

WILDLIFE HAZARD MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared for



**Las Cruces International Airport
P.O. Box 20000
Las Cruces, NM 88004**

**For Compliance with
CFR Title 14 § 139.337**

Developed by:



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 14 Part (§) 139.337, Las Cruces International Airport (LRU) developed this Wildlife Hazard Management Plan (WHMP) in cooperation with Airport Wildlife Consultants (AWC). This plan shall be reviewed periodically by LRU's Airport Manager and shall be updated as changing circumstances merit. All changes made to the WHMP shall be sent to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for approval, and shall be documented in the Table of Revisions of this document.

According to provisions of 14 CFR § 139.337(a) LRU is required to take immediate action to alleviate wildlife hazards whenever they are detected. To reduce the potential of wildlife hazards, LRU will implement this WHMP which outlines steps for monitoring, documenting, and reporting potential wildlife hazards and strikes. The WHMP contains protocols for responding to hazardous wildlife situations, roles and responsibilities of airport personnel, and wildlife control techniques for birds and mammals.

The WHMP outlines habitat management techniques on and around the airfield that reduce or eliminate the area's attractiveness to wildlife. The Plan outlines priorities for habitat management, including target dates for completion (Chapter 3). The legal status of wildlife is described, including laws and regulations pertaining to permits needed for control actions, including harassment and take of animals (Chapter 4). LRU's wildlife-related permits will be obtained and included in appendices. Monitoring and management of wildlife hazards requires application of control techniques conducted in a coordinated manner. Supplies and equipment for these activities will be obtained and maintained responsibly within LRU's Operations Department. These materials include, but are not limited to: frightening devices (e.g., pyrotechnics, propane exploders, mylar tape), wildlife restraint equipment (e.g., traps), and firearms. LRU personnel will be trained to properly identify wildlife and apply wildlife control techniques in a safe, effective, and efficient manner, as outlined in this document. Identification, management, and monitoring of wildlife-related hazards at LRU will be coordinated within the Operations Department. Modifications will be documented and communicated to the FAA, the various LRU Departments, and to Federal/State agencies.

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SIGNATORIES

The following Wildlife Hazard Management Plan for LRU has been reviewed and approved by the Airport Manager, the FAA Certificate Inspector, and other interested parties.



Airport Manager
Las Cruces International Airport

4-14-2016
Date



FAA Airport Certification and Safety Inspector

13 April 2016
Date

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DISTRIBUTION OF WILDLIFE HAZARD MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Wildlife Hazard Management Plan was written to fulfill the requirements of CFR Title 14 § 139.337 for LRU. This plan is intended specifically for the Airport's use to monitor and reduce wildlife hazards.

NAME / POSITION / PHONE	AGENCY / ADDRESS
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AC	Advisory Circular
ACOE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
AOA	Aircraft Operations Area
AWC	Airport Wildlife Consultants
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FOD	Foreign Object Debris
LRU	Las Cruces International Airport
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMGF	New Mexico Game & Fish Dept.
NMDAG	New Mexico Department of Agriculture
NOTAM	Notice to Airmen
T&E	Threatened and Endangered
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WHA	Wildlife Hazard Assessment
WHMP	Wildlife Hazard Management Plan

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1 – INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

Wildlife hazard management plans address the responsibilities, policies, and procedures necessary to reduce wildlife hazards at airports. Recognizing the potential hazards wildlife pose to aircraft, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires airports that incur bird-aircraft strikes to develop and implement a WHMP according to 14 CFR §139.337 (Appendix A). The WHMP must include seven required components, each of which is a separate chapter in this document. These required components are as follows:

1. Identification of personnel with the authority and responsibility for implementing the plan (Chapter 2, Authorities and Responsibilities).
2. Identification of hazardous wildlife attractants and a list prioritizing actions for habitat and wildlife population management, including target dates for their initiation and completion (Chapter 3, Habitat Management).
3. Requirements for and, where applicable, copies of local, state, and Federal Wildlife Control permits (Chapter 4, Permits and Regulations).
4. Identification of resources to be provided by the certificate holder for implementation of the plan (Chapter 5, Resources).
5. Procedures to be followed during air carrier operations (Chapter 6, Wildlife Hazard Management Procedures), including at least:
 - A. Assignment of personnel responsibilities for implementing the procedures;
 - B. Provisions to conduct physical inspections of the aircraft movement areas and other areas critical to successfully manage known wildlife hazards before air carrier operations begin;
 - C. Wildlife control measures; and
 - D. Communication between the wildlife control personnel and local Air Traffic
6. Procedures for periodic evaluation and review of the wildlife hazard management plan (Chapter 7, Evaluation), which include:
 - A. Effectiveness in dealing with the wildlife hazard; and
 - B. Aspects of the wildlife hazards described in the wildlife hazard assessment that should be reevaluated.
7. A training program to provide airport personnel with the knowledge and skills needed to carry out the wildlife hazard management plan required by CFR Title 14 §139.337 (Chapter 8, Training).

In addition to the requirements stated above, 14 CFR §139.337(f) outlines procedures and personnel responsibilities for notification regarding new or immediate hazards, and describes the rapid response procedures for addressing new or immediate wildlife hazards. Section (f) allows the WHMP to be promptly modified and updated to address new situations or changing circumstances. To augment compliance with CFR Title 14 §139.337, the FAA issued a Certalert (No. 97-09, Appendix B) to provide guidance to airports in developing their plans. This Certalert contains a sample outline that was followed in the development of this plan.

1.2 SUMMARY OF WILDLIFE HAZARDS

This section provides a summary of the wildlife hazards identified as part the Wildlife Hazard Assessment conducted from November 2010 to July 2012.

1.2.1 RAVEN AND HAWK MANAGEMENT AT LRU

The following steps will be taken to reduce/eliminate hazards involving ravens and hawks at LRU:

- Seasonal populations will be managed with aggressive and persistent harassment and/or population reduction via shooting, trapping, or the use of toxicants
- If nesting of these species is identified on the airport, nests will be destroyed and habitat

- manipulation will be conducted if/where possible to deter future nesting
- If roosts develop, they will be managed by thinning, lighting, netting, or removal of the offending trees
- Additional damage management procedures and techniques, described in the FAA's Wildlife Hazard Management at Airports Manual or in the Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage manual will be employed as necessary and appropriate
- Record of management activities will be maintained in the in the airport wildlife log kept in the Airport Administrative Office
- Continue to conduct wildlife management actions, through contract with USDA Wildlife Services, to reduce the local populations of ravens and hawks in the AOA.

1.2.2 MAMMAL HAZARD MANAGEMENT

Surveys and analysis conducted to complete LRU's WHA did indicate a wildlife hazard from mammals. Coyotes and jackrabbits were the mammals observed on and around LRU during the WHA. The Wildlife Coordinator will continue to implement the LRU wildlife management program targeting population reductions of these mammals. LRU contracts with USDA to conduct lethal control to remove mammals posing a hazard. The USDA contract produces excellent results but is currently limited by availability of funds.

The following steps will be taken to reduce/eliminate hazards involving mammals at LRU:

- Initiate discussions with the FAA to obtain an AIP grant to upgrade the airport's perimeter fence, which is currently a short 4 strand barb wire fence that does not have a buried apron, allowing coyotes and jackrabbits to easily enter the AOA.
- Continue daily fence monitoring patrols.
- Continue to conduct wildlife management actions, through contract with USDA Wildlife Services, to reduce the local populations of coyotes and jackrabbits in the AOA.

1.3 WILDLIFE STRIKE ANALYSIS – LRU

LRU runways are monitored daily by airport personnel for foreign object debris (FOD), including dead wildlife. During the WHA, the airfield was also monitored by an AWC Biologist for any indication of a bird strike when we were present. Strike checks were accomplished by airport staff driving the entire length of the runway either on the runway or along the runway or taxiway. Any strikes or bird remains were identified and recorded in airport logbooks and entered into the FAA National Wildlife Strike Database.

To develop an understanding of the history of wildlife strikes at LRU and relate those data to the wildlife survey data obtained during this WHA, we searched the National Wildlife Database maintained by the FAA for the twenty year period of 1990 through 2013. The historical wildlife strike data for LRU obtained from the FAA National Wildlife Strike Database show that there have been two birds strikes reported at LRU from 1990-2013.

1.4 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The goal of the LRU WHMP is to minimize the risk to aviation safety, airport structures or equipment, or human health posed by populations of hazardous wildlife on and around the airport. Accomplishing this objective entails careful monitoring of all aspects of arriving and departing aircraft in the vicinity of LRU, including potential wildlife hazards on and around the airport. As part of its safety efforts, LRU will continue to implement and maintain a WHMP according to CFR Title 14 § 139.337(e) to address potential wildlife hazards. In addition to addressing general wildlife hazards, this plan will present specific protocols for monitoring and responding to unforeseen wildlife hazards that may arise.

It is important to note that Part 139.337(f) underscores the need for a flexible plan that can be quickly adapted to changing circumstances. However, in some rare cases immediate actions may be necessary that are not addressed in this plan. This plan provides LRU with the discretion and capability to respond to these situations, while providing guidance for compliance with applicable Federal, state, and municipal laws and regulations. The latitude afforded LRU management when administering this plan is discussed in CFR 14 § 139.113, which states that:

“In emergency conditions requiring immediate action for the protection of life or property, involving the transportation of persons by air carriers, the certificate holder may deviate from any requirement of Subpart D of this part to the extent required to meet that emergency. Each certificate holder who deviates from a requirement under this paragraph shall, as soon as practicable, but no later than 14 days after the emergency, report in writing to the Regional Airports Division Manger stating the nature, extent, and duration of the deviation.”

This plan will be valid until LRU management or FAA determines that the plan should be updated based on changed circumstances or new information. This plan shall be reviewed at least annually to ensure it still pertains to conditions at the time of review, but it may also be revisited more often if situations arise or new hazards are identified that merit evaluation.

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2 – AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ^{RM}

14 CFR § 139.337(f)(1) *A list of the individuals having authority and responsibility for implementing each aspect of the plan.*

2.1 OVERVIEW

The LRU Airport Manager has the authority and responsibility of designating a Wildlife Coordinator to implement the WHMP. Clear communication among airport personnel is essential for the WHMP to succeed. Personnel working at the airport will communicate resource needs, recommendations, and progress to the designated Wildlife Coordinator. The LRU Wildlife Coordinator will obtain approval of the WHMP by the FAA and will review the WHMP and any amendments for compliance with Federal, State and local laws and regulations.

2.2 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY/RESPONSIBILITY

2.2.1 AIRPORT MANAGER

The Airport Manager will:

- Designate a Wildlife Coordinator at LRU to monitor all wildlife-related activities and implement all management activities as described in the WHMP.

2.2.2 WILDLIFE COORDINATOR (AIRPORT MANAGER)

The Wildlife Coordinator will be responsible for the Wildlife Hazard Management Program at LRU. The duties and responsibilities of the Wildlife Coordinator include, but are not limited to the following:

- Provide Supervisory Oversight and Project Management for all aspects of the LRU Wildlife Management Program
- Coordinate all wildlife control activities
- Obtain approval by the FAA of this WHMP, and any amendments
- Update and revise the WHMP as appropriate
- Obtain Federal and State permits that authorize control of wildlife pursuant to this WHMP
- Maintain records of animals taken pursuant to Federal and State of New Mexico permits, and include this information in annual permit renewals
- Ensure the availability of supplies necessary for conducting wildlife control activities

2.2.3 AIRPORT OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

The Airport Operations Personnel will:

- Work closely with the wildlife coordinator to mitigate wildlife hazards at LRU
- Notify the Wildlife Coordinator of the existence of vegetation and weeds in the infields and assist with the removal as requested
- Inspect airport property for wildlife attractants associated with garbage and refuse, communicate LRU rules for mitigating wildlife attractants with the airport community
- Inspect runways and taxiways for wildlife activity and strikes as required by 14 CFR § 139
- Implement aspects of the LRU Wildlife Management Program including: lethal control, nonlethal control, exclusion, repellants, habitat modifications, water management, and structure management.

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3- HABITAT MANAGEMENT

14 CFR § 139.337(f)(2) *A list prioritizing the following actions identified in the wildlife hazard assessment and target dates for their initiation and completion:*

- i) Wildlife population management;*
- ii) Habitat modification; and*
- (iii) Land use changes.*

3.1 OVERVIEW

Habitat management provides the most effective long-term remedial measure for reducing wildlife hazards on, or near, airports by removing wildlife's three basic requirements, food, water, and shelter. Habitat management includes the physical removal, exclusion, or manipulation of areas that are attractive to wildlife. The ultimate goal is to make the environment fairly uniform and unattractive to the species that are considered the greatest hazard to aviation. Habitat modifications will be monitored carefully to reduce wildlife hazards and avoid new attractions for different wildlife species. This WHMP was developed consistent with FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5200-33B, "Hazardous Wildlife Attractants on or Near Airports" (Appendix C).

3.2 WATER MANAGEMENT

In accordance with FAA AC 150/5200-33B, all drainage ditches and retention basins on LRU property are monitored for drainage within 48 hours of a rain event.

3.3 GRASS MANAGEMENT

FAA Certalert No. 98-05 advises that "airport operators should ensure that grass species and other varieties of plants attractive to hazardous wildlife are not used on the airport." In addition, grasses that produce large seeds and are known to be attractive to wildlife will be avoided when planting new areas.

As noted in FAA AC 150-5200-33B, agricultural operations in and around airports can provide ideal conditions for feeding and loafing sites for avian species that present a wildlife hazard. Grass on airport property is currently mowed to a height of 4-5 inches and will be monitored and management actions taken to reduce seed production. Grass height management is recommended so that new growth provides a thick, monotypic stand that prevents erosion.

3.4 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The Wildlife Coordinator should review all plans and comment on all new plantings on LRU property to reduce or eliminate any species that produce edible fruits, seeds, nuts, or berries if these plants create an attraction to hazardous wildlife. New plantings and current vegetation are managed or eliminated if they create roosting habitat for starlings, blackbirds, and other birds. Trees which produce dense roosting cover, are eliminated or replaced with an alternative species in the landscaping plans whenever possible. The Wildlife Coordinator participates in the initial and early phases of all airport building projects to avoid any inadvertent increase in wildlife hazards resulting from landscape changes. The FAA's Airports District Office reviews proposed construction activities for potential wildlife attractions when the FAA Form 7460-1 application is submitted.

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3.5 WETLAND VEGETATION

Wetland vegetation offers excellent habitat for many species of wildlife including waterfowl, fish eating birds, wading birds, and flocks of blackbirds. Wetland vegetation grows around pooled rain water, drainage ditches, and retention basins. LRU coordinates with the appropriate land owners and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) for removal of wetland vegetation as may be necessary. To the extent feasible, debris and soil buildup is cleared from drainage ditches regularly to permit the flow of water on airport property.

- Vegetation removal in jurisdictional wetlands can be done without a permit from the ACOE if the vegetation is pulled or cut manually at ground level. The Wildlife Coordinator participates with the ACOE, in obtaining Section 404 permits to ensure consistency with on-going wildlife and habitat management projects.

LRU recognizes that removal of vegetation may require permits in addition to those required by the ACOE. Specifically, LRU may need a Section 7 consultation from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to determine if the habitat is critical for threatened and endangered (T&E) species. If any additional permit is needed, the Wildlife Coordinator will participate in conducting Section 7 consultations to ensure consistency with on-going wildlife and habitat management projects. Additionally, if the habitat provides nesting habitat for migratory birds and active nests need to be removed, a Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) permit may be required.

Table 1. Habitat Management Projects to Reduce Wildlife Hazards at LRU.

Wildlife Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Responsibility Assigned to:	Target Completion Date
Water Management			
Drainage Ditches and Basins	Dredge silt, remove vegetation to ensure water flows	Wildlife Coordinator Airport Maintenance	On-going
Waste Water Treatment Plant	Meet annually to monitor baseline waterfowl populations	Wildlife Coordinator	January 2016
Vegetation Management			
Vegetation in AOA completely removed during major construction projects	Grading, mowing, cutting and herbicide treatments	Wildlife Coordinator Airport Maintenance	On-going
Structure Management			
Perimeter fence inspected and maintained	Daily patrols and repairs as needed	Airport Maintenance	On-going
Food and Prey Base Management			
Migratory birds in the AOA	Implement management actions such as nest removal, exclusion, habitat modifications, lethal and nonlethal controls.	Wildlife Coordinator Airport Maintenance USDA Contractor	On going
Mammals in the AOA	Upgrade perimeter fence and population reductions	Wildlife Coordinator Airport Maintenance USDA Contractor	CIP Project for fence upgrade in 2019 USDA contract renewal in January 2016
Agricultural crops within 5 miles of airport	Public Information Leaflet Mailings	Wildlife Coordinator	January 2016

4 – PERMITS AND REGULATIONS

14 CFR § 139.337(f)(3) *Requirements for and, where applicable, copies of local, State, and Federal wildlife control permits.*

4.1 OVERVIEW

Most forms of wildlife and their habitat are protected by one or more Federal, State and/or Municipal laws. Prior to implementing control actions involving wildlife, the legal status and permit requirements of the target species will be determined by the Wildlife Coordinator. LRU will adhere to the current regulations regarding wildlife management and will obtain the appropriate permits to take wildlife. LRU's Wildlife Coordinator is responsible for obtaining and maintaining appropriate wildlife permits, and may be assisted in this process by the Wildlife Biologist and/or trapper. Permits to take wildlife in New Mexico are issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS, Federal agency) and the New Mexico Game and Fish Department (NMGF, State agency).

4.2 NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE REGULATIONS

Several New Mexico State government agencies have regulations that affect wildlife management at airports. Pertinent regulations can be found in the New Mexico Revised Statutes (NMRS). New Mexico wildlife laws involving birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, as well as State threatened and endangered species are administered by NMGF, after adoption by the Game Commission under authority vested by NMRS Article 2 and are available in a booklet entitled "2011-12 Hunting Regulations." City and County firearms regulations may also affect LRU wildlife management projects, because city employees are not allowed to carry firearms on duty. LRU personnel will check with City and County officials prior to conducting operational control measures. The use of pesticides in New Mexico is conducted pursuant to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDAG) regulations and guidelines and any use of pesticides will be done in compliance with these regulations and guidelines. Application of restricted use pesticides will be conducted by other city employees licensed by a NMDAG.

4.3 FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Several Federal regulations, including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the Lacey Act, the Endangered Species Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act regulate various aspects of LRU's wildlife management activities. Additional regulations that may affect wildlife control activities at LRU are found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Several Federal agencies are responsible for the implementation of these Acts and the corresponding regulations. Federal wildlife laws and regulations are typically administered by the USFWS and involve primarily migratory birds and T&E species. Permits from the USFWS must be updated annually, unless otherwise stated on the permit.

4.4 WILDLIFE CATEGORIES

Federal (CFR Title 50), and NMRS define the categories of wildlife and regulations related to their management. Feral and free-ranging dogs, cats and other domestic animals are included in this WHMP because of the hazards they may pose to aircraft, but they are regulated under municipal laws. Wildlife hazard management personnel will be trained to recognize the category for the species that they intend to control, so that they can determine the relevant laws and necessary permits (Table 2).

Table 2. Wildlife categories in New Mexico, and permits necessary for lethal control as required by Federal and state wildlife agencies.

CATEGORY	SPECIES	STATE PERMIT ¹	FEDERAL PERMIT
THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES	Listed Threatened or Endangered species	Yes (take ₁)	Yes (take ₂)
DEPREDAATION ORDER BIRDS ⁴	Blackbirds, cowbirds, grackles, crows, and magpies, Canada geese, cormorants	No	No
FERAL DOMESTIC BIRDS	Rock doves (feral pigeons), domestic waterfowl, poultry, exotic pet birds	No	No
RESIDENT NONGAME BIRDS	European starlings and house sparrows	No	No
MIGRATORY NONGAME BIRDS	All species of birds except upland game birds, migratory game birds, feral domestic birds, and resident birds	No	Yes (take ₃)
MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS	Wild waterfowl, including ducks, geese, and swans; sand hill cranes; all coots; all gallinules; common snipe; wild doves; and band-tailed pigeons	Yes (take ₁)	Yes (take ₃)
UPLAND (RESIDENT) GAME BIRDS	Turkey, partridge, grouse, pheasants	Yes (take ₁)	No
FERAL DOMESTIC MAMMALS	Domestic dogs and cats, livestock, feral hogs	No	No
NONGAME MAMMALS	All species of wild mammals except game, fur-bearing and predatory mammals	Yes (take ₁)	No
FUR-BEARING MAMMALS	Beaver, muskrat, otter, mink, raccoon, bobcat, fox, coyote, and skunk	Yes (take ₁)	No
SMALL GAME	Band-tailed pigeons, cottontail rabbit, and tree squirrel	Yes (take ₁)	No
BIG GAME	Mule and whitetail deer	Yes (take ₁)	No
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS	All reptiles and amphibians except those listed as threatened or endangered in Table 5	Yes (take ₁)	No

Notes: ¹Management actions requiring a state permit other than a hunting or fishing license should be coordinated through the New Mexico Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. ² "Take" under the ESA means "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct." ³ "Take" under MBTA means "pursuing, shooting, hunting, fishing, trapping, killing, capturing, snaring, or netting wildlife or the placing or using of any net or other device or trap in a manner that may result in the capturing or killing of wildlife." ⁴May be taken without permits "...when concentrated in such numbers and manner as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance..." (50 CFR -21.43).

4.5 MIGRATORY BIRD DEPREDATION PERMIT (CFR 50, PART 21)

LRU currently has a contract with USDA Wildlife Services to provide lethal control of migratory birds. USDA currently possess a valid USFWS migratory bird depredation permit to "take" migratory birds. Take of migratory birds authorized under this permit focuses on bird species known to be hazardous to aviation at LRU.

4.6 FEDERAL THREATENED AND ENDANGERED (T&E) SPECIES

No suitable habitat for any federally or state listed T&E species exists on LRU; therefore no affect to any T&E species is anticipated.

5 - RESOURCES

14 CFR § 139.337(f)(4) *Identification of resources that the certificate holder will provide to implement the plan.*

5.1 OVERVIEW

Habitat management and wildlife control supplies and equipment are purchased from commercial sources. An adequate supply of equipment is maintained at LRU for use by trained personnel.

5.2 AIRPORT SUPPLIES

LRU Operations Division vehicles will be equipped with radio communications and warning lights, along with critical wildlife management equipment.

Supplies that are normally available at the airport include, but are not limited to:

- 15 mm pyrotechnic pistol launchers (Bird bombs/bangers and screamers)
- Cage trap for dogs (e.g., Tomahawk 110B)
- Cage trap for cats/raccoons (e.g., Tomahawk 108)
- Binoculars
- Garbage bags – various sizes
- Re-sealable bags – various sizes
- Refrigerator to preserve bird carcasses for identification by the Wildlife Coordinator

The following resource documents will be maintained in the Wildlife Coordinator's office.

- Field guides to wildlife identification
- Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage (2-binder manual, on CD or available on the web at <http://www.icwdm.org/handbook/index.asp>)
- FAA Wildlife Hazard Management at Airports manual – available on the web at http://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_safety/wildlife/resources/
- Wildlife Hazard Assessment for LRU
- LRU Wildlife Hazard Management Plan

5.3 COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ASSISTANCE

LRU can also contact Dona Ana County Animal Control to respond to domestic animal bites, remove stray dogs, and pick up bats for rabies testing. Domestic animals, other than dogs, must be contained and brought to a nearby animal control shelter. Contact:

City of Las Cruces Codes Enforcement
1085 Med Park
Las Cruces, NM 88005
575-528-4100

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6 - WILDLIFE HAZARD MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

14 CFR § 139.337(f)(5) Procedures to be followed during air carrier operations that at a minimum includes;

- (i) Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the procedures;**
- (ii) Provisions to conduct physical inspections of the aircraft movement areas and other areas critical to successfully manage known wildlife hazards before air carrier operations begin;**
- (iii) Wildlife hazard control measures; and**
- (iv) Ways to communicate effectively between personnel conducting wildlife control or observing wildlife hazards and the air traffic control tower.**

6.1 OVERVIEW

Wildlife observed on LRU, that is determined to pose a hazard, will be managed using safe, effective, legal, and environmentally responsible direct control techniques. Because wildlife hazards at airports are variable and complex, LRU will adopt a flexible, innovative, and adaptive approach to managing such hazards. Wildlife identification guides and handbooks will be available for use by wildlife control personnel at LRU. In addition to the Wildlife Hazard Management at Airports, Second Edition manual cited in **Chapter 5**, the handbook entitled Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage (two volume set) is consulted by LRU personnel. It is available on-line at http://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_safety/wildlife/resources/ and details species-specific damage assessment, as well as includes an in-depth discussion of methods of dispersal for each species.

This document will be consulted by LRU when special needs and/or emerging hazards are identified. As outlined in **Chapter 8**, Airport personnel will be trained to identify and manage hazardous wildlife at LRU, and will select and implement wildlife management methods that are appropriate to the type of animal causing the hazard.

6.2 WILDLIFE PATROL

LRU's Operations personnel will conduct at least one wildlife patrol at LRU during each shift in conjunction with Part 139 daily inspections. The current daily inspection report form required entry of any evidence of wildlife presence or ingress onto the airport. The patrol will monitor and respond to wildlife hazards on the airfield and will coordinate their activities through the Wildlife Coordinator. Airport Operations personnel will be trained in wildlife identification, wildlife management techniques, and safe operations. They will have radio-equipped vehicles and adequate wildlife control supplies. Airport Operations personnel will maintain clear communications with local Air Traffic, in accordance with FAA radio protocols, and will record all observations of wildlife-related activity (e.g., notable hazards, animals killed or dispersed, unusual wildlife behavior, etc.) in the Airport wildlife log.

Routine runway sweeps will be conducted at least once per shift, and the presence of any dead animals found that were involved in strikes with aircraft will be recorded on FAA Form 5200-7). All dead birds or mammals found on runways and taxiways, or within 250 feet of the runway centerline will be considered the result of a strike unless the death was obviously due to some other cause. Bird or mammal remains of unknown species will be placed in a

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zippered plastic bag and placed in a freezer with the FAA Form 5200-7 attached for later inspection and identification. In addition to carcasses found on the Airport, wildlife strikes will also include: (1) strikes reported by pilots, (2) evidence of wildlife strikes found and reported by Airport Operations personnel, and (3) direct observation of a strike by LRU personnel. All wildlife strike forms will be submitted to the Wildlife Coordinator for reporting into the FAA. Wildlife strike forms may be submitted electronically to the FAA at http://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_safety/wildlife/. Printouts of FAA strike report will be retained in the Airport Operations Office. ^{RM}

6.3 GENERAL WILDLIFE HAZARD CONTROL MEASURES

Each wildlife hazard that develops will be analyzed by the Wildlife Coordinator to determine a practical solution. An integration of multiple methods will be employed for maximum effectiveness. The Wildlife Coordinator and Airport Operations Personnel will work proactively to discourage bird use of the Airport and surrounding areas by conducting habitat manipulation to make the areas less attractive for hazardous birds. The initial response for most species found using the area will be harassment with frightening devices, followed by lethal methods when necessary. A primary key to successful wildlife control is persistence and innovation. Techniques will be applied based on safety, effectiveness, practicality, and environmental considerations. Most control techniques retain their effectiveness when used judiciously and in conjunction with other methods. Therefore, the methods chosen will depend largely on the situation and the species involved. Finally, personnel involved in direct control will be aware of the potential diseases that wildlife can carry and will take appropriate precautions. LRU's wildlife hazard management program is guided by the following principles:

- a zero tolerance policy towards hazardous wildlife on the Airport,
- wildlife will be harassed immediately and consistently,
- wildlife reproduction on the Airport will be discouraged, reduced, or eliminated,
- persistent hazardous wildlife will be removed, and
- LRU will adhere to all laws, regulations, policies, permits, and licenses.

6.4 BIRD HAZARD MANAGEMENT

Several species of birds are present at LRU and represent the most significant potential for causing damaging strikes. The Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage manual and the FAA Wildlife Hazard Management at Airports manual describe effective and practical methods that will be used to harass birds away from the Airport. Current versions of these manuals will be available in the Wildlife Coordinator's office. An integration of multiple methods will be employed for maximum effectiveness. Properly applied, the techniques discussed in these documents will reduce most hazards involving species of concern at LRU.

6.5 MAMMAL HAZARD MANAGEMENT

Surveys and analysis conducted to complete LRU's WHA did indicate a wildlife hazard from coyotes and jackrabbits. The Wildlife Coordinator will continue to implement the LRU wildlife management program targeting population reductions of these mammals. The contract LRU has with USDA Wildlife Services for mammal control will be renewed annually.

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7 – EVALUATION

14 CFR § 139.337(f)(6) Procedures to review and evaluate the wildlife hazard management plan every 12 consecutive months or following an event described in (b)(1), (b)(2), and (b)(3) of this section, including:

- (i) The plan's effectiveness in dealing with known wildlife hazards on and in the airport's vicinity and***
- (ii) Aspects of the wildlife hazards described in the wildlife hazard assessment that should be reevaluated.***

7.1 OVERVIEW

As noted above, the WHMP will be evaluated at least annually. The WHMP will also be evaluated following multiple wildlife strikes by an air carrier aircraft; if an air carrier aircraft experiences substantial damage from striking wildlife or if an air carrier aircraft experiences an engine ingestion of wildlife. The Wildlife Coordinator will determine the effectiveness of the WHMP at reducing wildlife strikes at LRU and monitor the status of hazard reduction projects, including their completion dates.

7.2 WILDLIFE STRIKE DATABASE

LRU will document the presence of any wildlife population, any hazard that exists due to the presence of the wildlife population and any wildlife strikes at LRU. This is accomplished primarily through the job responsibilities placed on LRU Operations Department personnel. The Wildlife Coordinator requires all Airport Operations Department personnel to document wildlife strikes through completion of FAA Form 5200-7, submission of the Form to the Wildlife Coordinator for species identification and submittal to the FAA, and completion of various internal records specific to LRU. Additionally, Airport Operations Department personnel are required to conduct daily checks of the airfield, identify possible wildlife attractants, and monitor wildlife populations.

FAA Form 5200-7 will be completed and submitted electronically by the Wildlife Coordinator. A printed copy of each strike Form and the airport wildlife log will be maintained in the Airport Administrative Office. A summary of wildlife strikes will be developed based on these data and will list wildlife species involved in strikes, identify trends and strike numbers. This information will be used to identify emerging needs and to contribute to the evaluation of wildlife hazard management programs at LRU. If unacceptable increases in wildlife strikes and populations are observed, the cause should be determined and the WHMP modified to address the problem.

8 - TRAINING

14 CFR § 139.337(f)(7): *A training program conducted by a qualified wildlife damage management biologists to provide airport personnel with the knowledge and skills needed to successfully carry out the wildlife hazard management plan required by paragraph (d) of this section.*

FAA AC 5200-36A:§139.303(c) and (e): *Requires the holder of an Airport Operating Certificate issued under Part 139 to provide initial training and, every 12 months thereafter, recurrent training in wildlife hazard management to airport personnel actively involved in implementing FAA approved Wildlife Hazard Management Plans. Initial and recurrent training must be at least 8 hours in length.*

8.1 TRAINING BY A QUALIFIED WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

Title 14 CFR § 139.337(f) does not prohibit holders of Airport Operating Certificates from using a “train-the-trainer” approach when providing the requisite training, provided the trainers receive and successfully complete their initial and recurrent training from a qualified airport wildlife biologist. Trainers who are not qualified airport wildlife biologists are limited to providing training to their airport employees.

The training will familiarize Airport personnel involved with wildlife hazard management the basic wildlife identification and dispersal techniques. The training will include, but is not limited to, hands-on training using pyrotechnics, and other deterrent equipment, with an emphasis on safety and effectiveness. These training courses will be available to all personnel who have responsibility in dispersing wildlife at LRU. They will receive initial training and recurrent training every 12 consecutive calendar months (CCM). Training will be customized to fit the needs of individual recipients and situations and will incorporate management issues relating directly to LRU wildlife strikes, populations, and physical environment. Instruction will be tailored to competence levels and areas of participating personnel.

At a minimum the initial and recurrent training will include:

- Summary of bird strike data from the National Wildlife Strike Database,
- Review of wildlife strikes, control actions, and observations over the past 12 consecutive calendar months,
- Review of the Airport’s Wildlife Hazard Assessment
- Review of the Airport’s Wildlife Hazard Management Plan including:
 - Wildlife attractants
 - Wildlife permits
 - Airport specific management actions and responsibilities.
- Wildlife identification.
- Pyrotechnic and firearm training as appropriate.
- Oral exam.

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9 - AGENCY DIRECTORY

REGULATORY AND ENFORCEMENT

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Wildlife Permitting)

Migratory Bird Permit Office
P.O. Box 709
Albuquerque, NM 87103
Tel. (505) 248-7882
Fax (505) 248-7885
Email permitsR2MB@fws.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (T&E Species)

New Mexico Field Office
2105 Osuna Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
Phone (505) 346-2525
Fax (505) 346-2542
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/NewMexico/nmesfostaff.cfm>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Law Enforcement)

P.O. Box 329
Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA 87103
Phone(505)248-7889

New Mexico Game and Fish

2715 Northrise Drive,
Las Cruces, NM 88011
Phone: (575) 532-2100

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

New Mexico Department of Agriculture

MSC 3189, Box 30005
Las Cruces, NM 88003
Phone: (575)-646-3007

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Southwest Region

2601 Meacham Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX 76137
817-222-5000
http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/arc/ro_center/index.cfm?file_name=contact_us_southwest

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Staff Wildlife Biologist

FAA Airport Safety and Compliance FAA-AA5-317
800 Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC 20591
Phone: 202-267-3389
website: <http://www.faa.gov>

OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Airport Wildlife Consultants,

4735 E Melanie Dr., Cave Creek, AZ 85331
Phone: 480-993-9357
www.awcphx.com

City of Las Cruces Codes Enforcement

1085 Med Park
Las Cruces, NM 88005
Phone: 575-528-4100

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services

8441 Washington St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
Phone: (505) 346-2627
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws>

Local pest control operators are available to assist with insect and rodent problems.