

Los Alamos County Wildlife Assessment

Kickoff Meeting
27 May 2026



Environmental Solutions & Innovations, Inc.

Background

- Since 2000, Environmental Solutions and Innovations, Inc. (ESI) has provided natural resource management services across the United States.
- We deliver high-quality integrated services that help clients navigate environmental challenges.
- We combine field expertise, scientific knowledge, and regulatory understanding to offer effective solutions to complex challenges.



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ESI Experience



Middle Rio Grande Fire Risk Assessment Modeling

- Custom fire risk assessment models for the Middle Rio Grande Valley, including Albuquerque, suburban, and rural and agricultural areas.
- Accounted for on-the-ground conditions in non-wildland areas
- Risk assessments and recommendations to optimize treatments
- Integrated feedback from local fire districts and management services



Data Analysis and Research on Dunes Sagebrush Lizard

- Comprehensive scientific monitoring and decision support
- Designed and implemented standardized population monitoring programs
- Translated raw monitoring data into management-relevant findings



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ESI Experience



Missouri Department of Conservation Habitat Conservation Plan

- Habitat conservation plan for five federally listed bat species
- Included predictions of amounts, locations, and seasonality of covered activities such as habitat management and tree removal.
- Developed models of distribution and abundance for each covered species



Florida Department of Transportation Bat Acoustic and Exclusion Training

- Developed bat assessment and exclusion handbook
- Produced bat exclusion training video
- Training courses to FDOT staff and consultants



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Project Team



Dr. Daniel J. Leavitt
Senior Project Manager



Amanda Rhyne
Wildlife Biologist



Dr. Justin G. Boyles
Human-wildlife Conflict Specialist



Andy Dobson
Community Planner



Caitlin Helman
Wildlife Biologist



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Project Overview

The Challenge

- Los Alamos County is experiencing an unusually high number of deer within the townsite, resulting in:
 - Increased wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs),
 - Spread of parasites and disease,
 - Property damage,
 - Frequent human-wildlife interactions.

Background

- In 2024, the County partnered with NMDGF and local police to collect wildlife population and WVC data, identifying concerns around wildlife feeding practices and public awareness.
- In September 2025, the Los Alamos County Council passed Ordinance 02-373, prohibiting the feeding of wild animals on public and private property.



Photo Credit: www.losalamosnm.gov

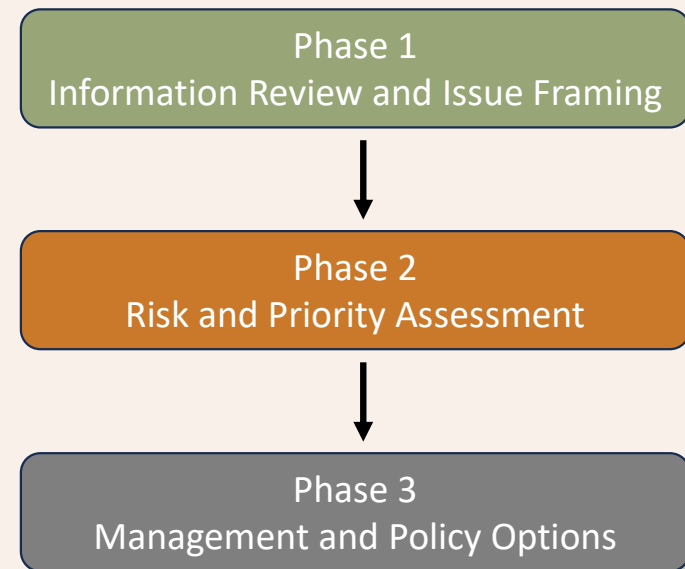


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Planned Process

ESI's Approach:

- Emphasis on synthesizing existing information
- No unnecessary data collection or technical complexity
- Clear, defensible understanding of current wildlife-related challenges
- Risk prioritization and implementable strategies
- Practical action options aligned with County authority and resources



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Phase 1

Information Review and Issue Framing

Organize and assemble existing information regarding wildlife conditions and concerns, including:

- Vehicle collision records
- Wildlife-related complaints
- Existing reports, policies, and public-facing materials related to wildlife management and education
- Documented concerns related to deer, other large wildlife, and human-wildlife interactions



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Phase 2 Risk and Priority Assessment

- Builds on information synthesized in Phase 1
- Evaluates and prioritizes wildlife-related issues using a transparent, multi-criteria framework
- Issues are assessed and ranked based on:
 - Public safety
 - Feasibility
 - Public acceptance
- For example, using a combination of data available from the County and known movement patterns of deer, identifying current and potential future WVC zones becomes a feasible endeavor.



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Phase 3 Management and Policy Options

- Identify a range of practical strategies, including:
 - Regulatory
 - Educational
 - Infrastructure-related
 - Coordination-based approaches
- Describe benefits, limitations, and tradeoffs associated with each option:
 - Potential costs
 - Expected effectiveness
 - Implementation challenges
- Identify implementation responsibility
 - Actions within County control
 - Actions requiring state agency or partner coordination



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Preliminary Timeline

| Task | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| Phase 1 – Information Review and Issue Framing | June-September 2026 |
| Phase 2 – Risk and Priority Assessment | October-December 2026 |
| Phase 3 – Management and Policy Options | January-April 2027 |
| Draft Report | Late April 2027 |
| Final Report | By May 27, 2027 |
| County Council Briefing | June 2027 |
| County Council Presentation | Late June 2027 |

**Timeline is preliminary and subject to adjustment*



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Questions?



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