

Boswell Creek Watershed HFI Project

Appendix A

BE-04-04-01

PETS species selected for evaluation, those considered but eliminated from further evaluation, and determinations of effects.

Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered	Scientific Name	Status	Species Present	Habitat Requirements	Rationale for Elimination	Determination of Effect
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	No	Species addressed in BE	N/A	Not likely to adversely affect
Houston Toad	<i>Bufo houstonensis</i>	E	No	Habitat consists of a wide, deep horizon of sandy or loamy sandy soils in which it can easily burrow for hibernation or aestivation, and temporary non-flowing pools of water available for breeding (USFWS 1992).	NO SUITABLE HABITAT. This species has not been documented in or near the Sam Houston National Forest. The distribution of Houston toad populations, and habitat identified as having the potential for the occurrence of this species, are located well outside the project area (USFWS 1992).	Not likely to adversely affect <i>Direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to this species are not anticipated.</i>
American Burying Beetle	<i>Nicrophorus americanus</i>	E	No	The American burying beetle occurs in a variety of habitats, including sandy grassland and oak-pine woodlands.	SUITABLE UNOCCUPIED HABITAT. This species is unlikely to occur in the project area based on range. The nearest American burying beetle populations are in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska (USFWS 1993).	Not likely to adversely affect <i>Direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to this species are not anticipated.</i>
American Chaffseed	<i>Schwalbea americana</i>	E	No	The American chaffseed occurs in sandy, acidic, seasonally moist to dry soils, in sunny or partly sunny areas. This species is dependent on factors such as fire or fluctuating water tables to maintain the crucial open to partly-open conditions that it requires (USFWS 1995).	NO SUITABLE HABITAT. Converse Griffith, the Forest Botanist trainee, determined through surveys and an examination of existing habitat, that there is no evidence of PETS plant species occurring within the project area and that the probability of occurrence is low due to the absence of suitable habitat.	Not likely to adversely affect <i>Direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to this species are not anticipated.</i>

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Status: **E** = Federally Endangered, **T** = Federally Threatened, **S** = Sensitive

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Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	No	The bald eagle is generally found in coastal areas and around large bodies of water such as reservoirs, lakes, and rivers (USFWS 1995a). Nests and associated pilot trees are typically located within two miles of open water. Bald eagles primarily forage on fish, but their diet also includes waterfowl, rodents, reptiles, and carrion.	NO SUITABLE HABITAT. Large bodies of water needed for foraging, and thus nesting, are not located within or adjacent to the project area. The nearest bald eagle nest and/or foraging habitat occur in Huntsville State Park, located approximately 6 ½ miles from the project area.	Not likely to adversely affect <i>Direct, indirect, or cumulative</i> effects to this species are not anticipated.
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	T	No	The piping plover utilizes sandy beaches or lakeshores for nesting. In Texas, this species winters along the gulf coast, but has been observed along shoreline mudflats of inland lakes during migration.	NO SUITABLE HABITAT. Suitable habitat for this species does not exist in or adjacent to the project area.	Not likely to adversely affect <i>Direct, indirect, or cumulative</i> effects to this species are not anticipated.
Louisiana Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus luteolus</i>	T	No	Habitat preferences of this species include bottomland hardwood and floodplain forests, with occasional use of mixed hardwood/pine forest, wetlands, and agricultural fields.	SUITABLE UNOCCUPIED HABITAT. This species is unlikely to occur in the project area based on range. The nearest Louisiana black bear population occurs in Louisiana's Atchafalaya and Tensas River basins, approximately 200 miles from the project area (USFWS 1995b).	Not likely to adversely affect <i>Direct, indirect, or cumulative</i> effects to this species are not anticipated.

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American Alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	T	No	The American alligator is a species that prefers fresh water habitats such as freshwater marshes, lakes, slow-moving streams and rivers, or virtually any other water-retaining habitat (Bartlett and Bartlett 1999).	NO SUITABLE HABITAT. The American alligator is a fully recovered species that retains a federal listing to protect other endangered species that are similar in appearance (USFWS 1995c). There is no alligator habitat within the project area.	Not likely to adversely affect <i>Direct, indirect, or cumulative</i> effects to this species are not anticipated.
Sensitive Species						
Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	S	Possible	Species addressed in BE	N/A	May impact individuals but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability
Southeastern Myotis	<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	S	Possible	Species addressed in BE	N/A	May impact individuals but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability
Louisiana Pine Snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus ruthveni</i>	S	No	The Louisiana pine snake (LPS) inhabits areas with sandy, well-drained soils in open, pine forests with minimal midstory and a well-developed grassy understory (Werler and Dixon 2000). A primary component of LPS habitat is the presence of Baird's pocket gophers (<i>Geomys breviceps</i>).	NO SUITABLE HABITAT. Habitat conditions within the project area are inadequate for occupation by the Louisiana pine snake. The project area lacks the deep sandy soils, well developed grassy understories, and pocket gophers that are closely associated with this species.	No Impacts <i>Direct, indirect, or cumulative</i> effects to this species are not anticipated.

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Sensitive	Scientific Name	Status	Species Present	Habitat Requirements	Rationale for Elimination	Determination of Effect
Texas Emerald Dragonfly	<i>Somatochlora margarita</i>	S	Possible	Species addressed in BE	N/A	May impact individuals but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability
Migrant Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus migrans</i>	S	No	Breeding habitat is varied, but must include open grassland areas with scattered trees or shrubs. Shrikes are generally absent from closed canopy forests and grasslands without trees or shrubs. Historic habitat included open pine-grasslands; however, pastures and hayfields are considered suitable (USFWS 2000).	NO SUITABLE HABITAT. The migrant loggerhead shrike has not been detected at four survey points located within the project area that have been monitored since 1998. Given that this species prefers open grasslands with scattered trees, the project area does not support suitable habitat. Loggerhead shrikes would not benefit from the habitat conditions that would result from the proposed project.	No Impacts <i>Direct, indirect, or cumulative</i> effects to this species are not anticipated.
Bachman's Sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	S	Possible	Species addressed in BE	N/A	Beneficial Impacts
(Plants)		S	No	Texas Bartonias occurs in baygalls and loamy wet forested seeps (MacRoberts et al. 2002), Warner's Hawthorn occurs on dry banks and sandy woods (Correll and Johnston 1979), Texas Sunnysbell is found in barrens, glades, and weches barrens and Branched Gayfeather is found	NO SUITABLE HABITAT. Surveys conducted by Forest Botanist trainee Converse Griffith on March 06 and 07, 2003 in Compartments 70, 72, 75, 76, and 77 did not result in the detection of these species. Survey areas were determined by examining plant	No Impacts <i>Direct, indirect, or cumulative</i> effects to this species are not anticipated.
Texas Bartonias	<i>Bartonia texana</i>					
Warner's Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus warneri</i>					
Branched Gayfeather	<i>Liatris cymosa</i>					
Texas Sunnysbell	<i>Schoenolirion wrightii</i>					

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				in grassy openings in post oak woodlands or in a post oak savanna-blackland prairie ecotone (NatureServe 2003).	locations in GIS, aerial photographs, soils maps for the presence of specific habitat types, and records of plant locations. Suitable habitat for these sensitive plant species does not exist in the project area and will not become available as a result of thinning and prescribed fire.		
(Fish)							
Western Sand Darter	<i>Ammocrypta clara</i>	S	Possible	Species are addressed in BE	N/A	May impact individuals but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability	
Sabine Shiner	<i>Notropis sabinae</i>						
(Freshwater Bivalves)							
Texas Pigtoe	<i>Fusconaia askewi</i>						
Triangle Pigtoe	<i>Fusconaia lananensis</i>						
Sandbank Pocketbook	<i>Lampsilis satura</i>						
Louisiana Pigtoe	<i>Pleurobema riddellii</i>						
Texas Heelsplitter	<i>Potamilus ampliachaenus</i>						
(Crayfish)							
Neches Crayfish	<i>Procambarus nechesae</i>						
No common name	<i>Procambarus nigrocinctus</i>						
No common name	<i>Procambarus kensleyi</i>						Yes