



March 22, 2023

Mr. Robert Kirschmann
Cochise County Community Development
126 West 5th Street, Suite 4
Benson, Arizona 85602

Electronically submitted to RKirschmann@cochise.az.gov

Re: Review of the SU23-08 (Slaughterhouse) project

Dear Mr. Kirschmann:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) reviewed your Project Evaluation Request dated March 10, 2023, regarding an application for a Special Use Authorization to expand an existing meat packing business to include an onsite slaughterhouse, including a 1100 square foot building and onsite holding pens. The project is situated between circular agricultural fields.

Based on the information provided, the Department offers the following general recommendations:

- If trenching will occur, trenching and backfilling crews should be close together to minimize the amount of open trenches at any given time. Avoid leaving trenches open overnight. Where trenches cannot be back-filled immediately, escape ramps should be constructed at least every 90 meters. Escape ramps can be short lateral trenches or wooden planks sloping to the surface. The slope should be less than 45 degrees (1:1). Trenches that have been left open overnight should be inspected and animals removed prior to backfilling.
- Arizona Species of Greatest Conservation Need have the potential to occur within the project area. If wildlife are encountered while working in the project area, the Department recommends moving them outside of the construction area, no more than 0.25 mile outside the project boundary in similar habitat.
- Artificial lighting could impair the ability of nocturnal animals to navigate (e.g., owls, migratory birds, bats, and other nocturnal mammals) and may affect wildlife behavior and populations. The Department recommends using only the minimum amount of light needed for safety, especially in areas immediately adjacent to open space or undeveloped lands. The Department encourages the use of motion sensing lighting and narrow spectrum lighting wherever possible to lower the range of species affected by lighting. Also, please consider shielding, canting, or cutting all lighting, where possible, to ensure that light reaches only areas needing illumination.

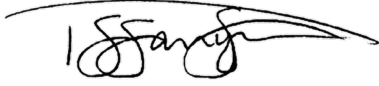
azgfd.gov | 602.942.3000

5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY, PHOENIX AZ 85086

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The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide an evaluation of impacts to wildlife or wildlife habitats associated with the SU23-08 (Slaughterhouse) project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (623) 236-7222 and visit our [website](#)¹ for additional guidelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Sprague', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Tiffany Sprague
Project Evaluation Program Specialist, Habitat Branch
Arizona Game and Fish Department

AZGFD #M23-03133238

¹ <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/planning/wildlifeguidelines/>