



# Tier I Site Assessment

**Main CSJ:** 1068-01-214

**Form Prepared By:** AmaTerra Environmental, Inc.

**Date of Evaluation:** November 19, 2019

Project is classified as a Categorical Exclusion

**Proposed Letting Date:** January 2024

Project not assigned to TxDOT under the NEPA Assignment MOU

**District(s):** Fort Worth

**County(ies):** Tarrant

**Roadway Name:** I-30

**Limits From:** Linkcrest Drive

**Limits To:** I-820

**Project Description:** See project description in ECOS

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:**

Potentially suitable habitat for the following species is available in the project's action area: Woodhouse's toad (*Anaxyrus woodhousii*), Western burrowing owl (*Athene cucularia hypugaea*), mink (*Neovison vison*), Plains spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*), Louisiana pigtoe (*Pleuroberma riddellii*), Sandbank pocketbook (*Lampsilis satura*), Texas heelsplitter (*Potamilus amphichaenus*), Alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), Slender glass lizard (*Ophisaurus attenuatus*), Smooth softshell (*Apalone mutica*), Timber (canebreak) rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*). SGCN were analyzed and only those included in the Tier I form may be impacted. All other SGCN will not be impacted by the project.

Date [TPWD County List](#) Accessed: August 6, 2019

Date that the NDD was accessed: August 1, 2019

What agency performed the NDD search? TPWD

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

Comments:

N/A

4.   No   NDD and TCAP review indicates adverse impacts to remnant vegetation?



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

6.   Yes   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:

  No   Channel realignment; or

  Yes   Stream bed or stream bank excavation, scraping, clearing, or other permanent disturbance.

\*Explain:

The proposed bridge replacements over Mary's Creek would involve temporary and permanent impacts within the approximately 465 linear foot stream crossing.

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:

According to EMST mapped habitats, 1.03 acres of Riparian vegetation exists within the project footprint surpassing the threshold of 0.1 acres.

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 disturbs an area greater than the areas of disturbance indicated in the Threshold Table Programmatic Agreement. 2.90 acres of Edwards Plateau Savannah, Woodland, and Shrubland exist within the project footprint surpassing the threshold of 2.0 acres. 1.03 acres of Riparian exists within the project footprint surpassing the threshold of 0.1 acres. 1.77 acres of Tallgrass Prairie, Grassland exists within the project footprint surpassing the threshold of 0.1 acres.

\*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:

EMST Totals (1068-01-214).xls

9.1.   No   Is there a discrepancy between actual habitat(s) and EMST mapped habitat(s)?

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

File Name:

N/A



# Is TPWD Coordination Required?

Yes

Early Coordination

Administrated Coordination - Must be conducted through ENV-NRM

BMPs Implemented or EPICs included (as necessary):

The contractor will be advised of potential occurrence in the project area and to avoid harm for the following species:

- Amphibians: Woodhouse's toad (*Anaxyrus woodhousii*)
- Birds: Western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*)
- Mammals: mink (*Neovison vison*), and Plains spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*)
- Mollusks: Louisiana pigtoe (*Pleuroberma riddellii*), Sandbank pocketbook (*Lampsilis satura*), and Texas heelsplitter (*Potamilus amphichaenus*)
- Reptiles: Alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), Slender glass lizard (*Ophisaurus attenuatus*), Smooth softshell (*Apalone mutica*), and Timber (canebreak) rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*)

The BMPs that will be implemented include:

**Freshwater Mussel BMPs**

- When work is in the water; survey project footprints for state listed species where appropriate habitat exists.
- When work is in the water and mussels are discovered during surveys; relocate state listed and SGCN mussels under TPWD authorization and implement Water Quality BMPs.

When work is adjacent to the water; Water Quality BMPs implemented as part of the SWPPP for a construction general permit or any conditions of the 401 water quality certification for the project will be implemented.

**Amphibian and Aquatic Reptile BMPs**

- Contractors will be advised of potential occurrence in the project area, and to avoid harming the species if encountered.
- Minimize impacts to wetland, temporary and permanent open water features, including depressions, and riverine habitats.

Apply hydromulching and/or hydroseeding in areas for soil stabilization and/or revegetation of disturbed areas where feasible.

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- Project specific locations (PSLs) proposed within state-owned ROW should be located in uplands away from aquatic features.
- When work is directly adjacent to the water, minimize impacts to shoreline basking sites (e.g., downed trees, sand bars, exposed bedrock) and overwinter sites (e.g., brush and debris piles, crayfish burrows) where feasible.
- Avoid or minimize disturbing or removing downed trees, rotting stumps, and leaf litter, which may be refugia for terrestrial amphibians, where feasible.
- 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. Where feasible, biotechnical streambank stabilization methods using live native vegetation or a combination of vegetative and structural materials should be used.

**Terrestrial Reptile BMPs**

- 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, utilize erosion control blankets or mats that contain no netting or contain loosely woven, natural fiber netting is preferred. Plastic netting should be avoided to the extent practicable.
- For open trenches and excavated 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.

- Inform contractors that if reptiles are found on project site allow species to safely leave the project area.
- Avoid or minimize disturbing or removing downed trees, rotting stumps, and leaf litter where feasible.
- Contractors will be advised of potential occurrence in the project area, and to avoid harming the species if encountered.

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

#### Bird BMPs

In addition to complying with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) perform the following BMPs:

- 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.
- Do not disturb, destroy, or remove active nests, including ground nesting birds, during the nesting season;
- Avoid the removal of unoccupied, inactive nests, as practicable;
- Prevent the establishment of active nests during the nesting season on TxDOT owned and operated facilities and structures proposed for replacement or repair;
- Do not collect, capture, relocate, or transport birds, eggs, young, or active nests without a permit.

#### Bat BMPs

All bat surveys and other activities that include direct contact with bats shall comply with TPWD recommended white-nose syndrome protocols located on the TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program website under "Project Design and Construction".

The following survey and exclusion protocols should be followed prior to commencement of construction activities. For the purposes of this document, structures are defined as bridges, culverts (concrete or metal), wells, and buildings.

- For activities that have the potential to impact structures, cliffs or caves, or trees; a qualified biologist will perform a habitat assessment and occupancy survey of the feature(s) with roost potential as early in the planning process as possible or within one year before project letting.
- Bat surveys of structures should include visual inspections of structural fissures (cracked or spalled concrete, damaged or split beams, split or damaged timber railings), crevices (expansion joints, space between parallel beams, spaces above supports piers), and alternative structures (drainage pipes, bolt cavities, open sections between support beams, swallow nests) for the presence of bats.
- For roosts where occupancy is strongly suspected but unconfirmed during the initial survey, revisit feature(s) at most four weeks prior to scheduled disturbance to confirm absence of bats.
- If bats are present or recent signs of occupation (i.e., piles of guano, distinct musky odor, or staining and rub marks at potential entry points) are observed, take appropriate measures to ensure that bats are not harmed, such as implementing non-lethal exclusion activities or timing or phasing of construction.
- Exclusion devices can be installed by a qualified individual between September 1st and March 31st. Exclusion devices should be used for a minimum of seven days when minimum nighttime temperatures are above 50°F AND minimum daytime temperatures are above 70°F.
- Before excluding bats from any occupied structure, bat species, weather, temperature, season, and geographic location must be incorporated into any exclusion plans to avoid unnecessary harm or death to bats. Winter exclusion must entail a survey to confirm either, 1) bats are absent or 2) present but active (i.e. continuously active - not intermittently active due to arousals from hibernation).
- Conversion of property containing cave or cliff features to transportation purposes should be avoided where feasible.
- Large hollow trees, snags (dead standing trees), and trees with shaggy bark should be surveyed for colonies and, if found, should not be disturbed until the bats are no longer occupying these features. Post-occupancy surveys should be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to tree removal from the landscape.
- Retain mature, large diameter hardwood forest species and native/ornamental palm trees where feasible.
- In all instances, avoid harm or death to bats. Bats should only be handled as a last resort and after communication with TPWD.
- Avoid using materials that degrade quickly, like paper, steel wool or rags, to close holes.
- Avoid using chemical and ultrasonic repellents.



- Avoid use of silicone, polyurethane or similar non-water-based caulk products.
- Avoid use of expandable foam products at occupied sites.
- Avoid the use of flexible netting attached with duct tape.
- In order to avoid entombing bats, exclusion activities should be only implemented by a qualified individual. A qualified individual or company should possess at least the following minimum qualifications:
  - Experience in bat exclusion (the individual, not just the company).
  - Proof of rabies pre-exposure vaccinations.
  - Demonstrated knowledge of the relevant bat species, including maternity season date range and habitat requirements.
  - Demonstrated knowledge of rabies and histoplasmosis in relation to bat roosts.

If feature(s) used by bats are removed as a result of construction, replacement structures should incorporate bat friendly design or artificial roosts should be constructed to replace these features, as practicable.

**TxDOT Contact Information**

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## *Suggested Attachments*

**Aerial Map (with delineated project boundaries)**

**USFWS T&E List**

**TPWD T&E List**

**Species Impact Table**

**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)**