



**Rio Grande Trail – Bridge to Bridge Segment**  
**Scope of Work for Wildlife and Sensitive Species Survey Contract**

**Application:**

To apply for this contract, please submit letter of intent documenting your ability and interest in completing the scope of work described below. Please include contact information from three references from recent contracts for similar work completed. Submit application materials to Enchanted Circle Trails Association at [enchantedcircletrails@gmail.com](mailto:enchantedcircletrails@gmail.com) by March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. **ECTA will pay contractor an amount not to exceed \$10,000.**

**Timeline: Draft Report requested by August 15, 2022 for Bureau of Land Management Taos Field Office Wildlife Biologist review and feedback. Final product to be submitted by September 15, 2022.**

**Statement of Work**

The purpose of this Statement of Work (SOW) is to conduct breeding bird and special status species surveys in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Taos Field Office. Survey work will take place specifically along the proposed trail layout between Horsethief Mesa, John Dunn Bridge and the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge during the 2022 field season.

The contractor shall perform the work items as follows:

Provide intensive field inventories of **breeding birds, and special status species** to include Gunnison's prairie dog and burrowing owl along the proposed trail layout between Horsethief Mesa, John Dunn Bridge and the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, and the area of potential effect (APE). Specific tasks to be performed to meet the objectives of the inventories and assessments as described are as follows:

1. Review project documents (***Programmatic Plan for the Rio Grande Trail – Colorado to Taos Junction Bridge [DOI-BLM-NM-F020-2018-0027-EA]***, ECTA B2B Alignment GIS data) and prepare survey design and maps.
2. Coordinate with Bureau of Land Management Taos Field Office Wildlife Biologist to confirm scope of work and schedule.
3. Conduct **special status species** to include Gunnison's prairie dog and burrowing owl surveys, from April through June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 within the project area and area of potential effect (APE) for the proposed Horsethief Mesa to John Dunn Bridge to Rio Grande Gorge Bridge along identified trail corridor.
  - a. If prairie dogs are present along the proposed route or adjacent to the proposed route, record the number of prairie dogs seen and a description of the active town and record any other species of interest such as Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing

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# ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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- owl, or Golden eagle. Then move along the proposed route to continue the survey. Record all sites visited as described above.
- b. If no prairie dogs are observed, walk the proposed trail route in search of prairie dog sign, such as mounds with burrows, scat, or runways. If it is determined that the area observed has sign or a mound, decide if the use is current. If fresh sign is noted, revisit the colony within a week timeframe to determine occupancy. Other species will use old prairie dog mounds this use should also be recorded. Record whether the site is active and document a description of the site. If fresh sign is noted, revisit the colony at a later date to determine occupancy. If no prairie dogs are present the search may be ended.
4. Conduct raptor surveys, breeding bird surveys from May through July, 2022 within the project area and area of potential effect (APE) for the proposed Horsethief Mesa to John Dunn Bridge to Rio Grande Gorge Bridge along identified trail corridor.
    - a. Conduct three field surveys at least two weeks apart to accurately assess breeding status and occurrence of BLM Sensitive and Special Status resident migratory birds, raptors, and neo-tropical migratory birds within the APE. Observations from field efforts would include date, species, number of individuals, location, photographs, and nesting status (if applicable).
  5. Prepare Summary Report of survey results, to be submitted to Bureau of Land Management Taos Field Office Wildlife Biologist, including:
    - a. Breeding bird, prairie dog/burrowing owl population assessment within the study area. All species that are opportunistically encountered that are of special interest (BCC, T&E, BLM Sensitive, etc.) will be documented as to activity (e.g., nesting, flying overhead/use, mounds, or scat) and any other information that can be readily gathered.
    - b. Two copies of a completed draft for review – one in electronic format and one hard copy containing photographs, an electronic copy of the final report in Word and PDF format, ArcMap compatible GIS shapefiles of points, lines or polygons collected regarding the location of biological data.

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