

Re: Initiation of Emergency Consultation for emergency road repairs on Valles Caldera National Preserve

From: Brennan, Mark

Wed, May 15, 7:44 AM

Bob, thanks for informing us of this need for emergency response to road damage on the Valles Caldera National Preserve. We will consult with you on an emergency basis after you have addressed this immediate need on these roads. We have assigned this consultation a TAILS record: 02ENNM00-2019-IE-0820. Please reference this in all correspondence pertaining to this action and the emergency consultation.

Containing all of this work within the existing road prism, keeping all materials on the existing road bed, and upgrading from a 36 inch to a 48 inch culvert, as you describe, are all good BMPs for jumping mouse habitat conservation and are in line with what we would recommend for this type of activity. If possible, open bottom culverts would be a preferred option for replacing the damaged tubular culverts, as they may provide more suitable small mammal travel substrate than tubular culverts. If this is not possible, we would suggest the addition of ledges inside the tubular culverts, which have been shown to improve movement through tubular culverts for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse in Colorado. We can help you obtain technical information pertaining to their design and installation. Colleagues who work on transportation project consulting in Preble's habitat have also suggested filling in the spaces between boulders in your boulder head wall with soil or other fine materials. This will facilitate vegetation growth and help make the head wall more passable for jumping mice. We can also help you obtain technical specs for how to do this from our Colorado colleagues if you care to do this as well.

Thank you.

On Tue, May 14, 2019 at 12:19 PM Parmenter, Robert wrote:

Dear Jodie and Mark,

Valles Caldera National Preserve has identified two roads in the "front country" (Valle Grande) which have suffered culvert washouts due to high water flows this spring. Both roads are no longer safe for vehicle traffic and are in need of immediate repair. We have applied for emergency National Park Service funds to assist with the replacement of culverts and hope to proceed with work as soon as possible (within the next 1-2 weeks).

We are unaware of jumping mouse individuals in the general area of work for either culvert, however much of the area has not been surveyed. Due to the lack of surveys for jumping mouse in the immediate vicinity of the necessary road repairs we would like to initiate consultation to address potential effects. We do not anticipate any impacts to either Jemez Mountains salamander or Mexican spotted owl.

Below is a brief description of the current conditions and anticipated work.

The washout is along the main access route (VC02 Road) into the Preserve (see attached photos) near Cerro Pinon, and we have estimated the sinkhole at approximately 56 square feet (sf) and 4 ½ feet deep. Due to the erosion occurring on the road, regrading will be required and approximately 780 SF of base course will be reapplied to the road surface. Two 32 linear feet culverts (36" diameter) will be removed, and a new pair of 48" culverts will be installed. A boulder head wall will be rebuilt to protect the road from heavy flow of water. All work will be conducted from the existing roadway prism, so that

no disturbance of the Jaramillo Creek's riparian zone will occur. The project will take 2-3 days, and we're working to schedule this for later this month (May, 2019)

The current best management practices require all work to be conducted from the existing road prism, and all materials to be stored on existing road bed. This will prevent any impacts to surrounding vegetation. As the air temperatures in the Valle Grande are still below freezing at night, we expect that any potential jumping mice are still in hibernation at this time.

Please advise on how best to proceed with the review for this work and if there are any additional best management practices we can integrate.

Thank you for your assistance,

Bob Parmenter

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