

Appendix K. Descriptions of factors that influence species and habitats identified for New Mexico’s CWCS.

Agricultural chemicals- The application of pesticides or fertilizers to large tracts of land for farming purposes.

Agricultural production/Livestock production- Agriculture production includes the growing of field crops, fruits, nuts, vegetables, or flowers. Livestock production includes the production of livestock and livestock products, especially dairies.

Altered hydro period- Any physical activity that will change the natural hydroperiod of the wetland.

ATVs/snowmobiles/off-road vehicles- Any motor vehicle designed for use on unimproved or open terrain for recreational purposes.

Channelization- The mechanical alteration of a stream which includes straightening or dredging of the existing channel, or creating a new channel to which the stream is diverted.

Competition/predation- The use or defense of a resource by one individual or species that reduces the availability of that resource to another individual or species; the consumption of one organism by another organism. Usually to the detriment of an unstable population.

Dams- Barriers across perennial or ephemeral drainages that obstructs, directs, or retards water flow and creates a reservoir, lake, or impoundment.

Deforestation- Removal of large blocks of forested lands to provide land for agricultural, development, or timber purposes.

Disease/parasites/pathogens- A native or exotic organism that can negatively impact the habitat.

Drainage of wetlands- The artificial removal of surface and sub-surface water from a wetland.

Drought- A drought is an prolonged period where precipitation, and thus water availability, falls below the requirements for a region.

Ecological sustainability & integrity- Maintenance/restoration of the composition, structure, and processes of ecosystems (i.e. biotic diversity, ecosystem productive capacity, ecological processes, disturbance regimes, soil productivity, water quality and air quality).

Exotic or invasive plants- A plant (often non-native) that becomes established and spreads aggressively into new areas and environments, often with detrimental effects on native plant species.

Exotic or invasive wildlife- A non-native wildlife species that encroaches into habitat and/or niches occupied by other species.

Fire management- All activities associated with the management of fire on a given landscape, including prescribed fires, aggressive initial attack, decisions regarding let burn policies, and fuel loading.

Fuel wood collection- Collection of any woody biomass for use as fuel.

Geothermal energy- Natural heat from within the earth usually carried to the surface as superheated water and steam and captured for production of electric power or space heating. Factors that influence habitats include the development and maintenance of geothermal facilities.

Ground water depletion- A sustained removal of groundwater through anthropogenic uses such as agriculture, urban or industrial uses that lowering the water table.

Herbicide shrub control- The application of herbicides at large scales to remove or control woody vegetation such as salt cedar, shinnery oak, and creosotebush.

Hunting/gathering- Legal harvesting of wildlife or the collecting of wild non-endangered plants.

Hybridization- Production of offspring from genetically different strains, populations, or species.

Hydropower- Development and maintenance of facilities that use flowing water to generate electricity.

Improper grazing practices- Practices that reduce long-term plant and animal productivity, and include both domestic livestock and wildlife.

Irrigation diversion/return- Artificially supplying land with water for agriculture, usually through ditches, pipes, or diverting rivers.

Livestock/dairy groundwater contamination- Contamination of groundwater from livestock manure, runoff, silage storage, milkhouse waste water, and/or improperly disposed of dead animals.

Logging- The practice of harvesting timber from forests.

Loss of keystone species- The loss of specific species whose presence contributes to a diversity of life and whose extinction would consequently lead to the extinction of other forms of life.

Military maneuvers- Military training exercises that negatively impact the environment, e.g. tank movement.

Mining- Extraction of minerals from surface and subsurface areas from the earth.

Oil and Gas exploration/development- Conducting geological and geophysical surveys, exploratory drilling in the most promising areas, and finally, drilling of oil and gas wells for production. Factors that influence habitats include exploration and development of oil and gas.

Outdoor recreation- The use of public and private lands for human enjoyment and relaxation. These activities typically have a low impact to the surrounding habitat.

Predator extermination- Legal harvesting of carnivores that negatively impact or are in conflict with humans and human activities.

Regulated flows- Surface flows downstream from a dam or other controlled structure that modifies natural flow conditions.

Removal of wildlife by collectors- Legal harvesting of wildlife, usually herpetofauna, at a rate detrimental to the sustainability of the species.

Roads, highways, railroads, and utility corridors- Development and maintenance of roads, railroads, pipelines, transmission lines, and utility corridors including the adjacent right of way.

Scientific research- Scientific research, including treatments, which disrupt the habitat or behavior of species in the course of the study.

Sediment load- The natural inorganic soil materials suspended in or transported by a stream.

Sewage/septic- Wastewater generated by commercial, industrial, or domestic use of the water supply that is normally eliminated by the local sewer system. Exposure to sewage may cause disease transmission.

Solid waste- Household garbage, yard waste, and recyclable items illegally or improperly discarded.

Toxic waste contamination- Contamination from waste that poses a substantial hazard to human health or the environment when improperly handled.

Urban, commercial/industrial, and recreational development- Urban development entails the conversion or expansion of urban, suburbia, and exurbia areas into previous wildland areas. Likewise, commercial and industrial development entails the conversion or expansion of commercial or industrial operations, building, or development into previous wildland areas. Recreational development is similar, where commercial industry is based on recreational opportunities, such as skiing.

Water withdrawal/dewatering- Removal of surface water from any natural source or reservoir for human use.

Wind farms- A cluster of wind turbines placed in a location that has an above-average occurrence of strong and steady winds used to generate electricity. Factors that influence habitats include the development and maintenance of these wind turbines.