in developed settings for recreation, erosion control, or aesthetic purposes.

Vegetation observed during the May 6, 2026, biological survey within the Proposed Action consisted of a combination of the following species listed below in **Table 3-3**.

Table 3-3. Vegetation Observed During the Natural Resource Survey

Common Name	Scientific Name	Form
Arizona barrel cactus	*Ferocactus wislizeni*	Cactus
Blue grama	*Bouteloua gracilis*	Grass
Candelabrum cactus	*Cylindropuntia imbricata*	Cactus
Claw of thorns	*Koeberlinia spinosa*	Shrub
Creosote bush	*Larrea tridentata*	Shrub
Feather plume	*Dalea formosa*	Forb
Honey mesquite	*Prosopis glandulosa*	Shrub/Tree
Mariola	*Parthenium incanum*	Forb
Purple pricklypear	*Opuntia macrocentra*	Cactus
Soaptree yucca	*Yucca elata*	Succulent/Forb

3.2.3. Environmental Effects

3.2.3.1. *Effects of the Proposed Action*

The Proposed Action would result in 2.44 acres of permanent impacts and up to 25.58 acres of temporary impacts to primarily scrub and shrub habitat characterized by desert grasslands and Chihuahuan Desert scrub.

Direct, permanent impacts would occur primarily from clearing and grading activities associated with construction of the proposed BPS and supporting infrastructure.

Direct, temporary impacts would result from construction-related activities such as equipment staging, material storage, grading, and machinery movement.

Indirect, temporary impacts during construction could include increased dust generation, soil compaction, erosion potential, and disturbances associated with heavy equipment operations. Negligible to minor impacts may also occur to vegetation due to general foot traffic of planned equestrian and canine forces.

Impacts would result from the vegetation removal of shrubs, which could support nesting and foraging cover for local wildlife. Furthermore, the removal of woody vegetation, such as honey mesquite and creosote bush, could result in a higher localized erosion risk and reduced soil stability due to the loss of established root systems. Clearing this native vegetation permanently changes the shrub/scrub habitat into a developed, barren area, which could result in dust generation, elevated soil surface temperatures, and a long-term loss of soil nutrients.

Impacts on vegetative communities would be minimized through implementation of best management practices (BMPs) (see **Appendix C**), including erosion-control measures (e.g., silt fences), dust suppression, and revegetation of temporarily disturbed areas. In addition, CBP would rehabilitate temporarily disturbed areas using native vegetation and seed mixes, or through the distribution of organic and geological materials to promote natural revegetation. These measures would also minimize the potential for establishment of non-native and invasive species within disturbed areas. Furthermore, adherence to the BMPs would prevent the localized degradation of plant diversity and prevent the spread of non-native invasive species. Routine maintenance of the facility following construction would further limit the establishment and spread of non-native and invasive species within the maintained operational footprint.

Vegetation communities within the project area are common locally and regionally. Vegetation surveys conducted on May 6, 2026, did not identify federally listed or state-listed sensitive special-status plant species. Therefore, vegetation removal would not result in a substantial loss of regional biodiversity or a measurable reduction in native plant community diversity. Through implementation of BMPs and standard vegetation protection protocols, impacts associated with invasive species would be negligible. Therefore, impacts on vegetation under the Proposed Action would result in long- and short-term, minor to moderate, impacts.

3.2.3.2. *Effects of the No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, construction, operation, and maintenance of the new BPS near Las Cruces, New Mexico, would not occur. As a result, USBP would not develop additional facilities to accommodate increased personnel needed to support the Las Cruces BPS mission. Because no ground disturbance or vegetation clearing would occur under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts on vegetation communities.

3.3. Issue 3: How would ground-disturbing activities from the BPS (construction, operation, maintenance) activities potentially impact wildlife habitat?

3.3.1. Methodology and Assumptions

Wildlife is defined as the collective animal life in a specific region or environment. Terrestrial and aquatic wildlife resources include native or naturalized animals and the habitats in which they exist. Similar to vegetation, wildlife populations can be analyzed within the context of ecoregions defined by the USEPA, which provide the necessary habitat structures and environmental conditions for diverse species assemblages. Protected wildlife species include those formally listed as threatened or endangered, as well as proposed or candidate species for listing, by USFWS or NMDW.

Sensitive habitats and ecological features are vital to maintain regional biodiversity and supporting the life cycle requirements of various fauna. This includes areas designated by USFWS as critical habitat under the ESA, as well as sensitive ecological areas identified by state or federal authorities. Furthermore, many native avian species receive specific legal protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Effects on wildlife are measured by the potential for disruption or improvement of existing levels of biodiversity, communities, or populations. Impacts are considered significant if they threaten the long-term viability of a species or result in the substantial loss of a sensitive community that could not be offset or otherwise compensated. Wildlife observed at the Proposed Action from Picacho Avenue that was used to evaluate impacts was based on a combination of publicly available data and biological surveys. For effect on public lands north of US-70, publicly available data and survey data were used to evaluate wildlife habitat.

3.3.2. Affected Environment

The Proposed Action is within the Chihuahuan Deserts Ecoregion of New Mexico where desert shrubland, scrubland, and grasslands habitats are found. This region typically supports an abundant and diverse wildlife population due to its high variety of plant structures and unique microclimates. Birds, small mammals, and some reptiles use the area near Las Cruces for foraging, nesting, seasonal migration, thermal regulation, and structural protection from predators. This ecoregion supports a high degree of wildlife diversity, which includes more than 300 bird species, 120 mammal species, and 150 species of reptiles and amphibians (CBD 2024).

Bird species often found within the region include the black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), which nests in sparse desert scrub, along with the greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) and Gambel's quail (*Callipepla gambelii*), which use shrub understories for foraging. Additionally, the loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) uses woody shrubs such as honey mesquite for hunting perches. Additionally, raptors such as the Swainson’s hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) hunt across the flat alluvial basin.

Common mammals include the black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*) and desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), which use native grasses and shrub canopies to hide from predation. Merriam’s kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami*) digs burrow systems beneath fine-loamy and sandy soils. Additionally, carnivores such as the coyote (*Canis latrans*) and kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*) hunt within the open grasslands, while desert mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus crooki*) are found along rocky arroyos and foothills.

Reptiles and amphibians often found in this region include the western diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*), which hunts small rodents within dense shrubs and the Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*), which eats native harvester ant colonies across open, sandy patches. Additional species common to this region are the common lesser earless lizard (*Holbrookia maculata*), desert grassland whiptail (*Aspidoscelis uniparens*), and Couch’s spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus couchii*).

In May 2026, DAWSON reviewed publicly available data from iNaturalist and eBird to identify species occurrences within a 1 mile-radius of the proposed sites. Documented occurrences on iNaturalist include the house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*), leafhopper species (Family *Cicadellidae*), black witch moth (*Ascalapha odorata*), rough harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex rugosus*), mantis species (Genus *Stagomantis*), Arabesque orbweaver spider (*Neoscona arabesca*), western spotted orb weaver spider (*Neoscona oaxacensis*), deduced

graphic moth (*Bulia deducta*), beetle species (*Calosoma peregrinator*), and the small milkweed bug (*Lygaeus kalmii*) (iNaturalist 2026).

The Las Cruces KOA Pond is approximately 0.7 miles east of the BLM Property from Picacho Ave and is an identified avian hotspot on eBird. Observational data on eBird in 2026 include the following species: white-winged dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), curved-bill thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), great-tailed grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*), Mexican duck (*Anas diazi*), Eurasian collared-dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), Western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), northern rough-winged swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*), Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), ladder-backed woodpecker (*Dryobates scalaris*), lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*), and white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) (eBird 2026).

The biological survey team observed limited wildlife throughout the Proposed Action location during the May 6, 2026, field survey. Species detected within or near the project site included round-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma modestum*), verdin, house finch, ladder-backed woodpecker, and American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). The limited number of wildlife observations is attributable to survey timing and field conditions, as the survey was conducted during the heat of the day and under windy conditions, when wildlife activity and detectability are often reduced.

3.3.3. Environmental Effects

3.3.3.1. *Effects of the Proposed Action*

The Proposed Action would result in 2.44 acres of permanent impacts and up to 25.58 acres of temporary impacts to primarily scrub and shrub habitat characterized by desert grasslands and Chihuahuan Desert scrub, which have the potential to support associated wildlife.

Direct, permanent operation impacts include habitat loss, new lighting, and infrastructure hazards from the new BPS. Soil disturbance from construction and the operation of heavy equipment could impact less mobile individuals such as lizards, snakes, and ground-dwelling species such as mice and rats. During vegetation clearing, wildlife species that could use the vegetative areas on a transient basis would likely move to larger tracts of suitable adjacent habitat. While the loss of habitat could also affect burrows, nests, coverage for protection, and foraging habitats, these impacts would be minimal in relation to total population size and would not result in long-term effects on the sustainability of any wildlife species. To mitigate these impacts, disturbed areas would be revegetated with a mixture of nursery plantings or native plant seeds. Given that primarily desert scrub and shrub habitat is both locally and regionally common, the permanent loss of this habitat would have negligible impacts on wildlife species in the region.

Indirect, temporary construction impacts would include noise, dust, and increased human activity such as vehicle and heavy equipment operation.

The new BPS would require retention ponds which could provide permanent benefits to some wildlife species, in particular amphibians, reptiles, birds, and bats. Wading and migratory birds would likely use the retention pond for foraging once amphibian, reptilian, fish, and/or crustacean populations become established, especially since there is an avian hotspot identified near the proposed site as previously mentioned (eBird 2026).

Overall, the Proposed Action would result in predominantly short-term and long-term negligible, adverse impacts to wildlife habitat within the project area.

Construction-related wildlife habitat impacts would be limited to short term disturbance and temporary habitat displacement during building construction.

These effects would be minimized through implementation of BMPs, including revegetation, lighting controls, migratory bird surveys, and noise reduction measures.

In addition, the abundance of similar shrub and scrub habitats within the 44-acre project area, wildlife species displaced by construction activities and the BPS, would likely relocate to the adjacent suitable habitat without substantial effects on local populations or long-term species sustainability

Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, construction, operation, and maintenance of the new BPS near Las Cruces, New Mexico, would not occur. As a result, USBP would not develop additional facilities to accommodate increased personnel in support of the Las Cruces BPS mission. Because no ground disturbance, vegetation clearing, or infrastructure development would occur, there would be no impacts on wildlife communities or habitat.

CHAPTER 4. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

4.1. Consultation and Coordination

4.1.1. Consultation and Agency Coordination

Consultation and coordination with local, state, and federal agencies and federally recognized tribes began on March 4, 2026. Coordination was conducted with the following agencies and federally recognized tribes:

- U.S. Department of the Interior
  - Bureau of Land Management - Las Cruces District Office
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 6
- Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Fort Sill Apache Tribe
- Comanche Nation
- Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation
- White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Reservation
- New Mexico Environmental Department
- New Mexico Department of Transportation
- New Mexico Game and Fish Department
- New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office

4.2. Public Involvement

As part of the public comment scoping process, letters to stakeholders were sent on March 4, 2026. The comment period closed on April 4, 2026. CBP received a total of 70 comments during the comment period. All comments provided were received via email to the NEPA BPAM email inbox. Comments received were related to the following themes: proximity to school campuses and neighborhoods, use of public land, and impacts on water quality and wildlife. Of the comments, 10 were in favor of one or more of the proposed locations, 47 were opposed, and 10 were neither in favor nor opposed. Additional details from the public involvement process can be found in **Appendix A**.

CHAPTER 5. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A:

Public Involvement

Lac Cruces Proposed New Border Patrol Station
Public Scoping Report

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1. Introduction and Background

The United States (U.S.) Customs and Border Protection (CBP) proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a new Border Patrol Station (BPS) near Las Cruces, New Mexico. A larger station is needed to accommodate the increasing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) agent force and to provide a safe and efficient working environment for the agents and support staff. The construction of this facility will support the increased staffing and mission of Las Cruces BPS. The proposed new station would be constructed to accommodate both existing staff and the anticipated increase in agent force in support of the National Border Patrol Strategy to gain and maintain effective control of the U.S. borders. By providing additional space and facilities, the proposed new station would substantially enhance the overall safety and efficiency of current and future operations within the USBP Las Cruces Station's Area of Responsibility (AOR).

1.1 Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to summarize the input received during the public scoping process that will be considered during the drafting of the Environmental Assessment. It does not provide responses to the comments.

2. Public Comment Process

As part of the public comment scoping process, letters to stakeholders were sent on March 4, 2026. The comment period closed on April 4, 2026.

2.1 Public Feedback Review

To date, all comments received by CBP have been reviewed. CBP received a total of 70 comments during the comment period. All comments provided were received via email to the NEPA BPAM email inbox.

Comments received were related to the following themes: proximity to school campuses and neighborhoods, use of public land, and impacts on water quality and wildlife. Of the comments, 10 were in favor of one or more of the proposed locations, 47 were opposed, and 10 were neither in favor nor opposed.

3. Summary of Public Feedback

3.1 Comment Themes

The following summarizes recurring themes provided by the public during the comment period.

Proximity to School: Most of the comments received that were opposed to the project were mainly opposed to the proximity of one of the proposed locations to a public school. It was requested that the site be relocated to a remote location, away from neighborhoods and schools.

Public Land: Some of the responses received opposed the use of public land for the proposed site. It was requested that the site be relocated to an industrial area.

Environmental Impacts: Some of the responses received expressed concerns on the local environment. These concerns included wildlife, groundwater impacts, and water usage. Additional information was received by the Environmental Protection Agency, New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, New Mexico Environment Division, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and Las Cruces Public Works for utilization in the Environmental Assessment process.

4. Public Comment Scoping Next Steps

The solicitation of stakeholder and public input on potential environmental impacts is an essential step in being able to draft the Environmental Assessment. Other possible impacts to the environment, culture, commerce, and quality of life will also be taken into consideration during the planning and construction process. The Environmental Assessment will incorporate information received during the public comment period, as well as environmental surveys completed within the project area. The Environmental Assessment will include the comments received and how they were addressed. The Environmental Assessment will be available to the public through CBP.gov upon completion.

APPENDIX B:

Air Calculations

Worksheet in this Workbook:

Fugitive Estimates particulate emissions from construction and demolition activities including earthmoving, vehicle traffic, and windblown dust.

EPA National Emissions Inventory Summarizes total emissions for the Dona Ana County, New Mexico National Emissions Inventory for 2020, to be used to compare the Proposed Action to regional emissions.

Comparisions to local thresholds of significance and to General Conformity de minimimis thresholds (if applicable) are made in the text.

Air Emissions for Las Cruces BPS

Construction Emissions	**NO_x (tons)**	**VOC (tons)**	**CO (tons)**	**SO_2 (tons)**	**PM_{10} (tons)**	**$PM_{2.5}$ (tons)**
Fugitive Dust	-	-	-	-	40.300	4.030
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	***40.30***	***4.03***

Note: Total $PM_{10/2.5}$ fugitive dust emissions are assuming USEPA 50% control efficiencies.

Since future year budgets were not readily available, actual 2020 air emissions inventories for the county was used as an approximation of the regional inventory. Because the Proposed Action is several orders of magnitude below significance, the conclusion would be the same, regardless of whether future year budget data set were used.

Dona Ana County, New Mexico Regional Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions

	Point and Area Sources Combined	
Year	**PM_{10} (tpy)**	**$PM_{2.5}$ (tpy)**
2020	4,843	1,191

Source: USEPA National Emissions Inventory (NEI) (https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d7d730f974c6474190b142a49ae8d3bd). Site visited October 2024.

Dust Emissions for Las Cruces BPS

	Point and Area Sources Combined	
	PM_{10} (tpy)	**$PM_{2.5}$ (tpy)**
Regional Emissions	4,843	1,191
Emissions	40	4
% of Regional	**0.8321%**	**0.3384%**

APPENDIX C:

Best Management Practices

APPENDIX C: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

This appendix describes those measures that will be implemented to reduce or eliminate potential adverse impacts on the human and natural environments. Many of these measures have been incorporated as standard operating procedures by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on past projects. Best management practices (BMPs) will be presented for each resource category that would be potentially affected. It should be emphasized that these are general BMPs and the development of specific BMPs will be required for certain activities implemented under the action alternatives. The proposed BMPs will be coordinated through the appropriate agencies as required.

It is federal policy to reduce adverse impacts through the sequence of avoidance, minimization, and finally, compensation. Compensation varies and includes activities such as restoration in other areas, acquisition of lands, etc., and is typically coordinated with the appropriate federal and state resource agencies.

GENERAL PROJECT PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

1. If required, night-vision-friendly strobe lights necessary for CBP operational needs will use the minimum wattage and number of flashes per minute necessary to ensure operational safety.
2. Avoid contamination of ground and surface waters by storing concrete wash water, and any water that has been contaminated with construction materials, oils, equipment residue, etc., in closed containers on-site until removed for disposal. This wash water is toxic to wildlife. Storage tanks must have proper air space (to avoid rainfall-induced overtopping), be on-ground containers, and be located in upland areas instead of washes.
3. Avoid lighting impacts during the night by conducting construction and maintenance activities during daylight hours only. If night lighting is unavoidable, 1) use special bulbs designed to ensure no increase in ambient light conditions, 2) minimize the number of lights used, 3) place lights on poles pointed down toward the ground, with shields on lights to prevent light from going up into sky, or out laterally into landscape, and 4) selectively place lights so they are directed away from all native vegetative communities.
4. All heavy equipment will be cleaned/power-washed prior to delivery onsite to ensure that invasive plant seeds are not brought into the project area.
5. Imported materials such as fill and gravel must be from a clean source, obtained from existing developed or previously used sources, and not from undisturbed areas adjacent to the project area. Materials will be weed free.
6. CBP will ensure that all construction will follow DHS Directive 025-01 for *Sustainable Practices for Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*.
7. CBP will place drip pans under parked equipment and establish containment zones when refueling vehicles or equipment.

SOILS

1. Clearly demarcate the perimeter of all areas to be disturbed using flagging or temporary construction fencing. Do not allow any disturbance outside that perimeter.
2. The area of disturbance will be minimized by limiting deliveries of materials and equipment to only those needed for effective project implementation.
3. Within the designated disturbance area, grading or soil removal will be limited to areas where this activity is needed to provide the ground conditions necessary for construction or maintenance activities.
4. Employ appropriate construction and stabilization techniques, such as installation of silt fencing, sediment traps, and application of water to disturbed soils to reduce dust. DHS and its construction contractors would develop and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to further manage erosion and stormwater discharge.
5. Rehabilitation will include recovering disturbed areas with compacted stone material (i.e., rocks) to reduce erosion.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

1. Obtain materials such as gravel, topsoil, or fill from existing developed or previously used sources that are compatible with the project area and are from legally permitted sites. Do not use materials from undisturbed areas adjacent to the project area.
2. Visible space beneath all heavy equipment must be checked for wildlife prior to moving the equipment.
3. All contractors, work crews, and CBP personnel in the field performing construction and maintenance activities will receive environmental awareness training. Photographs of potentially affected special status species will be incorporated into the environmental awareness training and posted in the contractor and resident engineer's offices where they will remain through the duration of the project, and copies will be made available that can be carried while conducting proposed activities.
4. Construction and site personnel will be trained for encounters with protected species. If a sighting occurs, a qualified biologist will be notified and consulted on the appropriate action.
5. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. §§ 703-712, [1918, as amended 1936, 1960, 1968, 1969, 1974, 1978, 1986 and 1998]) requires that federal agencies coordinate with the United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) if a construction activity would result in the take of a migratory bird. If vegetation removal or other construction activities are required during active nesting season (March 1-September 15) MBTA surveys will be conducted no more than seven (7) days prior to the onset of construction activities. If an active bird nest is identified, construction or planned vegetation removal activities should be halted in the immediate area until nestlings have fledged or the nest fails. If the activity must occur, a buffer zone will be established

around the nest and prohibit all activities within the buffer zone until nestlings have fledged and left the nest area. The dimension of the buffer zone will depend on the proposed activity, habitat type, and species present and should be coordinated with BLM LCDO biologists.

6. For encounters with rare species (including state-listed species) that will not readily leave the work area, TPWD recommends an authorized individual translocate the animal. Translocations of reptiles should be the minimum distance possible from the work area. Ideally, individuals to be relocated should be transported to the closest suitable habitat outside of the active construction area; preferably within 100 to 200 yards and not greater than one mile from the capture site. State-listed species may only be handled by persons with appropriate authorization from the TPWD Wildlife Permits Office.
7. CBP will not, for any length of time, permit any pets inside the project area or adjacent native habitats. This BMP does not pertain to law enforcement animals.
8. A "No Kill Wildlife Policy" will be implemented during construction and operation of the project site to prevent inadvertently killing protected species that may be mistaken for common species.
9. BMPs for Special Status Species (*these will be performed to the greatest extent practical):*

    - If nighttime work is required, aim lighting at work zone and turn off when not needed, as possible. All permanent lighting should be pointed away from potential habitat, down shielded, and follow the International Dark-Sky Association (https://www.darksky.org/).

WATER RESOURCES

1. Wastewater is to be stored in closed containers on-site until removed for disposal. Wastewater is water used for project purposes that is contaminated with construction materials or from cleaning equipment and thus carries oils or other toxic materials or other contaminants as defined by federal or state regulations.
2. Avoid contamination of ground and surface waters by collecting concrete wash water in open containers and disposing of it off-site.
3. Cease work during heavy rains and do not resume work until conditions are suitable for the movement of equipment and materials.
4. All construction and maintenance contractors and personnel will review the DHS-approved spill protection plan and implement it during construction and maintenance activities.
5. Construction contractors will develop and implement a project-specific SWPPP to manage erosion and stormwater discharge.

6. Wastewater from pressure washing must be collected. A ground pit or sump can be used to collect the wastewater. Wastewater from pressure washing must not be discharged into any surface water.

7. If soaps or detergents are used, the wastewater and solids must be pumped or cleaned out and disposed of in an approved facility. If no soaps or detergents are used, the wastewater must first be filtered or screened to remove solids before being allowed to flow off-site. Detergents and cleaning solutions must not be sprayed over or discharged into surface waters.

AIR QUALITY

1. Soil watering will be utilized to minimize airborne particulate matter created during construction activities. Bare ground may be covered with hay or straw to lessen wind erosion during the time between construction and the re-covering of temporary impact areas with compacted stone material. All construction equipment and vehicles will be kept in good operating condition to minimize exhaust emissions.

2. Construction activities will comply with New Mexico Administrative Code Rule §20.2.23 to control and minimize fugitive dust emissions.

3. Mitigation measures will be incorporated to ensure that PM_{10} emission levels do not rise above the *de minimis* threshold as required per 40 CFR 51.853(b)(1). Measures shall include dust suppression methods to minimize airborne particulate matter that will be created during construction activities. Standard construction BMPs, such as routine watering of the access roads, shall be used to control fugitive dust during the construction phases of the proposed project. Additionally, all construction equipment and vehicles shall be required to be kept in good operating condition to minimize exhaust emissions. Equipment and vehicles used on the project site must be well-maintained and use diesel particulate filters to reduce particulate matter emissions. If a contractor expects significant dust/emissions on their specific site, they must provide methods to reduce airborne particulate matter for their site.

NOISE

1. All generators and heavy construction equipment will have an attached muffler or use other noise-abatement methods, such as turning off idling equipment when not in use, in accordance with industry standards.

2. Avoid noise impacts during the night by conducting construction and maintenance activities during daylight working hours only (e.g., 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

3. All Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements and standards will be followed to reduce noise exposure for construction contractors, DHS personnel, and migrants on-site. To lessen noise impacts on the local wildlife communities, construction will only occur during daylight hours. All motor vehicles will be properly maintained to reduce the potential for vehicle-related noise.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. In the event of an unanticipated discovery during proposed construction activities, work would cease in the immediate area and the New Mexico Historical Commission and interested tribal nations would be consulted on actions necessary to protect the cultural materials.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

1. CBP will immediately notify the BLM LCDO of any paleontological resources discovered. The operator will suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the BLM LCDO and will protect the discovery from damage or looting. The operator may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The BLM LCDO will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the BLM LCDO after consulting with CBP and the operator.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

1. BMPs will be implemented as standard operating procedures during all construction activities, and will include proper handling, storage, and/or disposal of hazardous and/or regulated materials. To minimize potential impacts from hazardous and regulated materials, all fuels, waste oils, and solvents will be collected and stored in tanks or drums within a secondary containment system that consists of an impervious floor and bermed sidewalls capable of containing the volume of the largest container stored therein. The refueling of machinery will be completed in accordance with accepted industry and regulatory guidelines, will be completed only in controlled areas, and all vehicles will have drip pans during storage to contain minor spills and drips. Although it is unlikely that a major spill would occur, any spill of reportable quantities will be contained immediately within an earthen dike, and the application of an absorbent (e.g., granular, pillow, sock) will be used to absorb and contain the spill.

2. CBP will store gasoline and diesel in aboveground storage tanks that are regularly inspected to ensure proper operation and compliance with regulatory standards. These tanks will be double-walled and will include leak detection infrastructure.

3. CBP will contain non-hazardous waste materials and other discarded materials, such as construction waste, until removed from the construction and maintenance sites. This will assist in keeping the project area and surroundings free of litter and reduce the amount of disturbed area needed for waste storage.

4. CBP will minimize site disturbance and avoid attracting predators by promptly removing waste materials, wrappers, and debris from the site. Any waste that must remain more than 12 hours should be properly stored until disposal.

5. All waste oil and solvents will be recycled. All non-recyclable hazardous and regulated wastes will be collected, characterized, labeled, stored, transported, and disposed of in

accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations, including proper waste manifesting procedures.

6. Solid waste receptacles will be maintained at the project site. Non-hazardous solid waste (trash and waste construction materials) will be collected and deposited in on-site receptacles. Solid waste will be collected and disposed of by a local waste disposal contractor.
7. Disposal of used batteries or other small quantities of hazardous waste will be handled, managed, maintained, stored, and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal and state rules and regulations for the management, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials, hazardous waste, and universal waste. Additionally, to the extent practicable, all batteries will be recycled locally.
8. All rainwater collected in secondary containment will be pumped out, and secondary containment will have netting to minimize exposure to wildlife.
9. A properly licensed and certified hazardous waste disposal contractor will be used for hazardous waste disposal, and manifests will be traced to final destinations to ensure proper disposal is accomplished.
10. Develop a project-specific Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan to address impacts and establish procedures for cleaning up inadvertent releases or spills of hazardous materials.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

1. Protect migrant children who may be present on-site while being processed from active construction work by ensuring they are supervised, keeping children inside and protected from airborne dust, providing ear plugs as appropriate, and posting warning signs at construction sites in both English and Spanish.

HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. All construction work will be performed by trained, qualified, and fully equipped contractors with appropriate licenses and certifications.
2. CBP and its contractors will be responsible for assessing potential hazardous workplace conditions; monitoring employee exposure to workplace chemical, physical, and biological agents, and ergonomic stressors; recommending and evaluating controls to ensure exposure to personnel is eliminated or adequately controlled; and ensuring a health and safety program is in place to perform occupational health physicals for those workers subject to the use of respiratory protection, or engaged in hazardous waste, or other work requiring medical monitoring.
3. Ensure workers are provided with and are utilizing personal protective equipment (PPE) such as ear protection, steel-toed boots, hard hats, gloves, and other appropriate safety products. All OSHA requirements for worker safety will be followed.

4. A project-specific Health and Safety Plan will be prepared detailing all potential hazards and site-specific guidance to ensure potential safety risks are minimized. The plan would include emergency response and evacuation procedures; operating manuals; PPE recommendations; procedures for handling, storing, and disposing of hazardous materials and wastes, to include universal wastes; information on the effects and symptoms of potential exposures; and guidance with respect to hazardous identification.
5. Active construction sites will be contained within a fenced or clearly marked perimeter that would only be accessible to authorized personnel.

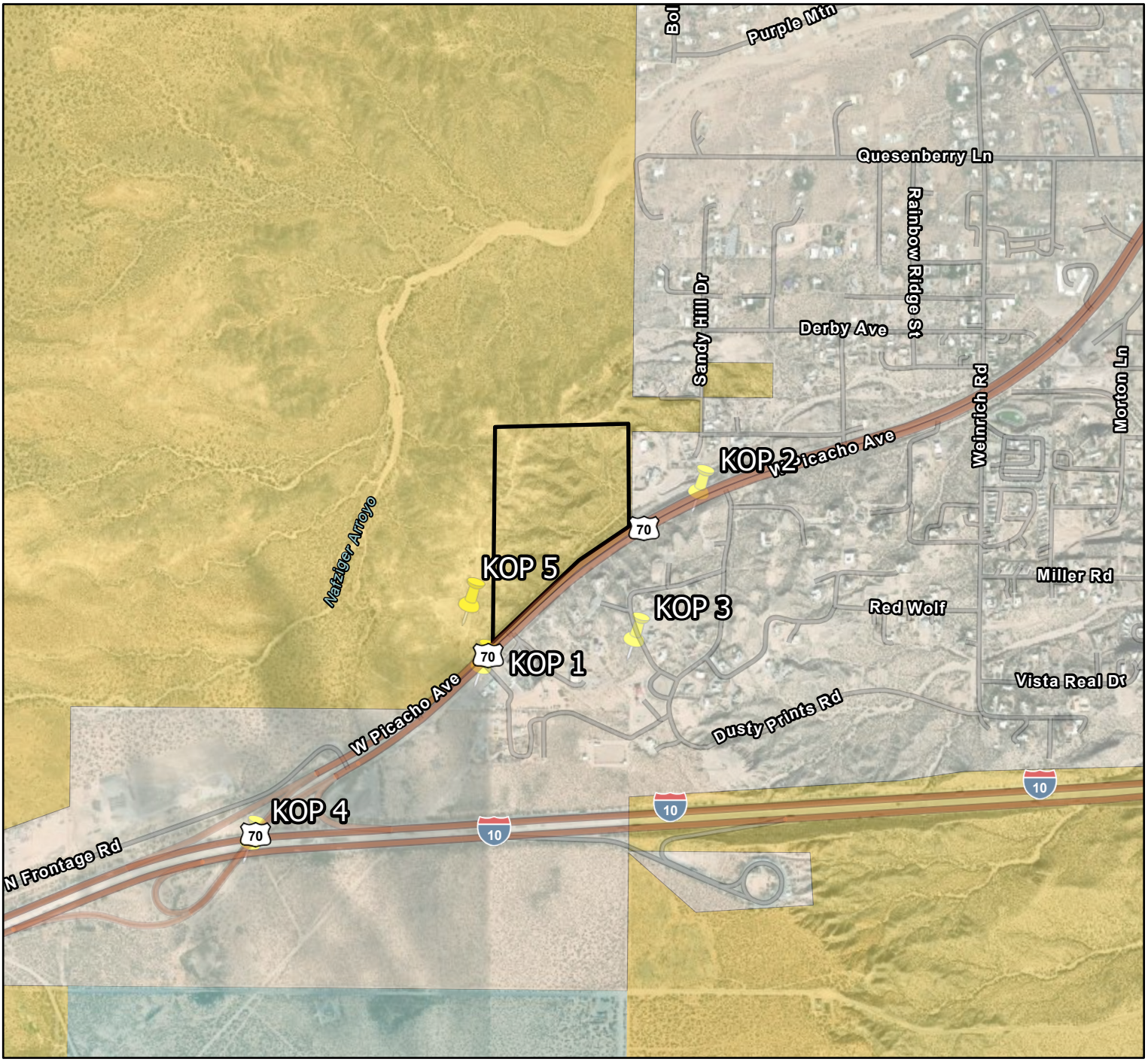
APPENDIX D:

Key Observation Points

Key Observation Points (KOPs)

Bureau of Land Management- Las Cruces District Office

Doña Ana County



BLM

Private

State

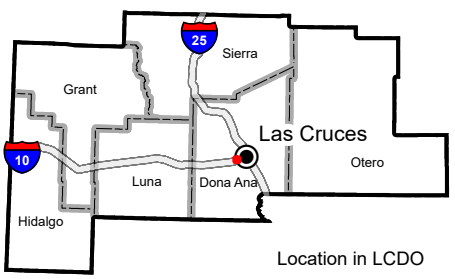
CBP_Proposed_Building

0 0.3 0.6 Miles

Map Produced by: BLM Las Cruces District Office
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N
File: CBP Building
1:16,373
Date: 10/7/2026

N

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for purposes not intended by the BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information is subject to change without notification.



Location in LCDO

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Form 8400-4
(June 2018)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 09/18/2026
District Office: Las Cruces District Office
Field Office: Las Cruces
Land Use Planning Area: Mimbres Planning Area

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name	4. KOP Location (T.R.S)	5. Location Sketch
Border Patrol Station		215 feet southwest of project location
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Name KOP 1 – Long Term		
3. VRM Class at Project Location VRM Class IV	(Lat. Long) 32.28701, -106.8753	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Foreground/Middle ground- smooth, horizontal, simple Background- steep, jagged, angular	Foreground/Middle ground- indistinct, low Background- uniform, indistinct	Foreground/Middle ground- bold, horizontal, linear Background- N/A
LINE	Foreground/Middle ground- regular, curving, horizontal Background- continuous, diagonal, jagged	Foreground/Middle ground- weak, undulating Background- diagonal, indistinct	Foreground/Middle ground- continuous, curving Background- N/A
COLOR	Foreground/Middle ground- tan, brown, green Background- brown, green, gray, tan	Foreground/Middle ground- green, brown yellow Background- green, brown	Foreground/Middle ground- gray, brown, silver Background- N/A
TEX-TURE	Foreground/Middle ground- rough, course Background- smooth, continuous	Foreground/Middle ground- patchy, course Background- smooth, indistinct	Foreground/Middle ground- smooth Background- N/A

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	smooth, simple, rounded	geometric and linear forms created by clearings	cylindrical, geometric, angular,
LINE	horizontal (buildings and fence) vertical (tower) curved (roads)	strong irregular lines created by edge effect of clearings and roads	vertical, horizontal, angular
COLOR	tan	green, yellow, brown	unknown
TEX-TURE	smooth, uniform	patchy, course	course

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ___SHORT TERM ✔ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1) STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	VEGETATION (2) STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRUCTURES (3) STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
ELEMENTS	FORM			✔				✔			✔		
	LINE		✔				✔				✔		
	COLOR			✔				✔				✔	
	TEXTURE			✔				✔			✔		

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ✔ Yes ___No
(Explain on reverses side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended
✔ Yes ___No (Explain on reverses side)

Evaluator's Names — Date

Alexandra Bettinger
Outdoor Recreation Planner — 09/18/2026

SECTION D. (Continued)

Comments from item 2.

Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3)

- Reseeding and revegetating the edge of the construction area with random clumps to break up horizontal line
- Smoothing and contouring of earthwork to blend in with landscape post construction
- Painting buildings to match landscape when able
- Tan privacy slats in chain-link fence
- Picking location of facilities within project area that better hides buildings
- Hoods for lighting when possible
- Using natural materials when possible, like boulders and trees for landscaping and barriers
- Include VRM specialist in future design conversations.

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Form 8400-4
(June 2018)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 09/18/2026
District Office: Las Cruces District Office
Field Office: Las Cruces
Land Use Planning Area: Mimbres Planning Area

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name	4. KOP Location (T.R.S)	5. Location Sketch
Border Patrol Station		800 feet southwest of project location
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Name KOP 2– Long Term		
3. VRM Class at Project Location VRM Class IV	(Lat. Long) 32.29159, -106.86869	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Foreground/Middle ground- smooth, horizontal, simple Background- smooth	Foreground/Middle ground- prominent Background- uniform, indistinct	Foreground/Middle ground- bold, diagonal, linear Background- horizontal, vertical
LINE	Foreground/Middle ground- regular, curving, horizontal Background- continuous, diagonal, undulating	Foreground/Middle ground- vertical, undulating Background- diagonal, indistinct	Foreground/Middle ground- continuous, curving Background- vertical
COLOR	Foreground/Middle ground- tan, brown, green Background- brown, green, gray, tan	Foreground/Middle ground- green, brown yellow Background- green, brown	Foreground/Middle ground- gray, brown, silver Background- brown
TEX-TURE	Foreground/Middle ground- rough, course Background- smooth, continuous	Foreground/Middle ground- patchy, course, bold Background- smooth, indistinct	Foreground/Middle ground- smooth Background- indistinct

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	smooth, simple, rounded	geometric and linear forms created by clearings	cylindrical, geometric, angular,
LINE	horizontal (buildings and fence) vertical (tower) curved (roads)	strong irregular lines created by edge effect of clearings and roads	vertical, horizontal, angular
COLOR	tan	green, yellow, brown	unknown
TEX-TURE	smooth, uniform	patchy, course	course

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ___SHORT TERM ✔ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES											
		LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
		STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
ELEMENTS	FORM			✔				✔			✔		
	LINE		✔				✔				✔		
	COLOR			✔				✔				✔	
	TEXTURE			✔				✔			✔		

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ✔ Yes ___No
(Explain on reverses side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended
✔ Yes ___No (Explain on reverses side)

Evaluator's Names — Date

Alexandra Bettinger
Outdoor Recreation Planner — 09/18/2026

SECTION D. (Continued)

Comments from item 2.

Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3)

- Reseeding and revegetating the edge of the construction area with random clumps to break up horizontal line
- Smoothing and contouring of earthwork to blend in with landscape post construction
- Painting buildings to match landscape when able
- Tan privacy slats in chain-link fence
- Picking location of facilities within project area that better hides buildings
- Hoods for lighting when possible
- Using natural materials, when possible, like boulders and trees for landscaping and barriers
- Include VRM specialist in future design conversations.

Save Print Clear

Form 8400-4
(June 2018)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 09/18/2026
District Office: Las Cruces District Office
Field Office: Las Cruces
Land Use Planning Area: Mimbres Planning Area

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name	4. KOP Location (T.R.S)	5. Location Sketch
Border Patrol Station		900 feet southwest of project location
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Name KOP 3 – Long Term		
3. VRM Class at Project Location VRM Class IV	(Lat. Long) 32.28775, -106.87064	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Foreground/Middle ground- smooth, horizontal, simple Background- smooth, horizontal	Foreground/Middle ground- indistinct, low Background- uniform, indistinct	Foreground/Middle ground- bold, horizontal, linear Background- boxy
LINE	Foreground/Middle ground- regular, curving, horizontal Background- continuous, diagonal	Foreground/Middle ground- strong, undulating Background- horizontal, indistinct	Foreground/Middle ground- continuous, curving Background- horizontal
COLOR	Foreground/Middle ground- tan, brown, green Background- brown, green, gray	Foreground/Middle ground- green, brown yellow Background- green, brown	Foreground/Middle ground- tan, brown Background- white, brown, tan
TEX-TURE	Foreground/Middle ground- rough, course Background- smooth, continuous	Foreground/Middle ground- patchy, course Background- smooth, indistinct	Foreground/Middle ground- smooth Background- indistinct, patchy

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	smooth, simple, rounded	geometric and linear forms created by clearings	cylindrical, geometric, angular,
LINE	horizontal (buildings and fence) vertical (tower) curved (roads)	strong irregular lines created by edge effect of clearings and roads	vertical, horizontal, angular
COLOR	tan	green, yellow, brown	unknown
TEX-TURE	smooth, uniform	patchy, course	course

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING __SHORT TERM ✔ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES											
		LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
		STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
ELEMENTS	FORM			✔				✔			✔		
	LINE		✔				✔				✔		
	COLOR			✔				✔				✔	
	TEXTURE			✔				✔			✔		

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ✔ Yes ___No
(Explain on reverses side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended
✔ Yes ___No (Explain on reverses side)

Evaluator's Names — Date
Alexandra Bettinger
Outdoor Recreation Planner — 09/18/2026

SECTION D. (Continued)

Comments from item 2.

Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3)

- Reseeding and revegetating the edge of the construction area with random clumps to break up horizontal line
- Smoothing and contouring of earthwork to blend in with landscape post construction
- Painting buildings to match landscape when able
- Tan privacy slats in chain-link fence
- Picking location of facilities within project area that better hides buildings
- Hoods for lighting when possible
- Using natural materials, when possible, like boulders and trees for landscaping and barriers
- Include VRM specialist in future design conversations.

Save Print Clear

Form 8400-4
(June 2018)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 09/18/2026
District Office: Las Cruces District Office
Field Office: Las Cruces
Land Use Planning Area: Mimbres Planning Area

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name	4. KOP Location (T.R.S)	5. Location Sketch
Border Patrol Station		215 feet southwest of project location
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Name KOP 4 – Long Term		
3. VRM Class at Project Location VRM Class IV	(Lat. Long) 32.28701, -106.8753	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Foreground/Middle ground- smooth, horizontal, simple Background- steep, jagged, angular	Foreground/Middle ground- indistinct, low Background- uniform, indistinct	Foreground/Middle ground- bold, horizontal, linear Background- diagonal
LINE	Foreground/Middle ground- regular, curving, horizontal Background- continuous, diagonal, jagged	Foreground/Middle ground- weak, undulating Background- diagonal, indistinct	Foreground/Middle ground- continuous, curving Background- N/A
COLOR	Foreground/Middle ground- tan, brown, green Background- brown, green, gray, tan	Foreground/Middle ground- green, brown yellow Background- green, brown	Foreground/Middle ground- gray, brown, silver Background- N/A
TEX-TURE	Foreground/Middle ground- rough, course Background- smooth, continuous	Foreground/Middle ground- patchy, course Background- smooth, indistinct	Foreground/Middle ground- smooth Background- N/A

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	smooth, simple, rounded	geometric and linear forms created by clearings	cylindrical, geometric, angular,
LINE	horizontal (buildings and fence) vertical (tower) curved (roads)	strong irregular lines created by edge effect of clearings and roads	vertical, horizontal, angular
COLOR	tan	green, yellow, brown	unknown
TEX-TURE	smooth, uniform	patchy, course	course

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING __SHORT TERM ✔ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1) STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	VEGETATION (2) STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRUCTURES (3) STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
ELEMENTS	FORM			✔				✔			✔		
	LINE		✔				✔				✔		
	COLOR			✔				✔				✔	
	TEXTURE			✔				✔			✔		

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ✔ Yes ___No
(Explain on reverses side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended
✔ Yes ___No (Explain on reverses side)

Evaluator's Names — Date

Alexandra Bettinger
Outdoor Recreation Planner — 09/18/2026

SECTION D. (Continued)

Comments from item 2.

Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3)

- Reseeding and revegetating the edge of the construction area with random clumps to break up horizontal line
- Smoothing and contouring of earthwork to blend in with landscape post construction
- Painting buildings to match landscape when able
- Tan privacy slats in chain-link fence
- Picking location of facilities within project area that better hides buildings
- Hoods for lighting when possible
- Using natural materials, when possible, like boulders and trees for landscaping and barriers
- Include VRM specialist in future design conversations

Save Print Clear

Form 8400-4
(June 2018)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 09/18/2026
District Office: Las Cruces District Office
Field Office: Las Cruces
Land Use Planning Area: Mimbres Planning Area

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name	4. KOP Location (T.R.S)	5. Location Sketch
Border Patrol Station		205 feet southwest of project location
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Name KOP 5 – Long Term		
3. VRM Class at Project Location VRM Class IV	(Lat. Long) 32.2886, -106.87568	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Foreground/Middle ground- smooth, horizontal, simple Background- steep, jagged, angular	Foreground/Middle ground- bold, low Background- uniform, indistinct	Foreground/Middle ground- N/A Background- boxy
LINE	Foreground/Middle ground- regular, curving, horizontal Background- continuous, horizontal	Foreground/Middle ground- weak, undulating Background- diagonal, horizontal	Foreground/Middle ground- N/A Background- horizontal
COLOR	Foreground/Middle ground- tan, brown, green Background- brown, green, gray, tan	Foreground/Middle ground- green, brown yellow Background- green, gray	Foreground/Middle ground- N/A Background- white, gray, black
TEX-TURE	Foreground/Middle ground- rough, course Background- smooth, continuous	Foreground/Middle ground- patchy, course Background- smooth, indistinct	Foreground/Middle ground- N/A Background- patchy, indistinct

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	smooth, simple, rounded	geometric and linear forms created by clearings	cylindrical, geometric, angular,
LINE	horizontal (buildings and fence) vertical (tower) curved (roads)	strong irregular lines created by edge effect of clearings and roads	vertical, horizontal, angular
COLOR	tan	green, yellow, brown	unknown
TEX-TURE	smooth, uniform	patchy, course	course

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ___SHORT TERM ✔ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
		STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
ELEMENTS	FORM			✔				✔			✔		
	LINE		✔				✔				✔		
	COLOR			✔				✔				✔	
	TEXTURE			✔				✔			✔		

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ✔ Yes ___No
(Explain on reverses side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended
✔ Yes ___No (Explain on reverses side)

Evaluator's Names — Date

Alexandra Bettinger
Outdoor Recreation Planner — 09/18/2026

SECTION D. (Continued)

Comments from item 2.

Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3)

- Reseeding and revegetating the edge of the construction area with random clumps to break up horizontal line
- Smoothing and contouring of earthwork to blend in with landscape post construction
- Painting buildings to match landscape when able
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- Picking location of facilities within project area that better hides buildings
- Hoods for lighting when possible
- Using natural materials, when possible, like boulders and trees for landscaping and barriers
- Include VRM specialist in future design conversations.