

From: Salamack, Kristin A <kristin_salamack@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:45 PM
To: Kari Parsons <kariparsons@elpasoco.com>
Subject: Mesa Top Bridge - USFWS consultation

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Hello Kari Parsons,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your email about materials associated with the Mesa Top Bridge project on February 2, 2021 which directed us to download plan notifications. All of the plans available appear to be detailed engineering drawings. There are positive records of Preble's meadow jumping mouse (Preble's mouse), a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) along South Beaver Creek, and a bridge project could result in impacts to this species depending on the nature of the work and the proximity to the creek.

We will need to review a more comprehensive project description to determine if this project poses concerns for the Preble's mouse. I've included some initial questions for your consideration below. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or more information to share.

1. What is the exact location of this bridge? I see that it is "near" Mesa Top Road and Forest Lake Drive which is part of a residential community, but I would assume that the bridge itself is south of that location spanning over the river?
2. Will there be any federal nexus for this project (e.g., a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit required for work within the stream channel?)
3. Will this bridge be replaced and if so are any permanent impacts (read – new impervious surface) going to be introduced into areas that are currently riparian vegetation?
4. When is the work planned?

Kristin Salamack (she/her/hers)

CDOT/USFWS Liaison

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