



Tier I Site Assessment

Main CSJ: 0271-01-083, 0535-08-072, 0027-01-045, & 0266-02-068

Form Prepared By: Jacobs

Date of Evaluation: May 5, 2020

Project is classified as a Categorical Exclusion

Proposed Letting Date: January 2022

Project not assigned to TxDOT under the NEPA Assignment MOU

District(s): Houston, Yoakum

County(ies): Colorado

Roadway Name: IH 10

Limits From: State Highway (SH) 71

Limits To: US Highway (US) 90 (Alleyton Road South)

Project Description: See ECOS for project description.

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 project is within range and suitable habitat may be present for the following state-listed threatened species: Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Smooth Pimpleback (*Quadrula houstonensis*) (also a candidate for federal listing), Texas Fawnsfoot (*Truncicilla macrodon*) (also a candidate for federal listing), and the Texas Pimpleback (*Cyclonaias petrina*) (also a candidate for federal listing).

The project is also within range with potentially suitable habitat for the following SGCNs: Guadalupe Bass (*Micropterus treculii*).

Date TPWD County List Accessed: November 26, 2019

Date that the NDD was accessed: November 26, 2019

What agency performed the NDD search? TPWD

EOID Number	Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status	Buffer Zone
7208	Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	State Threatened	1.5 Mile
1230	Guadalupe Bass	<i>Micropterus treculii</i>	SGCN	1.5 Mile



NDD Search Results for EOIDs and Tracked Managed Areas

EOID Number	Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status	Buffer Zone
9845, 12579	Smooth Pimpleback	<i>Quadrula houstonensis</i>	Federal Candidate	1.5 Mile
12580	Texas Fawnsfoot	<i>Truncilla macrodon</i>	Federal Candidate	1.5 Mile
12581	Texas Pimpleback	<i>Cyclonaias petrina</i>	Federal Candidate	1.5 Mile

Yes Does the BMP PA eliminate the requirement to coordinate for all species?

*Explain:

Fish BMPs, Mussel BMPs, Bird BMPs, and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act compliance eliminate the requirement to coordinate for all species.

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

5. Yes Does the project require a NWP with PCN or IP by USACE?

*Explain:

Three potential waters of the U.S. were identified within the I-10 project area, including the Colorado River and Ratliff Creek, one unnamed intermittent stream (1 unnamed intermittent tributary to Ratliff Creek), 9 ponds, and 2 adjacent wetlands. All proposed roadway and drainage improvements should be designed in a manner to avoid or minimize impacts to jurisdictional crossings. One additional crossing of a potentially non-jurisdictional stock pond was identified within the project area.

There are approximately 2,094 linear feet (5.836 acres) of potential waters and of the U.S. and 0.327 acre of potentially jurisdictional wetlands are present within the existing and proposed right-of-way. One potentially non-jurisdictional isolated stock pond (0.015 acre) was also identified within the existing right-of-way.

If design information changes or additional temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. during construction are anticipated, there may be additional impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands.

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:

The proposed project does not include more than 200 linear feet of stream channel for each single and complete crossing 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?

Comments:

There are no known isolated wetlands outside the TxDOT right-of-way that would be directly impacted by the proposed project.



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

*Explain:

There is approximately 15.41 acres of Central Texas: Riparian Hardwood Forest within the proposed project area.

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 would impact approximately 23.76 acres of agriculture (threshold 10.0), 33.68 acres of riparian vegetation (threshold 0.1), 51.33 acres of Disturbed Prairie (threshold 3.0), and 9.75 acres of Post Oak Savanna (threshold 1.0).

*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:

ProjectEMSTVegetationTypes.xlsx
ObservedVegetationTypes.xlsx

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

*Explain:

The mapped EMST shows a greater diversity of vegetation types and less Urban Low Intensity habitat type than what was observed within the project area. Fence row vegetation occurred throughout the project area and was categorized as Native Invasive (Disturbed Prairie) or Post Oak Savanna. There are also relatively small areas of Floodplain and Riparian vegetation associated with the Colorado River and other water features in the project area.

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

File Name:

Attachment 6 - EMST Map
Attachment 6 - Observed Vegetation Map
Attachment 6 - Observed Vegetation Types
Attachment 6 - Project EMST Vegetation Types

Is TPWD Coordination Required?

Yes

Early Coordination

Administrated Coordination - Must be conducted through ENV-NRM

BMPs Implemented or EPICs included (as necessary):

See Attachment 4 for BMPs implemented.

Houston toad surveys are being conducted for the project area. There have been no species observed during the 2018 and 2019 breeding season surveys. A final survey will be conducted during the 2020 breeding season.



State-listed mussel surveys will be conducted within the project footprint where appropriate habitat exists.

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)