



Tier I Site Assessment

Main CSJ: 0261-01-041

Form Prepared By: Sally Clark (Ecosystem Planning and Restoration)

Date of Evaluation: September 4, 2020

Proposed Letting Date: March 2025

Project not assigned to TxDOT under the NEPA Assignment MOU

District(s): Dallas

County(ies): Dallas, Ellis

Roadway Name: US 67

Limits From: At Lake Ridge Pkwy

Limits To: .

Project Description: Please see the Environmental Clearance Project Description available in ECOS in the Work Plan Development Screen.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

1. No Is the project limited to a maintenance activity exempt from coordination?
<http://txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/environmental/maintenance-program.html>
2. No Has the project previously completed coordination with TPWD?
3. Yes Is the project within range of a state threatened or endangered species or SGCN and suitable habitat is present?

*Explain:

The proposed project is within range of but does not contains suitable habitat for state threatened/endangered species as verified by a qualified biologist on January 28 and May 1, 2019.

Additionally, the proposed project is within the range of and contain suitable habitat for seven Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN); Cajun Chorus frog (*Pseudacris fouquettei*), Strecker's Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris streckeri*), Woodhouse's Toad (*Anaxyrus woodhouii*), Western Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*), Eastern Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*), Texas garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis annectens*), and Texas Milk Vetch (*Astragalus reflexus*).

Strecker's Chorus Frog, Woodhouse's Toad, Western Burrowing Owl, Eastern Spotted Skunk, and Texas garter snake are listed in Dallas and Ellis County. Cajun Chorus frog is listed in Ellis County only and Texas Milk Vetch is listed in Dallas County only. All SGCN were considered. Only the SGCN listed in the Tier 1 Form may be impacted by the proposed project.

Date TPWD County List Accessed: August 24, 2020

Date that the NDD was accessed: August 29, 2020

What agency performed the NDD search? TPWD



NDD Search Results for EOIDs and Tracked Managed Areas

EOID Number	Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status	Buffer Zone
3734	Black-capped Vireo	<i>Vireo atricapilla</i>	SGCN	1.5 Mile
10990	Hall's Prairie Clover	<i>Dalea hallii</i>	SGCN	1.5 Mile
3734	Black-capped Vireo	<i>Vireo atricapilla</i>	SGCN	10 Mile
10140	Plateau Milkvine	<i>Matelea edwardsensis</i>	SGCN	10 Mile
10990	Hall's prairie clover	<i>Dalea hallii</i>	SGCN	10 Mile
11920	Vertisol Blackland Prairie	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium - Sorghastrum nutans - Andropogon gerardii - Bifora americana Vertisol Grassland</i>	N/A	10 Mile
843	Cedar Elm-sugarberry Series	<i>Ulmus crassifolia-celtis laevigata series</i>	N/A	10 Mile
4433	Ashe Juniper-oak Series	<i>Juniperus ashei-quercus spp. series</i>	N/A	10 Mile
3061	Little Bluestem-indiangrass Series	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium-sorghastrum nutans series</i>	N/A	10 Mile

No Does the BMP PA eliminate the requirement to coordinate for all species?

Comments:

The Cajun Chorus Frog, Strecker's Chorus Frog, Woodhouse's Toad, and Texas milk vetch do not have BMP's established in the BMP PA; therefore, coordination is required for this project.

4. Yes NDD and TCAP review indicates adverse impacts to remnant vegetation?

*Explain:

According to the MOU with TPWD, important remnant vegetation includes 1) rare vegetation communities and 2) those that are suitable habitat for SGCNs. To address the first component, TxNDD data was accessed on August 29, 2020. The NDD search identified Hall's Prairie Clover within a 1.5-mile and 10-mile radius of the project area. Additionally, the NDD search identified Plateau Milkvine, Vertisol Blackland Prairie, and three vegetation series within a 10-mile radius of the project area. None of these remnant vegetation communities occur in the project area; therefore, they would not be impacted. To address the second component, suitable habitat types of SGCNs that may be impacted by the proposed project were evaluated. Impacts to these habitats were quantified, based on the MOU type that best fits vegetation present in the given habitat, by using Ecological Management Systems of Texas (EMST) correcting for discrepancies using actual observed vegetation types as discussed below. The project area does contain suitable habitat, in the form of clay soils, for the SGCN Texas milk vetch that may be impacted. However, clay soils in and of themselves are not considered rare. Coordination with TPWD would be required for impacts to the SGCN species Texas milk vetch.

5. No Does the project require a NWP with PCN or IP by USACE?

Comments:

Approximately 0.54 acres of wetlands and 722 linear feet of stream were identified within the project area. Wetland 1: 0.20 acres



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Wetland 2: 0.24 acres

Wetland 3: 0.07 acres

Wetland 4: 0.03 acres

Stream 1: 722 linear feet

Impacts to these features would be permitted with the USACE under a separate TxDOT - Dallas District Project, Loop 9, Segment A. Determination of impacts and jurisdictional calls of features will be finalized during USACE permitting.

- 6. No Does the project include more than 200 linear feet of stream channel for each single and complete crossing of one or more of the following that is not already channelized or otherwise maintained:

Comments:

Stream 1 (722 linear feet) was identified within the project area.

Impacts to this feature would be permitted with the USACE under a separate TxDOT - Dallas District Project, Loop 9, Segment A. Determination of impacts and jurisdictional calls of features will be finalized during USACE permitting.

- 7. No Does the project contain known isolated wetlands outside the TxDOT ROW that will be directly impacted by the project?

- 8. Yes Would the project impact at least 0.10 acre of riparian vegetation?

*Explain:

1.0 acres of riparian vegetation was identified within the project area by a qualified biologist during site visits in January and May of 2019.

- 9. Yes Does project disturb a habitat type in an area equal to or greater than the area of disturbance indicated in the Threshold Table Programmatic Agreement?

*Explain:

The proposed project exceeds the habitat thresholds listed in the Threshold Table Programmatic Agreement for Disturbed Prairie (approximately 42.1 acres), Edwards Plateau Savannah, Woodland, and Shrubland (approximately 4.2 acres), and Riparian (approximately 1.0 acre).

*Attach associated file of EMST output (Mapper Report or other Excel File which includes MOU Type, Ecosystem Name, Common/Vegetation Type Name) in ECOS

Excel File Name:

APPROVED 10 0261-01-041 US 67 EMSTandObservedVegImpactsTable 9-4-20.xlsx

- 9.1. Yes Is there a discrepancy between actual habitat(s) and EMST mapped habitat(s)?

*Explain:

The EMST mapped habitat identified areas of Tallgrass Prairie along Mt. Lebanon Road within the project area. Field observations did not identify any areas of Tallgrass Prairie within the project area. Additionally,



EMST mapped habitat identified the majority of the open area west of the BNSF railroad as Edwards Plateau Savannah, Woodland, and Shrubland this area was observed to be Disturbed Prairie.

Attach file showing discrepancy between actual and EMST mapped habitat(s).

File Name:

APPROVED 08 0261-01-041 US 67 EMSTFigures 9-4-20.pdf
APPROVED 09 0261-01-041 US 67 ObservedVegFigures 9-4-20.pdf
APPROVED 10 0261-01-041 US 67 EMSTandObservedVegImpactsTable 9-4-20.xlsx
APPROVED 11 0261-01-041 US 67 Photographs 9-4-20.pdf

Is TPWD Coordination Required?

Yes

Early Coordination

Administrated Coordination - Must be conducted through ENV-NRM

BMPs Implemented or EPICs included (as necessary):

The following BMPswould be implemented per the 2013 MOU (2017 Revision) for the proposed project:

Western Burrowing Owl - Bird BMPs:
In addition to complying with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) perform the following BMPs:
a. Prior to construction, perform daytime surveys for nests including under bridges and in culverts to determine if they are active before removal. Nests that are active should not be disturbed;
b. Do no disturb, destroy, or remove active nests, including ground nesting birds, during the nesting season;
c. Avoid the removal of unoccupied, inactive nests, as practicable;
d. Prevent the establishment of active nests during the nesting season on TxDOT owned and operated facilities and structures proposed for replacement or repair;
e. Do not collect, capture, relocate, or transport birds, eggs, young, or active nests without a permit

Eastern spotted skunk - Contractors would be advised of potential occurrence in the project area, to avoid harming the species if encountered, and to avoid unnecessary impacts to dens.

Texas garter snake - Terrestrial Reptile BMPs:
a. Apply hydromulching and/or hydroseeding in areas for soil stabilization and/or revegetation of disturbed areas where feasible. If hydromulching and/or hydroseeding are not feasible due to site conditions, using erosion control blankets or mats that contain no netting, or only contain loosely woven natural fiber netting is preferred. Plastic netting should be avoided to the extent practicable.
b. For open trenches and excavation pits, install escape ramps at an angle of less than 45 degrees (1:1) in areas left uncovered. Visually inspect excavation areas for trapped wildlife prior to backfilling.
c. Inform contractors that if reptiles are found on project site allow species to safely leave the project area.
d. Avoid or minimize disturbing or removing downed trees, rotting stumps, and leaf litter where feasible.
e. Contractors will be advised of potential occurrence in the project area, and to avoid harming the species if encountered.

TxDOT proposes to implement the following BMPs for species lacking species-specific BMPs in the BMP PA:

Cajun Chorus Frog, Strecker's Chorus Frog, and Woodhouse's Toad - Amphibian and Aquatic Reptile BMPs:
a. Contractors will be advised of potential occurrence in the project area, and to avoid harming the species if encountered.
b. Minimize impacts to wetland, temporary and permanent open water features, including depressions, and



- riverine habitats.
- c. Maintain hydrologic regime and connections between wetlands and other aquatic features.
 - d. Use barrier fencing to direct animal movements away from construction activities.
 - e. Apply hydromulching and/or hydroseeding in areas for soil stabilization and/or revegetation of disturbed areas where feasible.
 - f. Project specific locations proposed within state-owned ROW should be located in uplands away from aquatic features.
 - g. When work is directly adjacent to the water, minimize impacts to shoreline basking sites and overwinter sites where feasible.
 - h. Avoid or minimize disturbing or removing downed trees, rotting stumps, and leaf litter, which may be refugia for terrestrial amphibians, where feasible.
 - i. If gutters and curbs are part of the roadway design, where feasible install gutters that do not include the side box inlet and include sloped curbs to allow small animals to leave roadway.
 - j. For sections of roadway adjacent to wetlands or other aquatic features, install wildlife barriers that prevent climbing.
 - k. For culvert extensions and culvert replacement/installation, incorporate measures to funnel animals toward culverts such as concrete wingwalls and barrier walls with overhangs.
 - l. When riprap or other bank stabilization devices are necessary, their placement should not impede the movement of terrestrial or aquatic wildlife through the water feature.

Texas Milk Vetch - Contractors will be advised of potential occurrence in the project area, and to avoid harming the species if encountered.

TxDOT Contact Information

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Suggested Attachments

Aerial Map (with delineated project boundaries)

USFWS T&E List

TPWD T&E List

Species Analysis Summary

NDD EOID List and Tracked Managed Areas (Required for TPWD Coordination)

EMST Project MOU Summary Table (Required for TPWD Coordination)

TPWD SGCN List

Photos (Required for TPWD Coordination)

Previous TPWD Coordination Documentation (if applicable)