



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development
451 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20410
www.hud.gov
espanol.hud.gov

Environmental Review for Activity/Project that is Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5 Pursuant to 24 CFR 58.35(a)

Project Information

Project Name: PR-RGRW-01425-W

HEROS Number: 900000010460621

Start Date: 03/24/2025

State / Local Identifier:

Project Location: , Arecibo, PR 00612

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 18.421437, longitude -66.740245 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 052-042-004-07-000

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

This project (PR-RGRW-01425-W) entails the award of a grant to Oscars Farm, an agricultural business, at Carretera 635 KM Dominguito sector mata platano, Arecibo, PR 00612. Tax ID Number: 052-042-004-07-000. Coordinates (latitude 18.421437, longitude -66.740245). The proposed project involves the installation of a new "Farm in the City" vertical hydroponic greenhouse and a generator. The proposed greenhouse is approximately 320 square feet (sq. ft) (40 feet [ft] by 8 ft) with a height of approximately 9.5 ft. The greenhouse will be installed on 4 concrete piers reinforced with rebar every 10 ft which will extend a total of 12-18 inches (in.) into the ground. Metal bolts will be used to secure the greenhouse to the concrete piers. The greenhouse location is on a gentle slope, so the concrete piers will serve to level the site. The generator is approximately 25 sq. ft (5 ft by 5 ft) and will be installed on 2 concrete piers which will extend a total of 12-18 in. into the ground. The piers will serve to support and elevate the generator and there will be no cement slab. The piers will be a maximum of 3 ft long, 3 ft wide and will extend no deeper than 1.5 ft into the ground. The generator site is currently occupied by debris which will be moved prior to construction. There are small trees located adjacent to the proposed location of the generator, however, they will not be removed or trimmed during construction. Electricity to the greenhouse will be provided by an aboveground connection from the electrical meter at the applicant's residence, which is located approximately 12 ft southeast of the greenhouse. The generator located 27 ft north will serve as a backup source of electricity for the greenhouse. Water to irrigate the greenhouse will be provided from a water main at the residence approximately 45 ft southeast that is connected to the aqueduct managed by the Puerto Rico Aqueducts and Sewers Authority (PRASA). The irrigation piping and connections to the greenhouse will be underground lines that extend approximately 2 ft deep and 1 ft wide. The irrigation system and electrical connections are not part of the Intended Use of Grant Funds. The project will have minimal ground disturbance and no vegetation or tree clearing or pruning is required for construction. The applicant owns the property; therefore, no acquisition is

required. The project Oscars Farm, PR-RGRW-01425-W has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance, and CE: #10 - 10. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xxxvii): Watering tank or trough installation, if in areas not previously disturbed. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Agricultural watering tank or trough installation that includes new ground disturbance have been classified as CEST under the waiver.

Level of Environment Review Determination:

Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR 58.35(a), and subject to laws and authorities at §58.5:

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Program Name	
B-17-DM-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00
B-18-DE-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00
B-18-DP-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00
B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$100,000.00

Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]: \$100,000.00

Mitigation Measures and Conditions [CFR 1505.2(c)]:

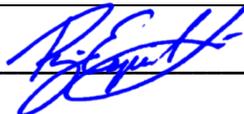
Summarized below are all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Complete
Endangered Species Act	The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024, (2) if a Puerto Rican Parrot is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (3) if a Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk is encountered on the site,	N/A	

	<p>the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately. (4) if a Puerto Rican Crested Toad is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Crested Toad Conservation Measures.</p> <p>Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.</p> <p>In conclusion, the USFWS concurred with the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division NLAA determination. However, the applicant must be informed about the conditions of the determination of concurrence and implement them as described.</p>		
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Determination:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>This categorically excluded activity/project converts to EXEMPT per Section 58.34(a)(12), because it does not require any mitigation for compliance with any listed statutes or authorities, nor requires any formal permit or license; Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt status because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, publish NOI/RROF and obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds" (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds; OR</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>This project is not categorically excluded OR, if originally categorically excluded, is now subject to a full Environmental Assessment according to Part 58 Subpart E due to extraordinary circumstances (Section 58.35(c)).</p>

Preparer Signature: _____  Date: March 26, 2025

Name / Title/ Organization: Ricardo Espiet Lopez / / Department of Housing - Puerto Rico

Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature:



Date: 4/2/2025

Name/ Title: Pedro A. de León Rodríguez, MSEM/Permits and Environmental Compliance Specialist

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environment Review Record (ERR) for the activity / project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).

**Environmental Review for Activity/Project that is
Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5
Pursuant to 24 CFR 58.35(a)**

Project Information

Project Name: PR-RGRW-01425-W

HEROS Number: 900000010460621

Start Date: 03/24/2025

Responsible Entity (RE): Department of Housing - Puerto Rico, P.O. Box 21365 San
Juan PR, 00928

State / Local Identifier:

RE Preparer: Ricardo Espiet Lopez

**Certifying Office
r:**

**Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Ent
ity):**

Point of Contact:

Point of Contact: Justin Neely

Consultant (if applicable): HORNE LLP

40 CFR 1506.5(b)(4): The lead agency or, where appropriate, a cooperating agency shall prepare a disclosure statement for the contractor's execution specifying that the contractor has no financial or other interest in the outcome of the action. Such statement need not include privileged or confidential trade secrets or other confidential business information.

- ✓ By checking this box, I attest that as a preparer, I have no financial or other interest in the outcome of the undertaking assessed in this environmental review.

Project Location: , Arecibo, PR 00612

Additional Location Information:

The project is located at latitude 18.421437, longitude -66.740245 at the address given above. Tax ID Number: 052-042-004-07-000

Direct Comments to:

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

This project (PR-RGRW-01425-W) entails the award of a grant to Oscars Farm, an agricultural business, at Carretera 635 KM Dominguito sector mata platano, Arecibo, PR 00612. Tax ID Number: 052-042-004-07-000. Coordinates (latitude 18.421437, longitude -66.740245). The proposed project involves the installation of a new "Farm in the City" vertical hydroponic greenhouse and a generator. The proposed greenhouse is approximately 320 square feet (sq. ft) (40 feet [ft] by 8 ft) with a height of approximately 9.5 ft. The greenhouse will be installed on 4 concrete piers reinforced with rebar every 10 ft which will extend a total of 12-18 inches (in.) into the ground. Metal bolts will be used to secure the greenhouse to the concrete piers. The greenhouse location is on a gentle slope, so the concrete piers will serve to level the site. The generator is approximately 25 sq. ft (5 ft by 5 ft) and will be installed on 2 concrete piers which will extend a total of 12-18 in. into the ground. The piers will serve to support and elevate the generator and there will be no cement slab. The piers will be a maximum of 3 ft long, 3 ft wide and will extend no deeper than 1.5 ft into the ground. The generator site is currently occupied by debris which will be moved prior to construction. There are small trees located adjacent to the proposed location of the generator, however, they will not be removed or trimmed during construction. Electricity to the greenhouse will be provided by an aboveground connection from the electrical meter at the applicant's residence, which is located approximately 12 ft southeast of the greenhouse. The generator located 27 ft north will serve as a backup source of electricity for the greenhouse. Water to irrigate the greenhouse will be provided from a water main at the residence approximately 45 ft southeast that is connected to the aqueduct managed by the Puerto Rico Aqueducts and Sewers Authority (PRASA). The irrigation piping and connections to the greenhouse will be underground lines that extend approximately 2 ft deep and 1 ft wide. The irrigation system and electrical connections are not part of the Intended Use of Grant Funds. The project will have minimal ground disturbance and no vegetation or tree clearing or pruning is required for construction. The applicant owns the property; therefore, no acquisition is required. The project Oscars Farm, PR-RGRW-01425-W has been evaluated in accordance with FR-6492-N-01. The activities identified CE: #7 - 7. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (iii): Construction of a new farm storage facility. HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Construction of a new farm storage facility with ground disturbance, and CE: #10 - 10. 7 CFR 799.32(e) (2) (xxvii): Watering tank or trough installation, if in areas not previously disturbed.

HUD Level of Review: CEST. Potential application to HUD activities: Agricultural watering tank or trough installation that includes new ground disturbance have been classified as CEST under the waiver.

Maps, photographs, and other documentation of project location and description:

[PR-RGRW-01425-W Site Map.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-01425-W IUGF.pdf](#)

[PRDOH Regrow Puerto Rico Program - 5836 Waiver \(002\).pdf](#)

[Farm Service Agency Adopted Categorical Exclusions Identified in FR-6492-N-01.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-01425-W EFOR.pdf](#)

Level of Environmental Review Determination:

Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR 58.35(a), and subject to laws and authorities at

58.5:

58.35(a)(3)(iii)

Determination:

	This categorically excluded activity/project converts to EXEMPT per Section 58.34(a)(12), because it does not require any mitigation for compliance with any listed statutes or authorities, nor requires any formal permit or license; Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR
✓	This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt status because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, publish NOI/RROF and obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds" (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds; OR
	This project is not categorically excluded OR, if originally categorically excluded, is now subject to a full Environmental Assessment according to Part 58 Subpart E due to extraordinary circumstances (Section 58.35(c)).

Approval Documents:

[01425-SIG-PAGE.pdf](#)

7015.15 certified by Certifying Officer

on:

7015.16 certified by Authorizing Officer

on:

Funding Information

Grant / Project Identification Number	HUD Program	Program Name	Funding Amount
B-17-DM-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00
B-18-DE-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00
B-18-DP-72-0001	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00
B-19-DP-78-0002	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)	\$0.00

Estimated Total HUD Funded, Assisted or Insured Amount: \$100,000.00

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$100,000.00

Compliance with 24 CFR §50.4, §58.5 and §58.6 Laws and Authorities

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §50.4, §58.5, and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determination (See Appendix A for source determinations)
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.6		
Airport Hazards Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Rafael Hernandez, is located 132,295 ft (25 miles [mi]) from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 251,129 ft (48 mi) from the project site. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.
Coastal Barrier Resources Act Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 21,673 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no

Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]		potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Flood Map Number 72000C0240H, effective on 4/19/2005: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §50.4 & § 58.5		
Air Quality Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under the Clean Air Act. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.
Coastal Zone Management Act Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is located 15,754 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Site contamination was evaluated as follows: None of the above. On-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property were not found. A review of science-based radon data offered a lack of data for the project site and radon testing was determined to be infeasible or impracticable. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.
Endangered Species Act Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	This project May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect, listed species, and informal consultation was conducted. With mitigation, identified in the

		mitigation section of this review, the project will be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards Above-Ground Tanks)[24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Flood Map Number 72000C0240H, effective on 4/19/2005: This project does not occur in the FFRMS floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690. PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of Arecibo; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	(All sheds on the property are after 2006. Applicant's House: ca. 1940) Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic Properties Affected because there are no historic properties present. The project is in compliance with Section 106.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under HUD's noise regulation. The project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulation.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The project is not located on a sole source aquifer area. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in

		compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Based on the project description this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. This project does not involve new construction, so a visual wetlands survey was not conducted.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 332,497 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
HUD HOUSING ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS		
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898. On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order 14173 titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity", which revoked Executive Order 12898 and eliminated federal mandates requiring agencies to assess environmental justice impacts. Consequently, there is no longer a federal requirement to address environmental justice concerns in the environmental compliance review process.

Mitigation Measures and Conditions [40 CFR 1505.2(c)]:

Summarized below are all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Mitigation Plan	Complete
Endangered Species Act	<p>The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024, (2) if a Puerto Rican Parrot is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (3) if a Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately. (4) if a Puerto Rican Crested Toad is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Crested Toad Conservation Measures.</p> <p>Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.</p> <p>In conclusion, the USFWS concurred with the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division NLAA determination. However, the applicant must be informed about the conditions of the determination of concurrence</p>	N/A		

	and implement them as described.			
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Project Mitigation Plan

Should new ground disturbance occur the Karst zone must be evaluated and when necessary DNER must be consulted prior to construction activities. The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024, (2) if a Puerto Rican Parrot is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (3) if a Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately. (4) if a Puerto Rican Crested Toad is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Crested Toad Conservation Measures. Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action. In conclusion, the USFWS concurred with the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division NLAA determination. However, the applicant must be informed about the conditions of the determination of concurrence and implement them as described.

Supporting documentation on completed measures

APPENDIX A: Related Federal Laws and Authorities

Airport Hazards

General policy	Legislation	Regulation
It is HUD's policy to apply standards to prevent incompatible development around civil airports and military airfields.		24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D

1. To ensure compatible land use development, you must determine your site's proximity to civil and military airports. Is your project within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport?

✓ No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload the map showing that the site is not within the applicable distances to a military or civilian airport below

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

The project site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The nearest civil primary or commercial service airport, Rafael Hernandez, is located 132,295 ft (25 miles [mi]) from the project site. The nearest military airport, Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, is located 251,129 ft (48 mi) from the project site. The project is in compliance with Airport Hazards requirements.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01425-W Airports.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Coastal Barrier Resources

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
HUD financial assistance may not be used for most activities in units of the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS). See 16 USC 3504 for limitations on federal expenditures affecting the CBRS.	Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) of 1982, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 (16 USC 3501)	

1. Is the project located in a CBRS Unit?

No

Document and upload map and documentation below.

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project is not located in a CBRS Unit. It is 21,673 feet from a protected area. Therefore, this project has no potential to impact a CBRS Unit and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01425-W CBRS.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Flood Insurance

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Certain types of federal financial assistance may not be used in floodplains unless the community participates in National Flood Insurance Program and flood insurance is both obtained and maintained.	Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 as amended (42 USC 4001-4128)	24 CFR 50.4(b)(1) and 24 CFR 58.6(a) and (b); 24 CFR 55.1(b).

1. Does this project involve financial assistance for construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of a mobile home, building, or insurable personal property?

No. This project does not require flood insurance or is excepted from flood insurance.

✓ Yes

2. Upload a FEMA/FIRM map showing the site here:

[PR-RGRW-01425-W FIRM.pdf](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates floodplains. The [FEMA Map Service Center](#) provides this information in the form of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). For projects in areas not mapped by FEMA, use the best available information to determine floodplain information. Include documentation, including a discussion of why this is the best available information for the site. Provide FEMA/FIRM floodplain zone designation, panel number, and date within your documentation.

Is the structure, part of the structure, or insurable property located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area?

✓ No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section.

Yes

4. While flood insurance is not mandatory for this project, HUD strongly recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Will flood insurance be required as a mitigation measure or condition?

Yes

✓ No

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Flood Map Number 72000C0240H, effective on 4/19/2005: The structure or insurable property is not located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. While flood insurance may not be mandatory in this instance, HUD recommends that all insurable structures maintain flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The project is in compliance with flood insurance requirements.

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Air Quality

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
The Clean Air Act is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which sets national standards on ambient pollutants. In addition, the Clean Air Act is administered by States, which must develop State Implementation Plans (SIPs) to regulate their state air quality. Projects funded by HUD must demonstrate that they conform to the appropriate SIP.	Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.) as amended particularly Section 176(c) and (d) (42 USC 7506(c) and (d))	40 CFR Parts 6, 51 and 93

1. Does your project include new construction or conversion of land use facilitating the development of public, commercial, or industrial facilities OR five or more dwelling units?

Yes

✓ No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under the Clean Air Act. The project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Coastal Zone Management Act

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Federal assistance to applicant agencies for activities affecting any coastal use or resource is granted only when such activities are consistent with federally approved State Coastal Zone Management Act Plans.	Coastal Zone Management Act (16 USC 1451-1464), particularly section 307(c) and (d) (16 USC 1456(c) and (d))	15 CFR Part 930

1. Is the project located in, or does it affect, a Coastal Zone as defined in your state Coastal Management Plan?

Yes

No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload all documents used to make your determination below.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project is not located in or does not affect a Coastal Zone as defined in the state Coastal Management Plan. The project is located 15,754 feet from the coastal zone. The project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01425-W CZM.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Contamination and Toxic Substances

General Requirements	Legislation	Regulations
It is HUD policy that all properties that are being proposed for use in HUD programs be free of hazardous materials, contamination, toxic chemicals and gases, and radioactive substances, where a hazard could affect the health and safety of the occupants or conflict with the intended utilization of the property.		24 CFR 58.5(i)(2) 24 CFR 50.3(i)
Reference		
https://www.onecpd.info/environmental-review/site-contamination		

1. How was site contamination evaluated?* Select all that apply.

ASTM Phase I ESA

ASTM Phase II ESA

Remediation or clean-up plan

ASTM Vapor Encroachment Screening.

None of the above

* HUD regulations at 24 CFR § 58.5(i)(2)(ii) require that the environmental review for multifamily housing with five or more dwelling units or non-residential property include the evaluation of previous uses of the site or other evidence of contamination on or near the site.

For acquisition and new construction of multifamily and nonresidential properties HUD strongly advises the review include an ASTM Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) to meet real estate transaction standards of due diligence and to help ensure compliance with HUD's toxic policy at 24 CFR §58.5(i) and 24 CFR §50.3(i). Also note that some HUD programs require an ASTM Phase I ESA.

2. Were any on-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances* (excluding radon) found that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property? (Were any recognized environmental conditions or RECs identified in a Phase I ESA and confirmed in a Phase II ESA?)

Provide a map or other documentation of absence or presence of contamination** and explain evaluation of site contamination in the Screen Summary at the bottom of this screen.

No

Explain:

There are no toxic sites within 3,000 feet of the applicant location. The environmental field observation did not note any items of concern. See the attached environmental field observation report. A google earth review of the area shows no visible hazards. The past land use for the last 10-15 year is general rural.

Yes

* This question covers the presence of radioactive substances excluding radon. Radon is addressed in the Radon Exempt Question.

** Utilize EPA's Enviromapper, NEPAAssist, or state/tribal databases to identify nearby dumps, junk yards, landfills, hazardous waste sites, and industrial sites, including EPA National Priorities List Sites (Superfund sites), CERCLA or state-equivalent sites, RCRA Corrective Action sites with release(s) or suspected release(s) requiring clean-up action and/or further investigation. Additional supporting documentation may include other inspections and reports.

3. Evaluate the building(s) for radon. Do all buildings meet any of the exemptions* from having to consider radon in the contamination analysis listed in CPD Notice [CPD-23-103](#)?

Yes

Explain:

✓ No

* Notes:

- Buildings with no enclosed areas having ground contact.
- Buildings containing crawlspaces, utility tunnels, or parking garages would not be exempt, however buildings built on piers would be exempt, provided that there is open air between the lowest floor of the building and the ground.
- Buildings that are not residential and will not be occupied for more than 4 hours per day.
- Buildings with existing radon mitigation systems - document radon levels are below 4 pCi/L with test results dated within two years of submitting the application for HUD assistance and document the system includes an ongoing maintenance plan that includes periodic testing to ensure the system continues to meet the current EPA recommended levels. If the project does not require an application, document test results dated within two years of the date the environmental review is certified. Refer to program office guidance to ensure compliance with program requirements.
- Buildings tested within five years of the submission of application for HUD assistance: test results document indoor radon levels are below current the EPA's recommended action

levels of 4.0 pCi/L. For buildings with test data older than five years, any new environmental review must include a consideration of radon using one of the methods in Section A below.

4. Is the proposed project new construction or substantial rehabilitation where testing will be conducted but cannot yet occur because building construction has not been completed?

Yes

Compliance with this section is conditioned on post-construction testing being conducted, followed by mitigation, if needed. Radon test results, along with any needed mitigation plan, must be uploaded to the mitigation section within this screen.

No

5. Was radon testing or a scientific data review conducted that provided a radon concentration level in pCi/L?

Yes

No

If no testing was conducted and a review of science-based data offered a lack of science-based data for the project site, then document and upload the steps taken to look for documented test results and science-based data as well as the basis for the conclusion that testing would be infeasible or impracticable.

Explain:

Radon testing is not feasible or practicable for this case, please see the attached Radon Memo.

File Upload:

[Radon Attachments.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-01425-W Radon Memo.docx](#)

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Screen Summary at the bottom of this screen.

Non-radon contamination was found in a previous question.

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

Site contamination was evaluated as follows: None of the above. On-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property were not found. A review of science-based radon data offered a lack of data for the project site and radon testing was determined to be infeasible or impracticable. The project is in compliance with contamination and toxic substances requirements.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01425-W Toxics.pdf](#)

[PR-RGRW-01425-W EFOR\(1\).pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Endangered Species

General requirements	ESA Legislation	Regulations
Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) mandates that federal agencies ensure that actions that they authorize, fund, or carry out shall not jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed plants and animals or result in the adverse modification or destruction of designated critical habitat. Where their actions may affect resources protected by the ESA, agencies must consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (“FWS” and “NMFS” or “the Services”).	The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 <i>et seq.</i>); particularly section 7 (16 USC 1536).	50 CFR Part 402

1. Does the project involve any activities that have the potential to affect species or habitats?

No, the project will have No Effect due to the nature of the activities involved in the project.

No, the project will have No Effect based on a letter of understanding, memorandum of agreement, programmatic agreement, or checklist provided by local HUD office

- ✓ Yes, the activities involved in the project have the potential to affect species and/or habitats.

2. Are federally listed species or designated critical habitats present in the action area?

No, the project will have No Effect due to the absence of federally listed species and designated critical habitat

- ✓ Yes, there are federally listed species or designated critical habitats present in the action area.

3. What effects, if any, will your project have on federally listed species or designated critical habitat?

No Effect: Based on the specifics of both the project and any federally listed species in the action area, you have determined that the project will have absolutely no effect on listed species or critical habitat. in the action area.

- ✓ May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect: Any effects that the project may have on federally listed species or critical habitats would be beneficial, discountable, or insignificant.

Likely to Adversely Affect: The project may have negative effects on one or more listed species or critical habitat.

4. Informal Consultation is required

Section 7 of ESA (16 USC. 1536) mandates consultation to resolve potential impacts to endangered and threatened species and critical habitats. If a HUD-assisted project may affect any federally listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat, then compliance is required with Section 7. See 50 CFR Part 402 Subpart B Consultation Procedures.

Did the Service(s) concur with the finding that the project is Not Likely to Adversely Affect?

- ✓ Yes, the Service(s) concurred with the finding.

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload the following below:

- (1) A biological evaluation or equivalent document
- (2) Concurrence(s) from FWS and/or NMFS
- (3) Any other documentation of informal consultation

Exception: If finding was made based on procedures provided by a letter of understanding, memorandum of agreement, programmatic agreement, or checklist provided by local HUD office, provide whatever documentation is mandated by that agreement.

No, the Service(s) did not concur with the finding.

6. For the project to be brought into compliance with this section, all adverse impacts must be mitigated. Explain in detail the exact measures that must be implemented to mitigate for the impact or effect, including the timeline for implementation. This information will be automatically included in the Mitigation summary for the environmental review. If negative effects cannot be mitigated, cancel the project using the button at the bottom of this screen.

✓ Mitigation as follows will be implemented:

The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024, (2) if a Puerto Rican Parrot is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (3) if a Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately. (4) if a Puerto Rican Crested Toad is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Crested Toad Conservation Measures. Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action. In conclusion, the USFWS concurred with the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division NLAA determination. However, the applicant must be informed about the conditions of the determination of concurrence and implement them as described.

No mitigation is necessary.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect, listed species, and informal consultation was conducted. With mitigation, identified in the mitigation section of this review, the project will be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01425-W USFWS Consultation Package.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-01425-W USFWS Conservation Measures.pdf](#)
[PR-RGRW-01425-W USFWS Concurrence Letter.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Explosive and Flammable Hazards

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
HUD-assisted projects must meet Acceptable Separation Distance (ASD) requirements to protect them from explosive and flammable hazards.	N/A	24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C

1. Is the proposed HUD-assisted project itself the development of a hazardous facility (a facility that mainly stores, handles or processes flammable or combustible chemicals such as bulk fuel storage facilities and refineries)?

No

Yes

2. Does this project include any of the following activities: development, construction, rehabilitation that will increase residential densities, or conversion?

No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section.

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Based on the project description the project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements.

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Farmlands Protection

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) discourages federal activities that would convert farmland to nonagricultural purposes.	Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.)	7 CFR Part 658

1. Does your project include any activities, including new construction, acquisition of undeveloped land or conversion, that could convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use?

Yes

No

If your project includes new construction, acquisition of undeveloped land or conversion, explain how you determined that agricultural land would not be converted:

The proposed project includes the purchase and installation of a new generator and Farm in the City greenhouse. The project site locations are classified as General Rural (R-G) land use. The proposed action is continued agricultural use of property, which is compatible with zoning and existing land use.

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload all documents used to make your determination below.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project does not include any activities that could potentially convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. The project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01425-W Farmlands.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Floodplain Management

General Requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, requires Federal activities to avoid impacts to floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development to the extent practicable.	Executive Order 11988 * Executive Order 13690 * 42 USC 4001-4128 * 42 USC 5154a * only applies to screen 2047 and not 2046	24 CFR 55

1. Does this project meet an exemption at 24 CFR 55.12 from compliance with HUD's floodplain management regulations in Part 55?

Yes

(a) HUD-assisted activities described in 24 CFR 58.34 and 58.35(b).

(b) HUD-assisted activities described in 24 CFR 50.19, except as otherwise indicated in § 50.19.

(c) The approval of financial assistance for restoring and preserving the natural and beneficial functions and values of floodplains and wetlands, including through acquisition of such floodplain and wetland property, where a permanent covenant or comparable restriction is place on the property's continued use for flood control, wetland projection, open space, or park land, but only if:

(1) The property is cleared of all existing buildings and walled structures; and

(2) The property is cleared of related improvements except those which:

(i) Are directly related to flood control, wetland protection, open space, or park land (including playgrounds and recreation areas);

(ii) Do not modify existing wetland areas or involve fill, paving, or other ground disturbance beyond minimal trails or paths; and

(iii) Are designed to be compatible with the beneficial floodplain or wetland function of the property.

(d) An action involving a repossession, receivership, foreclosure, or similar acquisition of property to protect or enforce HUD's financial interests under previously approved loans, grants, mortgage insurance, or other HUD assistance.

(e) Policy-level actions described at 24 CFR 50.16 that do not involve site-based decisions.

(f) A minor amendment to a previously approved action with no additional adverse impact on or from a floodplain or wetland.

(g) HUD's or the responsible entity's approval of a project site, an incidental portion of which is situated in the FFRMS floodplain (not including the floodway, LiMWA, or coastal high hazard area) but only if: (1) The proposed project site does not include any existing or proposed buildings or improvements that modify or occupy the FFRMS floodplain except de minimis improvements such as recreation areas and trails; and (2) the proposed project will not result in any new construction in or modifications of a wetland .

(h) Issuance or use of Housing Vouchers, or other forms of rental subsidy where HUD, the awarding community, or the public housing agency that administers the contract awards rental subsidies that are not project-based (i.e., do not involve site-specific subsidies).

(i) Special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers that restrict the mobility of and accessibility to elderly and persons with disabilities.

Describe:

No

2. Does the project include a Critical Action? Examples of Critical Actions include projects involving hospitals, fire and police stations, nursing homes, hazardous chemical storage, storage of valuable records, and utility plants.

Yes

Describe:

No

3. Determine the extent of the FFRMS floodplain and provide mapping documentation in support of that determination

The extent of the FFRMS floodplain can be determined using a Climate Informed Science Approach (CISA), 0.2 percent flood approach (0.2 PFA), or freeboard value approach (FVA). For projects in areas without available CISA data or without FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), Flood Insurance Studies (FISs) or Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs), use the best available information¹ to determine flood elevation. Include documentation and an explanation of why this is the best available information² for the site. Note that newly constructed and substantially improved³ structures must be elevated to the FFRMS floodplain regardless of the approach chosen to determine the floodplain.

Select one of the following three options:

CISA for non-critical actions. If using a local tool, data, or resources, ensure that the FFRMS elevation is higher than would have been determined using the 0.2 PFA or the FVA.

- ✓ 0.2-PFA. Where FEMA has defined the 0.2-percent-annual-chance floodplain, the FFRMS floodplain is the area that FEMA has designated as within the 0.2-percent-annual-chance floodplain.

FVA. If neither CISA nor 0.2-PFA is available, for non-critical actions, the FFRMS floodplain is the area that results from adding two feet to the base flood elevation as established by the effective FIRM or FIS or — if available — a FEMA-provided preliminary or pending FIRM or FIS or advisory base flood elevations, whether regulatory or informational in nature. However, an interim or preliminary FEMA map cannot be used if it is lower than the current FIRM or FIS.

¹ Sources which merit investigation include the files and studies of other federal agencies, such as the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Soil Conservation Service and the U. S. Geological Survey. These agencies have prepared flood hazard studies for several thousand localities and, through their technical assistance programs, hydrologic studies, soil surveys, and other investigations have collected or developed other floodplain information for numerous sites and areas. States and communities are also sources of information on past flood 'experiences within their boundaries and are particularly knowledgeable about areas subject to high-risk flood hazards such as alluvial fans, high velocity flows, mudflows and mudslides, ice jams, subsidence and liquefaction.

² If you are using best available information, select the FVA option below and provide supporting documentation in the screen summary. Contact your [local environmental officer](#) with additional compliance questions.

³ Substantial improvement means any repair or improvement of a structure which costs at least 50 percent of the market value of the structure before repair or improvement or results in an increase of more than 20 percent of the number of dwelling units. The full definition can be found at [24 CFR 55.2\(b\)\(12\)](#).

5. Does your project occur in the FFRMS floodplain?

Yes

No

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Flood Map Number 72000C0240H, effective on 4/19/2005: This project does not occur in the FFRMS floodplain. The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 13690. PFIRMs in Puerto Rico were only developed for certain sections of the municipalities of Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza, San Juan and Trujillo Alto. The proposed project is located in the municipality of Arecibo; therefore, PFIRM information was not available for the area and therefore not considered in the review.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01425-W ABFE.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Historic Preservation

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Regulations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) require a consultative process to identify historic properties, assess project impacts on them, and avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects	Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f)	36 CFR 800 "Protection of Historic Properties" https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2012-title36-vol3/pdf/CFR-2012-title36-vol3-part800.pdf

Threshold

Is Section 106 review required for your project?

No, because the project consists solely of activities listed as exempt in a Programmatic Agreement (PA). (See the PA Database to find applicable PAs.)

No, because the project consists solely of activities included in a No Potential to Cause Effects memo or other determination [36 CFR 800.3(a)(1)].

- ✓ Yes, because the project includes activities with potential to cause effects (direct or indirect).

Step 1 – Initiate Consultation

Select all consulting parties below (check all that apply):

- ✓ State Historic Preservation Offer (SHPO) Completed

Indian Tribes, including Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) or Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs)

Other Consulting Parties

Describe the process of selecting consulting parties and initiating consultation here:

Only SHPO was consulted as No Historic Properties Affected was determined and no Tribal Lands were identified.

Document and upload all correspondence, notices and notes (including comments and objections received below).

Was the Section 106 Lender Delegation Memo used for Section 106 consultation?

- Yes
- No

Step 2 – Identify and Evaluate Historic Properties

1. Define the Area of Potential Effect (APE), either by entering the address(es) or uploading a map depicting the APE below:

In the chart below, list historic properties identified and evaluated in the APE. Every historic property that may be affected by the project should be included in the chart.

Upload the documentation (survey forms, Register nominations, concurrence(s) and/or objection(s), notes, and photos) that justify your National Register Status determination below.

Address / Location / District	National Register Status	SHPO Concurrence	Sensitive Information
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Additional Notes:

No Historic Properties present within the APE

2. Was a survey of historic buildings and/or archeological sites done as part of the project?

- Yes
- ✓ No

Step 3 –Assess Effects of the Project on Historic Properties

Only properties that are listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places receive further consideration under Section 106. Assess the effect(s) of the project by applying the Criteria of Adverse Effect. (36 CFR 800.5)] Consider direct and indirect effects as applicable as

per guidance on direct and indirect effects.

Choose one of the findings below - No Historic Properties Affected, No Adverse Effect, or Adverse Effect; and seek concurrence from consulting parties.

No Historic Properties Affected

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload concurrence(s) or objection(s) below.

Document reason for finding:

No historic properties present.

Historic properties present, but project will have no effect upon them.

No Adverse Effect

Adverse Effect

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

(All sheds on the property are after 2006. Applicant's House: ca. 1940) Based on Section 106 consultation there are No Historic Properties Affected because there are no historic properties present. The project is in compliance with Section 106.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01425-W SHPO Package.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Noise Abatement and Control

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
HUD's noise regulations protect residential properties from excessive noise exposure. HUD encourages mitigation as appropriate.	Noise Control Act of 1972 General Services Administration Federal Management Circular 75-2: "Compatible Land Uses at Federal Airfields"	Title 24 CFR 51 Subpart B

1. What activities does your project involve? Check all that apply:

New construction for residential use

Rehabilitation of an existing residential property

A research demonstration project which does not result in new construction or reconstruction

An interstate land sales registration

Any timely emergency assistance under disaster assistance provision or appropriations which are provided to save lives, protect property, protect public health and safety, remove debris and wreckage, or assistance that has the effect of restoring facilities substantially as they existed prior to the disaster

None of the above

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Based on the project description, this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under HUD's noise regulation. The project is in compliance with HUD's Noise regulation.

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Sole Source Aquifers

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 protects drinking water systems which are the sole or principal drinking water source for an area and which, if contaminated, would create a significant hazard to public health.	Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 201, 300f et seq., and 21 U.S.C. 349)	40 CFR Part 149

1. Does the project consist solely of acquisition, leasing, or rehabilitation of an existing building(s)?

Yes

No

2. Is the project located on a sole source aquifer (SSA)?

A sole source aquifer is defined as an aquifer that supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. This includes streamflow source areas, which are upstream areas of losing streams that flow into the recharge area.

< No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Document and upload documentation used to make your determination, such as a map of your project (or jurisdiction, if appropriate) in relation to the nearest SSA and its source area, below.

Yes

3. Does your region have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or other working agreement with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for HUD projects impacting a sole source aquifer?

Yes

No

Screen Summary**Compliance Determination**

The project is not located on a sole source aquifer area. According to EPA, there are no sole source aquifers in Puerto Rico. The project is in compliance with Sole Source Aquifer requirements.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01425-W Sole Source Aquifers.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Wetlands Protection

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Executive Order 11990 discourages direct or indirect support of new construction impacting wetlands wherever there is a practicable alternative. The Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory can be used as a primary screening tool, but observed or known wetlands not indicated on NWI maps must also be processed Off-site impacts that result in draining, impounding, or destroying wetlands must also be processed.	Executive Order 11990	24 CFR 55.20 can be used for general guidance regarding the 8 Step Process.

1. Does this project involve new construction as defined in Executive Order 11990, expansion of a building's footprint, or ground disturbance? The term "new construction" shall include draining, dredging, channelizing, filling, diking, impounding, and related activities and any structures or facilities begun or authorized after the effective date of the Order

✓ No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section.

Yes

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

Based on the project description this project includes no activities that would require further evaluation under this section. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 11990. This project does not involve new construction, so a visual wetlands survey was not conducted.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01425-W Wetlands.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

✓ No

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides federal protection for certain free-flowing, wild, scenic and recreational rivers designated as components or potential components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) from the effects of construction or development.	The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287), particularly section 7(b) and (c) (16 U.S.C. 1278(b) and (c))	36 CFR Part 297

1. Is your project within proximity of a NWSRS river?

No

Yes, the project is in proximity of a Designated Wild and Scenic River or Study Wild and Scenic River.

Yes, the project is in proximity of a Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) River.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

This project is not within proximity of a NWSRS river. The project is located 332,497 feet from the nearest Wild and Scenic River. The project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Supporting documentation

[PR-RGRW-01425-W Wild and Scenic.pdf](#)

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No

Environmental Justice

General requirements	Legislation	Regulation
Determine if the project creates adverse environmental impacts upon a low-income or minority community. If it does, engage the community in meaningful participation about mitigating the impacts or move the project.	Executive Order 12898	

HUD strongly encourages starting the Environmental Justice analysis only after all other laws and authorities, including Environmental Assessment factors if necessary, have been completed.

1. Were any adverse environmental impacts identified in any other compliance review portion of this project’s total environmental review?

Yes

No

Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section.

Screen Summary

Compliance Determination

No adverse environmental impacts were identified in the project's total environmental review. The project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898. On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order 14173 titled "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity", which revoked Executive Order 12898 and eliminated federal mandates requiring agencies to assess environmental justice impacts. Consequently, there is no longer a federal requirement to address environmental justice concerns in the environmental compliance review process.

Supporting documentation

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?

Yes

No



ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD ASSESSMENT FORM
ReGrow

Applicant Name: Oscar Nieves	Program ID: PR-RGRW-01425
Project Coordinates: 18.421437, -66.740245	Parcel ID:
Parcel Address: Barrio Dominguito, Carretera 635, Sector Mata Plátano	Municipio: Arecibo
Zip Code 00612	

Inspector Name: Heath Anderson	Inspection Date: August 26, 2023
--------------------------------	----------------------------------

General Site Conditions

Was property accessible by vehicle?	Yes	Comment:
Access issues?	No	Comment:
Are water wells present?	No	Comment:
Are creeks or ponds present?	No	Comment:
Are any potential wetlands on-site or visible on adjacent parcel?	No	Comment:

Parcel Conditions

Note – for Any Yes answers specify type, contents and location

Do any of the proposed project work areas show evidence of site preparation?	No	Comment: If yes, ask applicant when the preparation work was completed.
Are commercial or industrial hazardous facilities at parcel or within visual sight?	Yes	Comment: Sheep farm to the immediate west of project area
Are there signs of underground storage tanks?	No	Comment:
Are above-ground tanks >10 gallons present? If Yes, also state condition.	No	Comment:
Are 55-gallon drums present? If Yes, also state condition.	No	Comment:



Are abandoned vehicles or electrical equipment present?	No	Comment:
Is other potential environmentally hazardous debris on the parcel?	No	Comment:
Is there non-environmentally hazardous debris on the parcel?	Yes	Comment: wood and sheet metal debris near future generator site
Are any leaks, soil stains, or stressed vegetation present associated with any of the above or separately?	No	Comment:
Are there any pungent, foul or noxious odors?	No	Comment:
Are there any potentially hazardous trees that could fall?	No	Comment:
Are any bird nests visible?	No	Comment:
Are there any animal burrows visible?	No	Comment:
Are there any buildings in direct visual sight of the project locations?	Yes	Comment: Front/south section of applicant's house originally built ca. 1940 as part of Roosevelt-era aid program; later modified/expanded

Additional Needs Analysis

Based on the above findings, does additional information need to be obtained from the applicant to determine whether an environmental hazard is present?	No	Comment:
--	----	----------

I verify that I have physically visited this property and that the findings outlined above are accurate.

{Heath Anderson}

{August 26, 2023}

Following pages are used for:

Location Map with parcel boundaries and building point (Aerial base with streets labelled)



ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD ASSESSMENT FORM

ReGrow

Photos taken during inspection, with Date / Type / Direction associated with the photo

Project #: PR-RGRW-01425	Photographer: Heath Anderson
Location Address: Carretera 635, Dominguito; sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612	Coordinates: 18.421437, -66.740245

Photo #: 01	Date: 8/26/23	
Photo Direction: South		
Description: This photo was taken from the northwest corner of proposed shipping container/warehouse and shows the applicant's house (left) and the adjacent sheep farm (right)		

Photo #: 02	Date: 8/26/23	
Photo Direction: South		
Description: This photo was taken from the northeast corner of proposed shipping container/warehouse and shows the adjacent sheep farm (right)		

Project #: PR-RGRW-01425	Photographer: Heath Anderson
Location Address: Carretera 635, Dominguito; sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612	Coordinates: 18.421437, -66.740245

Photo #: 03	Date: 8/26/23
Photo Direction: North	
Description: This photo was taken from the southeast corner of proposed shipping container/warehouse and shows the site of the proposed generator area (right) and the adjacent sheep farm (left)	



Photo #: 04	Date: 8/26/23
Photo Direction: North	
Description: This photo shows the site of the proposed electric generator and associated debris currently occupying the location. Applicant does not plan to cut the tree in the foreground.	



Project #: PR-RGRW-01425	Photographer: Heath Anderson
Location Address: Carretera 635, Dominguito; sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612	Coordinates: 18.421437, -66.740245

Photo #: 05	Date: 8/26/23
-----------------------	-------------------------

Photo Direction:
Northeast

Description:
This photo is a detail shot of the generator area and associated debris and trees. Applicant does not plan to cut trees.



Photo #: 06	Date: 8/26/23
-----------------------	-------------------------

Photo Direction:
North

Description:
This photo shows the septic tank area (center) east of 1940s-era house, greenhouse in background



Project #: PR-RGRW-01425	Photographer: Heath Anderson
Location Address: Carretera 635, Dominguito; sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612	Coordinates: 18.421437, -66.740245

Photo #: 07	Date: 8/26/23
-----------------------	-------------------------

Photo Direction:
West

Description:
This photo shows the water main terminal (left, outside metal fence) and route of proposed underground water connection to shipping container/warehouse; applicant expects excavation of no more than two feet in depth, less than one foot wide, PVC pipe running west



Photo #: 08	Date: 8/26/23
-----------------------	-------------------------

Photo Direction:
East

Description:
This photo shows the electric meter attached to southwest corner of 1940s-era house – this will be the preferred connection point to extent an electrical cable through the air to proposed shipping container/warehouse



Project #: PR-RGRW-01425	Photographer: Heath Anderson
Location Address: Carretera 635, Dominguito; sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612	Coordinates: 18.421437, -66.740245

Photo #: 09	Date: 8/26/23
Photo Direction: East	
Description: This photo shows the front section of applicant's house, originally constructed in the 1940s and funded by Roosevelt-era aid	



Photo #: 10	Date: 8/26/23
Photo Direction: Northwest	
Description: This photo shows the sheep farm to the west of the applicant's property – applicant does not own this land.	



Project #: PR-RGRW-01425	Photographer: Heath Anderson
Location Address: Carretera 635, Dominguito; sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612	Coordinates: 18.421437, -66.740245

Photo #: 11	Date: 8/26/23
Photo Direction: Southeast	
Description: This photo shows the applicant's 1940s-era house, built in 1940, as seen from center of proposed shipping container/warehouse se	





DEPARTMENT OF

HOUSING

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO



Memorandum to File

Date: 3/24/2025

From: Justin Neely
Environmental Manager
CDBG-DR Program
Regrow Puerto Rico Program
Puerto Rico Department of Housing

Application Number: PR-RGRW-01425-W

Project: Oscars Farm

Re: Justification for the Infeasibility and Impracticability of Radon Testing

After reviewing Application Number PR-RGRW-01425-W under the Regrow Puerto Rico Program, administered by the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (**PRDOH**), to complete the property's contamination analysis in accordance with 24 C.F.R. § 50.3(i) and 24 C.F.R. § 58.5(i), we have determined that testing the property's radon levels is infeasible and impracticable.

Per the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (**HUD**) CPD Notice 23-103, the recommended best practices and alternative options for radon testing are infeasible and impracticable in this case due to the following reasons:

- As required by the CPD Notice 23-103, the scientific data reviewed in lieu of testing must consist of a minimum of ten documented test results over the previous ten years. If there are less than ten documented results over this

period, it is understood that there is a lack of scientific data. The latest report for radon testing in Puerto Rico was prepared in 1995 by the U.S. Department of the Interior in Cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. No other completed studies and reports on radon testing are available in Puerto Rico.

- There is no available science-based or state-generated information for Puerto Rico for the last ten years that can be used to determine whether the project site is in a high-risk area. The Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (**CDC**), National Environmental Public Health Tracking, and Radon Testing map do not include Puerto Rico data.
- There are only two (2) licensed professionals in Puerto Rico who can conduct radon testing using the American National Standards Institute/American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (**ANSI/AARST**) testing standards, which makes it difficult, time-consuming, and highly expensive to coordinate and secure a site visit for the contamination evaluation.
- Do-it-yourself (**DIY**) radon test kits are known to be unreliable in assuring and controlling the quality of the test results; they are not readily available in Puerto Rico, and the cost and time required for purchasing and sending them for analysis are unreasonable when weighed against the results' reliability and the need for prompt results.
- Local authorities in Puerto Rico do not have the specialized radon monitoring equipment or trained staff needed to conduct the radon testing analysis and ensure proper quality control and quality assurance practices are adhered to. We also do not have a radiation laboratory certified for radon testing.

As part of the evaluation for this determination, PRDOH sent information requests to six (6) local agencies at the state and federal levels. We received responses from the following agencies:

- United States Geological Survey;
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- Puerto Rico Department of Health; and
- United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The agencies mentioned above confirmed the lack of scientific data on Radon testing for Puerto Rico and the technical difficulties that we face to comply with HUD's Radon testing requirement. For the above-mentioned reasons, Radon testing is infeasible and impracticable for this property, and no further consideration of Radon is needed for the environmental review.



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www.swca.com

October 16, 2024

Lourdes Mena
Field Supervisor
Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office Park I, Suite 303
State Road #2 Km 156.5
Mayagüez, Puerto Rico 00680
Email: [Caribbean es@fws.gov](mailto:Caribbean_es@fws.gov); Lourdes Mena@fws.gov

Re: Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species Evaluation for the Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow PR-RGRW-01425 Project/ SWCA Project No. 72428

Dear Ms. Mena:

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA), on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing, is requesting informal consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 *et seq.*), and in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*) for the proposed ReGrow PR-RGRW-01425 Project (project). The Project is located on 1 acre at Carretera 651, Barrio Dominguito, Sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612 (18.421478, -66.740396).

The proposed Project involves the construction of a new greenhouse and installation of a generator. Two locations are being evaluated for the project; one location for the greenhouse and one location for the generator. Construction of the greenhouse and generator will require minimal ground disturbance, but no vegetation removal or tree clearing is proposed.

Using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system, we have determined that the proposed project lies within the range of the following federally listed species:

Species	Listing Status
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	Endangered
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>)	Endangered
Puerto Rican Parrot (<i>Amazona vittata</i>)	Endangered
Puerto Rican Crested Toad (<i>Peltophryne lemur</i>)	Threatened
<i>Cordia bellonis</i>	Endangered

<i>Tectaria estremerana</i>	Endangered
-----------------------------	------------

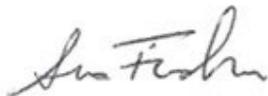
No designated or proposed critical habitat for any listed species was identified within the project area. Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and a careful analysis of the existing habitat, we have made the following effects determinations:

Species	Effect Determination	Conservation Measures to be Implemented
Puerto Rican Boa <i>(Chilabothrus inornatus)</i>	Not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)	USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk <i>(Buteo platypterus brunnescens)</i>	Not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)	Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk Conservation Measures
Puerto Rican Parrot <i>(Amazona vittata)</i>	Not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)	Puerto Rican Parrot Conservation Measures
Puerto Rican Crested Toad <i>(Peltophryne lemur)</i>	Not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)	Puerto Rican Crested Toad Conservation Measures
<i>Cordia bellonis</i>	No effect (NE)	No conservation measures
<i>Tectaria estremerana</i>	No effect (NE)	No conservation measures

If a Puerto Rican Boa (PR Boa) is found in the project action site, work shall cease until the individual moves off on its own. If the PR Boa does not move off, the construction manager shall contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and ask for them to relocate the PR Boa.

In order to complete the informal consultation process, we are requesting your concurrence for the NLAA determinations included in this letter. Attached to this letter, we are including the documents used to reach our effect determinations for the listed species. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact me at (346) 388-1157 or susan.fischer@swca.com.

Sincerely,



Susan Fischer
Wildlife Ecologist
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Attachments: Threatened and Endangered Species Technical Memorandum



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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 491
Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622

From: Susan Fischer, Project Biologist on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing

Date: October 16, 2024

Re: **Threatened and Endangered Species Evaluation for the Puerto Rico Department of Housing ReGrow PR-RGRW-01425 Project/ SWCA Project No. 72428**

Project Description

Oscars Farm, the applicant, is proposing to install a Farm in the City greenhouse and a generator on a 1-acre property in the Municipio of Arecibo, Puerto Rico (project) (Appendix A, Figure 1). The project is located at Carretera 651KM Dominguito Sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612, in a rural area. The estimated dimensions of the greenhouse will be approximately 40 feet by 8 feet (320 square feet) and the generator will be approximately 5 feet by 5 feet (25 square feet). Electricity to the greenhouse will be provided by an aboveground connection from the electrical meter at the applicant's residence, which is located approximately 12 ft southeast of the greenhouse. The generator located 27 ft north will serve as a backup source of electricity for the greenhouse. Water to irrigate the greenhouse will be provided from a water main at the residence approximately 45 ft southeast that is connected to the aqueduct managed by the Puerto Rico Aqueducts and Sewers Authority (PRASA). The irrigation piping and connections to the greenhouse will be underground lines that extend approximately 2 ft deep and 1 ft wide (Appendix A, Figure 2).

Existing conditions

The existing habitat conditions at the proposed greenhouse and generator locations consist of mowed grass, with forested areas adjacent to the east. There are no wetlands or waterbodies on the property (Appendix A, Figure 3). Construction of the greenhouse and generator will require minimal ground disturbance, but no vegetation removal or tree clearing is proposed. Representative photographs of the proposed locations are provided in Appendix B.

Federally Protected Species

SWCA obtained a federal threatened and endangered species list from the USFWS (2024) Information for Planning and Consultation ("IPaC") website for a 100-foot buffer around the greenhouse and generator locations (review area) (Appendix C). The IPaC automatically generates a list of species and other resources of concern, such as critical habitat, that are known or expected to be in the specified area and could

potentially be directly or indirectly affected. According to the IPaC query for the project, six federally listed endangered species has the potential to occur in the review area; the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*), Puerto Rican parrot (*Amazona vittata*), Puerto Rican boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*), Puerto Rican crested toad (*Peltophryne lemur*), *Tectaria estremerana*, and *Cordia bellonis*. SWCA also evaluated the review area for potential habitat for bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) as they are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (“BGEPA”).

The bald and golden eagle’s range do not extend into Puerto Rico (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2024); therefore, these species were eliminated from further analysis for this project. Table 1 identifies the species carried forward for further evaluation and summarizes each species’ habitat requirements, potential for occurrence in the project area, and determination of effects.

Table 1. Federally Listed Species Range and/or Habitat Requirements

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status*	Range or Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence in Project Area	Determination of Effects/Impacts
Birds				
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>)	FE	The Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk occurs in elfin woodland, sierra palm, caimitillo-granadillo, and tabonuco forest types of the Río Abajo Commonwealth Forest, Carite Commonwealth Forest, and El Yunque National Forest as well as within hardwood plantations, shade coffee plantations, and mature secondary forests (USFWS 2019a).	<i>Unlikely to occur.</i> There are no forested areas present within the project area.	<i>May affect, but not likely to adversely affect.</i> See discussion below.
Puerto Rican Parrot (<i>Amazona vittata</i>)	FE	The Puerto Rican parrot is a frugivorous cavity nester. It depends on mature forests with large cavity forming trees. (USFWS 2009). It is currently confined to the Maricao Forest, El Yunque National Forest, and the Río Abajo Forest (USDA Forest Service 2024).	<i>Unlikely to occur.</i> There are no forested areas present within the project area.	<i>May affect, but not likely to adversely affect.</i> See discussion below.
Amphibians				
Puerto Rican Crested Toad (<i>Peltophryne lemur</i>)	FT	Occurs at low elevations (not exceeding 200 meters) where it appears to prefer arid or semiarid, rocky areas with an abundance of limestone fissures and cavities in well drained. However, one historical site is a grassy field (USFWS 1992).	<i>Unlikely to occur.</i> The project area consists of maintained mowed lawn.	<i>May affect, but not likely to adversely affect.</i> See discussion below.
Reptiles				
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	FE	Considered to be a habitat generalist, the Puerto Rican boa tolerates a wide variety of terrestrial and arboreal habitats, including rocky areas, haystack hill, trees and branches, rotting stumps, caves, plantations, various types of forested areas such as karst and mangrove forests, forested urban and rural areas, and along streams and road edges (USFWS 2011).	<i>May occur.</i> The project area is located adjacent to forested.	<i>May affect, but not likely to adversely affect.</i> See discussion below.
Plants				

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status*	Range or Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence in Project Area	Determination of Effects/Impacts
<i>Tectaria estremerana</i>	FE	This terrestrial fern can be found in the limestone or karst region of northwestern Puerto Rico. Occur within the semi-evergreen seasonal forests of the subtropical moist forest life zone (USFWS 1995).	<i>Unlikely to occur.</i> The project area consists of maintained mowed lawn.	<i>No effect.</i> There is no suitable habitat for <i>Tectaria estremerana</i> within the project area.
<i>Cordia bellonis</i>	FE	Occurs on mountain slopes and serpentine hills where it has been found in serpentine soils at road edges, on river margins, on steep slopes, on sunny banks along dirt roads growing in thickets of vegetation, and in open saddles between limestone hills. It is currently restricted to three public forests: the Maricao Commonwealth Forest in the municipality of Maricao, the Susúa Commonwealth Forest in the municipality of Susúa, and the Río Abajo Commonwealth Forest in the municipalities of Utuado and Arecibo (USFWS 1999).	<i>Unlikely to occur.</i> The project area consists of maintained mowed lawn.	<i>No effect.</i> There is no suitable habitat for <i>Cordia bellonis</i> .

*Status Definitions:

FE = Federally listed endangered; FT = Federally listed threatened

Based on a site visit and habitat evaluations, the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk, Puerto Rican parrot, Puerto Rican crested toad, *Tectaria estremerana*, and *Cordia bellonis* are considered unlikely to occur within the project area due to lack of suitable habitat. Due to the generalist nature of the Puerto Rican boa and forested habitat surrounding the project areas, the Puerto Rican boa may occur within the project area. The Caribbean Determination Key (DKey) was completed for the project, which generated a *may affect, not likely to adversely affect* determination for the Puerto Rican boa and Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk (Appendix D).

The project area is adjacent to forested areas; therefore, the applicant will employ conservation measures for the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk, Puerto Rican parrot, and Puerto Rican crested toad, as outlined in Appendix E, including but not limited to issuing a stop work if a Puerto Rican boa were to occur within the project area, and contacting the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources for safe capture and relocation of the individual if such action is required. As such, it is anticipated that the project *may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect* the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk, Puerto Rican parrot, Puerto Rican crested toad, and Puerto Rican boa, and will have *no effect* on the *Tectaria estremerana*, and *Cordia bellonis*.

Critical Habitat and National Wildlife Refuges

Potential effects to habitat(s) within the project area critical to endangered species must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves, while any activity proposed on National Wildlife Refuge lands must undergo a compatibility determination conducted by the Refuge. No designated critical habitats are present within 100-feet of any of the proposed project location options (Appendix A, Figure 4) (USFWS 2023).

LITERATURE CITED

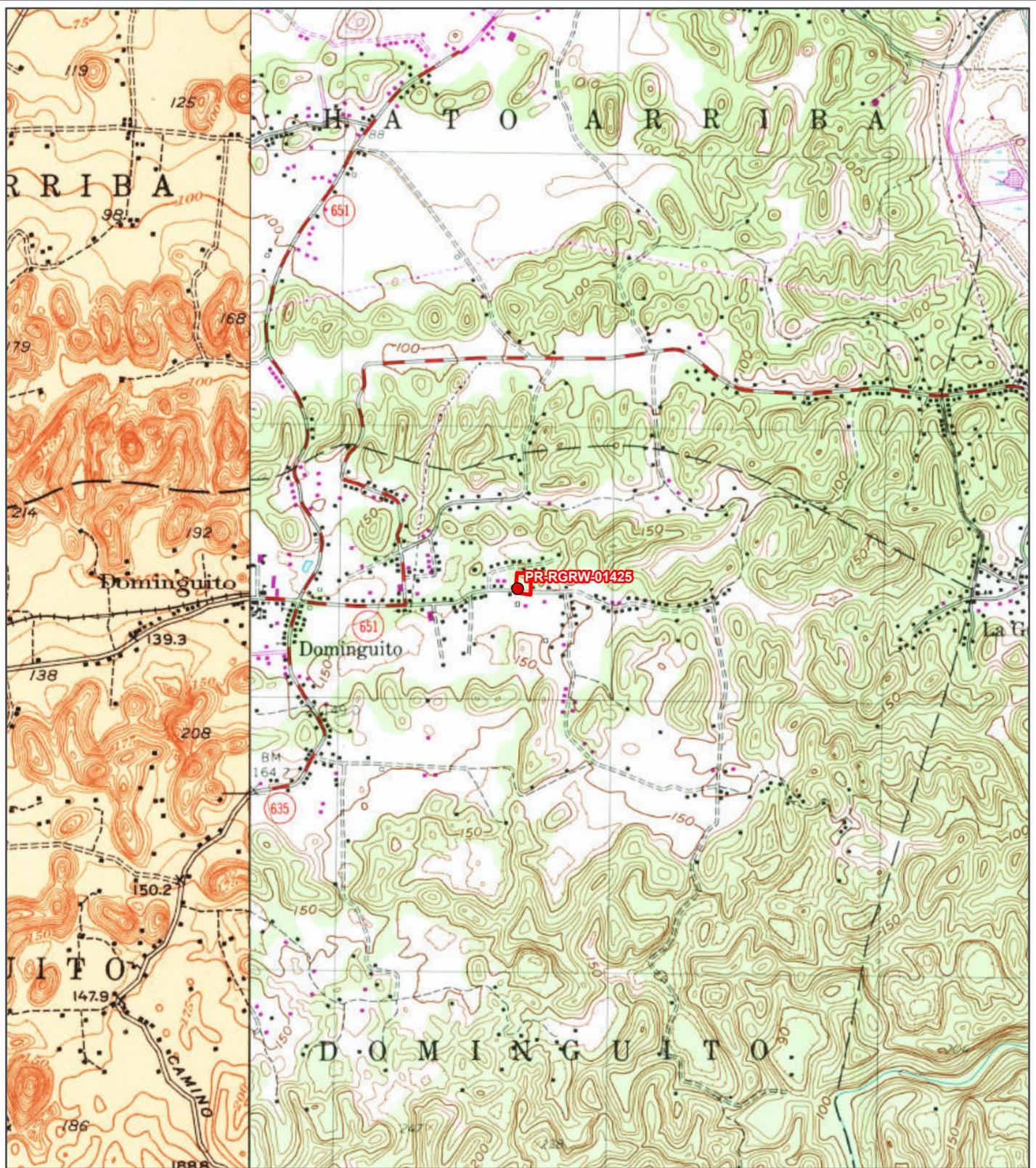
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- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1992. Recovery Plan for the Puerto Rican Crested Toad (*Peltophryne lemur*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region. Atlanta, Georgia.
- . 1999. Recovery Plan *Cordia bellonis*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region. Atlanta, Georgia.
- . 2011. *Puerto Rican Boa* (*Epicrates inornatus*) 5-Year Review: *Summary and Evaluation*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region. Boquerón, Puerto Rico.
- . 2019a. *Recovery Plan for Puerto Rican Broad-Winged Hawk* (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*) and *Sharp-Shinned Hawk* (*Accipiter striatus venator*) Amendment. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region. Atlanta, Georgia.
- . 2023. Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species [USFWS]. Available at: <https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=9d8de5e265ad4fe09893cf75b8dbfb77>. Accessed November 2023.
- . 2024. Information for Planning and Consultation System (IPaC). Available at: <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Accessed September 2024.

APPENDIX A

Maps

Figure 1

USGS Topographic Map



REGROW PROGRAM
USGS Topographic Map
 Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



- Site
- Site Parcel

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
 Plátano Carr. 635
 Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
 Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
 Parcel Center:
 66.740349°W 18.421489°N

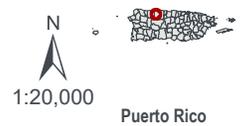


Figure 2
Site Vicinity Map

Calle Florence H



REGROW PROGRAM

Site Vicinity

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Potential Area of Disturbance

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
Plátano Carr. 635
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612

Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
Parcel Center:
66.740162°W 18.421643°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed November 2023
Updated: 11/6/2023

Layout: Site Vicinity
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps



Puerto Rico



Figure 3
Wetlands Map



REGROW PROGRAM

Wetlands Protection Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



● Site

▭ Site Parcel

▭ Potential Area of Disturbance

— NHD Stream

▭ Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

▭ Estuarine and Marine Wetland

▭ Freshwater Emergent Wetland

▭ Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

▭ Freshwater Pond

▭ Lake

▭ Riverine

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
Plátano Carr. 635
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
Parcel Center:
66.740349°W 18.421489°N

Data Source: <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/downloader/#/>
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/data-download>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed November 2023
Updated: 11/6/2023
Layout: Wetlands Protection

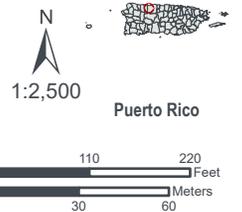
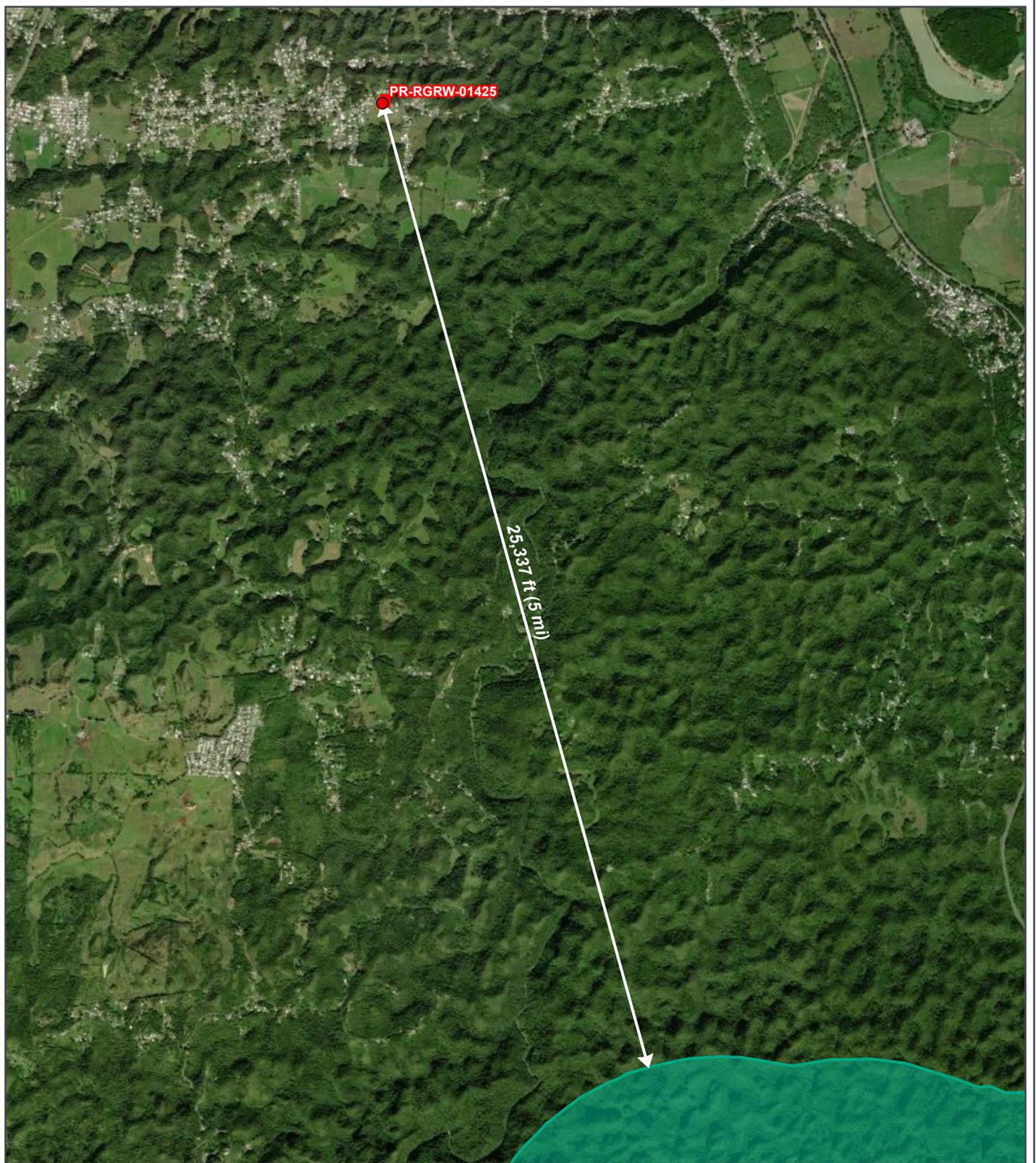


Figure 4
Critical Habitat Map



REGROW PROGRAM

Critical Habitat Map

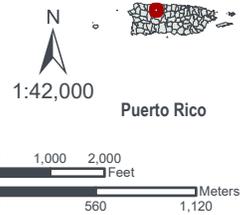
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



- Site
- Site Parcel
- Buffer (100-ft)
- Critical Habitat - Final
- National Wildlife Refuges

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
 Plátano Carr. 635
 Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
 Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
 Parcel Center:
 66.730575°W 18.387873°N

Data Source: https://services.arcgis.com/QVENGdaPbd4LUkLV/arcgis/rest/services/USFWS_Critical_Habitat/
 Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed November 2023
 Updated: 11/6/2023
 Layout: Critical Habitat
 Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps



APPENDIX B

Photographic Log

Project #: PR-RGRW-01425	Photographer: Heath Anderson
Location Address: Carretera 635, Dominguito; sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612	Coordinates: 18.421437, -66.740245

Photo #: 01	Date: 8/26/23
Photo Direction: South	
Description: This photo was taken from the northwest corner of proposed shipping container/warehouse and shows the applicant's house (left) and the adjacent sheep farm (right)	



Photo #: 02	Date: 8/26/23
Photo Direction: South	
Description: This photo was taken from the northeast corner of proposed shipping container/warehouse and shows the adjacent sheep farm (right)	



Project #: PR-RGRW-01425	Photographer: Heath Anderson
Location Address: Carretera 635, Dominguito; sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612	Coordinates: 18.421437, -66.740245

Photo #: 03	Date: 8/26/23
Photo Direction: North	
Description: This photo was taken from the southeast corner of proposed shipping container/warehouse and shows the site of the proposed generator area (right) and the adjacent sheep farm (left)	



Photo #: 04	Date: 8/26/23
Photo Direction: North	
Description: This photo shows the site of the proposed electric generator and associated debris currently occupying the location. Applicant does not plan to cut the tree in the foreground.	



Project #: PR-RGRW-01425	Photographer: Heath Anderson
Location Address: Carretera 635, Dominguito; sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612	Coordinates: 18.421437, -66.740245

Photo #: 05	Date: 8/26/23
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Photo Direction:
Northeast

Description:
This photo is a detail shot of the generator area and associated debris and trees. Applicant does not plan to cut trees.



Photo #: 06	Date: 8/26/23
-----------------------	-------------------------

Photo Direction:
North

Description:
This photo shows the septic tank area (center) east of 1940s-era house, greenhouse in background



Project #: PR-RGRW-01425	Photographer: Heath Anderson
Location Address: Carretera 635, Dominguito; sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612	Coordinates: 18.421437, -66.740245

Photo #: 07	Date: 8/26/23
-----------------------	-------------------------

Photo Direction:
West

Description:
This photo shows the water main terminal (left, outside metal fence) and route of proposed underground water connection to shipping container/warehouse; applicant expects excavation of no more than two feet in depth, less than one foot wide, PVC pipe running west



Photo #: 08	Date: 8/26/23
-----------------------	-------------------------

Photo Direction:
East

Description:
This photo shows the electric meter attached to southwest corner of 1940s-era house – this will be the preferred connection point to extent an electrical cable through the air to proposed shipping container/warehouse



Project #: PR-RGRW-01425	Photographer: Heath Anderson
Location Address: Carretera 635, Dominguito; sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612	Coordinates: 18.421437, -66.740245

Photo #: 09	Date: 8/26/23
Photo Direction: East	
Description: This photo shows the front section of applicant's house, originally constructed in the 1940s and funded by Roosevelt-era aid	



Photo #: 10	Date: 8/26/23
Photo Direction: Northwest	
Description: This photo shows the sheep farm to the west of the applicant's property – applicant does not own this land.	



Project #: PR-RGRW-01425	Photographer: Heath Anderson
Location Address: Carretera 635, Dominguito; sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612	Coordinates: 18.421437, -66.740245

Photo #: 11	Date: 8/26/23
Photo Direction: Southeast	
Description: This photo shows the applicant's 1940s-era house, built in 1940, as seen from center of proposed shipping container/warehouse se	



APPENDIX C

USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation Species List



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
Post Office Box 491
Boqueron, PR 00622-0491
Phone: (939) 320-3135 Fax: (787) 851-7440
Email Address: CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV

In Reply Refer To:

10/14/2024 13:53:41 UTC

Project Code: 2024-0139733

Project Name: PR-RGRW-01425 RFA-060

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

THE FOLLOWING SPECIES LIST IS NOT A SECTION 7 CONSULTATION. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE TO COMPLETE THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The purpose of the Endangered Species Act (Act) is to provide a means whereby threatened, and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect those species and/or their designated critical habitat.

Federal agencies are required to "request of the Secretary of Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action". The enclosed species list provides information to assist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) consultation process under section 7 of the Act. However, **the enclosed species list does not complete the required consultation process.** The species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and designated critical habitats, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. A discussion between the Federal agency and the Service should include what types of listed species may occur in the proposed action area and what effect the proposed action may have on those species. This process initiates informal consultation.

Once a species list is obtained for the proposed project, an effect determination for endangered and threatened species should be made. The applicant could make an effect determination by using available keys on IPaC for specific species. For species with no determination keys, the applicant should request concurrence from the Service by sending a project package

to caribbean_es@fws.gov. To obtain guidance for completing this process and the minimum requirements for project packages, please visit:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/consultation-under-section-7-of-the-endangered-species-act-with-the-caribbean-ecological%20Services-field-office-template-letter.pdf>

When a federal agency, after discussions with the Service, determines that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any listed species, or adversely modify any designated critical habitat, and the Service concurs, the informal consultation is complete, and the proposed project moves ahead. If the proposed action is suspected to affect a listed species or modify designated critical habitat, the Federal agency may then prepare a Biological Assessment (B.A.) to assist in its determination of the project's effects on species and their habitat. However, a B.A. is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a B.A. where the agency provides the Service with an evaluation on the likely effects of the action to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a B.A. are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a federal agency determines, based on its B.A. or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to further consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species, and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation process. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species.

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action". Please use this list to determine whether your project requires consultation and to make your effects determination. For more guidance, use the Guideline for Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office by clicking [here](#).

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

caribbean_es@fws.gov

Post Office Box 491

Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

(786) 244-0081

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

Post Office Box 491

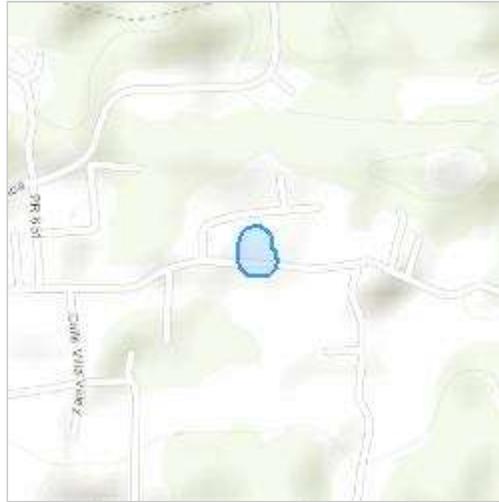
Boqueron, PR 00622-0491

(939) 320-3135

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0139733
Project Name: PR-RGRW-01425 RFA-060
Project Type: Disaster-related Grants
Project Description: Installation of a greenhouse and a generator
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.42149395,-66.7403711216906,14z>



Counties: Arecibo County, Puerto Rico

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk <i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5512	Endangered
Puerto Rican Parrot <i>Amazona vittata</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3067	Endangered

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Boa <i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6628 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/7CH3KO7CXRBSRFZ2J7O53G5JAM/documents/generated/7159.pdf	Endangered

AMPHIBIANS

NAME	STATUS
Puerto Rican Crested Toad <i>Peltophryne lemur</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3958 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/7CH3KO7CXRBSRFZ2J7O53G5JAM/documents/generated/7139.pdf	Threatened

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
<i>Cordia bellonis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7228	Endangered

FERNS AND ALLIES

NAME	STATUS
<i>Tectaria estremerana</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3630	Endangered

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act¹ and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats³, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#).

-
1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

THERE ARE NO BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES WITHIN THE VICINITY OF YOUR PROJECT AREA.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats³ should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#).

-
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

THERE ARE NO FWS MIGRATORY BIRDS OF CONCERN WITHIN THE VICINITY OF YOUR PROJECT AREA.

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: SWCA

Name: Rachel Howsmon

Address: 13 Palafox Pl

City: Pensacola

State: FL

Zip: 32502

Email: rachel.howsmon@swca.com

Phone: 8504948710

APPENDIX D

USFWS Consistency Letter



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
Post Office Box 491
Boqueron, PR 00622-0491
Phone: (939) 320-3135 Fax: (787) 851-7440
Email Address: CARIBBEAN_ES@FWS.GOV

In Reply Refer To:

10/14/2024 14:04:22 UTC

Project code: 2024-0139733

Project Name: PR-RGRW-01425 RFA-060

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'PR-RGRW-01425 RFA-060' for specified threatened and endangered species, that may occur in your proposed project location, pursuant to the IPaC determination key titled Caribbean Determination Key (DKey).

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for using the assisted evaluation keys in IPaC. This letter is provided pursuant to the Service's authority under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531et seq.). On October 14, 2024, Rachel Howsmon used the Caribbean DKey; dated April 03, 2024, in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online [IPaC application](#) to evaluate potential impacts to federally listed species, from a project named 'PR-RGRW-01425 RFA-060'. The project is located in Arecibo County, Puerto Rico (shown below).

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.42149395,-66.7403711216906,14z>



The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01425 RFA-060':

Installation of a greenhouse and a generator

Based on your answers and the assistance of the Service's Caribbean DKey, you made the following effect determination(s) for the proposed Action:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Puerto Rican Boa (<i>Chilabothrus inornatus</i>)	Endangered	NLAA
Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>)	Endangered	NLAA

Consultation with the Service is not complete. The above effect determination(s) becomes applicable when the lead federal action agency or designated non-federal representative submits them as a request to the Service to rely on the Caribbean DKey in order to satisfy the agency's consultation requirements for this project.

Please provide this consistency letter to the lead federal action agency or its designated non-federal representative with a request for its review, and as the agency deems appropriate, to submit for concurrence verification through the IPaC system. The lead federal action agency or designated non-federal representative should log into IPaC using their agency email account and click "Search by record locator." They will need to enter the record locator **486-150999691**

Note: Projects located within the range of the Puerto Rican boa or the Virgin Islands tree boa might encounter these species during project activities. **This letter does not provide take to handle or move these species.** If relocation of the species is needed, please contact either the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources (DNER) at 787-724-5700, 787-230-5550, or 787-771-1124 for projects in Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) at 340-775-6762 for projects in the Virgin Islands. Otherwise, contact the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office (caribbean_es@fws.gov) to determine whether the consultation needs to be reinitiated.

In addition to the species listed above, the following species and/or critical habitats may also occur in your project area and **are not** covered by this conclusion. Effects to the other federally listed species or critical habitat as listed below should be considered as part of your ESA review for the project.

- *Cordia bellonis* Endangered
- Puerto Rican Crested Toad *Peltophryne lemur* Threatened
- Puerto Rican Parrot *Amazona vittata* Endangered
- *Tectaria estremerana* Endangered

If the proposed project is located within species range where a DKey has not been developed for those species, please follow the established guidance for initiating section 7 consultation Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office.

We appreciate your interest in protecting endangered species and their habitats. It is the Service's mission to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their

habitats for the continuing benefit of our people. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our office at Caribbean_es@fws.gov.

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

PR-RGRW-01425 RFA-060

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'PR-RGRW-01425 RFA-060':

Installation of a greenhouse and a generator

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@18.42149395,-66.7403711216906,14z>



QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Is the proposed project an EPA Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) renewal for an existing project? ([MSGP Fact Sheet](#))

No

2. Is the proposed project within an urban developed area? (i.e., cities, downtowns, shopping malls etc.)

Note: Urban and developed areas has one or more of the following characteristics: Presence of existing buildings, residential areas, and commercial establishments. Well-established infrastructure including roads, utilities, and urban facilities. High population density. Established neighborhoods and urban amenities ("urbanizaciones"). Developed landscape with paved surfaces, parking lots, and industrial areas. Signs of human activity and urbanization, such as shopping centers and recreational facilities. Location within the boundaries of a city or town ("casco urbano"). High concentration of built-up structures and limited open spaces. Aerial imagery might be requested to the applicant. .

No

3. Does the proposed project consist of rehabilitation or demolition of existing single-family homes and buildings?

No

4. Does the proposed project consist of improvements to existing facilities?

Note: Examples of facilities are occupied single family homes, and buildings; existing recreational facilities, including the installation of roofs to existing basketball courts, etc.

No

5. Does the proposed project consist of repavement or repair of existing roads and installing transit signage or guardrails?

No

6. Does the proposed project consist of the construction of gutters and/or sidewalks along existing roads, and developments?

No

7. Does the proposed project consist of replacement or repair of existing bridges which include cutting vegetation or earth movement?

No

8. Does the proposed project consist of activities within existing Right of Ways (ROWs) along roads which include cutting vegetation or earth movement?

No

9. Is the proposed project located within a rural area covered by grassland (pasture lands "pastos")?

No

10. Is the proposed project adjacent or within a forested area?

Note: Examples of immediately adjacent to forested areas are rock walls and haystack hills (“mogotes”), wet montane forest, lowland wet forest, remnant coastal, mangrove forest, damp and dry limestone karst forests, pastureland with patches of exotic trees.

Yes

11. Is the project area more than 1 acre?

No

12. Is the proposed project an existing facility or the expansion of an existing facility within the footprint of the already developed area?

No

13. Is the proposed project a new facility which would require earth moving, vegetation clearing, or debris removal using heavy machinery, the use of staging areas, construction of temporary access roads?

Yes

14. [Hidden Semantic] Does the proposed project intersect the Puerto Rican boa area of influence?

Automatically answered

Yes

15. Will the proposed project implement the U.S. Fish and Wildlife [Puerto Rican boa Conservation Measures](#)?

Yes

16. Will the proposed project be conducted during the Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk or Puerto Rican Broad-winged hawk breeding season between December and July?

Yes

17. Will daily surveys be conducted to detect breeding activities by qualified personnel?

Note: Examples of breeding activities are courtship and territoriality, re-occupancy of nesting sites, nest building, egg laying, incubation and hatching, and post-fledging.

Yes

18. Will qualified personnel conduct nest searches with the appropriate Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources (DNER) permit?

Note: We might require you to submit a copy of the DNER permits by email.

Yes

19. Will the proposed project implement a strategy to avoid disturbing detected Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk and Puerto Rican Broad-winged hawk nesting and breeding activities?

Note: Examples of breeding activities are courtship and territoriality, re-occupancy of nesting sites, nest building, egg laying, incubation and hatching, and post-fledging.

Yes

20. Will the avoidance strategy include protocols to create a buffer zone of 200 meters around all detected nests?

Note: A buffer zone is an area around the detected nests where no actions or activities can take place. The buffer zone should be clearly marked or delineated in the field and in the project plans.

Yes

21. If nests are detected within the project area, will the proposed project avoid any disturbance until fledging leaves the nest permanently?

Yes

22. Outside of the breeding season, in the event of a Sharp-shinned hawk nest encounter, would a buffer zone be implemented?

Note: The species or nests might be found out of the breeding season. A buffer zone is an area around the detected nests where no actions or activities can take place. The buffer zone should be clearly marked or delineated in the field and in the project plans.

Yes

23. Will the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Natural Resources be notified immediately if a nest is detected?

Yes

24. Does the proposed project intersect the Puerto Rican Broad-winged hawk area of influence?

Automatically answered

Yes

25. Are you the Federal agency or designated non-federal representative for the proposed action?

No

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: SWCA

Name: Rachel Howsmon

Address: 13 Palafox Pl

City: Pensacola

State: FL

Zip: 32502

Email: rachel.howsmon@swca.com

Phone: 8504948710

APPENDIX E

Project Design Guidelines

General Project Design Guidelines (2 Species)

Generated October 14, 2024 02:08 PM UTC, IPaC v6.114.0-rc2

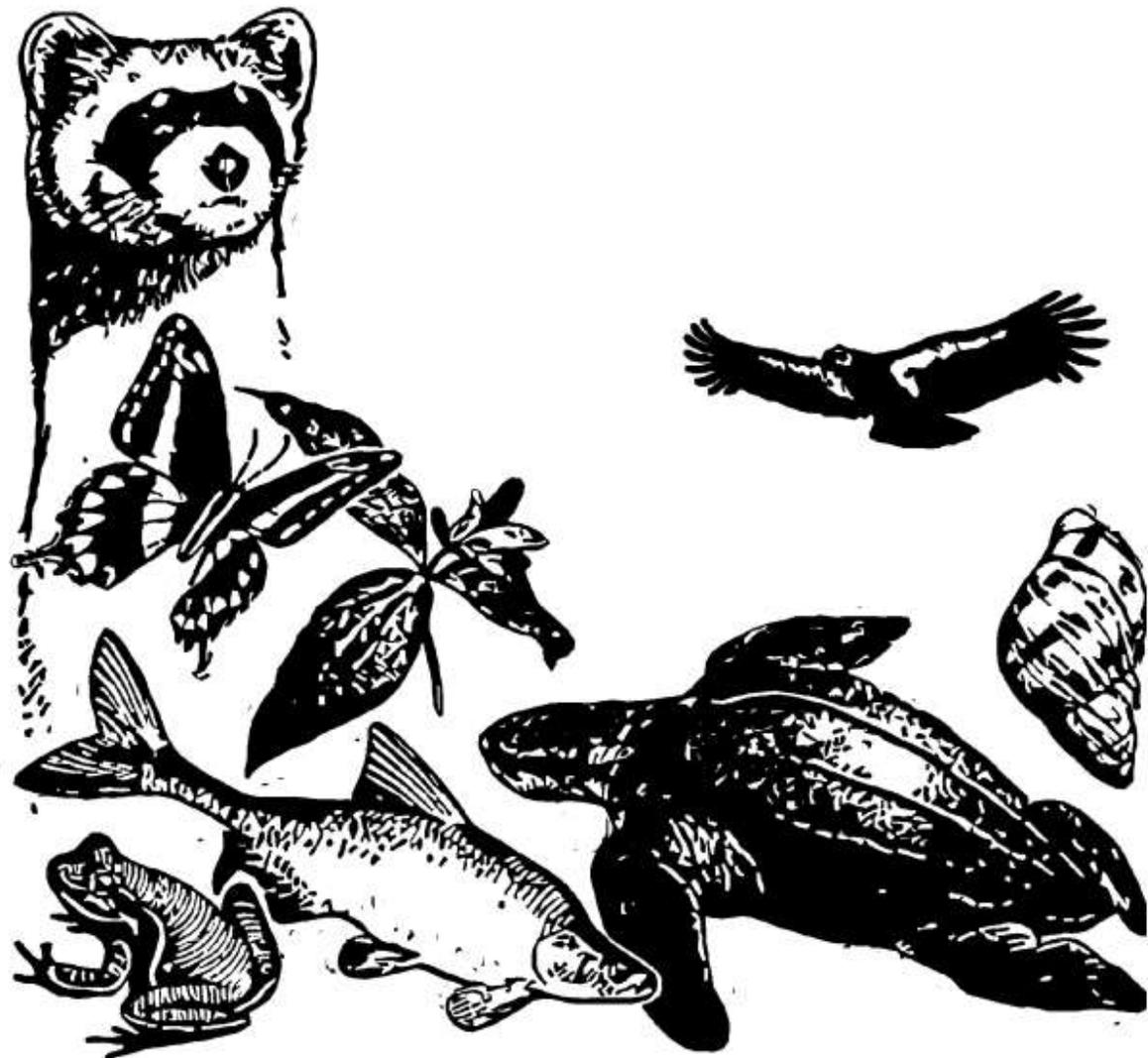


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Puerto Rican Boa - Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office	15

Species Document Availability

Species with general design guidelines

Puerto Rican Boa *Chilabothrus inornatus*

Puerto Rican Crested Toad *Peltophryne lemur*

Species without general design guidelines available

Cordia bellonis

Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus brunnescens*

Puerto Rican Parrot *Amazona vittata*

Tectaria estremerana

General Project Design Guidelines - Puerto Rican Crested Toad and 5 more species

Published by Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office - Publication Date: October 12, 2023 for the following species included in your project

Puerto Rican Crested Toad *Peltophryne lemur*

Cordia bellonis

Puerto Rican Parrot *Amazona vittata*

Puerto Rican Boa *Chilabothrus inornatus*

Tectaria estremerana

Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus brunnescens*



**U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE
MARCH 2019**

Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican crested toad

Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) charges Federal agencies to aid in the conservation of listed species, and section 7 (a)(2) requires the agencies, through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to ensure their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. Section 7 applies to the management of Federal lands as well as Federal actions that may affect listed species, such as federal approval of private activities through the issuance of federal funding, permits, licenses, or other actions. Any person that injures, captures, or kills a Puerto Rican crested toad, or destroy it eggs or tadpoles is subject to penalties under the ESA. If Federal funds or permits are needed, the funding or permitting agency should initiate Section 7 consultation with the Service. To initiate a consultation under the Section 7 of the ESA, you must submit a project package with the established minimum requirements. These conservation measures should be incorporated into the project plans to minimize possible impacts to the species. Download the [project evaluations fact sheet](#) to learn more about the requirements or visit our [project evaluations webpage](#).

The Puerto Rican crested toad (PRCT; *Peltophryne lemur*), commonly known in Spanish as *sapo concho puertorriqueño*, is the only native bufonid of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. An adult PRCT is a medium-size toad ranging from 64 to 120 millimeters (2.5 to 4.5 inches) snout-vent length of singular aspect, owing to the extraordinary development of the bony crest of the cranium and large size of its eyes. Juvenile PRCTs (recently metamorphosed, less than 1 inch (25.4 mm snout-vent length) have a distinctive coloration and patterns, making them easily identifiable among other toad species in Puerto Rico.



Last Revised: October 2023

The PRCT was federally listed as threatened in 1987, and has been documented historically in 14 scattered sites along the northern and southern karst regions in Puerto Rico: eight in the northern karst, and six in the southern karst. Presently, the species is only found in three natural populations in the southern karst region and six reintroduced sites (three in the southern karst, and three in the northern karst region). Outside breeding events, the species is difficult to detect. The PRCT seems to be more active at night, from 7:30 pm to 1:00 am, and have been observed using small holes and crevices to access underground chambers as daytime retreats. These animals are able to climb vertical rock faces and steep dirt banks to find holes and crevices. In forested areas and grasslands where the topography has low relief (i.e., rocks, slopes), and limited structural complexity (holes and crevices), adult toads have been found inside dead logs, and inside empty nests of tarantulas (*Cyrtopholis portoricae*).

The Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the PRCT and its habitat. These recommendations may be incorporated into new project plans and under certain circumstances into existing projects. Depending on the project, additional recommendations can be made besides the ones presented in this document.

1. Inform all project personnel about the potential presence of the PRCT in areas where the proposed work will be conducted. A pre-construction meeting should be conducted to inform all project personnel about the need to avoid harming the species as well as penalties for harassing or harming PRCTs. An educational poster or sign with photo or illustration of the species should be displayed at the project site.
2. Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movements, the boundaries of the project and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field in order to avoid further habitat degradation into forested and conservation areas.
3. Strict measures should be established to minimize toad casualties by motor vehicles or other equipment in areas where the species is known to occur. Once the routes are determined, maintain the traffic (human and vehicle) within designated access to minimize affecting toads and habitat. When routes intersecting crested toad areas are utilized, personnel should pay attention (particularly at night, before heavy rains and after breeding events) to avoid mortality of adults and juveniles using the roads when migrating to the breeding pond or returning from the breeding pond. You should ensure that “toad crossing” should not be interrupted.
4. Before activities commence each workday during the earth movement, vegetation clearing or debris removal phase, a biologist or personnel with experience identifying and searching for toads should survey the work area to ensure that no toads are present or can be affected by the work activities. If a crested toad is observed during any time within the operational area of the project, cease or delay

Last Revised: October 2023

activities until the toads move out of the area on their own. Activities at other work sites, where no toads have been found after surveying, may continue.

5. We recommend the continued use of sound recorders and monitoring of ponds if present within or near the project area to detect toad activities and breeding events, particularly during the rainy season.
6. Avoid impacts to drainages connected to potential breeding ponds and avoid interrupting water flow.
7. If relocation of PRCTs is anticipated, a plan and protocol should be developed and submitted to the Service for revision and concurrence. Qualified and authorized personnel should capture and handle the toads. All individuals should be relocated in appropriate habitat close to the site where they were found.

For all PRCT sightings (dead or alive), record the time and date of the sighting and the specific location and contact the Service. If you have any questions regarding the above conservation measures, please contact the Service:

- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator
 - Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
 - Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386
- Carlos Pacheco, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
 - Email: carlos_pacheco@fws.gov
 - Office phone (939) 320-3113 or mobile (786) 847-5951

Guidance for Repair, Replacement, and Clean-up of structures in Streams and Waterways of Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands

In Puerto Rico (PR) and US Virgin Islands (USVI), flooding caused by heavy rainfall events, tropical storms, and hurricanes can damage stream crossings (bridges, culverts, low-water crossings, etc.) and in-stream structures (piers, docks, etc.), and create debris jams. Many streams in PR and USVI support an array of aquatic species, including anadromous and catadromous native fish and a suite of native shrimp. Repair and clean-up activities in streams have the potential to adversely affect these species and their habitat, causing sedimentation in areas downstream of the project and disruption of sediment transport leading to channel instability.

This guidance applies to repair, replacement, and clean-up projects related to storm damage or natural processes. The guidance applies to creeks, rivers, and tidally-influenced waters in PR and USVI. All projects in aquatic habitats should be considered with the following conditions below.

General Guidance for Road Crossing Structures

Road-Stream Crossing Removal and Associated Channel Restoration

If a temporary crossing structure will be removed, the affected area should be restored to a natural state. Following structure removal, the stream channel should be reconstructed to match natural bankfull (i.e., channel shape from effective discharge or channel forming discharge [Figure 1]) width, channel slope and active floodplain dimensions, which exist upstream and downstream of the structure being removed. This activity should occur to restore physical and biological aquatic habitat connectivity, most notably, passage for aquatic and terrestrial organisms.

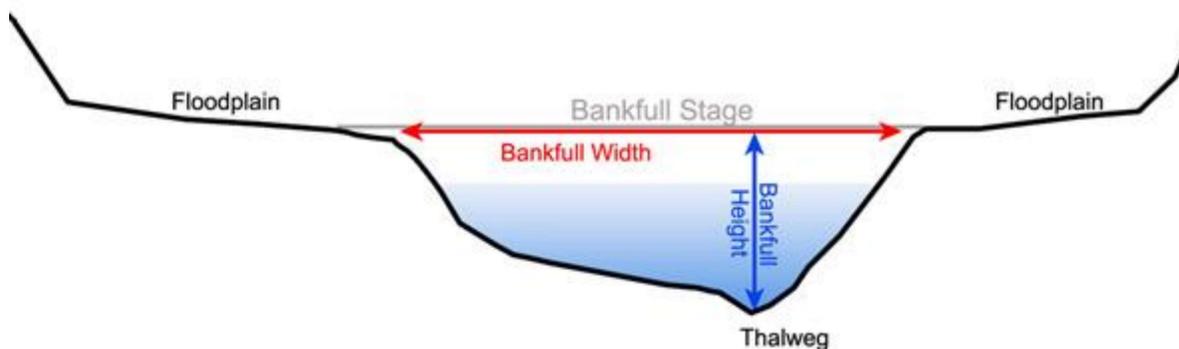


Figure 1. Bankfull Cross Section.

Road-Stream Crossing Replacement Structure

Replacement with a culvert or open-bottomed structure. Culvert refers to a variety of closed-bottomed metal and concrete structures. Open-bottomed structures include arches, three-sided boxes and bridges. Structure widths should be at least 1.2 times bankfull width with stable bank rocks on both sides. Structures should be constructed in a manner that accommodates 100-year flows, (Figures 2 and 3) and allows for natural stream processes including sediment and woody debris transport to the greatest degree possible given the structure dimensions. Flood relief culverts (Figure 4) on unconfined floodplains may be used. Crossings with large unconfined floodplains may require additional capacity or may include floodplain relief structures.

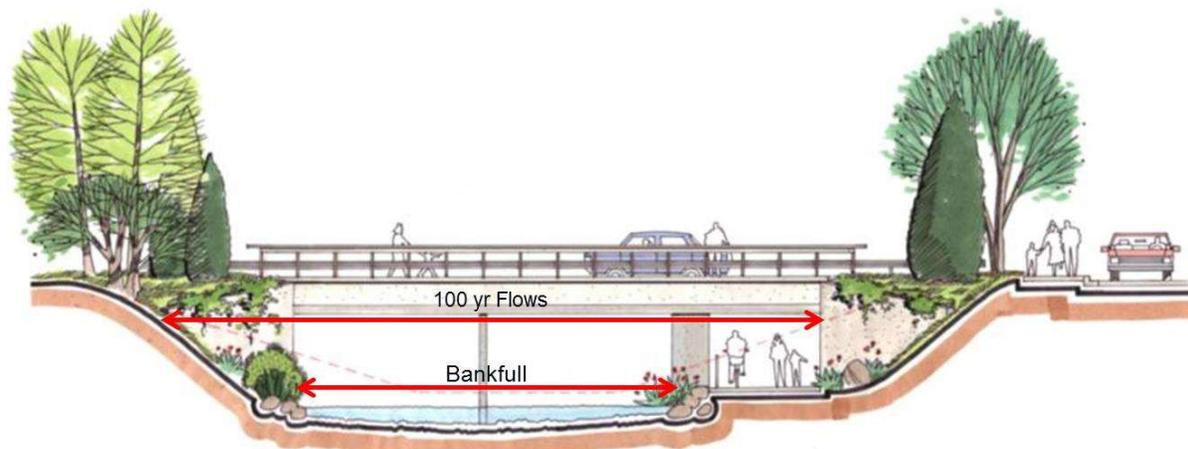


Figure 2. 100 yr Flow Design.



Figure 3. Bridge with Floodplain and Height Capacity for 100 yr Flows.



Figure 4. Bankfull Channel Culvert with Flood Relief Culverts at Floodplain Elevation.

Design Criteria

Stream crossing designs are intended to replicate the natural stream processes within and immediately adjacent to a culvert or opened-bottom structure. Aquatic organism passage, sediment transport and flood and wood conveyance within the structure are intended to imitate the stream conditions upstream and downstream of the crossing, as close to natural conditions as the structure type allows (Figures 5 and 6). Culverts and open-bottomed structures, when properly sized and designed, can accomplish these natural stream processes. Culverts should be partially filled with

material that simulates the natural streambed. Open-bottomed structures should contain substrate that matches the natural stream channel.



Figure 5. Poor design has resulted in scour and degradation below culvert and obstruction to fish passage.



Figure 6. Bankfull Bottomless Arch Culvert with Floodplain Relief Drain.

Implementation of a replacement project requires a high level of information and site-specific data regarding stream hydrology and geomorphology, as well as engineering and construction expertise. Project design criteria include several components as described below.

Structure Width

The width of structures (at bankfull or top of bank elevation) should be equal to or greater than 1.2 times bankfull channel width. A single structure span of the width is preferred but multiple culverts are allowed, and should be accompanied with flood relief drains. The minimum structure width of a culvert should be five feet to allow placement of substrate material. The width of the structures within the vertical adjustment potential should be equal to or greater than 1.2 times bankfull channel width. No piers, footers, piles, or abutments should be within 1.2 times bankfull width, unless there are constraints in placement and design criteria which then should allow for a minimum amount of structures.

Structure Alignment

The structure should achieve optimal orientation relative to both the road and stream channel. Replacement structures are sometimes shifted to achieve better alignment with the natural stream channel pattern at the crossing location. Skew angle should be in line with stream channel orientation.

Structure Capacity

The structure should accommodate a 100-year flood flow without significant change in substrate size and composition. To meet this requirement, unconstrained channel types may require structures wider than 1.2 times bankfull or additional flood relief structures. The headwater depth to structure height ratio should not exceed 0.8:1 for 100-year flows in order to allow for additional vertical clearance for woody debris and sediment transport.

Channel Slope

The culvert structure slope should match an appropriate reference reach of the natural stream (assessed at a minimum of approximately 20-30 times the channel width upstream and 20-30 times the channel width downstream of the site, though a suitable reference reach could be located further upstream or downstream). The maximum slope should not exceed 3.5 percent because of difficulties in retaining substrate within the structure at higher gradients, increasing both costs and design complexity. Bridges do not have a maximum slope range.

Embedment

If a culvert is used, the bottom of the culvert should be buried into the streambed not less than 20 percent of the culvert height.

Elevation

For open-bottomed structures, the footings or foundation should be designed to be stable for the maximum scour depth. The structure should also provide a low flow channel.

Substrate

Material in structures should match the natural stream channel. Bed materials should match natural stream bed mobility characteristics. Bank and other key bed structural elements (e.g. steps, weirs, ribs, etc.) should be stable at the 100-year flow.

Geotechnical analysis

Structure design and construction methods may be influenced by soil composition and subsurface conditions including, but not limited to, the presence of bedrock and clay. The need for geotechnical analysis is determined on a project-specific basis and is not always necessary.

These recommendations promote the use of the U.S. Forest Service's Stream Simulation approach for designing road-stream crossings, an approach which our agencies have successfully used on previous projects to support recovery of anadromous and catadromous fishes by restoring stream habitat.

Specific Conditions for Road-Stream Crossings:

A. Bridge and Culvert Repair, Replacement, or Upgrade to a Higher Preference Order

All bridge and culvert projects should follow the guidelines below and the General Conditions in D. General design drawings and recommendations are shown in Appendix A. Stream crossing structures are listed in order of preference from 1 (most preferred) to 4 (least preferred). Bridges that fully span the stream and have no in-stream pilings are preferred over other crossing types and should be used whenever possible as they minimize impacts to listed species and critical habitat, and reduce the need for future repairs.

Order of Preference	Structure	Project Description	Conditions
N/A	Bridge	Repair/reinforcement	Follow the General Conditions listed in D. below.
		Repair/reinforcement with new rip rap	<i>Placement of new rip rap in-stream should be consulted on with the Service on a case-by-case basis for specific recommendations.</i>
1	Bridge – no in-stream pilings	Replacement or upgrade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Remove all remnants of the damaged structure from the stream channel and dispose of in an off-site disposal area. 2) Follow the General Conditions listed in D. below.
2	Bridge – with in-stream pilings	Replacement or upgrade	<i>All bridge replacements and upgrades that require in-stream supports should be consulted on with the Service on a case-by-case basis for specific recommendations.</i>
3	Culvert – bottomless	Replacement or upgrade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Culvert width should be 1.2 times bankfull width. 2) Multiple culverts are needed when the maximum culvert width available is reached, but bankfull width has not been reached. 3) Culvert slope should match channel grade. 4) It is recommended that floodplain relief drains be installed in road approaches.
4	Culvert – box, elliptical or round (in order of preference for minimization of impacts)	Replacement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Culvert width should be 1.2 times bankfull width. 2) Culvert should be counter sunk below substrate to a depth of 20% of the culvert diameter (round) or rise (elliptical, box). 3) Multiple culverts are needed when the maximum culvert width available is reached, but bankfull width has not been reached. 4) Culvert slope should match channel grade. 5) It is recommended that floodplain relief drains be installed in road approaches.

B. Demolition and Removal of Damaged Structures

- Conduct activities in a manner that minimizes disturbance to the stream bottom and banks.
- The structure should be lifted or floated out of the stream, not dragged on the bottom.
- Wooden pilings should be cut or pinched off at the substrate level.

- Remove all remnants of the damaged structure from the stream channel and dispose of in an off-site disposal area.
- In addition, follow the General Conditions listed in D. below.

C. Debris Removal

- When feasible and safe, natural woody debris should remain in the stream.
- Conduct activities in a manner that minimizes disturbance to the stream bottom and banks.
- Debris should be lifted or floated out of the stream, not dragged on the bottom.
- In addition, follow the General Conditions listed in D. below.

D. General Conditions for all Projects

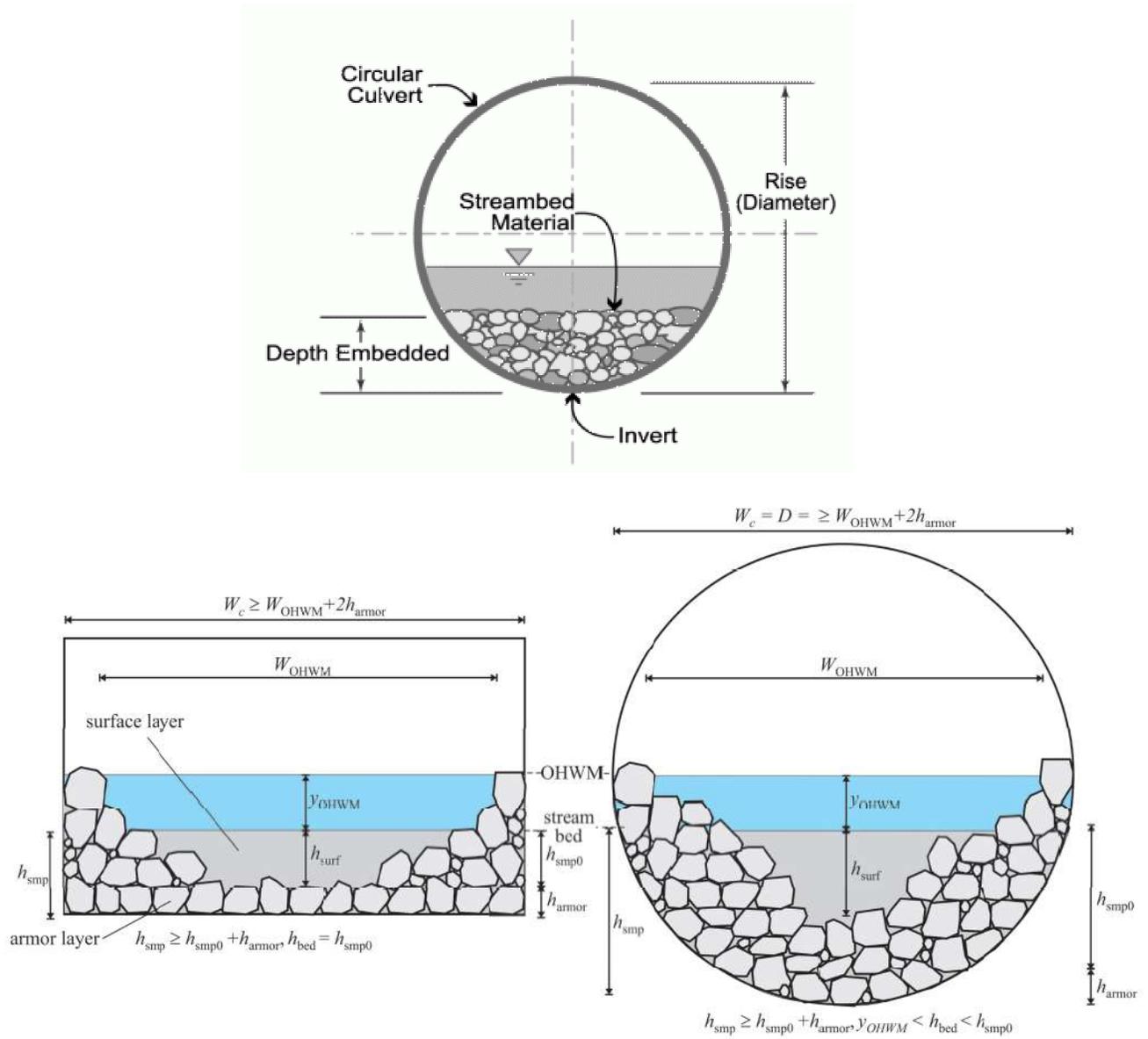
1. Keep in-stream work to a minimum.
2. Conduct work activities from atop a stable streambank or reinforced platform, when feasible, and in a manner that does not degrade or destabilize the streambank.
3. Install erosion and sediment control devices before any work is performed, and closely monitor and maintain for the life of the construction project. Implement the appropriate best management practices for preventing and minimizing erosion and sediment outlined in the following manuals: *Florida Stormwater, Erosion, and Sediment Control Inspector's Manual* (July 2008), and *State of Florida Erosion and Sediment Control Designer and Reviewer Manual* (July 2007).
4. Keep land clearing to the minimum level necessary for project completion. Stream bank vegetation should be left intact to the extent practicable. Cutting vegetation is preferred to root grubbing near streams.
5. Cover disturbed areas with erosion controls mats and revegetated promptly with native grasses.
6. Locate debris collection sites, borrow sites, fill dirt stockpiles, and equipment staging areas at least 200 feet from stream channels to minimize the potential of sediments and contaminants entering the waterway.

E. Low Water Crossings-Fords

1. All recommendations for Low Water Crossings-Fords can be found in the U.S. Forest Service Publications Number 0625 1808—SDTDC Titled “Low-Water Crossings: Geomorphic, Biological, and Engineering Design Considerations”.

Contact Information: Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
Marelisa Rivera
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 491
Carr 301, Bo Corozo
Boqueron, Puerto Rico 00622
Phone: (787) 851-7297 x 206
<https://www.fws.gov/caribbean/>

Appendix A General Design Drawings for Fish Passage Structures



General Project Design Guidelines - Puerto Rican Crested Toad and 5 more species

Published by Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office for the following species included in your project

Puerto Rican Crested Toad *Peltophryne lemur*

Cordia bellonis

Puerto Rican Parrot *Amazona vittata*

Puerto Rican Boa *Chilabothrus inornatus*

Tectaria estremerana

Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus brunnescens*

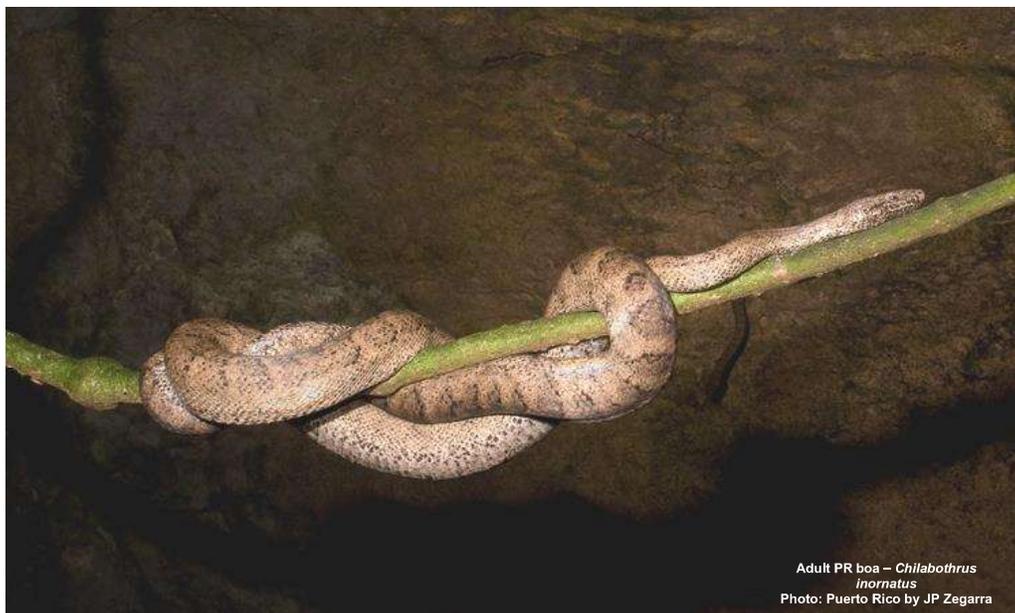


U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*)

Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) charges Federal agencies to aid in the conservation of listed species, and section 7 (a)(2) requires the agencies, through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to ensure their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. Section 7 applies to the management of Federal lands as well as Federal actions that may affect federally listed species, such as Federal approval of private activities through the issuance of Federal funding, permits, licenses, or other actions. Any person that injures, captures, or kills a Puerto Rico boa is subject to penalties under the ESA. If Federal funds or permits are needed, the funding or permitting agency should initiate Section 7 consultation with the Service. To initiate a consultation under the Section 7 of the ESA, you must submit a project package with the established minimum requirements. These conservation measures should be incorporated into the project plans to minimize possible impacts to the species.

The endangered Puerto Rican (PR) boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*, formerly *Epicrates inornatus*) is the largest endemic snake species that inhabits Puerto Rico. The PR boa is non-venomous and does not pose any life threatening danger to humans, but some individuals may try to bite if disturbed or during capture or handling. Its body color ranges from tan to dark brown with irregular diffuse marking on the dorsum, but some individuals lack marking and are uniformly dark. Juveniles may have a reddish color with more pronounced markings. In general, as they mature, their body color tends to darken.



The PR boa was federally listed in 1970. Currently, the species has an island-wide distribution and occurs in a wide variety of habitat types, ranging from wet montane to subtropical dry forest and can be found from mature forest to areas with different degrees of human disturbance such as roadsides or houses, especially if near their habitat in rural areas. The PR boa is considered mostly nocturnal, remaining less active, concealed or basking under the sun during the day.

The Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the PR boa and its habitat. These recommendations may be incorporated into new project plans and under certain circumstances into existing projects. Depending on the project, additional conservation measures can be implemented besides the ones presented in this document.

Conservation Measures:

1. Inform all project personnel about the potential presence of the PR boa in areas where the proposed work will be conducted. A pre-construction meeting should be conducted to inform all project personnel about the need to avoid harming the species as well as penalties for harassing or harming PR boas. An educational poster or sign with photo or illustration of the species should be displayed at the project site.
2. Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movements, the boundaries of the project and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field in order to avoid further habitat degradation into forested and conservation areas.
3. Once areas are clearly marked, and prior to the use of heavy machinery and any construction activity (including removal of vegetation and earth movement), a biologist or project personnel with experience on this species should survey the areas to be cleared to verify the presence of any PR boa within the work area.
4. If a PR boa is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded (see #5). **Do not capture the boa.** If boas need to be moved out of harm's way, designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (PRDNER phone #: (787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124). **If immediate relocation is not an option, project-related activities at that area must stop until the boa moves out of harm's way on its own.** Activities at other work sites, where no boas have been found after surveying the area, may continue.
5. For all boa sightings (dead or alive), record the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where it was found. PR boa data should also include a photo of the animal (dead or alive), site GPS coordinates, the time and date, and comments on how the animal was detected and its behavior.

6. If a PR boa is captured by PRDNER personnel, record the name of that person and information on where the PR boa will be taken. This information should be reported to the Service.
7. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize PR boa casualties by heavy machinery or motor vehicles being used on site. Any heavy machinery left on site (staging) or near potential PR boa habitat (within 50 meters of potential boa habitat), needs to be thoroughly inspected each morning before work starts to ensure that no boas have sheltered within engine compartments or other areas of the equipment. If PR boas are found within vehicles or equipment, do not capture the animal, and let it move on its own or call PRDNER Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (see #4). If not possible, the animal should be left alone until it leaves the vehicle on its own.
8. PR boas may seek shelter in debris piles. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize boa casualties associated with sheltering in debris piles as a result of project activities. Debris piles should be placed far away from forested areas. Prior to moving, disposing or shredding, debris piles should be carefully inspected for the presence of boas. If debris piles will be left on site, we recommend they be placed in areas that will not be disturbed in the future.
9. If a dead PR boa is found, immediately cease all work in that area and record the information accordingly (see #5). If the PR boa was accidentally killed as part of the project actions, please include information on what conservation measures had been implemented and what actions will be taken to avoid further killings. A dead boa report should be sent by email (see contacts below) to the Service within 48 hours of the event.
10. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact the PRDNER for further guidance.

If you have any questions regarding the above conservation measures, please contact the Service:

- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Program Coordinator
 - Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
 - Office phone (305) 304-1386
- Jan Zegarra, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
 - Email: jan_zegarra@fws.gov
 - Office phone (786) 933-1451

Conservation Measures for the Broad-winged hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*)

Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) charges Federal agencies to aid in the conservation of listed species, and section 7 (a)(2) requires the agencies, through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to ensure their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. Section 7 applies to the management of Federal lands as well as Federal actions that may affect listed species, such as Federal approval of private activities through the issuance of Federal funding, permits, licenses, or other actions. Any person that injures, captures, or kills a Puerto Rico broad-winged hawk is subject to penalties under the ESA. If Federal funds or permits are needed, the funding or permitting agency should initiate Section 7 consultation with the Service. To initiate a consultation under the Section 7 of the ESA, you must submit a project package with the established minimum requirements. These conservation measures should be incorporated into the project plans to minimize possible impacts to the species.

The Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk is a small hawk with dark chocolate-brown upperparts, heavily streaked rufous breast, and a broadly banded black and white tail. Adult male and female are similar in appearance, but the female is slightly larger. This species occurs in elfin woodland, sierra palm, caimitillo-granadillo, and tabonuco forest types of the Río Abajo Commonwealth Forest, Carite Commonwealth Forest, and El Yunque National Forest as well as within hardwood plantations, shade coffee plantations, and mature secondary forests. The Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk population is estimated at about 125 individuals island-wide.



The broad-winged hawk was federally listed in 1994. The broad-wing prefers to hunt from a perch under the forest canopy for a better view of potential prey in a forest clearing, trail or river below. Each hunting pair requires a range of 40 hectares (98 acres). The Broad-wing builds a nest of sticks in February and March, laying 2 to 4 white/brown-spotted eggs. The female incubates the eggs for almost a month while the male searches for food. The young fledge around April or May about 1 month after hatching and can fly about 6 weeks after hatching. The parents feed the young for a few weeks after they leave the nest. The voice is a high-pitched whistle.

The hawk is an uncommon and local resident in the El Yunque National Forest, the Río Abajo State Forest, and the Toro Negro State Forest.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the hawk and its habitat. These recommendations may be incorporated into new project plans and under certain circumstances into existing projects. Depending on the project, additional conservation measures can be implemented besides the ones presented here.

1. For any project activity that involves construction or tree-disturbing activities, all construction workers will be required to participate in environmental awareness training. The training will educate workers on: (a) special-status species that may occur in the work area, (b) procedures

to follow in the event a species is observed, and (c) other environmental BMPs and emergency spill response protocols.

2. All non-emergency work activities will be confined to daylight hours (i.e., sunrise to sunset), unless necessary for assessing or protecting biological resources.
3. Whenever possible, impacts to native nesting birds will be avoided by not conducting Project activities that involve clearing of vegetation, generation of mechanical noise, or tree disturbance during the typical breeding season for this hawk (February and March), if the hawk is determined to be present.
4. If Project activities must be conducted during the nesting bird season, the Contractor will conduct surveys for nesting birds within a 1,000-ft radius of the construction area. If nests are detected, the Contractor will notify the USFWS and establish buffers around nests that are sufficient to ensure that breeding is not likely to be disrupted or adversely impacted by construction. Buffers around active nests will be a minimum of 250 feet, unless a qualified biologist determines that smaller buffers would be sufficient to avoid impacts to nesting birds. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size will include: the presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography; nest height; locations of foraging territory; and baseline levels of noise and human activity. Buffers will be maintained until young have fledged or the nests become inactive.
5. If a broad-winged hawk is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).
6. Designated critical habitat within the vicinity of project activities will be identified. All Proposed Project actions will be designed to avoid direct and indirect adverse modifications to these areas. Minimization measures, such as establishing and maintaining buffers around areas of designated critical habitat will be implemented in the event that avoidance is not feasible.
7. If critical habitat may be adversely modified by the implementation of Proposed Project actions, the area to be modified will be evaluated by a qualified biologist to determine the potential magnitude of the project effects (e.g., description of primary constituent elements present and quantification of those affected) at a level of detail necessary to satisfy applicable environmental compliance and permitting requirements. This information shall be submitted to the PRDNER as shown in Number 5 above.
8. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact PRDNER for further guidance.

If you have any questions regarding the above conservation measures, please contact the Service:

- Marelisa Rivera, Deputy Field Supervisor
Email: marelisa_rivera@fws.gov
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1814
- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator
Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386

Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican Amazon (Parrot) (*Amazona vittata*)

Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) charges Federal agencies to aid in the conservation of listed species, and section 7 (a)(2) requires the agencies, through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to ensure their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. Section 7 applies to the management of Federal lands as well as Federal actions that may affect listed species, such as Federal approval of private activities through the issuance of Federal funding, permits, licenses, or other actions. Any person that injures, captures, or kills a Puerto Rican Parrot is subject to penalties under the ESA. If Federal funds or permits are needed, the funding or permitting agency should initiate Section 7 consultation with the Service. To initiate a consultation under the Section 7 of the ESA, you must submit a project package with the established minimum requirements. These conservation measures should be incorporated into the project plans to minimize possible impacts to the species.

The Puerto Rican amazon (*Amazona vittata*), also known as the Puerto Rican parrot (Puerto Rican Spanish: cotorra puertorriqueña) or iguaca, is the only extant parrot endemic to the archipelago of Puerto Rico and belongs to the Neotropical genus *Amazona*. Measuring 28–30 cm (11.0–11.8 in), the bird is a predominantly green parrot with a red forehead and white rings around the eyes.



The parrot was federally listed as endangered in 1967. The parrot reaches sexual maturity at between three and four years of age. It reproduces once a year (between the months of February to June) and is a cavity nester. Once the female lays eggs, she will remain in the nest and continuously incubate them until hatching (about 24 to 28 days). The chicks are fed by both parents and will fledge 60 to 65 days after hatching. This parrot's diet is varied and consists of flowers, fruits, leaves, bark and nectar obtained from the forest canopy.

The species is the only remaining native parrot to Puerto Rico and has been listed as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union since 1994. Once widespread and abundant, the population declined drastically in the 19th and early 20th centuries with the removal of most of its native habitat; the species has completely vanished from Vieques and Mona Island. Conservation efforts commenced in 1968 to save the bird from extinction. The habitat of the parrot is generally identified as

the Palo Colorado, Palma de Sierra, and Tabonuco forests types of the upper zones of the Luquillo Mountains within the El Yunque National Forest.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the hawk and its habitat. These recommendations may be incorporated into new project plans and under certain circumstances into existing projects. Depending on the project, additional conservation measures can be implemented besides the ones presented here.

1. For any project activity that involves construction or tree-disturbing activities, all construction workers will be required to participate in environmental awareness training. The training will educate workers on: (a) special-status species that may occur in the work area, (b) procedures to follow in the event a species is observed, and (c) other environmental BMPs and emergency spill response protocols.
2. All non-emergency work activities will be confined to daylight hours (i.e., sunrise to sunset), unless necessary for assessing or protecting biological resources.
3. Whenever possible, impacts to native nesting birds will be avoided by not conducting Project activities that involve clearing of vegetation, generation of mechanical noise, or tree disturbance during the typical breeding season for this parrot (January to July), if the parrot is determined to be present. The parrot selects a large, deep tree cavity, usually in a Palo Colorado tree. The parrot normally does not build its own nest but, many times, parrot biologists do build artificial cavities that are accepted by the parrot. A check with DNER should occur if large Palo Colorado trees are in the general construction area.
4. If Project activities must be conducted during the nesting bird season, the Contractor will conduct surveys for nesting birds within a 1,000-ft radius of the construction area. If nests are detected, the Contractor will notify the DNER and establish buffers around nests that are sufficient to ensure that breeding is not likely to be disrupted or adversely impacted by construction. Buffers around active nests will be a minimum of 250 feet, unless a qualified biologist determines that smaller buffers would be sufficient to avoid impacts to nesting birds. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size will include: the presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography; nest height; locations of foraging territory; and baseline levels of noise and human activity. Buffers will be maintained until young have fledged or the nests become inactive.
5. If a parrot is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded. Designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for additional directions (PRDNER phone #s: ((787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124).
6. Designated critical habitat within the vicinity of project activities will be identified. All Proposed Project actions will be designed to avoid direct and indirect adverse modifications to these

areas. Minimization measures, such as establishing and maintaining buffers around areas of designated critical habitat will be implemented in the event that avoidance is not feasible.

7. If critical habitat may be adversely modified by the implementation of Proposed Project actions, the area to be modified will be evaluated by a qualified biologist to determine the potential magnitude of the project effects (e.g., description of primary constituent elements present and quantification of those affected) at a level of detail necessary to satisfy applicable environmental compliance and permitting requirements. This information shall be submitted to the PRDNER as shown in Number 5 above.
8. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact PRDNER for further guidance.

If you have any questions regarding the above conservation measures, please contact the Service:

- Marelisa Rivera, Deputy Field Supervisor
Email: marelisa_rivera@fws.gov
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1814
- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator
Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386



March 6, 2025

TO: José M. Olmo Terrasa, Esq.
Deputy Director for Economic Recovery Grant Management
Re-Grow PR Urban Rural Agriculture Program

**RE: Endangered Species Concurrence - Conservation Measures Implementation
Oscars Farm (PR-RGRW-01425)**

Dear Mr. Olmo:

This memorandum is to notify the CDBG-DR Re-Grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program (Re-Grow Program) that on October 21, 2024, for the case **PR-RGRW-01425**, the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division submitted an informal consultation under Section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (47 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) for the proposed project of the construction of a new greenhouse and the installation of a generator, for Oscars Farm, an agricultural business, located at PR-635, Dominguito Ward, Mata Plátano Sector, Arecibo, PR 00612; latitude 18.421437, longitude -66.740245.

Using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system, the proponent has determined that the proposed project lies within the range of the following federally listed species:

Name of Species	Status
Puerto Rican Boa	Endangered
Puerto Rican Broad-Winged Hawk	Endangered
Puerto Rican Parrot	Endangered
Puerto Rican Crested Toad	Threaten
<i>Cordia Bellonis</i>	Endangered
<i>Tectaria Estremerana</i>	Endangered
Critical Habitat	
There were no Critical Habitats noted within the project area.	

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office reviewed the information provided and their files, and on January 13, 2025 concurred with the determination that the proposed project actions will have **May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA)** the Puerto Rican Boa, Puerto Rican-Winged Hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot and Puerto Rican Crested Toad.

The USFWS NLAA concurrence is conditioned to the following: (1) if a Boa is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Boa Conservation Measures 2024, (2) if a Puerto Rican Parrot is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately, (3) if a Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk is encountered on the site, the USFWS Caribbean Office will be notified immediately. (4) if a Puerto Rican Crested Toad is encountered, the Conservation Measures will be in accordance with the USFWS Puerto Rican Crested Toad Conservation Measures.

Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

In conclusion, the USFWS concurred with the CDBG-DR/MIT Permits and Environmental Compliance Division NLAA determination. However, **the applicant must be informed about the conditions of the determination of concurrence and implement them as described.**

In order to facilitate the species identification, please, find attached the Caribbean Endangered and Threatened Animals Fact Sheets for: Puerto Rican Boa, Puerto Rican-Winged Hawk, Puerto Rican Parrot and Puerto Rican Crested Toad.

USFWS Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office key contact information:

- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator
Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386
Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov

Sincerely,

Permits and Environmental Compliance Division Disaster
Recovery Office

Caribbean ES Puerto Rican Boa

Puerto Rican Boa

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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*)

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The endangered Puerto Rican (PR) boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*, formerly *Epicrates inornatus*) is the largest endemic snake species that inhabits Puerto Rico. The PR boa is non-venomous and does not pose any life threatening danger to humans, but some individuals may try to bite if disturbed or during capture or handling. Its body color ranges from tan to dark brown with irregular diffuse marking on the dorsum, but some individuals lack marking and are uniformly dark. Juveniles may have a reddish color with more pronounced markings. In general, as they mature, their body color tends to darken.



The PR boa was federally listed in 1970. Currently, the species has an island-wide distribution and occurs in a wide variety of habitat types, ranging from wet montane to subtropical dry forest and can be found from mature forest to areas with different degrees of human disturbance such as roadsides or houses, especially if near their habitat in rural areas. The PR boa is considered mostly nocturnal, remaining less active, concealed or basking under the sun during the day.

The Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the PR boa and its habitat. These recommendations may be incorporated into new project plans and under certain circumstances into existing projects. Depending on the project, additional conservation measures can be implemented besides the ones presented in this document.

Conservation Measures:

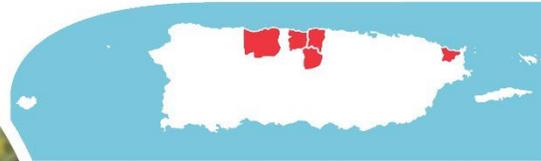
1. Inform all project personnel about the potential presence of the PR boa in areas where the proposed work will be conducted. A pre-construction meeting should be conducted to inform all project personnel about the need to avoid harming the species as well as penalties for harassing or harming PR boas. An educational poster or sign with photo or illustration of the species should be displayed at the project site.
2. Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movements, the boundaries of the project and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field in order to avoid further habitat degradation into forested and conservation areas.
3. Once areas are clearly marked, and prior to the use of heavy machinery and any construction activity (including removal of vegetation and earth movement), a biologist or project personnel with experience on this species should survey the areas to be cleared to verify the presence of any PR boa within the work area.
4. If a PR boa is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at that area and information recorded (see #5). **Do not capture the boa.** If boas need to be moved out of harm's way, designated personnel shall immediately contact the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (PRDNER phone #: (787) 724-5700, (787) 230-5550, (787) 771-1124). **If immediate relocation is not an option, project-related activities at that area must stop until the boa moves out of harm's way on its own.** Activities at other work sites, where no boas have been found after surveying the area, may continue.
5. For all boa sightings (dead or alive), record the time and date of the sighting and the specific location where it was found. PR boa data should also include a photo of the animal (dead or alive), site GPS coordinates, the time and date, and comments on how the animal was detected and its behavior.

6. If a PR boa is captured by PRDNER personnel, record the name of that person and information on where the PR boa will be taken. This information should be reported to the Service.
7. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize PR boa casualties by heavy machinery or motor vehicles being used on site. Any heavy machinery left on site (staging) or near potential PR boa habitat (within 50 meters of potential boa habitat), needs to be thoroughly inspected each morning before work starts to ensure that no boas have sheltered within engine compartments or other areas of the equipment. If PR boas are found within vehicles or equipment, do not capture the animal, and let it move on its own or call PRDNER Rangers for safe capture and relocation of the animal (see #4). If not possible, the animal should be left alone until it leaves the vehicle on its own.
8. PR boas may seek shelter in debris piles. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize boa casualties associated with sheltering in debris piles as a result of project activities. Debris piles should be placed far away from forested areas. Prior to moving, disposing or shredding, debris piles should be carefully inspected for the presence of boas. If debris piles will be left on site, we recommend they be placed in areas that will not be disturbed in the future.
9. If a dead PR boa is found, immediately cease all work in that area and record the information accordingly (see #5). If the PR boa was accidentally killed as part of the project actions, please include information on what conservation measures had been implemented and what actions will be taken to avoid further killings. A dead boa report should be sent by email (see contacts below) to the Service within 48 hours of the event.
10. Projects must comply with all state laws and regulations. Please contact the PRDNER for further guidance.

If you have any questions regarding the above conservation measures, please contact the Service:

- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Program Coordinator
 - Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
 - Office phone (305) 304-1386
- Jan Zegarra, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
 - Email: jan_zegarra@fws.gov
 - Office phone (786) 933-1451

Cotorra PUertorriqueña *Amazona vittata vittata*



Distribución ■

Familia: Psittacidae
Orden: Psittaciformes

Descripción

La cotorra puertorriqueña o Iguaca, como la llamaban los indios taínos, es un ave verde brillante con una mancha roja en la frente, un anillo blanco alrededor del ojo y plumas primarias azules. Su pico es color marfil y el borde de su cola es redondo. Los juveniles son bastante parecidos a los adultos. Tanto hembras como machos son parecidos y miden cerca de doce pulgadas (aprox. 30 centímetros). A veces, la franja roja en la frente es más ancha en los machos que en las hembras. Mientras vuela emite un fuerte y ruidoso "kar...kar." Este sonido se escucha a gran distancia. Emite otros sonidos para comunicarse con otras cotorras y para defender su territorio.

Información biológica

Reproducción

La cotorra puertorriqueña alcanza su edad reproductiva entre los 3 a 5 años. Las cotorras usualmente forman

parejas que perduran por mucho tiempo, normalmente de por vida. Las parejas permanecen juntas casi todo el año, excepto cuando la hembra está incubando y el macho asume la responsabilidad de proveer alimento. La cotorra usa como nido las cavidades que se encuentran en árboles de gran tamaño como el palocolorado (*Cyrilla racemiflora*), entre otros. De ser necesario, también podría anidar en las cavidades de roca caliza. El anidamiento comienza en los meses de febrero y marzo, hasta junio. Tradicionalmente, la anidación coincide con el período más seco del año y durante el período de fructificación (producir frutos) de plantas cuyas semillas, frutas y hojas le sirven de alimento.

Dieta

La cotorra come plantas tales como: palma de sierra, palma real, maricao, maria, guaba, cupey, guaraguao y yagrumo, entre otros árboles.

Distribución

La cotorra puertorriqueña, ave endémica a Puerto Rico fue abundante en Puerto Rico, incluyendo las islas de Culebra, Vieques y Mona. Esta cotorra es la última especie de psitácidos existentes y originaria en territorio de los Estados Unidos. Los psitácidos son la familia de aves, en su mayoría tropicales, con plumas de colores vivos y pico corto, alto y muy encorvado (ej. guacamayo y cotorra). La población silvestre de cotorras puertorriqueñas se limita actualmente a la Sierra de Luquillo, mayormente en el Bosque Nacional El Yunque, al este de Puerto Rico y en el Bosque Estatal de Río Abajo, en el norte central de Puerto Rico, entre Arecibo y Utuado. Al menos tres de las cotorras liberadas en Río Abajo se han dispersado y en 2012 fueron vistas entre Morovis, Vega Baja y Manatí.

EN PELIGRO

Amenazas

Además de tener una población pequeña y una distribución limitada, la especie también se ve afectada por el zorzal pardo (*Margarops fuscatus*) quien mata los huevos y pichones de la cotorra para usar el nido. El guaraguao colirojo (*Buteo jamaicensis*), el guaraguaito de bosque (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*) y las ratas (*Rattus rattus* y *R. norvegicus*) son depredadores mortales de cotorras juveniles y adultas. Las moscas parasitarias (*Philornis pici*) depositan sus larvas en los pichones de aves para completar su ciclo de desarrollo. Estas moscas enferman y matan a los pichones. Las abejas europeas y africanas (*Apis mellifera*) invaden los nidos de la cotorra para formar adentro sus colmenas. También pueden matar a los pichones. Los huracanes y otros eventos climatológicos pueden afectar la estabilidad de la especie en su estado natural. La pérdida de hábitat por la deforestación es una amenaza que siempre está presente y limita las opciones de lugares aptos para reintroducir la cotorra a la vida silvestre.

Medidas de conservación

La cotorra puertorriqueña fue designada como especie en peligro de extinción en el año 1967, antes de que la Ley de Especies en Peligro de Extinción de 1973 entrara en vigor. Existe un Acuerdo Cooperativo entre el Servicio Federal de Pesca y Vida Silvestre, el Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales y el Servicio Forestal de los Estados Unidos para manejar de forma conjunta la recuperación de la cotorra puertorriqueña. Las tres agencias constituyen el Comité de Recuperación de la Cotorra Puertorriqueña. Inicialmente, se estableció un programa de propagación en cautiverio que, con el tiempo, ha crecido para incluir liberaciones de cotorras al estado silvestre, monitoreo de las poblaciones silvestres, manejo del hábitat e investigación. Otras entidades privadas y académicas se han unido a los esfuerzos para realizar investigaciones y educar.

El Comité realiza censos de cotorras periódicamente y estima que existen entre 18 a 22 cotorras en El Yunque y cerca de 60 a 70 en Rfo Abajo. Los biólogos de campo utilizan múltiples estrategias para manejar el hábitat. La escasez de árboles maduros con cavidades

requiere que se construyan e instalen nidos artificiales para que la cotorra puertorriqueña anide. También, los expertos controlan las poblaciones de las especies depredadoras, cuando es necesario, para asegurar el desarrollo normal de los huevos y de los pichones.

La población en cautiverio se mantiene para varios propósitos: reproducir cotorras y aumentar su número, asegurar poblaciones adicionales, particularmente en el caso de una catástrofe natural tal como un huracán, y para, eventualmente, poder proveer aves para reintroducirlas a los bosques donde habitaban. En los aviarios, se utilizan técnicas avanzadas para diagnosticar enfermedades y proveer tratamiento. Actualmente, hay cerca de 350 cotorras entre el Aviario Iguaca, manejado por el Servicio Federal de Pesca y Vida Silvestre en El Yunque, y el Aviario José L. Vivaldi, manejado por el Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales de Puerto Rico, en el Bosque Estatal Rfo Abajo.

La Ley Federal de Especies en Peligro de Extinción de 1973, según enmendada, prohíbe matar, dañar, molestar, atrapar, comprar o vender una especie, así como partes o productos derivados de ellas.

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Thomas H. White, Jr. and Fernando Nunez-Garcia. "From Cage to Rainforest" U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2008-06-04

Información adicional

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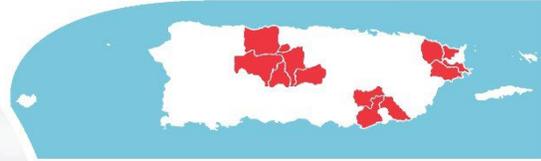
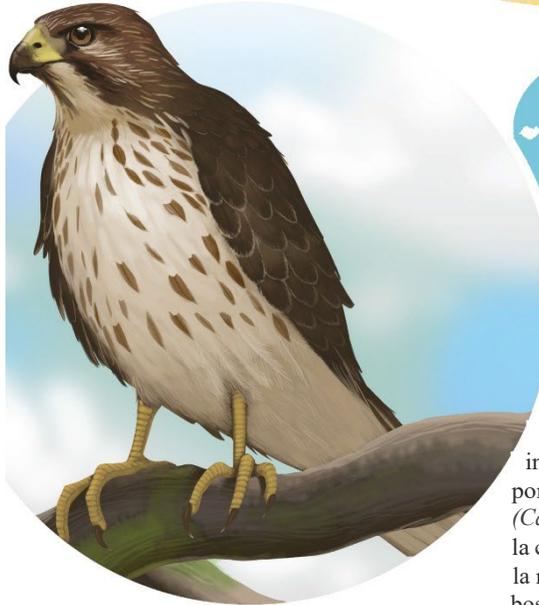


S. J. !llt

EN PELIGRO

Guaraguao de bosque

Buteo platypterus brunnescens



Distribución

Información biológica

Reproducción

Esta especie anida en bosques secundarios maduros y plantaciones antiguas. En el Bosque Estatal de Rfo Abajo (RACF, por sus siglas en inglés), los sitios de anidación están caracterizados por la presencia de árboles tales como el palo Marfa (*Calophyllum antillanum*), la teca (*Tectona grandis*), la caoba hondureña (*Swietenia macrophylla*) y la majagua (*Hibiscus elatus*). Los guaraguao de bosque colocan sus nidos en la parte superior de árboles grandes que sobrepasan la cubierta forestal. Información recientemente recopilada sobre la abundancia y características demográficas del guaraguao de bosque en RACF indica un alto nivel de fidelidad entre parejas; una tasa de sobrevivencia en nidos de 0.67 a través de la temporada de reproducción; y una productividad de 1.1 crías por nido. Entre los años 2001 a 2003, se marcaron con radio transmisores y se colocaron bandas en las patas a varias crías de guaraguao en el RACF. En 2013, al visitar el área donde se marcaron, se documentó que seguían vivas (Llerandi-Roman and Rios-Cruz pers. comm.). Por ejemplo, una hembra joven que fue marcada entre el 2001 al 2003 en el RACF fue documentada anidando exitosamente entre los años 2007 al 2009. (Rios-Cruz pers. comm.)

Habitat

Esta especie habita en bosques enanos, bosques de palmas de sierra, de caimitillo-granadillo y de tabonuco. Estos bosques se encuentran en las reservas forestales del Bosque Estatal de Carite, Bosque Estatal Toro Negro, Bosque Los Tres Picachos y el Bosque Nacional El Yunque. También habita en

Familia: Accipitridae
Orden: Falconiformes

Descripción

El guaraguao de bosque de Puerto Rico o guaraguaito es de color marrón oscuro con barras blancas y rojizas en la parte ventral. Es una subespecie endemica de Puerto Rico de tamaño mediano, que mide aproximadamente 39 centímetros (15.5 pulgadas). Es más pequeño que el *Buteo platypterus platypterus* pero más grande que la subespecie que ocurre en las Antillas Menores. El guaraguao de bosque es la subespecie de halcón de ala ancha más oscura. En los adultos, la cola es de un color negro claro con bandas blancas horizontales en la base, medio y extremo de la cola, y esto, junto con el pecho rojizo, caracteriza a la especie. Los machos y las hembras son muy similares en apariencia, pero las hembras son un poco más grandes. Las aves juveniles tienen barras oscuras en el pecho y no tienen las bandas distintivas en la cola. La población del guaraguao de bosque de Puerto Rico oscila cerca de los 125 individuos.

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plantaciones madereros maduros, en cafetales bajo sombra y en bosques secundarios maduros de! area de carso al norte-central de Puerto Rico dentro y cerca de! Bosque Estatal de *Rio* Abajo y el area de *Rio* Encantado entre los pueblos de Florida y Ciales. La topografía humeda de los bosques de! carso le provee al guaraguao de bosque otra alternativa como area para anidar. En estudios recientes, se han documentado miembros de una especie similar de guaraguao (guaraguao de cola roja; *Buteo jamaicensis jamaicensis*) anidando en las laderas de! carso adyacentes al RACF.

Distribución

El guaraguao de bosque es un ave de rapifia poco comun y extremadamente localizado, que se encuentra en los bosques montafiosos de tierra alta de Puerto Rico. Las poblaciones existentes se hallan primariamente dentro de cinco bosques: el RACF, el Bosque Estatal Carite, el Bosque Estatal Toro Negro, el Bosque Los Tres Picachos y el Bosque Nacional El Yunque. Llerandi-Roman (2006) hallo trece territorios de guaraguao de bosque justo fuera de los limites de RACF, en seis sitios diferentes con habitat apropiado para los guaraguao de bosque. Los territorios se encuentran a lo largo de! valle de! *Rio* Tanama, al noroeste de! RACF

Amenazas

La abundancia y la distribución de! guaraguao de bosque es limitada. Cualquier amenaza que atente contra su población y su habitat puede resultar en detrimento para esta especie. De forma natural, los huracanes constituyen una amenaza ya que destruyen su habitat debido a las intensas lluvias y a los fuertes vientos. No obstante, existe una gran variedad de actividades humanas que tambien amenazan las poblaciones de esta especie. La construcción de instalaciones recreativas, de estructuras para energia y comunicaciones y de carreteras contribuye a la destrucción y fragmentación de su habitat. De igual manera, la caza ilegal, las malas practicas de manejo y la carencia de planes de manejo para los bosques publicos tambien afectan las poblaciones de! guaraguao de bosque. Los bajos numeros poblacionales de esta especie pueden, por sf mismos, estar afectando la población ya que se pierde la variación genetica de esta.

Medidas de conservación

El guaraguao de bosque esta incluido en la lista de especies amenazadas desde el 1994. La Ley Federal de Especies en Peligro de Extinción de 1973, segun enmendada, prohíbe matar, dañar, molestar, atrapar, comprar o vender una especie, asf como partes o productos derivados de ellas. El tener la especie en la lista federal fomenta y ayuda a crear acciones de conservación por las agencias federales, estatales, privadas, y por grupos e individuos particulares. La Ley de Especies En Peligro fomenta la compra de terrenos y la cooperación con el Estado, y requiere que se ejecuten acciones de recuperación en relación a todas las especies listadas. Entre las medidas esenciales para proteger el habitat y fomentar el crecimiento de las poblaciones existentes estan: la protección de los sitios de anidamiento y alimento en las areas publicas y privadas, el mejoramiento de los habitats, la reforestación en areas abiertas, la actualización de la información acerca de la distribución y la identificación de corredores biológicos entre poblaciones cercanas (tales como RACF, Los Tres Picachos y Toro Negro) con ta! de facilitar el movimiento de los guaraguao de bosque entre los bosques.

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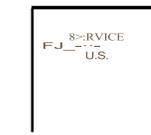
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Informaci6n adicional

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Internet: www.fws.gov/caribbean



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**U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE
MARCH 2019**

Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican crested toad

Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) charges Federal agencies to aid in the conservation of listed species, and section 7 (a)(2) requires the agencies, through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to ensure their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. Section 7 applies to the management of Federal lands as well as Federal actions that may affect listed species, such as federal approval of private activities through the issuance of federal funding, permits, licenses, or other actions. Any person that injures, captures, or kills a Puerto Rican crested toad, or destroy its eggs or tadpoles is subject to penalties under the ESA. If Federal funds or permits are needed, the funding or permitting agency should initiate Section 7 consultation with the Service. To initiate a consultation under the Section 7 of the ESA, you must submit a project package with the established minimum requirements. These conservation measures should be incorporated into the project plans to minimize possible impacts to the species. Download the [project evaluations fact sheet](#) to learn more about the requirements or visit our [project evaluations webpage](#).

The Puerto Rican crested toad (PRCT; *Peltophryne lemur*), commonly known in Spanish as *sapo concho puertorriqueño*, is the only native bufonid of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. An adult PRCT is a medium-size toad ranging from 64 to 120 millimeters (2.5 to 4.5 inches) snout-vent length, of singular aspect, owing to the extraordinary development of the bony crest of the cranium and large size of its eyes. Juvenile PRCTs (recently metamorphosed, less than 1 inch (25.4 mm snout-vent length) have a distinctive coloration and patterns, making them easily identifiable among other toad species in Puerto Rico.



The PRCT was federally listed as threatened in 1987, and has been documented historically in 14 scattered sites along the northern and southern karst regions in Puerto Rico: eight in the northern karst, and six in the southern karst. Presently, the species is only found in three natural populations in the southern karst region and six reintroduced sites (three in the southern karst, and three in the northern karst region). Outside breeding events, the species is difficult to detect. The PRCT seems to be more active at night, from 7:30 pm to 1:00 am, and have been observed using small holes and crevices to access underground chambers as daytime retreats. These animals are able to climb vertical rock faces and steep dirt banks to find holes and crevices. In forested areas and grasslands where the topography has low relief (i.e., rocks, slopes), and limited structural complexity (holes and crevices), adult toads have been found inside dead logs, and inside empty nests of tarantulas (*Cyrtopholis portoricae*).

The Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the PRCT and its habitat. These recommendations may be incorporated into new project plans and under certain circumstances into existing projects. Depending on the project, additional recommendations can be made besides the ones presented in this document.

1. Inform all project personnel about the potential presence of the PRCT in areas where the proposed work will be conducted. A pre-construction meeting should be conducted to inform all project personnel about the need to avoid harming the species as well as penalties for harassing or harming PRCTs. An educational poster or sign with photo or illustration of the species should be displayed at the project site.
2. Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movements, the boundaries of the project and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field in order to avoid further habitat degradation into forested and conservation areas.
3. Strict measures should be established to minimize toad casualties by motor vehicles or other equipment in areas where the species is known to occur. Once the routes are determined, maintain the traffic (human and vehicle) within designated access to minimize affecting toads and habitat. When routes intersecting crested toad areas are utilized, personnel should pay attention (particularly at night, before heavy rains and after breeding events) to avoid mortality of adults and juveniles using the roads when migrating to the breeding pond or returning from the breeding pond. You should ensure that “toad crossing” should not be interrupted.
4. Before activities commence each workday during the earth movement, vegetation clearing or debris removal phase, a biologist or personnel with experience identifying and searching for toads should survey the work area to ensure that no toads are present or can be affected by the work activities. If a crested toad is observed during any time within the operational area of the project, cease or delay

activities until the toads move out of the area on their own. Activities at other work sites, where no toads have been found after surveying, may continue.

5. We recommend the continued use of sound recorders and monitoring of ponds if present within or near the project area to detect toad activities and breeding events, particularly during the rainy season.
6. Avoid impacts to drainages connected to potential breeding ponds, and avoid interrupting water flow.
7. If relocation of PRCTs is anticipated, a plan and protocol should be developed and submitted to the Service for revision and concurrence. Qualified and authorized personnel should capture and handle the toads. All individuals should be relocated in appropriate habitat close to the site where they were found.

For all PRCT sightings (dead or alive), record the time and date of the sighting and the specific location and contact the Service. If you have any questions regarding the above conservation measures, please contact the Service:

- Marelisa Rivera, Deputy Field Supervisor
 - Email: marelisa_rivera@fws.gov
 - Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1814
- José Cruz-Burgos, Endangered Species Coordinator
 - Email: jose_cruz-burgos@fws.gov
 - Office phone (786) 244-0081 or mobile (305) 304-1386



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Executive Director | Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela | carubio@prshpo.pr.gov

December 6, 2023

Lauren Bair Poche

HORNE

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SHPO: 12-01-23-03 PR-RGRW-01425 OSCAR FARM, CARR. 635 DOMINGUITO SECTOR
MATA DE PLATANO, ARECIBO, PUERTO RICO

Dear Ms. Poche,

Our Office has received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with 54 USC 306108 (commonly known as Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act, as amended*) and 36 CFR Part 800: *Protection of Historic Properties* from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is to advise and assist federal agencies and other responsible entities when identifying historic properties, assessing effects upon them, and considering alternatives to avoid or reduce the project's effects.

Our records support your finding of **no historic properties affected** within the project's area of potential effects.

Please note that should the Agency discover other historic properties at any point during project implementation, you should notify the SHPO immediately. If you have any questions concerning our comments, do not hesitate to contact our Office.

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio-Cancela
State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/GMO/OEDJR



December 1, 2023

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela
State Historic Preservation Officer
Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office
Cuartel de Ballajá (Tercer Piso)
San Juan, PR 00902-3935

Puerto Rico Disaster Recovery, CDBG-DR Re-Grow PR Urban-Rural Agricultural (Re-Grow PR) Program

Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination Submittal: PR-RGRW-01425 – Oscars Farm – Carretera 635 KM Dominguito Sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, Puerto Rico – *No Historic Properties Affected*

Dear Architect Rubio Cancela,

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, HORNE is providing information for your review and requesting your concurrence regarding the above-referenced projects on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH). On February 9, 2018, an allocation of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds was approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 28, 83 FR 5844, to assist the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in meeting unmet needs in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. On August 14, 2018, an additional \$8.22 billion recovery allocation was allocated to Puerto Rico under the Federal Register Volume 83, No. 157, 83 FR 40314. With these funding allocations, the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (Housing) aims to lead a comprehensive and transparent recovery for the benefit of Puerto Rico residents.

On behalf of PRDOH and the subrecipient, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, HORNE is submitting documentation for activities proposed by Oscars Farm located at Carretera 635 KM Dominguito Sector Mata Plátano, in the municipality of Arecibo. The undertaking for this project includes the purchase and installation of a new “Farm in the City” vertical hydroponic greenhouse and a generator. The proposed greenhouse is approximately 320 square feet (sq. ft) (40 feet [ft] by 8 ft) with a height of approximately 9.5 ft. The greenhouse will be installed on 4 concrete piers reinforced with rebar every 10 ft. Metal bolts will be used to secure the greenhouse to the concrete piers. The generator is approximately 25 sq. ft (5 ft by 5 ft) and will be installed on 2 concrete piers. The piers will serve to support and elevate the generator. The generator site is currently occupied by debris which will be moved and small trees that will be left. Water to irrigate the greenhouse will be provided

by approximately 45 feet of underground lines (2 ft deep and 1 ft wide) from the existing water main to the new greenhouse. Electricity to the greenhouse will be provided by an overhead connection.

Based on the submitted documentation, the Program requests a concurrence that a finding of no historic properties affected is appropriate for this proposed project.

Please contact me by email at lauren.poche@horne.com or phone at 225-405-7676 with any questions or concerns.

Kindest regards,



Lauren Bair Poche, M.A.

Architectural Historian, EHP Senior Manager

Attachments

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM		
REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM		
Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		
Applicant: Oscars Farm		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01425	City: Arecibo	

Project Location: Carretera 635 KM Dominguito Sector Mata Plátano, Arecibo, PR 00612	
Project Coordinates: (as provided by applicant during field visit) Freight Container: 18.421478, -66.740396 Generator Foundation: 18.421625, -66.740385	
TPID (Número de Catastro): 052-042-004-07-000	
Type of Undertaking: <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial Repair/Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction	
Construction Date (AH est.): All sheds on the property are after 2006. Applicant's House: ca. 1940	Property Size (acres): 1.0-acres total Freight Container: 0.007346 acres (320 sq. ft.) Generator Foundation: 0.002066 acres (90 sq. ft.)

SOI-Qualified Architect/Architectural Historian: Erin Edwards, M.P.S.
Date Reviewed: October 16, 2023
SOI-Qualified Archaeologist: Brian McNamara, M.A., R.P.A.
Date Reviewed: October 30, 2023

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Program is responsible for identifying historic properties listed in the NRHP and any properties not listed that would be considered eligible for listing that are located within the geographic area of potential effects (APE) of the proposed project and assessing the potential effects of its undertakings on these historic properties.

Project Description (Undertaking)

The proposed project involves the installation of a new "Farm in the City" vertical hydroponic greenhouse and a generator. The proposed greenhouse is approximately 320 square feet (sq. ft) (40 feet [ft] by 8 ft) with a height of approximately 9.5 ft. The greenhouse will be installed on 4 concrete piers reinforced with rebar every 10 ft. Metal bolts will be used to secure the greenhouse to the concrete piers. The greenhouse location is on a gentle slope, so the concrete piers will serve to level the site. The generator is approximately 25 sq. ft (5 ft by 5 ft) and will be installed on 2 concrete piers. The piers will serve to support and elevate the generator. The generator site is currently occupied by debris which will be moved and small trees that will be left.

Electricity to the greenhouse will be provided by an aboveground connection from the electrical meter at the applicant's residence, which is located approximately 27 ft southeast of the greenhouse. The generator located 27 ft north will serve as a backup source of electricity for the greenhouse. Water to irrigate the greenhouse will be provided from a water main at the residence approximately 45 ft southeast that is connected to the

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 <small>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING</small>
Applicant: Oscars Farm		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01425		City: Arecibo

aqueduct managed by the Puerto Rico Aqueducts and Sewers Authority (PRASA). The water piping and connections to the greenhouse will be underground lines that extend approximately 2 ft deep and 1 ft wide. The water lines and electrical connections are not part of the Intended Use of Grant Funds.

The project will have minimal ground disturbance and no vegetation or tree clearing is required for construction. The applicant owns the property; therefore, no acquisition is required.

Area of Potential Effects

As defined in 36 CFR §800.16(d), the area of potential effects (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on this definition and the nature and scope of the Undertaking, the Program has determined that the direct APE for this project is the location of the freight container and the generator foundation plus a 15-meter horizontal buffer to allow for some variation in final placement during construction and the visual APE is the viewshed of the proposed project. The proposed location of the new waterlines also fall within this APE.

Identification of Historic Properties - Archaeology

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information by a Program contracted archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61) who searched the records at the SHPO and the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña which shows that there are four reported archaeological sites or significant cultural properties within a half-mile (mi) radius of the project location: (01-09-15-01), (04-29-13-02), (03-03-15-01), and (10-27-11-04). Two archaeological evaluations (ICP/CAT-AR-10-19-06) and (03-03-15-01) have been conducted within the 0.5 mi review radius with 03-03-15-01 resulting in cultural resources found. The proposed project is located in a developed area of mixed residential and agricultural usage at an elevation of 483 ft (147.2 meters [m]) above mean sea level. Per the USGS/NRCS Web Soil Survey, the project area crosses three mapped soil series: BcC Bayamon sandy loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes, BsC Bayamon sandy clay loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes, and RfF Rock outcrop-Tanama complex, 12 to 60 percent slopes. The project area APE is in a level area of the Atlantic coastal plane and the general project area is located on a flat plain. The closest freshwater source is the Rio Tanama which is located 1.4 miles (mi; 2.25 kilometers [km]) southeast of the project area. The Atlantic coast is approximately 3.5 mi (5.6 km) from the project area.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 <small>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING</small>
Applicant: Oscars Farm	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01425	City: Arecibo

Identification of Historic Properties - Architecture

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been reviewed to determine if any such properties are located within the APE of this undertaking. The review of this existing information, by a Program contracted Historic Preservation Specialist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61) shows that the project area is not within the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed Traditional Urban Center or Historic District. Several Section 106 surveys have been conducted in the area. The closest one was Código SHPO# 10-27-11-04, which was performed in 2011 for the rehabilitation of various houses, using funds from HUD. The site was 0.32-miles to the northeast, and a finding of No Historic Properties was returned. The next survey was Código SHPO#04-29-13-02, which was a survey performed in 2013 for the rehabilitation of 72 houses, however, only one house is in the 0.50 review area for this project. That house is 0.35-miles to the west of the project site. All of the houses in that survey had a No Historic Effects finding returned except for one that had a No Adverse Effect returned. The next survey is Código SHPO# 03-03-15-01, which was conducted in 2015/2016 for the construction of a cell tower site for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). One house was surveyed 0.43-miles to the southwest of the project site and a finding of No Historic Properties was returned. There was an archaeological component, a Phase 1A-1B survey, with a negative finding. Finally, there was one archaeological survey conducted in 2010 for a mixed residential project (ICP-CAT-AR-10-19-06) which returned a negative finding. The project site is 0.43-miles to the south of that survey.

The project area is in a suburban area of Arecibo, in the northeast corner of Dominguito Barrio. The area is surrounded by dense vegetation to the north, south, and east of the project site. The project area is to the east of PR651/PR635. Historic aerials from NETR Online (<https://www.historicaerials.com>) have only one aerial from 1972 that shows housing in the area. One building on the sheep farm to the west appears but is gone in current imagery. Neighbors to the east currently have two buildings on the property (<https://www.googleearth.com>), but those houses do not appear on the historic aerials. Buildings directly across the street from the project area that appear on the 1972 aerial are gone in current imagery and were replaced by a commercial facility of some sort, with large metal frame buildings, a large parking area, and a residential building to the west of the commercial buildings. As none of the buildings in the area are historic except for the applicant's own house, there will be no effect on historic properties in the area. Additionally,

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGRW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination	 GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Applicant: Oscars Farm	
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01425	City: Arecibo

dense vegetation in the area will hide the project area from surrounding view within the 0.50-mile review area.

Determination

The following historic properties have been identified within the APE:

- Direct Effect:
 - None
- Indirect Effect:
 - None

Based on the results of our historic property identification efforts, the Program has determined that project actions will not affect historic properties that compose the Area of Potential Effect. The project area is not within or adjacent to the boundaries of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or listed historic district or Traditional Urban Center. There are four reported archaeological materials or significant cultural properties within a half-mile radius of the proposed project location. No known archaeological sites or NRHP listed/eligible historic properties are within or adjacent to the property or the parcel in which the Area of Potential Effect of case PR-RGRW-01425 is located. The closest freshwater body is the Rio Tanama located approximately 1.4 mi (2.25 km) southeast of the project area. The size of the proposed project activities are very small (0.007346 acres (320 sq. ft.) and 0.002066 acres (90 sq. ft.) and construction of public roads/residential structures/commercial buildings/agricultural infrastructure has impacted the surrounding terrain. No historic properties will be affected by the proposed project activities.

PUERTO RICO 2017 DISASTER RECOVERY, CDBG-DR PROGRAM REGROW PUERTO RICO PROGRAM Section 106 NHPA Effect Determination		 <small>GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING</small>
Applicant: Oscars Farm		
Case ID: PR-RGRW-01425	City: Arecibo	

Recommendation (Please keep on same page as SHPO Staff Section)

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing requests that the Puerto Rico SHPO concur that the following determination is appropriate for the undertaking (Choose One):

- No Historic Properties Affected
- No Adverse Effect
 Condition (if applicable):
- Adverse Effect
 Proposed Resolution (if applicable)

This Section is to be Completed by SHPO Staff Only

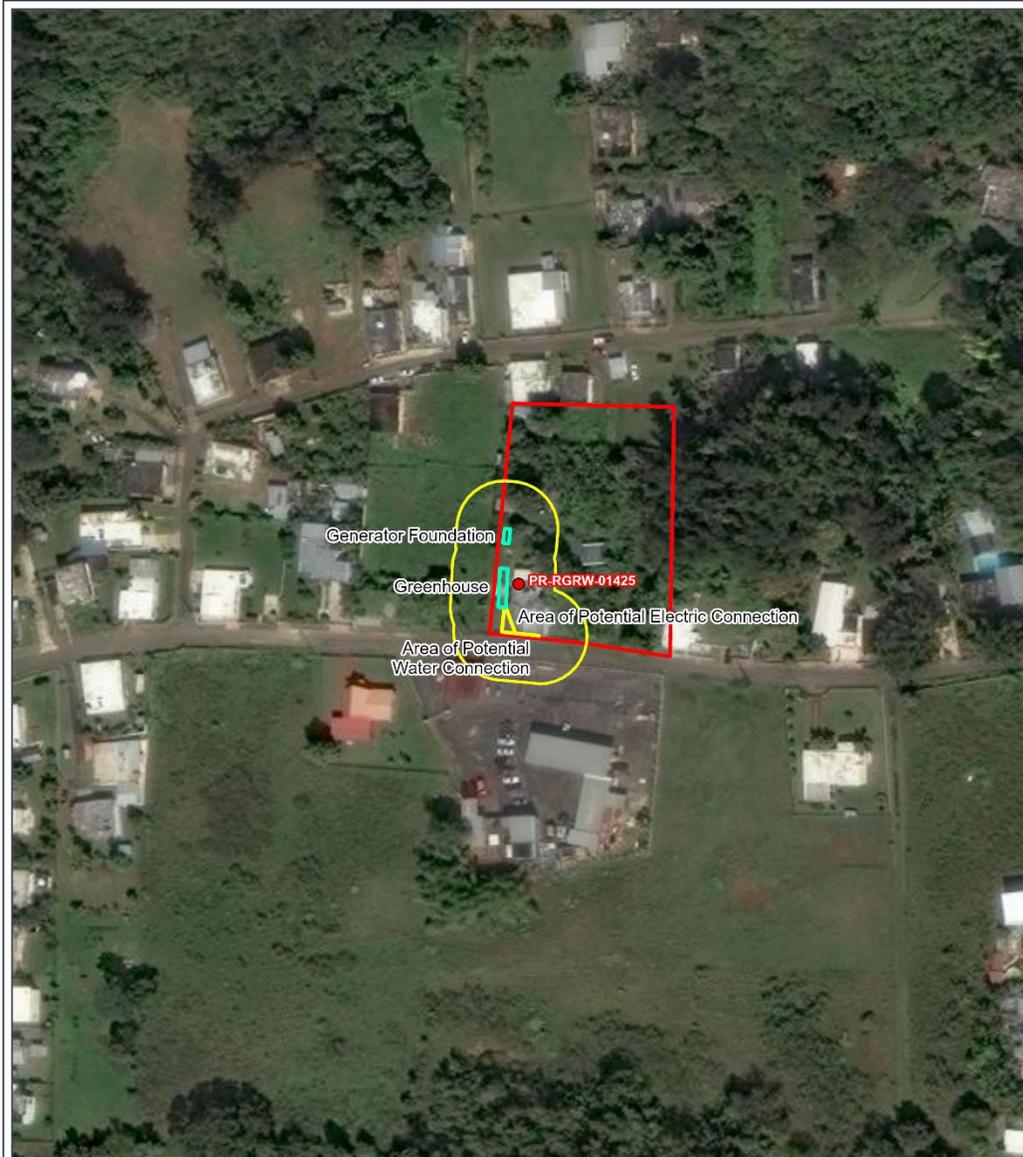
The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above information and:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Concurs with the information provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Does not concur with the information provided.	
Comments: 	
Carlos Rubio-Cancela State Historic Preservation Officer	Date:

Applicant: Oscars Farm

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01425

City: Arecibo

Project (Parcel) Location – Area of Potential Effect Map (Aerial)



REGROW PROGRAM

Project Location Area of Potential Effects (APE) Map

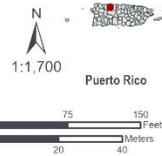
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



- Site
- ▭ Site Parcel
- ▭ Project Footprint (Option)
- Potential Area of Disturbance
- APE (Buffer (15-meters))

Ba. Dominguito Sector Mata
Plátano Carr. 635
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
Parcel Center:
66.740349°W 18.421489°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed November 2023
Updated: 11/6/2023
Layout: APE
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2/Maps



Applicant: Oscars Farm

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01425

City: Arecibo

Project (Parcel) Location - Aerial Map



REGROW PROGRAM

**Figure A-2:
Site Vicinity**

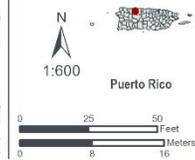
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



- Site
- ▭ Site Parcel
- ▭ Project Footprint (Option)
- ▭ Potential Area of Disturbance

Ba. Dominguito Sector Mata
Plátano Carr. 635
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
Parcel Center:
66.740162°W 18.421643°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed November 2023
Updated: 11/6/2023
Layout: Site Vicinity
Aprx: 72426_RegrowTier2Maps



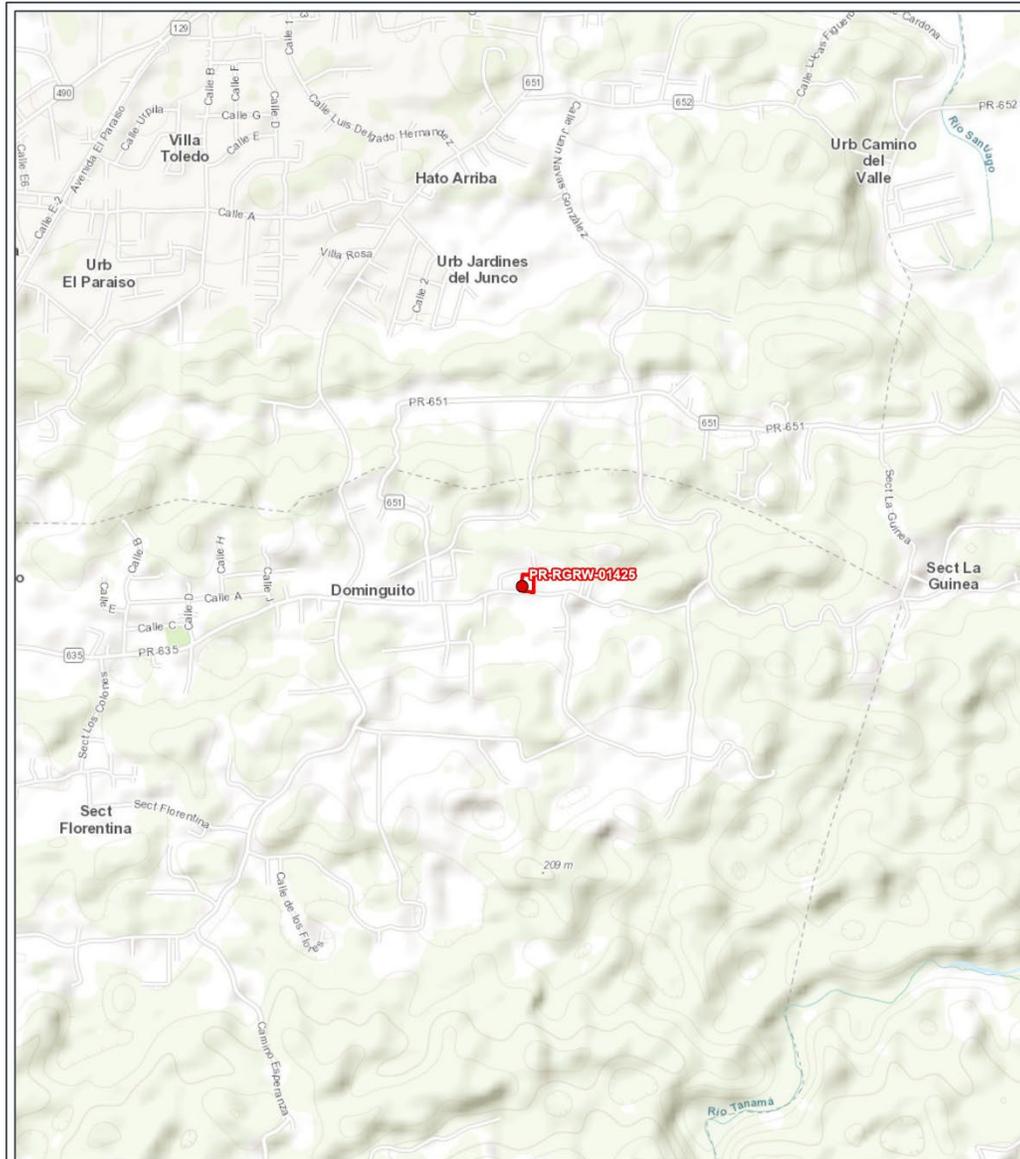


Applicant: Oscars Farm

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01425

City: Arecibo

Project (Parcel) Location - USGS Topographic Map



REGROW PROGRAM

Figure A-1:
Site Location

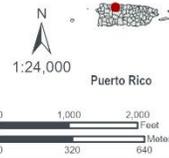
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



- Site
- Site Parcel

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
Plátano Carr. 635
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612

Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
Parcel Center:
66.740392°W 18.421535°N



Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed August 2023
Updated: 8/29/2023
Layout: Site Location
Aprx: 72428_RegrowTier2Maps

Applicant: Oscars Farm

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01425

City: Arecibo

Project (Parcel) Location – Soils Map (Only if Archaeology Review is Required)



Mapunit Symbol	Mapunit Name
BcC	Bayamon sandy loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes
BsC	Bayamon sandy clay loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes
RtF	Rock outcrop-Tanama complex, 12 to 60 percent slopes

REGROW PROGRAM

USDA Soils Map

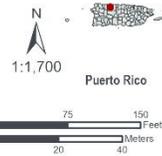
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



- Site
- ▭ Site Parcel
- ▭ Project Footprint (Option)
- ▭ Potential Area of Disturbance
- ▭ Soil Mapunit

Ba. Dominguito Sector Mata
Platano Carr. 635
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
Parcel Center:
66.740349°W 18.421489°N

Data Source: <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed November 2023
Updated: 11/8/2023
Layout: Soils
Aprx: 72428_RegrowTier2Maps

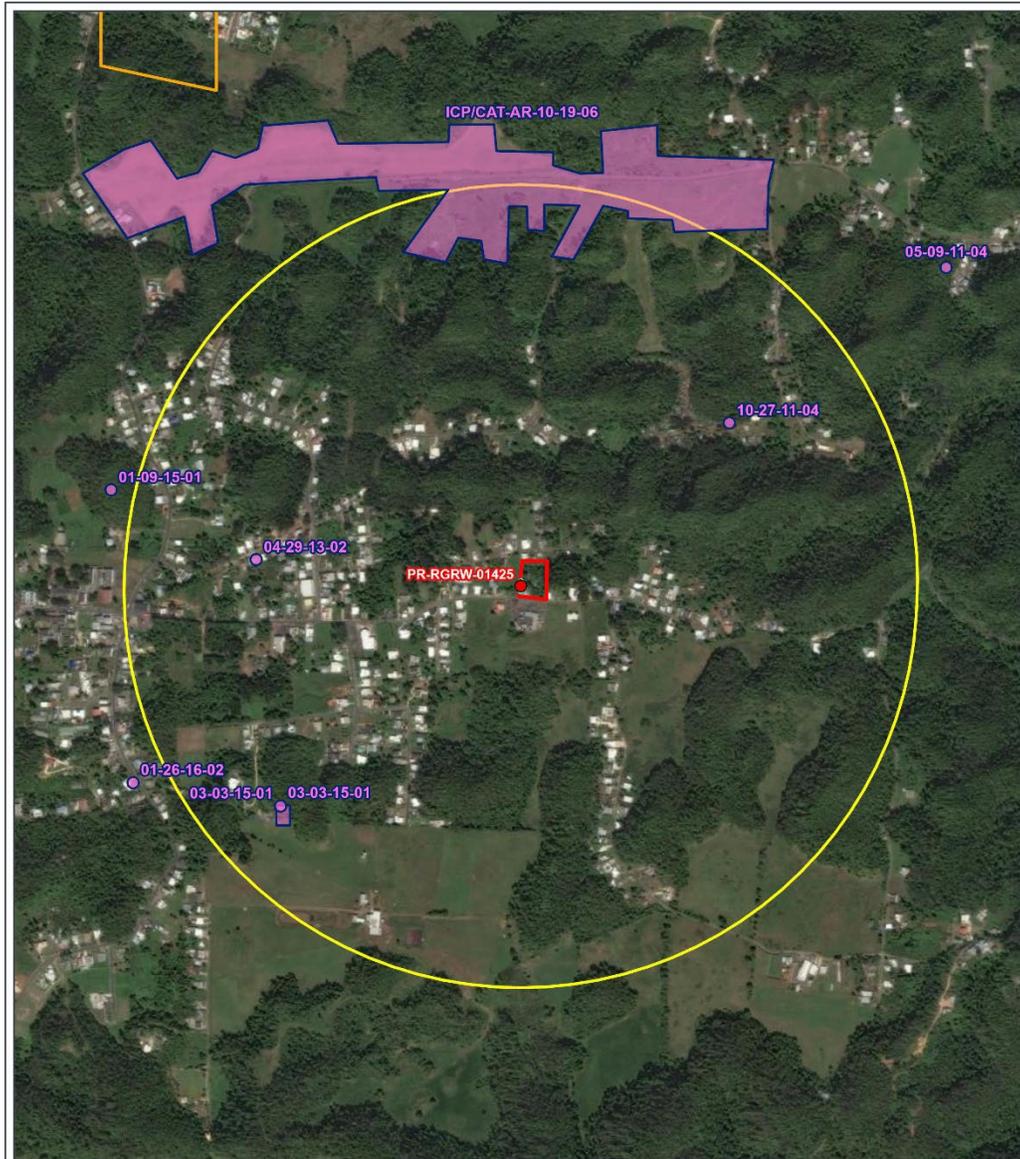


Applicant: Oscars Farm

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01425

City: Arecibo

Project (Parcel) Location with Previous Investigations - Aerial Map



REGROW PROGRAM

Previous Investigation Map

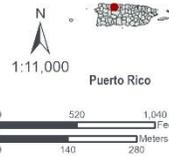
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint (Option)
- Buffer (0.5-mile)
- Previously Recorded Survey
- MIPR Archeologia
- Traditional Urban Centers

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
Plátano Carr. 635
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000 Parcel Center:
66.740392°W 18.421535°N

Data Source: State Historic
Preservation Office and Puerto Rico
Institute of Culture
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed October 2023
Updated: 10/6/2023
Layout: Previous Investigation
Aprx: T2428, ReGrowTier2Maps

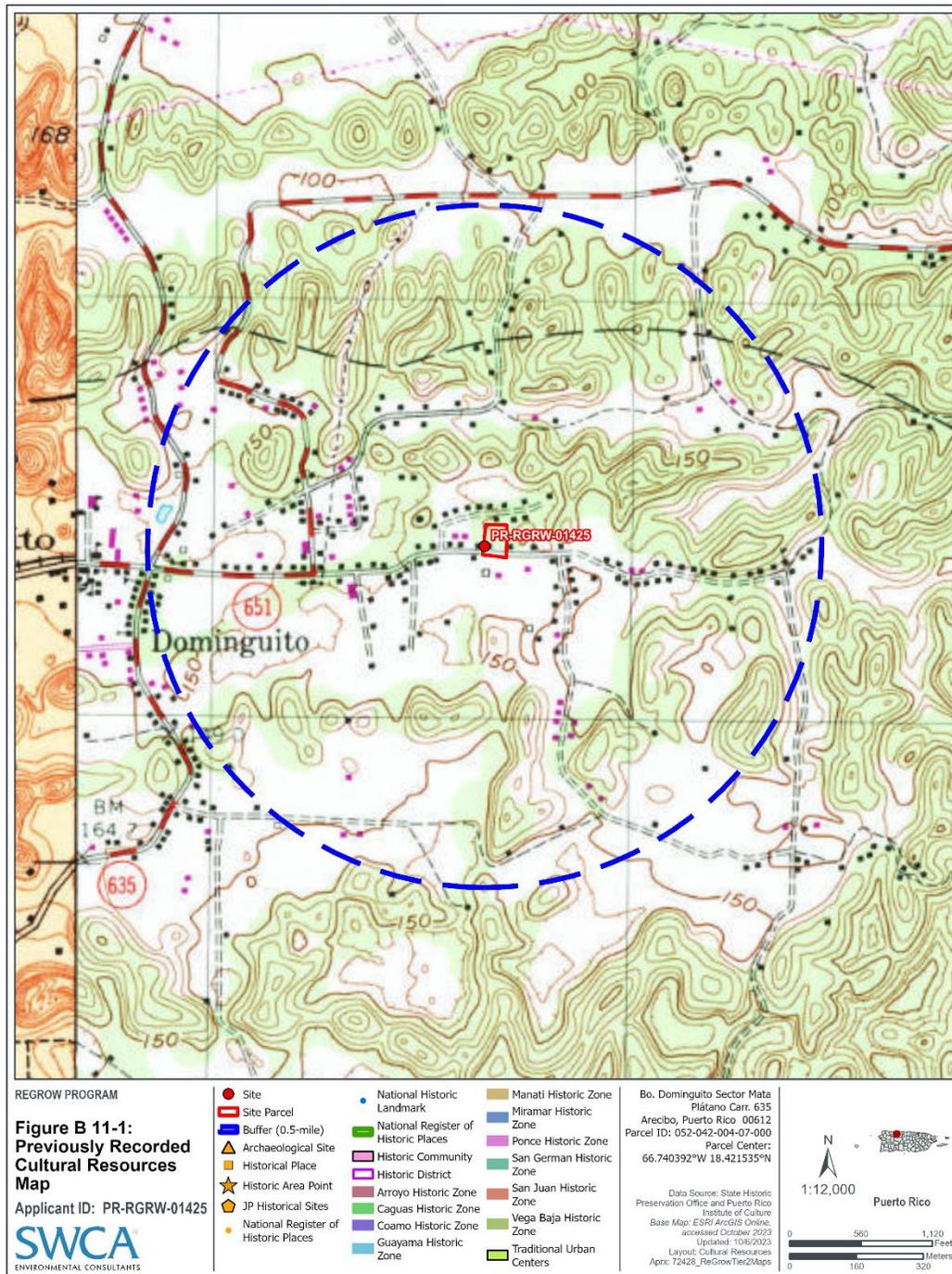


Applicant: Oscars Farm

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01425

City: Arecibo

**Project (Parcel) Location with Previously Recorded Cultural Resources
USGS Topographic Map**

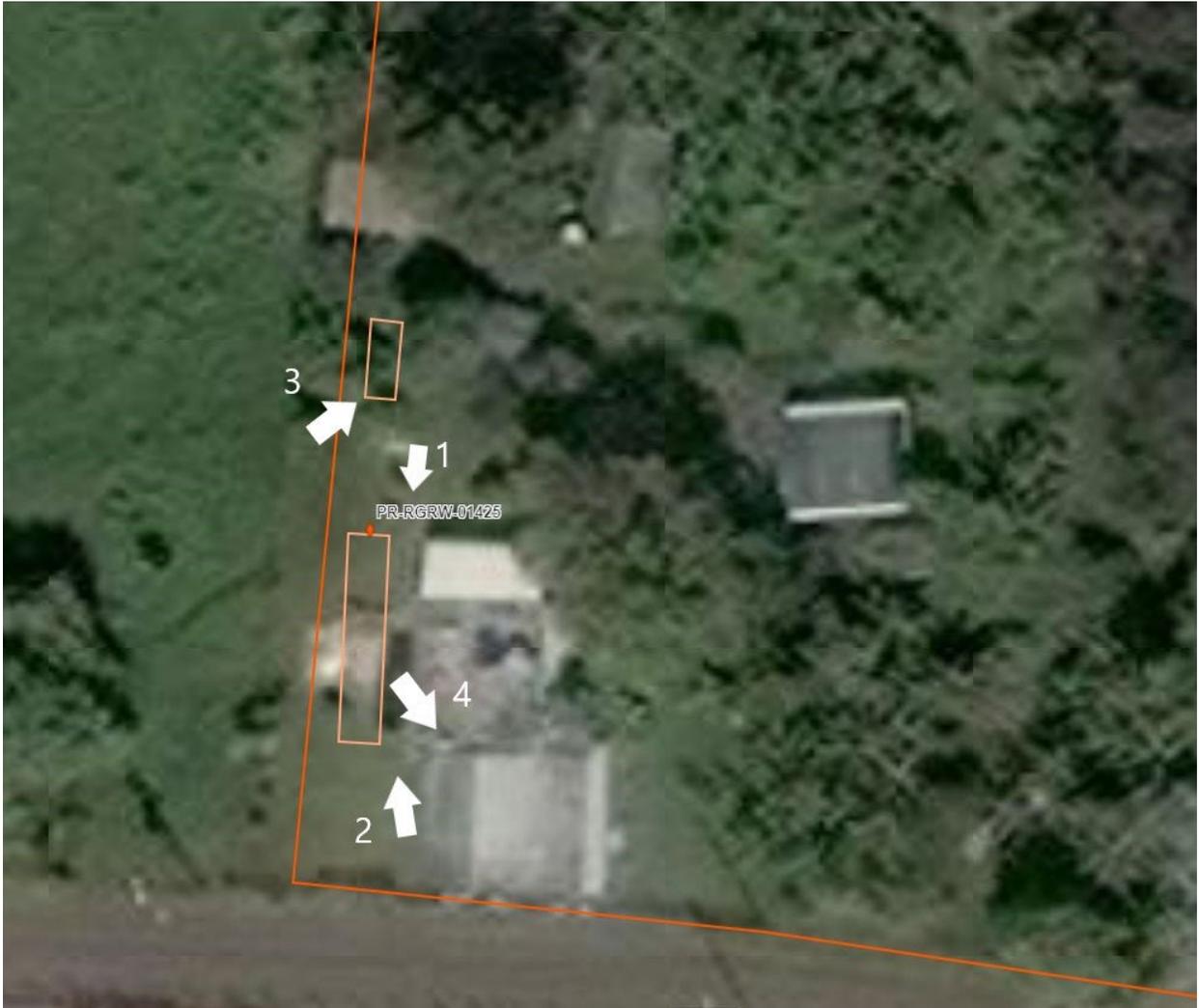


Applicant: Oscars Farm

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01425

City: Arecibo

Photograph Key



Applicant: Oscars Farm

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01425

City: Arecibo

<p>Photo #: 01</p>	<p>Date: 8/26/23</p>	
<p>Photo Direction: South</p>		
<p>Description: This photo was taken from the northeast corner of proposed freight container and shows the adjacent sheep farm (right).</p>		
<p>Photo #: 02</p>	<p>Date: 8/26/23</p>	
<p>Photo Direction: North</p>		
<p>Description: This photo was taken from the southeast corner of proposed freight container location and shows the site of the proposed generator area (right) and the adjacent sheep farm (left).</p>		

Applicant: Oscars Farm

Case ID: PR-RGRW-01425

City: Arecibo

Photo #: 03
Date: 8/26/23

Photo Direction:
Northeast

Description:
This photo depicts the proposed area for the generator and associated debris and trees. Applicant does not intend to remove trees.



Photo #: 04
Date: 8/26/23

Photo Direction:
Southeast

Description:
This photo shows the applicant's house, built in 1940, as seen from center of proposed freight container location.





October 20, 2022

Arch. Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

Cuartel de Ballajá Bldg.

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Re: Authorization to Submit Documents

Dear Arch. Rubio Cancela:

The U.S. Department of Housing (HUD) approved the allocations of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-DR) funds on February 9, 2018. It also approved the allocation of Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds on January 27, 2020. The purpose of these allocations is to address unsatisfied needs as a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017; and to carry out strategic and high-impact activities to mitigate disaster risks and reduce future losses.

To comply with the environmental requirements established by HUD, the Department of Housing of Puerto Rico (PRDOH) contracted Horne Federal LLC to provide environmental registry review services, among others, that will support the objectives of the agenda for both CDBG-DR and CDBG -MIT Programs.

In line to expedite the processes, Horne Federal LLC, is authorized to submit to the State Historic Preservation Officer, documentation of projects related to both the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT on behalf of PRDOH.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JB', is written over the printed name of the signatory.

Juan C. Pérez Bofill, P.E. M.Eng

Director of Disaster Recovery

CDBG DR-MIT



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
Bayamón | Mayagüez | Maricao | Río Grande | St Croix
P.O. Box 491
Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622



In Reply Refer to:
FWS/R4/CESFO/72013-Gen

Submitted Via Electronic Mail: jcperez@vivienda.pr.gov

Juan Carlos Pérez-Bofill, PE, MEng.
Director – Disaster Recovery CDBG-DR Program
Puerto Rico Department of Housing
P.O. Box 21365
San Juan, P.R 00928-1365

Re: CDBG-DR PR-RGRW-01425 Oscar's Farm,
Arecibo, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Pérez-Bofill

Thank you for your letter dated October 21, 2024, requesting informal consultation on the above referenced project. As per your request, our comments are provided under the Endangered Species Act (Act) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 United States Code 1531 et seq.), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is proposing the construction of a new greenhouse (40 feet (Ft) x 8 Ft) and installation of a generator. Two locations are being evaluated for the project; one location for the greenhouse and one location for the generator. The proposed project will be located on a 1-acre property at State Road PR-651, Barrio Dominguito, Sector Mata Plátano, (18°25'17.3"N 66°44'25.4"W) in the municipality of Arecibo, Puerto Rico. According to the PRDOH, construction of the greenhouse and generator will require minimal ground disturbance, but no vegetation removal or tree clearing is proposed

Using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system, the PRDOH has determined that the proposed project site is located within the range of Puerto Rican boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*), Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*), Puerto Rican parrot (*Amazona vittata*), Puerto Rican crested toad (*Peltophryne lemur*), and the plants, *Cordia bellonis* (no common name) and *Tectaria estremerana* (no common name).

The Caribbean Determination Key (DKey) in the IPaC application was used to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project on federally listed species (Project code: 2024-0139733). Based on the answers provided, a consistency letter was obtained for the Puerto Rican boa and

Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk, which determined that the proposed actions for this project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) these species.

Based on the nature of the project, scope of work, information available, and analysis of the existing habitat (mowed grass, with forested areas adjacent to the east), PRDOH has determined that the proposed project is NLAA the Puerto Rican parrot and Puerto Rican crested toad. Conservation measures will be implemented in case an encounter with these species occur.

As for the plant species, *Cordia alliodora* and *Tectaria estremoana*, the PRDOH made a NE determination based on the scope of work, project location and lack of suitable habitat. The Service acknowledges receipt of PRDOH's NE determination for these plant species. Currently, we do not have any information to refute that determination. Because the PRDOH made a NE determination, the PRDOH is not required to conduct formal or informal section 7 consultation with the Service, and the Service is not required to concur with PRDOH's NE determination.

We have reviewed the information provided and our files, and concur with PRDOH's determination that the proposed actions may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the Puerto, Puerto Rican parrot and Puerto Rican crested toad with the implementation of the conservation measures. Also, the Service acknowledges receipt and concurs with the NLAA consistency letter obtained for the Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk and Puerto Rican boa.

In view of this, we believe that requirements of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) have been satisfied. However, obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner that was not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner not previously considered in this assessment; or, (3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact us via email at caribbean_es@fws.gov or by phone at (786) 244-0081.

Sincerely,

LOURDES
MENA

Digitally signed by LOURDES
MENA
Date: 2025.01.13 09:18:49
-04'00'

Lourdes Mena
Field Supervisor

drr

cc:
HUD
SWCA

Radon Attachments



August 20, 2024

Mrs. Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez
Director
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division
City View Plaza II – Suite 7000
#48 Rd. 165 km 1.2
Guaynabo, PR 00968-8069

Via email: guerrero.carmen@epa.gov

RE: Request for information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) kindly requests your assistance in gathering data, information, or reports related to radon testing in Puerto Rico, as this information is crucial for our compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Planning and Development (CPD) Notice CDP-23-103.

This Notice emphasizes the importance of radon testing and mitigation in ensuring safe living environments, particularly in HUD-assisted properties. PRDOH, as the grantee of the Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery and Mitigation (CDBG-DR/MIT), is responsible for ensuring compliance with environmental requirements under CDBG-DR/MIT programs. To fulfill our obligations under this Notice, we must compile comprehensive and up-to-date information on radon levels, testing practices, and any mitigation efforts within the islands of Puerto Rico.

Specifically, we are seeking for possible availability of the following information:

Radon testing data – Results from radon testing conducted within your agency's purview, including details on location, testing methods, and recorded radon levels.

Reports and assessments – Any reports, studies, or assessments your agency has produced or commissioned that address radon testing or mitigation.

Policies and guidelines – Information or any policy, guideline, or protocol your agency follows concerning radon testing, exposure limits, or mitigation.

Historical data – If available, historical data or trends in radon levels within the regions you monitor that may impact HUD-assisted housing.

This information is vital to ensure that our radon management strategies are practical and compliant with federal requirements. If some of this information may be sensitive or confidential, we are prepared to discuss any necessary agreements or protocols for sharing this data securely.

Please let us know if you require additional details or have any questions regarding this request. We would greatly appreciate your response by September 15, 2024, so we can incorporate this data into our ongoing compliance efforts.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. We look forward to working together on this critical initiative.

Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc: Mr. Oleg Povelko, Povelko.Oleg@epa.gov
Mr. Matthew Lantia, lantia.matthew@epa.gov



August 20, 2024

Dr. Silvina Cancelos
Professor
College of Engineering
University of Puerto Rico – Mayagüez Campus
259 Norte Blvd. Alfonso Valdés Cobián
Mayagüez, Puerto Rico

Via email: silvina.cancelos@upr.edu

RE: Request for information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) kindly requests your assistance in gathering data, information, or reports related to radon testing in Puerto Rico, as this information is crucial for our compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Planning and Development (CPD) Notice CDP-23-103.

This Notice emphasizes the importance of radon testing and mitigation in ensuring safe living environments, particularly in HUD-assisted properties. PRDOH, as the grantee of the Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery and Mitigation (CDBG-DR/MIT), is responsible for ensuring compliance with environmental requirements under CDBG-DR/MIT programs. To fulfill our obligations under this Notice, we must compile comprehensive and up-to-date information on radon levels, testing practices, and any mitigation efforts within the islands of Puerto Rico.

Specifically, we are seeking for possible availability of the following information:

Radon testing data – Results from radon testing conducted within your agency's purview, including details on location, testing methods, and recorded radon levels.

Reports and assessments – Any reports, studies, or assessments your agency has produced or commissioned that address radon testing or mitigation.

Policies and guidelines – Information or any policy, guideline, or protocol your agency follows concerning radon testing, exposure limits, or mitigation.

Historical data – If available, historical data or trends in radon levels within the regions you monitor that may impact HUD-assisted housing.

This information is vital to ensure that our radon management strategies are practical and compliant with federal requirements. If some of this information may be sensitive or confidential, we are prepared to discuss any necessary agreements or protocols for sharing this data securely.

Please let us know if you require additional details or have any questions regarding this request. We would greatly appreciate your response by September 15, 2024, so we can incorporate this data into our ongoing compliance efforts.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. We look forward to working together on this critical initiative.

Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc: Dr. Carlos Marín, carlos.marin3@upr.edu



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

August 20, 2024

Dr. Jessica Izarry
Director
Office of Island Affairs
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1324 CII Canada, San Juan, 00920
Guaynabo, PR 00968-8069

Via email: OIA@cdc.gov

RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) kindly requests your assistance in gathering data, information, or reports related to radon testing in Puerto Rico, as this information is crucial for our compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Planning and Development (CPD) Notice CDP-23-103.

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Barbosa Ave. #606, Building Juan C. Cordero Dávila, Río Piedras, PR 00918 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365
Tel. (787) 274-2527 | www.viviendia.pr.gov

CDBG-DR/MIT Program
Request for Information in relation with HUD CPD-23-103 for Puerto Rico
Page 2 / 2

Reports and assessments – Any reports, studies, or assessments your agency has produced or commissioned that address radon testing or mitigation.

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

August 20, 2024

Mrs. Anais Rodríguez
Secretary
Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
Carretera 8838, km. 6.3, Sector El Cinco,
Río Piedras San Juan, PR 00926

Via email: anais.rodriguez@dma.pr.gov

RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) kindly requests your assistance in gathering data, information, or reports related to radon testing in Puerto Rico, as this information is crucial for our compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Planning and Development (CPD) Notice CDP-23-103.

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Barbosa Ave. #606, Building Juan C. Cordero Dávila, Río Piedras, PR 00918 | PO Box 21365 San Juan, PR 00928-1365
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CDBG-DR/MIT Program
Request for Information in relation with HUD CPD-23-103 for Puerto Rico
Page 2 / 2

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc: Mr. Luis Márquez, secretariogaire@dma.pr.gov
Eng. Amarilys Rosario, aire@dma.pr.gov
Mrs. Elid Ortegá, ortega@dma.pr.gov



August 20, 2024

Dr. Carlos R. Mellado López
Secretary
Puerto Rico Department of Health
PO Box 70184
San Juan, PR 00936-8184

Via email: drCarlos.mellado@salud.pr.gov

RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) kindly requests your assistance in gathering data, information, or reports related to radon testing in Puerto Rico, as this information is crucial for our compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Planning and Development (CPD) Notice CDP-23-103.

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc: Mr. Raúl Hernández Doble, rahernandez2@salud.pr.gov



August 20, 2024

Mrs. Holly Weyers
Regional Director, Southeast – Puerto Rico
US Geological Survey
3916 Sunset Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

Via email: hswyers@usgs.gov

RE: Request for Information regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) kindly requests your assistance in gathering data, information, or reports related to radon testing in Puerto Rico, as this information is crucial for our compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Planning and Development (CPD) Notice CDP-23-103.

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Sincerely,

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Cc: Mr. R. Randall Schumann, rschumann@usgs.gov

From: Charp, Paul (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP) <pac4@cdc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 6:36 AM
To: Miranda, Sandra (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Irizarry, Jessica (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Rzeszotarski, Peter (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP); Vinson, D. Aaron (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP)
Cc: Kostak, Liana (CDC/PHIC/DPS); Vazquez, Germaine (CDC/NCEH/DEHSP)
Subject: RE: REHi: Puerto Rico Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

Good morning, Sandra and others,

In response to the request from Mr. William Rodriguez of the Department of Housing, Government of Puerto Rico, I have reviewed all the available data within the CDC National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network system for data related to radon in Puerto Rico. In addition to the tracking data available on the internet, I also reached out to Mr. Aaron Vinson of the NCEH Tracking Branch.

I was not able to find any data in the CDC systems and this was confirmed by Mr. Vinson. We also reached out the US Environmental Protection Agency who indicated they had no radon data in their systems. Please relay this information to Mr. Rodriguez in your response to his requests

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.

Thank you and best regards,

Paul A. Charp, Ph.D., Fellow, HPS
Senior Health Physicist
Emerging Environmental Hazards and Health Effects Branch (EEHHEB)
Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice (DEHSP)
National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
pcharp@cdc.gov
770-488-0723 office
404.388.0614 Cell



From: Schumann, R. Randall <rschumann@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 4:39 PM
To: Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>; Weyers, Holly S <hsweyers@usgs.gov>
Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for Information- Radon testing and levels

Dear Ms. Medina Smaine,

In the early 1990s the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) conducted geologic assessments of radon potential for all 50 states and the territories of Guam and Puerto Rico, in collaboration with the U.S. EPA. I conducted the geologic radon potential assessment for Puerto Rico. The PDF file of the report is too large to attach to this message but it can be obtained at <https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1993/0292k/report.pdf>. The USGS did not conduct indoor radon testing and we did not conduct field studies associated with this assessment; it was based on existing data. Mr. David Saldana of the Puerto Rico Department of Health kindly provided us with data for 610 homes that were tested for indoor radon by his agency between 1993 and 1995, which are summarized in the report. I am not aware of any other radon-related geologic studies conducted in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Best regards,

R. Randall Schumann
Scientist Emeritus
U.S. Geological Survey
Geosciences and Environmental Change Science Center
Denver, Colorado, USA
rschumann@usgs.gov
<https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/r-randall-schumann>

From: Raul Hernandez Doble <rhernandez2@salud.pr.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 2:13:31 PM
To: Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>; Dr. Carlos Mellado <drcarlos.mellado@salud.pr.gov>
Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>; Mayra Toro Tirado <mtoro@salud.pr.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]Request for Information- Radon testing and levels

Good afternoon. Ms. Medina

I regret to inform that we do not have any recent information on radon testing, since we do not have a certified radiation laboratory certified for radon testing. There are companies that sell test kits available online that can be done and mailed to a testing laboratory. There are also lists of radon contractors and these companies that process radon testing cartridges with instructions, on the Environmental Protection Agency Indoor air Quality web page. The last radon study in Puerto Rico done by the PR Department of Health was done on the year 1993.

Raul Hernandez Doble
Director, Seccion Salud Radiologica
Division de Salud Ambiental
Secretaria Auxiliar para la Vigilancia y la Proteccion de la Salud Publica
rhernandez2@salud.gov.pr
Phone: (787)765-2929 ext. 3210

From: Reyes, Brenda <Reyes.Brenda@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 11:48 AM
To: Cesar O Rodriguez Santos <cesarrodriguez@drna.pr.gov>; Maritza Rosa Olivares <maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov>; Silvana Cancelos Mancini <silvana.cancelos@upr.edu>; Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>
Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>; Povetko, Oleg (he/him/his) <Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

Saludos.

La EPA esta trabajando una respuesta a su petición. Se sometió borrador a la directora y el subdirector para su aprobación y firma.

Brenda Reyes Tomassini
Public Affairs
U.S. EPA
Region 2
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division
(787) 977-5869/(787) 977-5865
Mobile: 202-834-1290

From: Silvana Cancelos Mancini <silvana.cancelos@upr.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2024 15:04
To: Melanie Medina Smaine <mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov>
Cc: Elaine Dume Mejia <Edume@vivienda.pr.gov>; Luz S Colon Ortiz <Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov>; Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez <aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov>; Maritza Rosa Olivares <maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov>; Reyes, Brenda <Reyes.Brenda@epa.gov>; Povetko, Oleg <Povetko.Oleg@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Request for Information- Randon testing and levels

Estimada Melanie Medina
Quería dejarte saber que recibimos su correo el 21 de agosto al igual que el de Maritza Rosa el pasado 4 de septiembre. Ya las personas involucradas de EPA, junto conmigo y el Dr. Marín estamos al tanto del asunto y estamos trabajando para poder enviarles la información.

Atentamente

Silvana Cancelos
Professor
Associate Director
Mechanical Engineering Department
University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez
Call BOX 9000 Mayaguez PR 00680
Tel: 787-832-4040 ext 5956
email: silvana.cancelos@upr.edu



Bubble Dynamics Lab
University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez



EPA REGION 2
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

September 23, 2024

VIA EMAIL

William O. Rodriguez Rodriguez, Esq.
Secretary
Puerto Rico Department of Housing
Barbosa Ave. 606 Building Juan C. Cordero
San Juan, PR 00917
Email: W.Rodriguez@vivienda.pr.gov

RE: EPA Response to August 20, 2024 request for information of data on radon testing and levels in Puerto Rico

Dear Honorable Secretary Rodriguez Rodriguez:

This communication is in response to your letter of August 20, 2024 addressed to the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) and referred to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding available data on radon testing and levels within Puerto Rico.

EPA's National Radon Action Plan 2021–2025 sets a goal for the nation to find, fix and prevent high indoor radon levels in 8 million buildings by 2025 and prevent 3,500 lung cancer deaths per year. Under this Plan, leaders from across multiple sectors are working together to plan, guide, and sustain nationwide action to prevent exposure to radon.

Due to the lack of data in Puerto Rico, EPA undertook an investigation in collaboration with the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez (UPRM) Campus, Departments of Civil Engineering and Surveying and Mechanical Engineering, to find out if radon presented a problem in Puerto Rico. Up until 2021, the only data we had for Puerto Rico was a 1993-1995 mail-in radon screening study referred to by the U.S. Geological Survey report (USGS, 1995) in which the USGS concluded that several areas of Puerto Rico have the geologic potential to generate indoor radon levels exceeding the EPA Action Level of 4 pCi/L (picocuries per liter), perhaps locally reaching very high levels above 50 pCi/L, if a house construction and

ventilation allow for soil-gas radon to enter and concentrate within the structure.¹ According to the USGS report, most of these areas are located in the northwest part of the island. Please note that the actual 1993-1995 study documentation is not available to the EPA.

Typical radon testing technology used in mainland United States (charcoal canisters or electric-powered devices) are impractical in Puerto Rico because of high humidity and power outages. The recovery and rebuilding of communities following the aftermath of 2017 Hurricanes Irma and Maria presented an opportunity to develop radon prevention and mitigation strategies in 2019. Initially, EPA sampled indoor radon air in over 170 single-family residences in the municipalities of San Sebastian, Lares, Ciales, Arecibo, Morovis, Camuy, and Hatillo and later expanded the project to other municipalities such as Rincon, Aguada, Aguadilla, Isabela, Quebradillas, Barceloneta and Vega Baja. The quality assurance protocols were anchored in American National Standards Institute/American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (ANSI/AARST) standards of practice (ANSI/AARS, 2019). The sampling was designed in two stages: scoping and confirmatory sampling. The scoping sampling was conducted using Corentium Home (CH) electronic monitors and E-Perm systems. Locations measuring above the EPA Action Level of 4 pCi/L with CH were measured at the second stage of the sampling using RAD7 and Corentium Pro Continuous Radon Monitors (CRMs). Nationally certified radon sampling professionals led by one such professional from the UPRM conducted confirmatory sampling in the second stage. Also, during the study, the nationally certified radon mitigation professionals inspected several homes with elevated indoor radon levels.

Mapping radon in Puerto Rico proved to be a complicated endeavor given the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. EPA and UPRM continue to work on the project, however, results have not been finalized, and no scientific report has been published yet. Unfortunately, EPA cannot share preliminary data at this time because it contains privileged information. Nevertheless, preliminary data from the study does show homes with levels over 4 pCi/L (EPA Action Level) that might need mitigation to protect the health of their inhabitants.

Although many states have developed laws and regulations governing radon disclosure, certification, and mitigation, Puerto Rico lacks legislation or mandatory radon testing provisions for new construction, remodeling, selling or buying homes. Given this loophole and aiming to answer your request, the EPA can provide information on Best Management Practices for sampling indoor radon in Puerto Rico.

¹ Reference: USGS. Geologic Radon Potential of Guam and Puerto Rico, Report 93-292-K. Washington, DC: USGS. Retrieved 9/11/2024, from <https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1993/0292k/report.pdf>.

CITY VIEW PLAZA II BUILDING, 7TH FLOOR
ROUTE 185 GUAYNABO, PR 00988

2

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me at 787-977-5865 or guerrero.carmen@epa.gov or have your staff contact Reyes, Brenda at reyes.brenda@epa.gov or (787) 977-5869.

Sincerely,

**CARMEN
GUERRERO
PEREZ**

Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez
Director

Digitally signed by
CARMEN GUERRERO PEREZ
Date: 2024.09.23 09:41:39
-0400

cc: Roberto Mendez, Esq (Acting Secretary, PR Department of Natural and Env. Resources)
Melany Medina: mmedina@vivienda.pr.gov
Elaine Dume Mejia: Edume@vivienda.pr.gov
Luz S Colon Ortiz: Lcolon@vivienda.pr.gov
Aldo A. Rivera-Vazquez: aarivera@vivienda.pr.gov
Cesar O. Rodriguez: cesarrodriiguez@drna.pr.gov
Marita Rosa Olivares: maritzarosaolivares@drna.pr.gov



REGROW PROGRAM

**Figure B 10-1:
Advisory Base Flood
Elevation For 100-Year
Floodplain Map**

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425

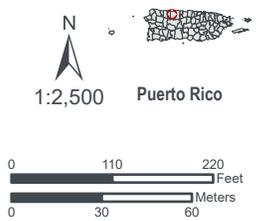


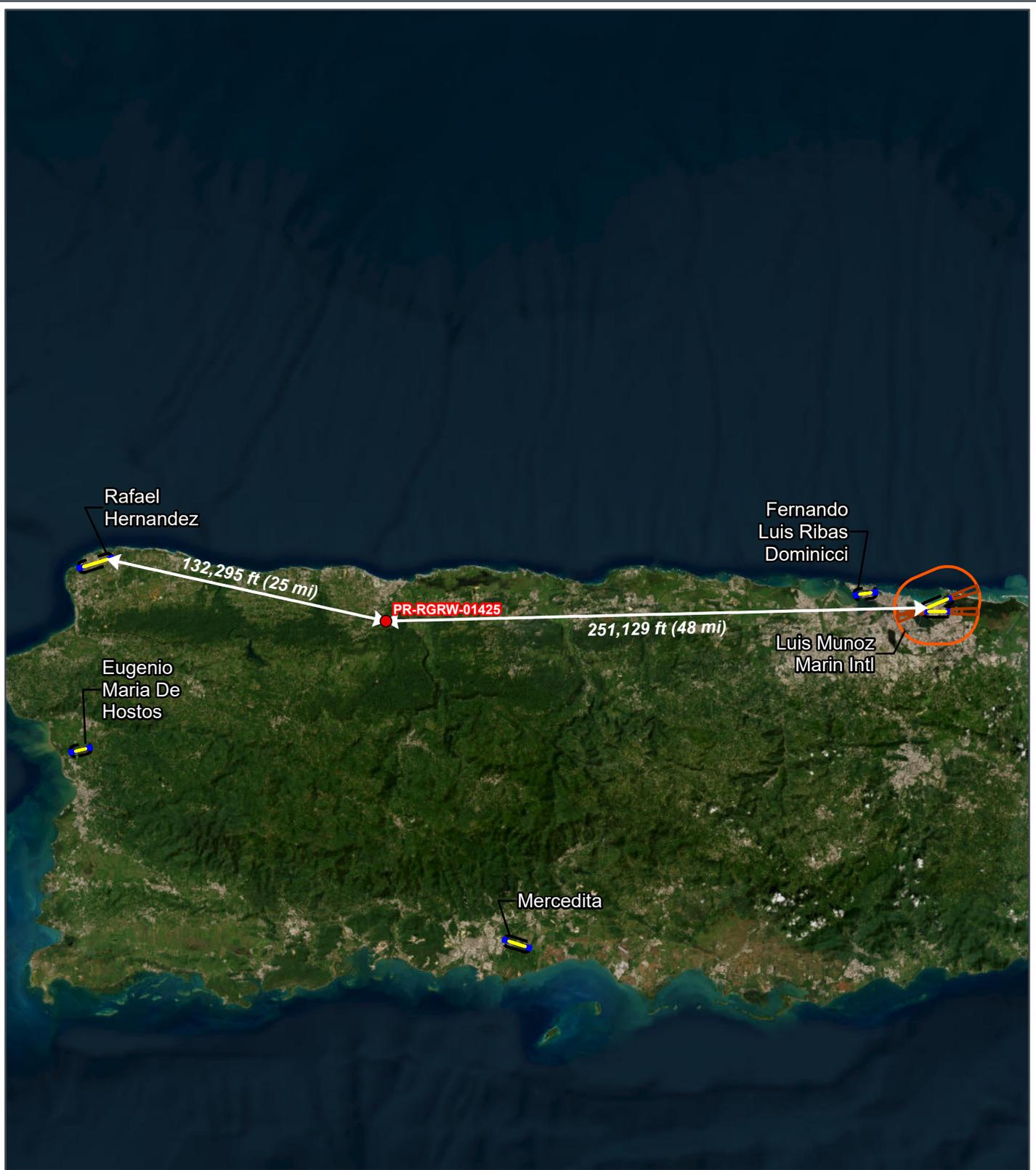
- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint
- Potential Area of Disturbance
- Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE)
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood
- 1% Annual Chance Flood
- Zone A
- Zone A-Floodway
- Zone AE
- Coastal A Zone
- Coastal A Zone and Floodway
- Zone AE-Floodway
- Zone AO
- Zone VE
- Zone X (500-year floodplain)
- Zone/BFE Boundary

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata Plátano Carr.
635
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612

Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
66.740349°W 18.421489°N

Data Source: https://gis.fema.gov/arcgis/rest/services/DR/PuertoRico_ABFE_1PCT/MapServer
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed November 2023
Updated: 11/6/2023
Layout: ABFE 1Pct
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps





REGROW PROGRAM

**Figure B 1-1:
Airport Hazards Map**

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425

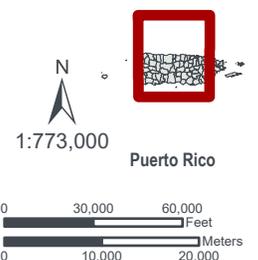


- Site
- Airport Runway
- Accident Potential Zones (APZ)
- Runway Protection Zones (RPZ)
- 2,500-FT Civil Airport Buffer
- 15,000-FT Military Airport Buffer

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
Plátano Carr. 635
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
66.740349°W 18.421489°N

Data Source: <https://geodata.bts.gov/>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed November 2023

Updated: 11/6/2023
Layout: Airport Hazards
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps





REGROW PROGRAM

Figure B 2-1: Coastal Barrier Resources Map

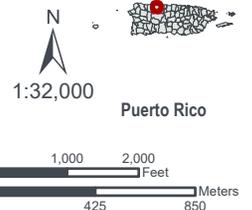
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



- Site
- Otherwise Protected Area
- System Unit

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
 Plátano Carr. 635
 Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
 Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
 66.740349°W 18.421489°N

Data Source: <https://cbrgis.wim.usgs.gov/arcgis/rest/services/CoastalBarrierResourcesSystem/MapServer>
 Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed November 2023 Updated: 1/16/2023
 Layout: Coastal Barrier Resources System





REGROW PROGRAM

Figure B 5-1: Coastal Zone Management Map

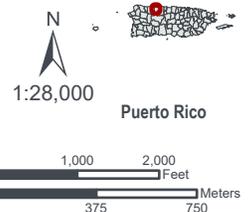
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



- Site
- Coastal Management Zone

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
 Plátano Carr. 635
 Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
 Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
 66.740349°W 18.421489°N

Data Source: <https://coast.noaa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/Hosted/CoastalZoneManagementAct/BaseMap>
 Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed November 2023 Updated: 11/6/2023
 Layout: Coastal Zone Management Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps





REGROW PROGRAM

**Figure B 9-1:
Prime Farmland Map**

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint
- Potential Area of Disturbance
- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated
- Prime farmland if drained
- Prime farmland if irrigated
- Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
- Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- Not prime farmland
- Not Public Information

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
Plátano Carr. 635
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
66.740349°W 18.421489°N

Data Source: <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed November 2023 Updated: 11/6/2023
Layout: Prime Farmland
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps

N

1:2,500

Puerto Rico



REGROW PROGRAM

Figure B 3-1: Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)

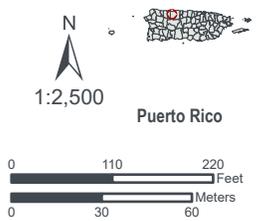
Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint
- Potential Area of Disturbance
- Base Flood Elevations
- Zone A
- Zone AE
- Zone AH
- Zone AO
- Zone VE
- Floodway
- Zone X - Shaded (500-year floodplain)
- Zone X - Unshaded
- Area Not Included
- Open Water

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
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Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
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66.740349°W 18.421489°N

Data Source: <https://hazards.fema.gov/gis/nfhl/rest/services/public/NFHL/MapServer>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed November 2023
Updated: 11/6/2023
Layout: Effective Floodplain
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps



Calle Florence H



REGROW PROGRAM

**Figure A-2:
Site Vicinity**

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



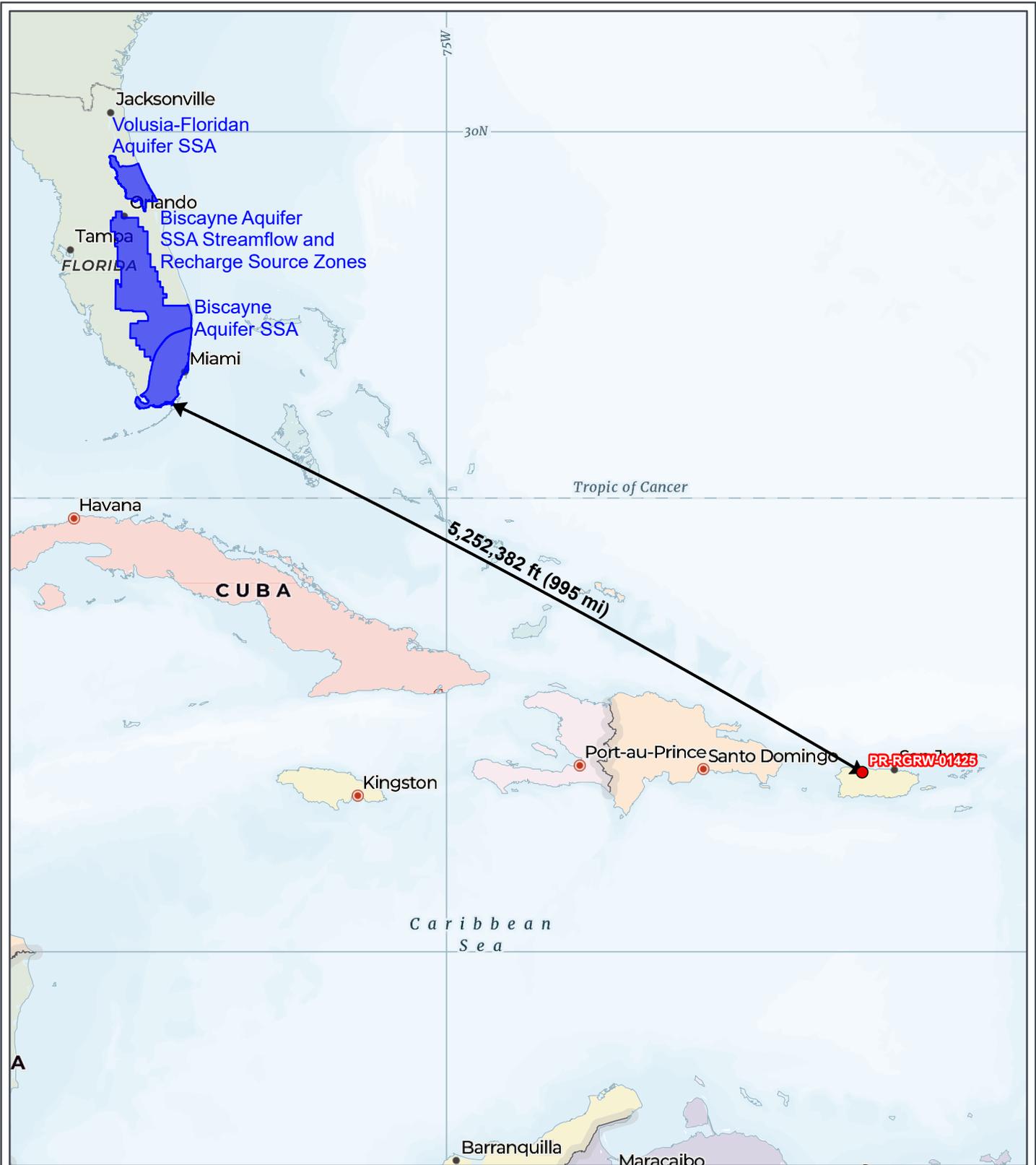
- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint
- Potential Area of Disturbance

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
 Plátano Carr. 635
 Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612

Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
 66.740349°W 18.421489°N

Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
 accessed November 2023
 Updated: 11/6/2023
 Layout: Site Vicinity
 Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps





REGROW PROGRAM

Figure 12-1: Sole Source Aquifers Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425

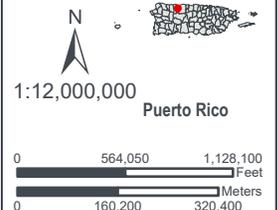


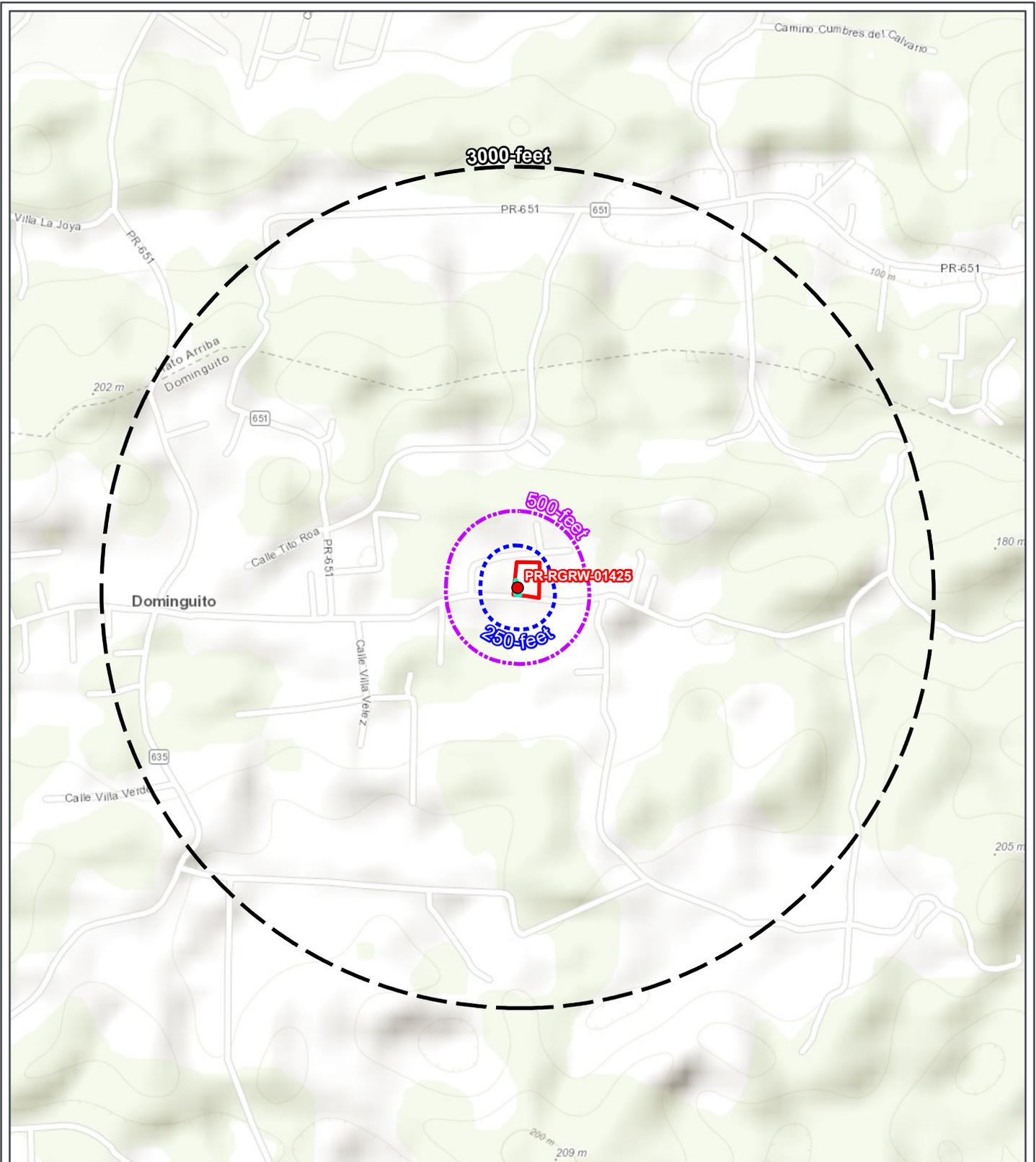
- Site
- Sole Source Aquifers

***There are no Sole Source Aquifers in Puerto Rico.**

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata Plátano
Carr. 635
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
66.740349°W 18.421489°N

Data Source: <https://services.arcgis.com/cJ9YHowT8TU7DUyn/arcgis/rest/services/SoleSourceAquifers/FeatureServer>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed July 2024
Updated: 7/31/2024
Layout: Sole Source Aquifers
Aprx: 72428_ReGrowTier2Maps





REGROW PROGRAM

**Figure B 6-1:
Contamination and
Toxic Substances Map**

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425

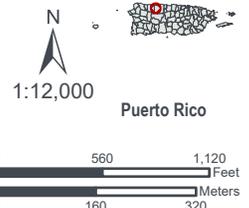


- Site
- Site Parcel
- Project Footprint
- Buffer (250-feet)
- Buffer (500-feet)
- Buffer (3000-feet)
- Water dischargers

- Toxic Substances Control Act
- Toxic releases
- Superfund
- Hazardous waste
- Brownfields
- Air pollution

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
Plátano Carr. 635
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
66.740349°W 18.421489°N

Data Source: <https://geopub.epa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/EMEF/!points/MapServer>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed November 2023
Updated: 11/6/2023
Layout: Contamination and Toxic Substances





REGROW PROGRAM

Wetlands Protection Map

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



● Site

▭ Site Parcel

▭ Potential Area of Disturbance

— NHD Stream

▭ Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

▭ Estuarine and Marine Wetland

▭ Freshwater Emergent Wetland

▭ Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

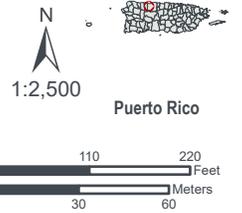
▭ Freshwater Pond

▭ Lake

▭ Riverine

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
Plátano Carr. 635
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
Parcel Center:
66.740349°W 18.421489°N

Data Source: <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/downloader/#/>
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/data-download>
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online,
accessed November 2023
Updated: 11/6/2023
Layout: Wetlands Protection





REGROW PROGRAM

**Figure B 14-1:
National Wild and
Scenic River Map**

Applicant ID: PR-RGRW-01425



- Site
- National Wild and Scenic River

Bo. Dominguito Sector Mata
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Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612
Parcel ID: 052-042-004-07-000
66.740349°W 18.421489°N

Data Source: https://apps.fs.usda.gov/arcx/rest/services/EDW/EDW_WildScenicRiverSegments_01/mapserver
Base Map: ESRI ArcGIS Online, accessed November 2023
Updated: 11/6/2023

