



Form
Documentation of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Best Management Practices

Project Name: **RM 620/Anderson Mill Road Intersection Project**

CSJ(s): **0683-01-100 and 0683-02-079**

County(ies): **Travis and Williamson**

Date Form Completed: **January 31, 2023**

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Information on state-listed species, SGCN, water resources, and other natural resources can be found in the ECOS documents tab under the filenames specified in the e-mail sent to WHAB_TXDOT@tpwd.texas.gov.

1. Does the project impact any state parks, wildlife management areas, wildlife refuges, or other designated protected areas?

No

Yes

<if yes, describe>

2. Does TxDOT need TPWD assistance in identifying and locating Section 404 mitigation opportunities for this project?

No / N/A / Not yet determined

Yes

<if yes, describe>

3. Is there a species or resource challenge that TPWD can assist with additional guidance? If so, describe below:

There are no species or resource challenges for the proposed project.



4. List all BMP that will be applied to this project per the document *Beneficial Management Practices: Avoiding, Minimizing, and Mitigating Impacts of Transportation Projects on State Natural Resources*.

***Note, these are BMP that TxDOT commits to implement at the time this form is completed. This list may change prior to or during construction based on changes to project impacts, design, etc.**

BMP to be Implemented:

Bat BMPs

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- In all instances, avoid harm or death to bats. Bats should only be handled as a last resort and after communication with TPWD.
- 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.

Rare Plant BMPs

- Project area was surveyed during an appropriate season to allow for correct species identification. Habitat and survey seasons are usually during the flowering and/or fruiting period listed on the RTEST website, if available. Surveys were performed within suitable habitat for the species. Survey effort is project-, species- and habitat-dependent. Botanical field surveys were conducted by qualified individual(s) with botanical experience and according to commonly accepted survey protocols. Ensure that any equipment, tools, footwear and clothing are clean prior to entering the project site area to avoid introducing invasive species. Prior to surveying, TPWD Staff is available to provide assistance with species identification and appropriate survey effort.

Vegetation BMPs

- Minimize the amount of vegetation cleared. Removal of native vegetation, particularly mature native trees and shrubs should be avoided. Impacted vegetation should be replaced with in-kind on-site replacement/restoration of native vegetation.
- To minimize adverse effects, activities should be planned to preserve mature trees, particularly acorn, nut or berry producing varieties. These types of vegetation have high value to wildlife as food and cover.
- The use of any non-native vegetation in landscaping and revegetation is discouraged. Locally adapted native species should be used.
- The use of seed mix that contains seeds from only regional ecotype native species is recommended.
- In addition to complying with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and Chapter 64 of the Parks and Wildlife Code (PWC) regarding nongame bird protections, TPWD recommends to avoid vegetation clearing activities during the general bird nesting season, March through August, to minimize adverse impacts to birds. 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. If active nests are observed during surveys, TPWD recommends a 100-foot buffer of vegetation remain around the nests until the young have fledged or the nest is abandoned. Do not disturb, destroy, or remove active nests, including ground nesting birds, during the nesting season. If unoccupied, inactive nests will be removed, ensure that nests are not protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), MBTA, or BGEPA.

Design and Construction BMPs

- Employees and contractors will be provided information prior to start of construction to educate personnel of the potential for all state-listed threatened species or other SGCN to occur within the project area and should be advised of relevant rules and regulations to protect plants, fish, and wildlife.
- Contractors will be informed to avoid harming all wildlife species if encountered and allow them to safely leave the project site. Due diligence should be used to avoid killing or harming any wildlife species in the implementation of transportation projects.
- Apply hydromulching and/or hydroseeding in areas for soil stabilization and/or revegetation of disturbed areas around wetlands and in riparian areas.
- If erosion control blankets or mats will be used, the product should not contain netting, but should only contain loosely woven natural fiber netting in which the mesh design allows the threads to move, therefore allowing expansion of the mesh openings. Plastic netting should be avoided.
- Project staging areas, stockpiles, temporary construction easements, and other project related sites should be situated in previously disturbed areas to avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive or unique habitats including intact native vegetation, floodplains, riparian corridors, wetlands, playa lakes, and habitat for wildlife species.

5. List all TxDOT species protection specifications that will be applied to this project (e.g., Amphibian and Reptile Exclusion Fence, Bat Houses, etc.)

Species protection specifications to be Implemented:

