



Tier I Site Assessment

Main CSJ: 0425-01-021, 0425-02-037, 0425-02-040

Form Prepared By: Tracy Michel (Garver)

Date of Evaluation: October 16, 2020

Proposed Letting Date: October 2024

Project not assigned to TxDOT under the NEPA Assignment MOU

District(s): Amarillo

County(ies): Hartley, Moore

Roadway Name: US 87

Limits From: east of the US 385 interchange

Limits To: FM 2589 west of Dumas

Project Description: A detailed description of project improvements is available 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 9, 2019, 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 project is within range of the state threatened Texas horned lizard. The project is within range of the following SGCN species: Woodhouse’s Toad, Mountain plover, Western burrowing owl, American Badger, Prairie Vole, Eastern Spotted Skunk, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Black-tailed prairie dog, Western Box Turtle, Western Hognose Snake, Western Rattlesnake.

According to NDD records, the swift fox was located within the project limits. However, the records are based on one male skull and one male skin from 1933. One female was located just south of Dumas in 1966. Land use has changed considerably in density since these dates and the current conditions do not represent habitat for the swift fox.

Date [TPWD County List](#) Accessed: September 21, 2020

Date that the NDD was accessed: October 16, 2020

What agency performed the NDD search? TxDOT

What version of the NDD was used? 08/19/2020

EOID Number	Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status	Buffer Zone
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NDD Search Results for EOIDs and Tracked Managed Areas

EOID Number	Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status	Buffer Zone
5559	Prairie Dog Town	-	-	1.5 Mile
14297	Western spotted skunk	<i>Spilogale gracilis</i>	Least Concern	1.5 Mile
4514, 6914, 5977	Swift fox	<i>Vulpes velox</i>	SGCN	1.5 Mile
5546	Colonial Wading Bird Colony	-	-	10 Mile
4241, 2745, 6013, 5473, 3552, 6614, 820, 3655, 7961, 6414, 58, 7675, 2144, 6245, 1149, 7495, 7605	Prairie Dog Town	-	-	10 Mile
9018	Black-tailed prairie dog	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	SGCN	10 Mile
2526	Mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	SGCN	10 Mile

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

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. 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:

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

8. No Would the project impact at least 0.10 acre of riparian vegetation?

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:

Agriculture, Disturbed Prairie, Playa, and Riparian habitat types all exceed the acreages listed in the Threshold Table Programmatic Agreement



*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:

US 87_EMST_Observed_Vegetation.xlsx

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

*Explain:

See the MOU habitat observed.

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

File Name:

US 87_EMST_Observed_Vegetation.xlsx

Is TPWD Coordination Required?

Yes

Early Coordination

Administrated Coordination - Must be conducted through ENV-NRM

BMPs Implemented or EPICs included (as necessary):

Species included in the TPWD MOU PA:
 Texas Horned Lizard BMPs: 1. Avoid harvester ant mounds in the selection of Project Specific Locations [PSLs] where feasible. 2. Terrestrial Reptile BMPs.
 Mountain plover - Bird BMPs
 Western burrowing owl - Bird BMPs
 The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 states that it is unlawful to kill, capture, collect, possess, buy, sell, trade, or transport any migratory bird, nest, young, feather, egg in part or in whole, without a Federal permit issued in accordance within the Act's policies and regulations. In the event that migratory birds are encountered on-site during project construction, adverse impacts on protected birds, active nests, eggs, and/or young would be avoided.
 Bird BMPs include: in addition to MBTA, 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.
 Black-tailed prairie dog - Fossorial Mammal BMPs. If Black-tailed prairie dog (BTPD) burrows or gopher mounds are to be excavated/directly impacted coordinate with TPWD WHAB; when a construction zone is adjacent to active BTPD burrows or pocket gopher mounds, erect barriers to discourage individuals moving through or into the construction area; when seeding or re-vegetation is planned in an area adjacent to BTPD burrows or pocket gopher mounds, a vegetative barrier should be considered in the planting to discourage dispersal into the ROW.

BMPs for Species not listed in the MOU PA:
 American Badger, Eastern Spotted Skunk, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Prairie Vole: 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.



Western Box Turtle, Western Hognose Snake, Prairie Rattlesnake, Woodhouse's Toad: Contractors will be advised of potential occurrence in the project area, and to avoid harming the species if encountered.

Aquatic & Terrestrial Reptile BMPs:

- a. Minimize impacts to wetland water features, including depressions.

- b. Apply hydromulching and/or hydroseeding in area 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 blanket or mats that contain no netting or contain loosely woven, natural fiber netting is preferred. Plastic netting should be avoided to the extent practicable.

- c. For open tranches 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.

- d. Inform contractors that if reptiles are found on the project site, allow the species to safely leave the project area.

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)