



NEW MEXICO BURROWING OWL WORKING GROUP

CALL FOR RESEARCH DATA

Mission Statement:

To increase awareness and communication among citizens and federal, state, tribal, and private organizations to reduce the risk of Burrowing Owl declines throughout the state through research and education. Provide a source by which historical and current status on the Burrowing Owl can be documented. Provide resources on the ecology, distribution, and management of Burrowing Owls on private and public lands.

Goals:

- Document abundance and distribution of Burrowing Owls statewide.
- Establish a statewide volunteer monitoring effort to better document owls.
- Facilitate communication among researchers, agencies, and the public.
- Enter Burrowing Owl sightings into a **protected** database.
- Maintain a web page to provide information to the public and promote Burrowing Owl conservation.
- Develop conservation recommendations based on monitoring results.

Statewide Database:

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish developed a Burrowing Owl database that will contain both citizen science and research related data on abundance and distribution of owls in New Mexico. This confidential database will be housed in a secured location with a New Mexican non-profit organization. Once the database is populated with standardized data from the public, researchers, and agencies, the data will be analyzed to identify threats to the Burrowing Owl, Burrowing Owl habitat use, and population abundance, distribution, and status, of the Burrowing Owl in New Mexico. Such information is necessary for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and other land managers to implement actions to protect the Burrowing Owl.

The New Mexico Burrowing Owl Working Group invites researchers with a recognized interest in Burrowing Owls to contribute current and historical Burrowing Owl data to the database. A copy of the database along with a document explaining all variables contained within the database are attached for you to review and to understand the types of data needed. Please submit your data (historical and current) electronically (either in Microsoft Excel or Access) to admin@nmburrowingowl.com. If you have any questions on the confidentiality of the data, how the data will be used, or on any other topics related to the database or the New Mexico Burrowing Owl Working Group, please contact the working group coordinator, Carol Finley (505-362-3027) or Marianne Wootten via email at mwootten@nmburrowingowl.com.