

**BACON BEND PENINSULA HABITAT
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**
Monroe County, Tennessee

Prepared by:
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
Knoxville, Tennessee

October 2016

This page intentionally left blank

Purpose and Need for Action

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is proposing to conduct various levels of timber harvests on 5 tracts, totaling approximately 60 acres, of upland hardwood timber on Bacon Bend peninsula on Tellico Reservoir in Monroe County, Tennessee (Attachment A). TVA is also proposing to construct a new access road from the existing haul road in order to access the large tract at the end of the peninsula (Attachment A). The proposal is intended to improve wildlife habitats on TVA-owned land managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) as part of the Tellico Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The goal is to reduce the overall basal area (density), remove planted loblolly pine and promote variance in age class on a tract that is dominated by mature upland hardwoods. The proposal supports and is consistent with TVA's mission of environmental stewardship, the objectives for biological resource management in the 2011 Natural Resources Plan (NRP), and TVA's management goals set forth in the 2000 Tellico Reservoir Land Management Plan (RLMP).

The Tellico Lake WMA is an 8,000 acre management area located in Monroe and Loudon Counties. Bacon Bend is a large peninsula (approximately 480 acres) on Tellico Reservoir that is part of the WMA. Bacon Bend peninsula is licensed to TWRA for wildlife management with TVA retaining the right to harvest timber. The peninsula consists of mostly upland hardwood stands that are over 100 years in age. TVA planted a small amount of pine in isolated stands during reservoir construction. Twenty years ago, TVA harvested approximately 50 acres of Virginia pine and mixed pine-hardwood. Landings and roadbeds have been maintained in grasslands or food plots by TWRA. Dormant season prescribed fire and timber thinning have been used as management tools by TWRA to create and maintain quality early successional habitat for turkey, quail, various song birds and small mammals.

Proposed Action

The proposed timber harvest activities are located at various locations within the Bacon Peninsula (see Attachment A). TVA would reduce the basal area (density) of the 26-acre stand to approximately 20 square feet (ft²) per acre, while reducing other stands to approximately 40 ft² per acre. The 10-acre stand contains densely planted pine stockings that may be reduced to 20 ft² per acre in the concentrated area. TVA would use the shelterwood harvesting method on four of the tracts (excluding the 4-acre tract), which would allow TVA to establish a new generation of seedlings of a particular species or group of species without planting. This method would allow for an increase in overall forest health. TVA would remove the trees along the existing haul road within the 4-acre tract. The 26-acre tract contains several dead or dead and downed trees in the existing stand as a result of wind damage about 6 years ago. Dead snag trees would be left standing unless they pose a hazard to landings or haul roads. TVA would utilize the existing haul road network to access the tracts of land. Heavy equipment (log trucks, front loader, feller-buncher, etc.) would be utilized during harvesting activities. TVA would adhere to standard Best Management Practices as outlined in *Silvicultural Activities on TVA Lands/TVA timber harvesting* (1994) to minimize potential impacts. All timber harvested would be sold by competitive bid.

The existing haul road network would be maintained and minor grading, installation of water control structures, and placement of aggregate surface materials (various sized limestone based gravel) may be required. Approximately 1000 feet of new haul road would be built,

per best management practice (BMP) specifications, in order to access the 26-acre tract for the proposed timber activities (Attachment A).

TVA is also considering taking no action (i.e., not conducting habitat improvement activities on Bacon Bend Peninsula). Taking no action would not assist in the enhancement of biologically diverse habitat for wildlife and plant species nor would it help TWRA achieve its goals and objectives for managing the biological resources within the WMA. Under the no action alternative, basal density of the forested tracts would continue to increase and over time would become dominated by shade-tolerant species, which have lower wildlife mast production capabilities. This would decrease the amount of available wildlife habitat for targeted species (turkey, quail, various song birds and small mammals) as well as wildlife in general.

Environmental Impacts

TVA has reviewed the proposed project and documented potential environmental impacts related to the project in the attached categorical exclusion checklist (Checklist, Attachment B). The Checklist identifies the resources present in the project area and documents TVA's determination that the proposal would not significantly affect these resources. As documented in the Checklist, the proposal would have no effect to endangered, threatened, or special status plant or aquatic species; solid and hazardous waste; prime farmland; socioeconomics and environmental justice; wetlands; and groundwater.

TVA conducted a review of its Natural Heritage Database and found that three state-listed species (hellbender, Junaluska salamander, and eastern slender glass lizard), two federally listed species (Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat), one federally protected species (bald eagle), and one species tracked by the Tennessee Natural Heritage Program (Allegheny snaketail dragonfly) could occur within three miles of the project area. Two federally listed species (Carolina northern flying squirrel and Noble's cave beetle) have been documented in Monroe County, Tennessee. No caves were observed during a June 2016 field review of the project area.

No habitat for the hellbender, Junaluska salamander, Carolina northern flying squirrel, or Allegheny snaketail occurs within the proposed action area. Best Management Practices would be used near bodies of water to ensure potential impacts to water quality are minimized. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact these species if they are present near the proposed action area. Noble's cave beetle species is only known from one cave in the world, Noble's Cave, which is 21.4 miles from the project area. The cave would not be impacted by the proposed action; therefore, Noble's cave beetle would not be impacted either. The nearest bald eagle nesting record occurs approximately 1.9 miles from the project footprint and would not be impacted by the proposed actions. No bald eagles or their nests were observed within the project area during the June 2016 field review. Proposed actions are not expected to impact bald eagles.

Suitable habitat for the state-listed eastern slender glass lizard was observed in the project area during a June 2016 field review. Areas of similarly suitable habitat occur immediately adjacent to the proposed actions. When disturbed, mobile individuals are likely to disperse into the adjacent habitat until actions are complete. Additionally, the proposed actions, which include tree removal, could create additional suitable habitat for this species in the project area. The proposed actions are such that individual eastern slender glass lizards may be impacted directly if they are unable to move at the time of the proposed actions, but populations on the whole are not expected to be impacted by the proposed actions.

Foraging habitat for Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) exists throughout the proposed action area over forested areas, clearings and other corridors. In May, 2016, the TWRA conducted Phase 1 Habitat Assessments across the project area and Phase 2 Acoustic Surveys in 3 locations within the project site according to the 2016 Range-Wide Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines. The project area contains 50 acres of suitable summer roosting habitat for Indiana bat and NLEB. Suitability was determined by the presence of trees with exfoliating bark, relatively open understory, and proximity to water. TWRA's acoustic surveys did not result in evidence suggesting presence of Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat (TWRA 2016). Consultation between TWRA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) began in May 2016. On June 6, 2016, TWRA received concurrence that the proposed thinning actions are not likely to result in adverse effects to any federally listed threatened or endangered species. No seasonal restriction for the proposed action was given. TVA also concurs with TWRA's assessment that the proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect threatened and endangered species. In a September 7, 2016 email, the USFWS sent verification of TVA's fulfillment of Section 7 under the Endangered Species Act for actions associated with this project (Attachment C).

In August 2016, TVA conducted a Phase I archaeological survey and architectural assessment of the area of potential effects (APE), which was identified as the entire project area (AMECFW 2016). One new site (40MR722) and two isolated finds were identified within the archaeological APE. Three historic resources over 50 years of age were identified within the half-mile viewshed, consisting of a cemetery and two outbuildings. TVA has determined that site 40MR722 and the two isolated finds are not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Place (NRHP), based on their lack of potential to contribute to ongoing research beyond the findings of the survey. The three historic resources identified within the half-mile viewshed are also not eligible for listing on the NRHP due to a lack of physical integrity of association and feeling, or the failure to meet any of the NRHP's criteria for eligibility. In a letter dated September 27, 2016, The Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with TVA's determination (Attachment D). TVA also consulted with federally recognized Indian tribes regarding properties that may have religious and cultural significance to their. TVA received comments of no objection from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, and United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. Therefore, there would be no impact to historical or archaeological resources as a result of the proposed action.

The proposed project is located on a river historically listed in the National Park Service's National River Inventory (NRI). In order to be listed on the NRI, a river must be free-flowing and possess one or more Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs). TVA has determined that the Tellico reservoir has impounded this stretch of river and altered the ORVs of this river corridor, which has changed its designation. The National Park Service concurred with TVA's determination. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact a river listed on the NRI or listed as a Wild and Scenic River. The project area is located on the Tellico Wildlife Management Area and the proposed projects would be beneficial for the area as it would increase and enhance wildlife habitat.

The proposed actions are not located within the 100-year floodplain; therefore, there would be no impacts to the floodplain. No impacts to water flow, stream banks or channels are expected. The proposed actions could result in short term surface water impacts such as release of sediments into the nearby waterways. However, TVA would implement and install standard construction Best Management Practices such that pollutants would not be permitted to enter the waterways and would result in insignificant impacts.

The proposal is limited in scope and designed to improve habitat within the Tellico Lake Wildlife Management Area. Cumulatively, the timber harvest activities would change the character of small portions of the WMA and increase in wildlife habitat. The cumulative impacts associated with these types of projects have also been described in the environmental review of the NRP and RLMP.

TVA Preparers

Darrell A. Cuthbertson – Forester, Natural Resources Management
Tim D. Pruitt – Heritage Review and Watershed Specialist
Marianne M. Shuler – Archaeologist
Elizabeth B. Hamrick – Terrestrial Zoologist
Loretta A. McNamee – Contract NEPA Specialist

Literature Cited

Amec Foster-Wheeler. 2016. Phase 1 Archaeological and Historic Architectural Viewshed Survey for the Proposed Bacon Bend Timber Harvest Project, Monroe County, Tennessee. August 2016. Prepared for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. 2016. Tellico Lake Wildlife Management Area Bacon Bend Project 2016 Indiana Bat Survey Report. May 24, 2016.

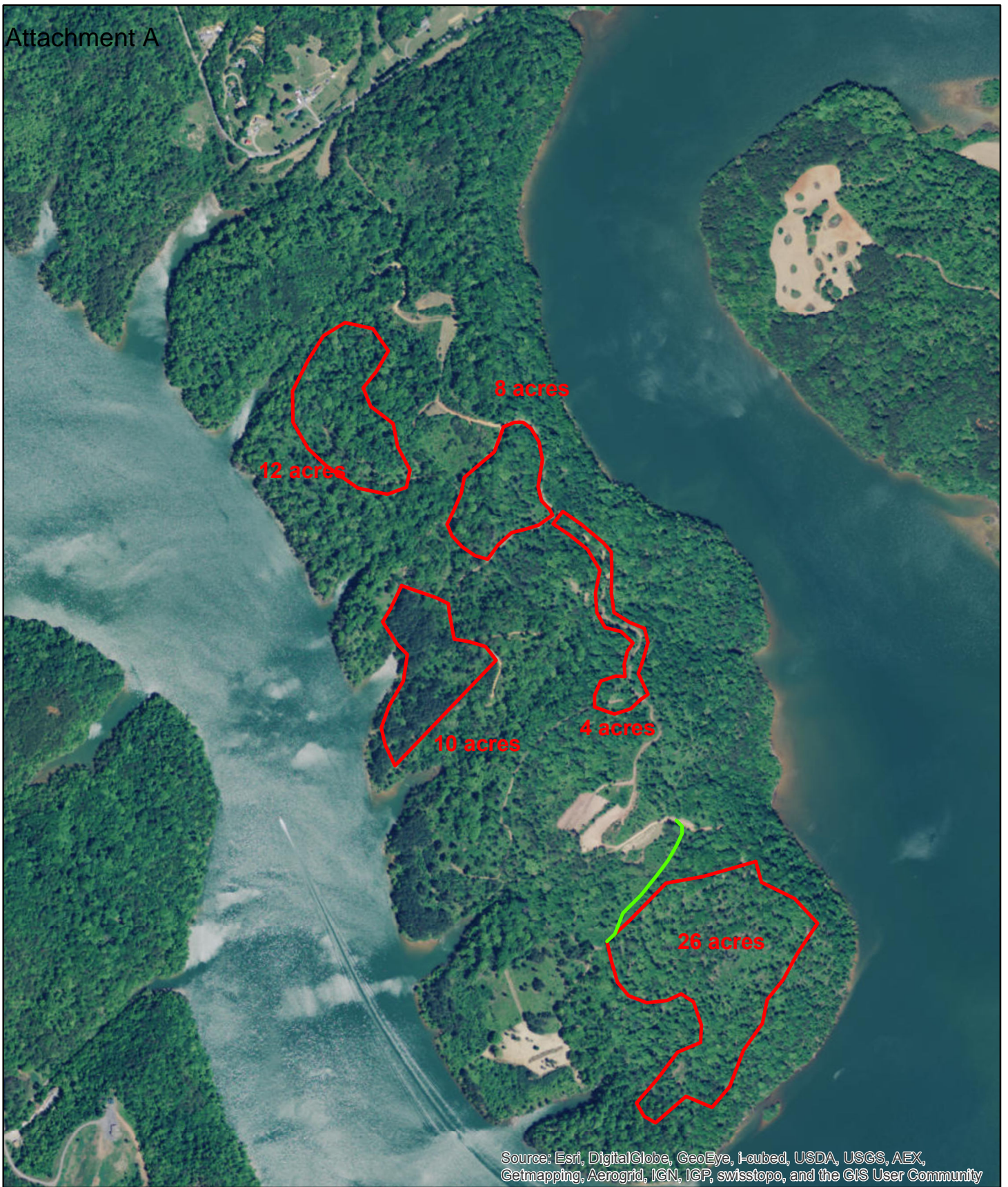
Attachments

Attachment A – Project Location Maps



Attachment B – Categorical Exclusion Checklist 34963

Attachment C – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Correspondence

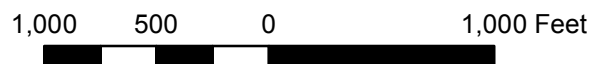
Attachment D – Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer Correspondence

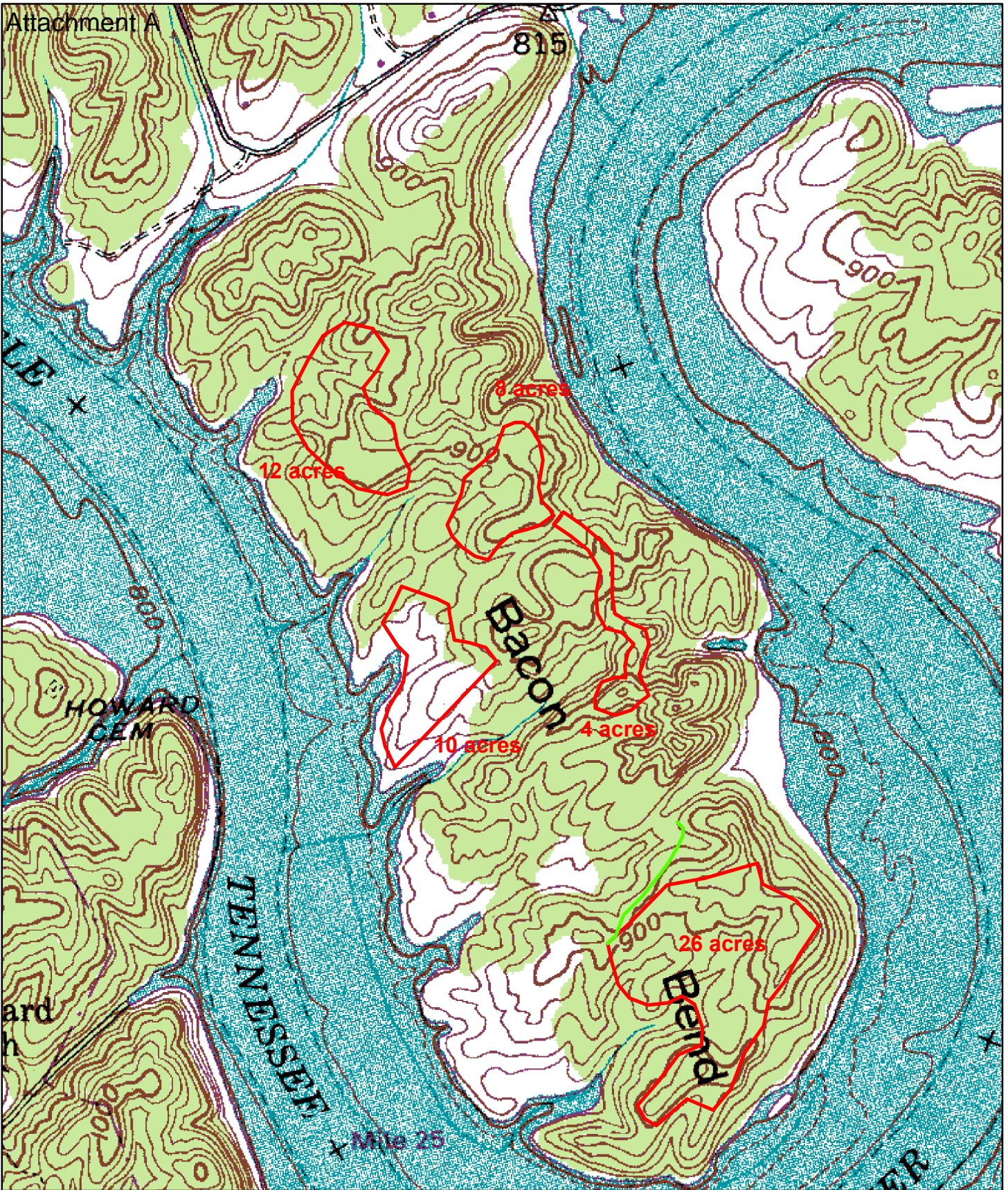




Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, I-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

-  harvest area
-  new road

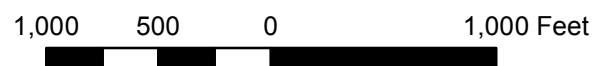
Bacon Bend Habitat Project
Map31C
Quad 139SW





-  harvest area
-  new road

Bacon Bend Habitat Project
Map31C
Quad 139SW



Categorical Exclusion Checklist for Proposed TVA Actions

Categorical Exclusion Number Claimed	Organization ID Number	Tracking Number <i>(NEPA Administration Use Only)</i> 34863	
Form Preparer Darrell A Cuthbertson	Project Initiator/Manager Darrell A Cuthbertson	Business Unit P&NR - Reservoir Land Use & Permitting	
Project Title Bacon Bend Habitat Improvement Project			Hydrologic Unit Code
Description of Proposed Action <i>(Include Anticipated Dates of Implementation)</i> For Proposed Action See Attachments and References		<input type="checkbox"/> Continued on Page 3 <i>(if more than one line)</i>	
Initiating TVA Facility or Office Tellico Dam		TVA Business Units Involved in Project P&NR - Reservoir Property & Resource Mgmt	
Location <i>(City, County, State)</i> Monroe, TN, Quad 139SW, map 31C, tract number TELR-3103, Little Tennessee River mile 26.5R			

Parts 1 through 4 verify that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this action:

Part 1. Project Characteristics

Is there evidence that the proposed action...	No	Yes	Commitment	Information Source for Insignificance
1.Is major in scope?	X			Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
2.Is part of a larger project proposal involving other TVA actions or other federal agencies?	X			Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
* 3.Involves non-routine mitigation to avoid adverse impacts ?	X		No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
4.Is opposed by another federal, state, or local government agency?	X			Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
* 5.Has environmental effects which are controversial?	X			Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
* 6.Is one of many actions that will affect the same resources?	X			Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
7.Involves more than minor amount of land?		X		For comments see attachments

*If "yes" is marked for any of the above boxes, consult with NEPA Administration on the suitability of this project for a categorical exclusion.

Part 2. Natural and Cultural Features Affected

Would the proposed action...	No	Yes	Permit	Commitment	Information Source for Insignificance
1.Potentially affect endangered, threatened, or special status species?		X	No	No	For comments see attachments
2.Potentially affect historic structures, historic sites, Native American religious or cultural properties, or archaeological sites?		X	No	No	For comments see attachments
3.Potentially take prime or unique farmland out of production?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
4.Potentially affect Wild and Scenic Rivers or their tributaries?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
5.Potentially affect a stream on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory?	X		No	No	For comments see attachments
6.Potentially affect wetlands?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
7.Potentially affect water flow, stream banks or stream channels?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
8.Potentially affect the 100-year floodplain?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
9.Potentially affect ecologically critical areas, federal, state, or local park lands, national or state forests, wilderness areas, scenic areas, wildlife management areas, recreational areas, greenways, or trails?	X		No	No	For comments see attachments
10.Contribute to the spread of exotic or invasive species?	X		No	No	For comments see attachments
11.Potentially affect migratory bird populations?	X		No	No	For comments see attachments
12.Involve water withdrawal of a magnitude that may affect aquatic life or involve interbasin transfer of water?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
13.Potentially affect surface water?	X		No	No	For comments see attachments
14.Potentially affect drinking water supply?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
15.Potentially affect groundwater?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
16.Potentially affect unique or important terrestrial habitat?	X		No	No	For comments see attachments
17.Potentially affect unique or important aquatic habitat?	X		No	No	For comments see attachments

Part 3. Potential Pollutant Generation

Would the proposed action potentially (including accidental or unplanned)...	No	Yes	Permit	Commitment	Information Source for Insignificance
1.Release air pollutants?	X		No	No	For comments see attachments
2.Generate water pollutants?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
3.Generate wastewater streams?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
4.Cause soil erosion?	X		No	No	For comments see attachments
5.Discharge dredged or fill materials?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
6.Generate large amounts of solid waste or waste not ordinarily generated?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
7.Generate or release hazardous waste (RCRA)?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
8.Generate or release universal or special waste, or used oil?		X	No	No	For comments see attachments
9.Generate or release toxic substances (CERCLA, TSCA)?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
10.Involve materials such as PCBs, solvents, asbestos, sandblasting material, mercury, lead, or paints?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
11.Involve disturbance of pre-existing contamination?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
12.Generate noise levels with off-site impacts?		X	No	No	For comments see attachments
13.Generate odor with off-site impacts?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
14.Produce light which causes disturbance?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
15.Release of radioactive materials?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
16.Involve underground or above-ground storage tanks or bulk storage?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016
17.Involve materials that require special handling?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 05/24/2016

Part 4. Social and Economic Effects

Would the proposed action...	No	Yes	Permit	Commitment	Information Source for Insignificance
1.Potentially cause public health effects?	X			No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016
2.Increase the potential for accidents affecting the public?	X			No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016
3.Cause the displacement or relocation of businesses, residences, cemeteries, or farms?	X			No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016
4.Contrast with existing land use, or potentially affect resources described as unique or significant in a federal, state, or local plan?	X			No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016
5.Disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations?	X			No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016
6.Involve genetically engineered organisms or materials?	X			No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016
7.Produce visual contrast or visual discord?	X			No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016
8.Potentially interfere with recreational or educational uses?		X		No	For comments see attachments
9.Potentially interfere with river or other navigation?	X		No	No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016
10.Potentially generate highway or railroad traffic problems?	X			No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016

Part 5. Other Environmental Compliance/Reporting Issues

Would the proposed action...	No	Yes	Commitment	Information Source for Insignificance
1.Release or otherwise use substances on the Toxic Release Inventory list?	X		No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016
2.Involve a structure taller than 200 feet above ground level?	X		No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016
3.Involve site-specific chemical traffic control?	X		No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016
4.Require a site-specific emergency notification process?	X		No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016
5.Cause a modification to an existing environmental permit or to existing equipment with an environmental permit or involve the installation of new equipment/systems that will require a permit?	X		No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016
6.Potentially impact operation of the river system or require special water elevations or flow conditions??	X		No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016
7.Involve construction or lease of a new building or demolition or renovation of existing building (i.e. major changes to lighting, HVAC, and/or structural elements of building of 1000 sq. ft. or more)?	X		No	Cuthbertson, Darrell A. 09/22/2016

Parts 1 through 4: If "yes" is checked, describe in the discussion section following this form why the effect is insignificant. Attach any conditions or commitments which will ensure insignificant impacts. Use of non-routine commitments to avoid significance is an indication that consultation with NEPA Administration is needed.

An ☒ EA or ☐ EIS Will be prepared.

Based upon my review of environmental impacts, the discussion attached, and/or consultations with NEPA Administration, I have determined that the above action does not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment and that no extraordinary circumstances exist.

Therefore, this proposal qualifies for a categorical exclusion under Section 5.2. _____ of TVA NEPA Procedures.

Project Initiator/Manager Darrell A Cuthbertson			Date 10/13/2016
TVA Organization RSO&E	E-mail dacuthbe@tva.gov	Telephone	

Environmental Concurrence Reviewer

W. Doug White 10/14/2016

Signature

Preparer Closure

Darrell A Cuthbertson 10/14/16

Signature

Other Environmental Concurrence Signatures (as required by your organization)

Signature

Signature

Signature

Signature

Other Review Signatures (as required by your organization)

Garry E Chappelle 10/13/2016

Signature

Signature

Signature

Signature

Signature

Signature

Attachments/References

Description of Proposed Action Continued from Page 1

Conduct various levels of timber harvests on approximately 60 acres of upland hardwood timber to improve wildlife habitat. Basal area will be reduced in one stand (26 acres) to approximately 20 sq. ft. per acre, other stands will be reduced to a residual basal area of approximately 40 sq. ft. per acre. Existing road network will be maintained; minor grading, installation of water control structures, and placement of aggregate surface materials (various sized limestone based gravel) may be required. Approximately 1000 feet of new haul road will be built to standard specifications. Standard best management practices for timber harvests will be adhered to. Timber will be sold by competitive bid.

CEC General Comment Listing

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. | aerial map | | |
| | By: Darrell A Cuthbertson | 05/24/2016 | |
| | Files: aerial_final.pdf | 05/24/2016 | 1,427.34 Bytes |
| 2. | topo map | | |
| | By: Darrell A Cuthbertson | 05/24/2016 | |
| | Files: topo final.pdf | 05/24/2016 | 904.13 Bytes |

CEC Comment Listing

Part 1 Comments

- | | | |
|----|--|------------|
| 7. | Total area of affect is approximately 65 acres | |
| | By: Darrell A Cuthbertson | 05/24/2016 |

Part 2 Comments

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | A review of the ALIS Heritage data base, SIC and photos was conducted. Please see attached Tables for detailed list. |
|----|--|

Aquatic Animals: Within the required 10 mile search radius EORs were recorded for 13 fish and/or mollusk species. These records range from extirpated and historical up to extant within the reservoir area. Historically (pre-impoundment) many of these species likely did exist in the area's streams and rivers. When these species are listed as extant in the Tellico Reservoir area it is generally in the more riverine sections of the reservoir, the reservoir tail waters, or smaller tributary streams nearby. These areas reflect locations where appropriate habitat still exists for these species to survive and reproduce. This action should have no effect with proper BMPs and procedures.

Plants and Champion Trees: Within a 5 mile search radius EORs occurred for 6 state listed plant species. The various state species listed found on Tellico have State rankings ranging from Special Concern (SPCO), Commercially Exploited (S-CE), Threatened (T or THE) and Endangered (E or END). None of these species are recorded at this location.

Terrestrial Animals, Wading Bird Colonies (Heronies) and Caves: Within a 3 mile search radius of the project site EORs occurred for 15 terrestrial species and 0 caves. The first 4 terrestrial listing are for the Hellbenders which require fast moving clear streams with rock substrate and less than 3 meters depth and is considered likely extirpated from this search area, 1 salamander species and 2 avian species which will not likely be impacted by this project.

I concur with approval based on the above search results for Aquatic, Plant and most of the terrestrial species. however due to the existence of 11 Indiana Bat records within 10 miles of the project location I request an additional review be conducted by TVA's Heritage Specialists to address the bat concerns.

By: Tim D Pruitt	06/07/2016	
Files: CEC-34863-NRM-Bacon_Bend_Results_table.pdf	06/07/2016	125.99 Bytes

1. See attached Terrestrial Zoology Input and note: Because consultation for the proposed actions has occurred and concurrence was received, TVA will request recognition of TVA's fulfillment of Section 7 under the Endangered Species Act for actions associated with this project.
By: Elizabeth B Hamrick 06/30/2016
Files: CEC34863_Part2Que1_TerrZoo_Input.docx 06/30/2016 28.37 Bytes
TWRA Tellico Lake WMA final report.pdf 06/30/2016 800.72 Bytes
USFWS_Concurrence_BaconBend.pdf 06/30/2016 390.96 Bytes
 1. TVA received recognition of our ESA Section 7 fulfillment from USFWS on 9/7/16. See attached.
By: Elizabeth B Hamrick 09/22/2016
Files: Re_ Request for acknowledgement of TVA's fulfillment of Section 7 obligations- Bacon Bend FWS#16-CPA-0499.pdf 09/22/2016 51.63 Bytes
 2. TVA finds the undertaking will have no effect to historic properties (see attached) "CEC34863_67169_section106.pdf" for supporting documentation.
By: Marianne M Shuler 10/13/2016
Files: CEC34863_67169_Section106.pdf 10/13/2016 1,791.30 Bytes
 5. The project is located on a river historically listed in the NRI. However, the Tellico reservoir has impounded this stretch of river and the previous ORV's of the river corridor have already been foreclosed by that action. This determination was coordinated with the directors of trails and rivers initiative for the National Park Service and they are in agreement. See correspondence below: In this particular case, if the NRI segment is impounded, potential designation as a WSR has already been foreclosed. Jeffrey R. Duncan, Ph.D. Fisheries, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Hydropower Southeast Region National Park Service 535 Chestnut St. Suite 207, Chattanooga, TN 37402 Ph. (423) 987-6127 Fax. (888) 854-2849
By: Darrell A Cuthbertson 05/24/2016
 9. Based on a review of the ALIS Heritage data base data there will be no effects on ecologically critical areas, federal, state, or local park lands, national or state forests, wilderness areas, scenic areas, wildlife management areas, recreational areas, greenways, or trails. I concur with approval.
By: Tim D Pruitt 06/07/2016
 10. This action will not contribute to the spread of exotic or invasive species. I concur with approval.
By: Tim D Pruitt 06/07/2016
 10. Based on review of the proposed actions and maps provided by the project lead, the proposed project would not contribute to the spread of exotic or invasive terrestrial animal species.
By: Elizabeth B Hamrick 06/30/2016
 11. This action will not potentially affect migratory bird populations. I concur with approval.
By: Tim D Pruitt 06/07/2016
 11. One osprey nest has been documented within three miles of the project footprint. The osprey nest is approximately 1.7 miles away and would not be impacted by the proposed actions. No wading bird colonies or aggregations of migratory birds were observed within or adjacent to the project footprint during field reviews on June 23, 2016. Activities associated with the proposed project would not impact wading bird colonies or other aggregations of migratory birds.
By: Elizabeth B Hamrick 06/30/2016
 13. Short term water pollutants such as sedimentation may occur as a result of the proposed project. However, with installation and implementation of standard construction Best Management Practices, such pollutants will not be permitted to enter the waterways and will result in insignificant impacts.
By: Darrell A Cuthbertson 05/24/2016
 16. Myotis sodalis (Indiana bat), and Myotis septentrionalis (Northern Long-eared bat) are listed as a federally endangered or threatened species that could potentially be found in this area. All three species hibernates in caves. Indiana bat and northern long eared bats migrate from winter caves to roost during the summer behind loose bark of dead or dying trees or in tree cavities. This includes both individual bats and maternity colonies. Northern long-eared bats are also known to roost in buildings, bridges, and culverts. Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat forage within and around forests, as well as over bodies of water. There are no caves within a three-mile radius of the proposed action. However there are 11 records of Indiana Bats within the 3 mile standard search area. Therefore, due to the nature of this project and the current national concerns over this species and its habitat needs I am deferring final decision relative to this species to TVA Heritage Zoologists.
By: Tim D Pruitt 06/30/2016
Files: CEC-34863-NRM-Bacon_Bend_Results_table.pdf 06/07/2016 125.99 Bytes
 16. No caves have been recorded within three miles of the project footprint. No caves were observed in the project footprint during field reviews on June 23, 2016. There are no reported habitats unique or important to terrestrial animals within three miles of the proposed project. Activities associated with the proposed project would not impact unique or important terrestrial habitats.
By: Elizabeth B Hamrick 06/30/2016
 17. This action will not potentially affect unique or important aquatic habitat, see response for Question 1 above. I concur with approval.
By: Tim D Pruitt 06/07/2016
- Part 3 Comments
1. Diesel fuel burned in heavy equipment will cause a very minimal amount of air pollutants that will be of no environmental consequence.
By: Darrell A Cuthbertson 05/24/2016
 4. Insignificant impacts will result from proper implementation of standard timber harvesting Best Management Practices.
By: Darrell A Cuthbertson 05/24/2016

8. Heavy equipment with hydraulic lines could cause an unintentional release of petroleum products to land. In the event of such a release, all regulatory requirements for the response and cleanup will be followed. A spill kit of sufficient size to handle this type of potential will be kept on site during the implementation of ground disturbing activities.
By: Darrell A Cuthbertson 05/24/2016
12. Noise would stem from the temporary and intermittent use of heavy equipment to implement the proposed action. There would be no long term or significant noise impacts.
By: Darrell A Cuthbertson 05/24/2016

Part 4 Comments

8. Short term interruption in dispersed recreational opportunities such as bird watching, hiking and hunting may occur but would be brief in duration and are expected to last less than 3 months while project is implemented. Completed project is likely to benefit dispersed recreational opportunities.
By: Darrell A Cuthbertson 09/22/2016

CEC Permit Listing

CEC Commitment Listing

Attachment C

McNamee, Loretta Anne

From: Hamrick, Elizabeth Burton
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 4:05 PM
To: White, William Douglas; McNamee, Loretta Anne
Subject: FW: Request for acknowledgement of TVA's fulfillment of Section 7 obligations- Bacon Bend FWS#16-CPA-0499

Please see below for our documentation that TVA has fulfilled its Section 7 ESA obligations in association with the Bacon Bend Habitat Improvement Project.

Liz Hamrick

Terrestrial Zoologist
Biological Permitting and Compliance
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 W Summit Hill Dr, WT 11C-K
865-632-4011

From: Jennings, Mary [mailto:mary_e_jennings@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 3:52 PM
To: Hamrick, Elizabeth Burton
Cc: Amy Turner (amy_turner@fws.gov); David Pelren
Subject: Re: Request for acknowledgement of TVA's fulfillment of Section 7 obligations- Bacon Bend FWS#16-CPA-0499

TVA External Message. Please use caution when opening.

Dear Liz,

Thank you for seeking verification that TVA has fulfilled its section 7 obligations under the Endangered Species Act (Act) for the proposed timber thinning activities at Bacon Bend on Tellico Lake Wildlife Management Area in Monroe and Loudon counties, TN. This e-mail serves as documentation that the requirements of section 7 of the Act, as amended, are fulfilled. Obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if (1) new information reveals impacts of the proposed action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered, (2) the proposed action is subsequently modified to include activities which were not considered during this consultation, or (3) new species are listed or critical habitat designated that might be affected by the proposed action. If you have any questions, let us know.

Thanks,
Mary

On Wed, Sep 7, 2016 at 2:09 PM, Hamrick, Elizabeth Burton <ecburton@tva.gov> wrote:

Dear Mary,

On June 6, 2016, your office concurred with timber thinning activities proposed by TWRA at Bacon Bend on Tellico Lake Wildlife Management area in Monroe and Loudon Counties (FWS#16-CPA-0499). TWRA performed acoustic surveys on site with negative results. Based on these negative surveys, your office concurred that adverse effects to listed bat species are not likely.

The proposed actions involve TVA because this WMA is on land owned by TVA and leased to TWRA. In light of your previous concurrence with the actions proposed by TWRA, TVA respectfully requests an email acknowledging that TVA has fulfilled their Section 7 obligations under the Endangered Species Act to complete our NEPA documentation.

Thank you!

Liz Hamrick

Terrestrial Zoologist

Biological Permitting and Compliance

Tennessee Valley Authority

400 W Summit Hill Dr, WT 11C-K

865-632-4011

--

Mary Jennings
USFWS, Tennessee Field Office
446 Neal Street
Cookeville, TN 38501
(931) 525-4973

Attachment D



Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37902

September 7, 2016

Mr. E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY (TVA), DRAFT PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED TIMBER AND NEW ACCESS ROAD AT BACON BEND, TELLICO RESERVOIR, MONROE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

TVA is proposing a 60-acre timber harvest and new access road construction at Bacon Bend on Tellico Reservoir (Little Tennessee River Miles 24.1 – 27.2R), Monroe County, Tennessee (35.552821°, -84.142447°). TVA considers the archaeological area of potential effects (APE) for the proposed undertaking to be the five (5) timber tracts and new access road (See pages 2 and 3 of accompanying report).

TVA contracted with AMEC Foster Wheeler Environment and Infrastructure Inc. (AMEC) to conduct a Phase I archaeological survey and architectural assessment of the APE. Enclosed is a copy of the report, titled *Phase I Archaeological and Historic Architectural Viewshed Survey for the Proposed Bacon Bend Timber Harvest Project, Monroe County, Tennessee*. One (1) new site (40MR722) and two (2) isolated finds were identified within the current archaeological APE. Three (3) historic resources over 50 years of age were identified within the half-mile viewshed, consisting of a cemetery and two (2) outbuildings.

It is the consultant's opinion that site 40MR722 and the two (2) isolated finds be considered not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Place (NRHP), based on their lack of potential to contribute to ongoing research beyond the findings of the survey. The three (3) historic resources are recommended not eligible for listing on the NRHP due to a lack of physical integrity of association and feeling, or the failure to meet any of the NRHP's criteria for eligibility. TVA has reviewed the enclosed report and agrees with the author's findings and recommendations.

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800 (4)(b), we are seeking your concurrence with the following TVA findings and determinations:

- 40MR722 and the two (2) isolated sites are ineligible for the NRHP; and
- Three (3) historic resources are ineligible for the NRHP.

Mr. E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Page Two
September 6, 2016

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(f)(2), TVA is consulting with federally recognized Indian tribes regarding properties within the proposed project's APE that may be of religious and cultural significance to them and eligible for the NRHP.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), TVA seeks your concurrence with TVA's findings that the undertaking will have no adverse effect to historic properties.

If you have any questions, please contact Marianne Shuler at (865) 632-2464 or by email at mmshuler@tva.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clinton E. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Clinton E. Jones
Manager, Biological and Cultural Compliance
Safety, River Management and Environment
WT11C-K

BAC:CSD

Enclosure

cc (Enclosure):

Jennifer Barnett
Tennessee Division of Archaeology
1216 Foster Avenue
Cole Building #3
Nashville, Tennessee 37210

PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL VIEWSHED SURVEY

FOR THE PROPOSED BACON BEND TIMBER HARVEST PROJECT,
MONROE COUNTY, TENNESSEE



August 2016

INTERNAL COPIES:

Michelle Cagley, KFP 1T-KST
Darrell Cuthbertson, LCB 1A-LCT
Amy Henry, WT11D-K
Susan Jacks, WT11C-K
Emily Willard, MR 4G-C
ECM, WT CA-K



**TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
2941 LEBANON ROAD
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550**

September 27, 2016

Mr. Clinton E. Jones
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 W. Summit Hill Dr.
Knoxville, Tennessee, 37902-1499

RE: TVA, CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT, TELlico/BACON BEND/TIMBER-ACCESS ROAD,
UNINCORPORATED, MONROE COUNTY

Dear Mr. Jones:

Pursuant to your request, received on Thursday, September 8, 2016, this office has reviewed documentation concerning the above-referenced undertaking. This review is a requirement of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for compliance by the participating federal agency or applicant for federal assistance. Procedures for implementing Section 106 of the Act are codified at 36 CFR 800 (Federal Register, December 12, 2000, 77698-77739)

Considering the information provided, we concur that the area of potential effects for this undertaking contains no cultural resources. You should notify interested persons and make the documentation associated with this finding available to the public.

If your agency proposes any modifications in current project plans or discovers any archaeological remains during the ground disturbance or construction phase, please contact this office to determine what further action, if any, will be necessary to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

This office appreciates your cooperation.

E. Patrick McIntyre
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

EPM/dlc