

**APPENDIX C
CORRESPONDENCE**

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ATTACHMENT

PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): 5-29-2012

B. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON REQUESTING PRELIMINARY JD:

Luke DuPont of Cardno TEC, Inc. 11817 Canon Blvd., Newport News, VA

On behalf of U.S. State Department – Bureau of Diplomatic Security

C. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: NAO 2012-1084

(Hurricane Branch, Birchin Creek and associated Tributaries)

D. PROJECT LOCATION(S) AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Fort

Pickett 3 parcels LRA9, LRA 10, and 21/20

(USE THE ATTACHED TABLE TO DOCUMENT MULTIPLE WATERBODIES AT DIFFERENT SITES)

State:VA County/parish/borough: Nottoway City: Blackstone

Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format):

Lat. For LRA 9 (center) 37-03-22 °, Long. -77-57-27 °

Lat. For LRA10 (center) 37-04-14 °, Long. -77-58-47 °

Lat. For 21/20 (center) 37-03-43 , Long. -77-56-02 °

Pick List.

Name of nearest waterbody: Unnamed Tributaries Birchin Creek and Hurricane Branch

Identify (estimate) amount of waters in the review area:

Non-wetland waters: 97,000 linear feet of stream

Cowardin Class: Riverine

Stream Flow:

Wetlands: 105 acres

Cowardin Class: Palustrine

Name of any water bodies on the site that have been identified as Section 10 waters:

Tidal: None

Non-Tidal: None

E. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

Office (Desk) Determination. Date: 5-2-2012

Field Determination. Date(s): 5-2-2012. The Corps of Engineers believes that there may be jurisdictional waters of the United States on the subject site, and the permit applicant or other affected party who requested this preliminary JD is hereby advised of his or her option to request and obtain an approved jurisdictional determination (JD) for that site. Nevertheless, the permit applicant or other person who requested this preliminary JD has declined to exercise the option to obtain an approved JD in this instance and at this time.

2. In any circumstance where a permit applicant obtains an individual permit, or a Nationwide General Permit (NWP) or other general permit verification requiring "pre-construction notification" (PCN), or requests verification for a non-reporting NWP or other general permit, and the permit applicant has not requested an approved JD for the activity, the permit applicant is hereby made aware of the following: (1) the permit applicant has elected to seek a permit authorization based on a preliminary JD, which does not make an official determination of jurisdictional waters; (2) that the applicant has the option to request an approved JD before accepting the terms and conditions of the permit authorization, and that basing a permit authorization on an approved JD could possibly result in less compensatory mitigation being required or different special conditions; (3) that the applicant has the right to request an individual permit rather than accepting the terms and conditions of the NWP or other general permit authorization; (4) that the applicant can accept a permit authorization and thereby agree to comply with all the terms and conditions of that permit, including whatever mitigation requirements the Corps has determined to be necessary; (5) that undertaking any activity in reliance upon the subject permit authorization without requesting an approved JD constitutes the applicant's acceptance of the use of the preliminary JD, but that either form of JD will be processed as soon as is practicable; (6) accepting a permit authorization (e.g., signing a proffered individual permit) or undertaking any activity in reliance on any form of Corps permit authorization based on a preliminary JD constitutes agreement that all wetlands and other water bodies on the site affected in any way by that activity are jurisdictional waters of the United States, and precludes any challenge to such jurisdiction in any administrative or judicial compliance or enforcement action, or in any administrative appeal or in any Federal court; and (7) whether the applicant elects to use either an approved JD or a preliminary JD, that JD will be processed as soon as is practicable. Further, an approved JD, a proffered individual permit (and all terms and conditions contained therein), or individual permit denial can be administratively appealed pursuant to 33 C.F.R. Part 331, and that in any administrative appeal, jurisdictional issues can be raised (see 33 C.F.R. 331.5(a)(2)). If, during that administrative appeal, it becomes necessary to make an official determination whether CWA jurisdiction exists over a site, or to provide an official delineation of jurisdictional waters on the site, the Corps will provide an approved JD to accomplish that result, as soon as is practicable.

This preliminary JD finds that there "may be" waters of the United States on the subject project site, and identifies all aquatic features on the site that could be affected by the proposed activity, based on the following information:

SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for preliminary JD (check all that apply)

- checked items should be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):

Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant:

Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.

Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.

Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.

Data sheets prepared by the Corps:

Corps navigable waters' study:

U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas:

USGS NHD data.

USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.

U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation:

National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name:

State/Local wetland inventory map(s):

FEMA/FIRM maps:

100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929)

Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date):unknown.

or Other (Name & Date):

Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter:

Other information (please specify):

IMPORTANT NOTE: The information recorded on this form has not necessarily been verified by the Corps and should not be relied upon for later jurisdictional determinations.



Signature and date of



05/30/12

Signature and date of

Regulatory Project Manager
(REQUIRED)

person requesting preliminary JD
(REQUIRED, unless obtaining
the signature is impracticable)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NORFOLK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FORT NORFOLK, 803 FRONT STREET
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23510-1096

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

August 17, 2012

PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION

Eastern Virginia Regulatory Section

NAO 2012-1084 (Hurricane Branch, Birch Creek and associated Tributaries)

Mr. Myles J. Goodman
Environmental Planning
U.S. GSA Mid Atlantic Region
20 N 8th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Mr. Goodman:

This letter is in regard to your request for a preliminary jurisdictional determination for limits of waters of the U.S. at 4 additional parcels of land as part of the proposed Department of State, Foreign Affairs Security Training Center, located at Fort Pickett, near Blackstone, Nottoway County Virginia. These parcels are in addition to approximately 1700 acres previously reviewed as parcels 'Parcel LRA', 'Parcel 10,' and 'Parcel 21/20'. These additional 4 areas are referred to as: 'Parcel 10 Access Roadway', 'Range 8 Parcel', the 'Grid Parcel and 'LRA 2' (a small parcel added at the S. end of LRA).

On July 13, 2012, Mr. Irwin Garskof of this office met with your consultant Luke DuPont of Cardno TEC, Inc., and again on August 16, 2012 Mr. Irwin Garskof of this office and Ms Julie Hamilton also of this office, met with your consultant Luke DuPont of Cardno TEC, Inc and Mark Bushing of the Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and to inspect the subject site and review the submitted plans, report and supplemental documents, to determine the limit of jurisdictional waters of the U.S. for these additional parcels. All field reviews have been completed and the final set of delineation maps/plans were received by this office with cover letters dated June 25, 2012 (Grid Parcel) and July 7, 2012 ('Parcel 10 Access Roadway', and 'Range 8 Parcel'). (Please note that a separate report was not required for the small addition to Parcel LRA, referred to as 'Parcel LRA 2' referenced above)

These plans as amended accurately portray the location(s) of waters and/or wetlands at this site. The basis for this delineation includes application of the Corps' 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual and the positive indicators of wetland hydrology, hydric soils, and hydrophytic vegetation and the presence of an ordinary high water mark.

Discharges of dredged or fill material, including those associated with mechanized land clearing, into waters and/or wetlands on this site may require a Department of the Army permit and authorization by state and local authorities including a Virginia Water Protection Permit from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), a permit from the Virginia

Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and/or a permit from your local wetlands board. This letter is a confirmation of the Corps preliminary jurisdiction for the waters and/or wetlands on the subject property and does not authorize any work in these areas. Please obtain all required permits before starting work in the delineated waters/wetland areas.

This is a preliminary jurisdictional determination and is therefore not a legally binding determination regarding whether Corps jurisdiction applies to the waters or wetlands in question. Accordingly, you may either consent to jurisdiction as set out in this preliminary jurisdictional determination and the attachments hereto if you agree with the determination, or you may request and obtain an approved jurisdictional determination. This preliminary jurisdictional determination and associated wetland delineation map may be submitted with a permit application.

Enclosed are two copies of the "Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination Form". Please review the document, sign both copies, return one copy to the Corps (PO Box 1046, Clarksville, VA 23927) within 30 days of receipt and keep one for your records. This delineation of waters and/or wetlands is valid for a period of five years from the date of this letter unless new information warrants revision prior to the expiration date.

If you have any questions concerning this matter or would like further assistance, please contact Mr. Garskof at (434) 374 5406 or irwin.garskof@usace.army.mil. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Irwin Garskof". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "I" and a distinct "G".

for Kimberly Prisco-Baggett
Chief, Eastern Virginia Regulatory Section

Enclosures: Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination Form (2 copies)

Copy Furnished:
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, BRRO, Attn Mark Bushing

ATTACHMENT

PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): 8-17-2012

B. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON REQUESTING PRELIMINARY JD

Mr. Myles J. Goodman
Environmental Planning
U.S. GSA Mid Atlantic Region
20 N 8th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

C. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: :

Eastern Virginia Regulatory Section

NAO 2012-1084 (Hurricane Branch, Birchin Creek and associated Tributaries)

D. PROJECT LOCATION(S) AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Fort Pickett,
Nottoway County VA

(USE THE ATTACHED TABLE TO DOCUMENT MULTIPLE WATERBODIES AT DIFFERENT SITES)

State: VA County/parish/borough: Nottoway County City: near Blackstone

Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Center:

Lat start: 37-03-22

Long start: -77-58-47

Universal Transverse Mercator:

Name of nearest waterbody: Hurricane Branch

Identify (estimate) amount of waters in the review area:

Total waters: (ft) and/or acres

Cowardin Class:

Cowardin Class: -

Name of any water bodies on the site that have been identified as Section 10 waters:

E. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

Office (Desk) Determination. Date:

Field Determination. Date(s): Various

1. The Corps of Engineers believes that there may be jurisdictional waters of the United States on the subject site, and the permit applicant or other affected party who requested this

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- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation: .
- National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: .
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- 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: . (National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929)
- Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date): Undated
 - or Other (Name & Date): .
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8-17-2012

Signature and date of
Regulatory Project Manager
(REQUIRED)



8/18/12

Signature and date of
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- Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date): Undated
 - or Other (Name & Date): .
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- Other information (please specify): .

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8-17-2012

Signature and date of
Regulatory Project Manager
(REQUIRED)



8/18/12

Signature and date of
person requesting preliminary JD
(REQUIRED, unless obtaining the signature
is impracticable)

Hall, Kathy E.

Subject: FW: FASTC Project Review USFWS

From: Sumalee_Hoskin@fws.gov [mailto:Sumalee_Hoskin@fws.gov]

Sent: Friday, August 31, 2012 9:34 AM

To: Fuery, Erika A.

Subject: RE: FASTC Project Review

Hi Erika,

Thanks for sending the letter. Yes, typically you are to assume you have our concurrence when you send in a certification packet. I did look at your packet and do concur with your determinations.

Sumalee

Note: Our phone lines are not working properly. Please try 804 824 9720 or 9740 to reach me. My ext. is 128

Sumalee Hoskin
US Fish & Wildlife Service
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, VA 23061

Tel: 804-693-6694 ex. 128

Fax: 804-693-9032

Visit us at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/>



GSA Mid-Atlantic Region

July 16, 2012

Ms. Kimberly Smith
Endangered Species Section
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, VA 23061

Re: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECURITY TRAINING CENTER IN NOTTOWAY COUNTY, VIRGINIA BY THE U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Dear Ms. Smith,

The United States (U.S.) General Services Administration (GSA) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed acquisition of land and development of a U.S. Department of State (DOS), Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC). This letter is to request informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, including review of GSA's determination for the proposed action.

GSA is the action proponent for the proposed project and is acting in cooperation with DOS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Guard Bureau. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will have permitting authority over this action as it would affect waters of the U.S. (i.e. jurisdictional wetlands) and would participate in consultation with your agency, if deemed necessary.

Project Description

The proposed development would occur on four parcels of land at the Army National Guard Maneuver Training Center (ARNG-MTC) Fort Pickett, managed by Virginia ARNG, and Nottoway County Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) in Nottoway County, Virginia, near the town of Blackstone (Enclosure 1); referred to herein as ARNG-MTC Parcels 21/20 and Grid Parcel, and Nottoway County LRA Parcel 9 and LRA Parcel 10. These parcels comprise the action area (Enclosure 1). The use of Parcel 21/20 and Grid Parcel would be authorized by a Land Use Agreement implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding with ARNG, and LRA Parcels 9 and 10 would be purchased from Nottoway County.

The project would consolidate existing dispersed training functions into a single location to improve training efficiency and enhance the training operations of DS. At project completion, the proposed FASTC would be a complete training center for 8,000-10,000 students annually. The facility would provide state-of-the-art instruction in soft and hard skills, as well as administrative and life support functions, including a residential campus. Facilities that would be constructed to support the FASTC program include a Main Campus (classrooms, dormitories and other life support, administration, and security), a Mock Urban Tactical Training Area, High Speed Driving Tracks, Off Road/Unimproved Driving Tracks, Firing Ranges, and Explosives Ranges.

U.S. General Services Administration
20 N. 8th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3191
www.gsa.gov

FASTC would be developed in three phases between 2014 and 2020 and would require the clearing of approximately 1,400 acres of primarily forested land for the construction of facilities.

GSA is considering two build alternatives for the proposed FASTC facility and a no action alternative. The main differences between the build alternatives are the location of the Main Campus and the layout of the project on two parcels versus four parcels. The two action alternatives consist of varied layouts that consider the programmatic requirements of the proposed FASTC facility and configurations that minimize environmental impacts. Design of this project has not been completed and a final decision on the preferred alternative has not yet been made. Therefore, GSA is requesting your review of both alternatives, which are described below and depicted on Enclosures 2 and 3.

- Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, the facilities would be constructed on Parcel 21/20 and LRA Parcel 9 (Enclosure 2). The Main Campus would be centrally located on a plateau along the western boundary of Parcel 21/20. Locating the Main Campus on a plateau of Parcel 21/20 utilizes a relatively flat area to minimize re-grading. A dense development footprint minimizes encroachment on existing wetlands.

Firing Ranges would be located in the east-central portion of Parcel 21/20, northeast of the campus area. Range buildings are located to maximize the use of existing roads and an existing ARNG-MTC 300 meter firing range (Range 8), which would minimize the area of development and associated environmental impacts.

Explosives Ranges would be located in the northern portion of Parcel 21/20. Access to the Explosives Ranges would be achieved with a combination of new roads and existing tank trails. Individual explosive pads are positioned to keep all blast fragment clearances entirely within Parcel 21/20 boundaries.

The Mock Urban Tactical Training Area would be situated in the eastern portion of LRA Parcel 9 and the High Speed Driving Track and Off Road/Unimproved Driving Track Areas would occupy the majority of the remaining land area. FASTC Emergency Services (EMS) would be co-located with the ARNG-MTC EMS adjacent to the southern boundary of LRA Parcel 9, on Military Road to take advantage of synergies between the agencies.

- Alternative 2

Alternative 2 includes all of the FASTC program elements that are included in Alternative 1. The Main Campus would be located on LRA Parcel 10 to the west of LRA Parcel 9 and the Explosive Ranges would be constructed in an alternative configuration (Enclosure 3).

Similar to Alternative 1, the High Speed Driving Tracks and Off Road/Unimproved Driving Track Areas would be located on LRA Parcel 9; however, the driving tracks would be spaced farther apart and Mock Urban Tactical Training Area would be located on the Grid Parcel.

Federal Threatened and Endangered Species

The USFWS Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) System and existing information from VAARNG were utilized to identify species listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act that have

potential to occur in the action area. An official USFWS species list was generated for the action area. The following species were recorded (Enclosure 4):

Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*)-(endangered)
Dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*)-(endangered)
Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii*)-(endangered)

The Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service was also queried for the area within a three mile radius of the action area center and no additional federally listed, proposed or candidate species were identified.

The Roanoke logperch typically inhabits medium-to-large, warm, usually clear streams and small rivers of moderate to low gradient. Adults usually inhabit the main body of stream pools, runs, and riffles and select areas with exposed, silt free gravel substrate (USFWS 2003). An online inquiry with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Fish and Wildlife Information Service identified approximately 300 feet of Hurricane Branch, along the western boundary of LRA Parcel 10, as potential Roanoke Logperch habitat. The potential for logperch to occur in this area is considered to be low due the presence of a downstream spillway that would hinder fish movements. No development on LRA Parcel 10 would occur within 100 feet of Hurricane Branch and no new stream crossings of Hurricane Branch are proposed. One stream crossing is proposed across a tributary to Hurricane Branch. This tributary has been previously disturbed by the installation of underground utilities. No in-stream work would occur in Hurricane Branch or its tributaries eliminating the potential for direct impacts to Roanoke logperch. The use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sedimentation and erosion control during all aspects of FASTC construction and the incorporation of biofiltration and other stormwater management features would eliminate the potential for impacts to surface waters on or downstream of the project area, including Hurricane Branch and its tributaries. Therefore, GSA has determined that the proposed action would have no effect on Roanoke logperch.

The dwarf wedgemussel lives on muddy sand, sand, and gravel bottoms in creeks and rivers of various sizes. It requires areas of slow to moderate current, good water quality, and little silt deposition. The only known population of dwarf wedgemussel in Nottoway County is found in the main stem of the Nottoway River (USFWS 1993). This species is not known to occur in the project area; however, the use of BMPs for sedimentation and erosion control during all aspects of FASTC construction would eliminate the potential for impacts to surface waters on or downstream of the project area, thereby eliminating any potential impacts to dwarf wedgemussel should they be present on LRA Parcel 10 in Hurricane Branch. Therefore, GSA has determined that the proposed action would have no effect on dwarf wedgemussel.

Michaux's sumac is known to occur on ARNG-MTC, and all known stands of this plant have been mapped (VAARNG 2007). Michaux's sumac is unlikely to occur on Parcel 21/20, Grid Parcel or LRA Parcel 9. The action area parcels are primarily forested. The fringe areas of the forests on these parcels are dominated by shrubs that are much larger than Michaux's sumac, and this species would not be able to compete for space and necessary resources in these areas. The frequent use of mowing instead of prescribed burning of open areas on the parcels also renders the habitat unlikely to support this species. Potential habitat for Michaux's sumac was identified during the habitat review of LRA Parcel 10 along a power utility easement on the southern border of the parcel. A site access road is proposed to traverse this easement. GSA retained a qualified botanist, approved by USFWS, to conduct a survey for Michaux's sumac on this power easement in June 2012. The survey determined that Michaux's sumac was not

present in the proposed action area. GSA is submitting the survey report with this correspondence for USFWS approval (Enclosure 5).

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

Although no longer a listed species under the Endangered Species Act, bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) are known to occur at ARNG-MTC Fort Pickett and are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. There are two known active bald eagle nests on ARNG-MTC; however, no eagle concentration areas are present. One active nest (Nest Code: NY0801) is located on Hurricane Branch approximately 2.5 miles south of LRA Parcel 9. This nesting site would not be affected by the proposed action. A second active bald eagle nest was discovered near Parcel 21/20 during a 2012 field survey conducted for the EIS and VDGIF has not yet assigned it a nest code. It is unknown at this time if this is a recurrent nest, if this nest has ever successfully fledged young or whether the nest will be used again in the future. VAARNG has advised that they intend to perform studies of the nest. The nest is located approximately 440 feet east and 225 feet south of the southeast 21/20 parcel boundary, near existing VAARNG outdoor firing ranges (Enclosures 2 and 3).

The closest proposed FASTC project facilities to the nest are indoor firing range buildings and classrooms. Operations at these facilities would not disturb nesting eagles as most noise and activity would be contained within the buildings. Moreover, the nest is currently located within an environment of similar activity because it is located approximately 1,000 feet west of an existing VAARNG outdoor firing range. This range is the closest to the nest and is not associated with the FASTC project. The range is used by VAARNG.

Under Alternative 1, construction of the southernmost firing range building would occur within 660 feet of the nest. If bald eagles are using this nest at the time of planned construction of this firing range building, construction would be scheduled to occur only between August and January, outside of the eagle nesting season. Under Alternative 2, construction of the southernmost firing range building would occur outside of the 660 foot buffer. Under either alternative, the nest is not visible from the proposed construction areas due to the presence of forest between the site and the nest. As part of design specifications, the clearing of trees around the facility at the Alternative 1 location would be minimized to the maximum extent practicable to avoid any potential line of sight impacts to the nest.

Outdoor firing ranges and explosives pads associated with FASTC are not anticipated to disturb nesting eagles. The closest proposed explosives pad is located approximately 2,800 feet away from the nest site and the noise produced by it would be similar to current noise levels produced at ARNG-MTC. The closest outdoor firing range proposed for use for the FASTC project is located approximately 1,750 feet northeast of the eagle nest at an existing VAARNG range (300 Meter Range). The increased use of the 300 Meter Range (Range 8) is not anticipated to disturb nesting eagles as the birds would be accustomed to noise disturbance from existing VAARNG ranges in the area.

GSA has prepared the necessary USFWS forms for protected species (Enclosures 6, 7 and 8) and will coordinate with USFWS to implement measures to minimize impacts of the proposed action on bald eagles to ensure that there are no "takes" of bald eagles as defined by 16 U.S.C. 668-668c.

We appreciate your review of the proposed project and subsequent review the survey report for Michaux's sumac. If you have any questions, please contact me at 215-446-4570 or myles.goodman@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,



Myles Goodman
General Services Administration

Enclosures: 1. Project Location Map
 2. Alternative 1 Site Map
 3. Alternative 2 Site Map
 4. IPaC Official Species List
 5. Michaux's Sumac Survey Report
 6. VaFWIS Species List
 7. Species Conclusion Table
 8. Bald Eagle Determinations

cc:

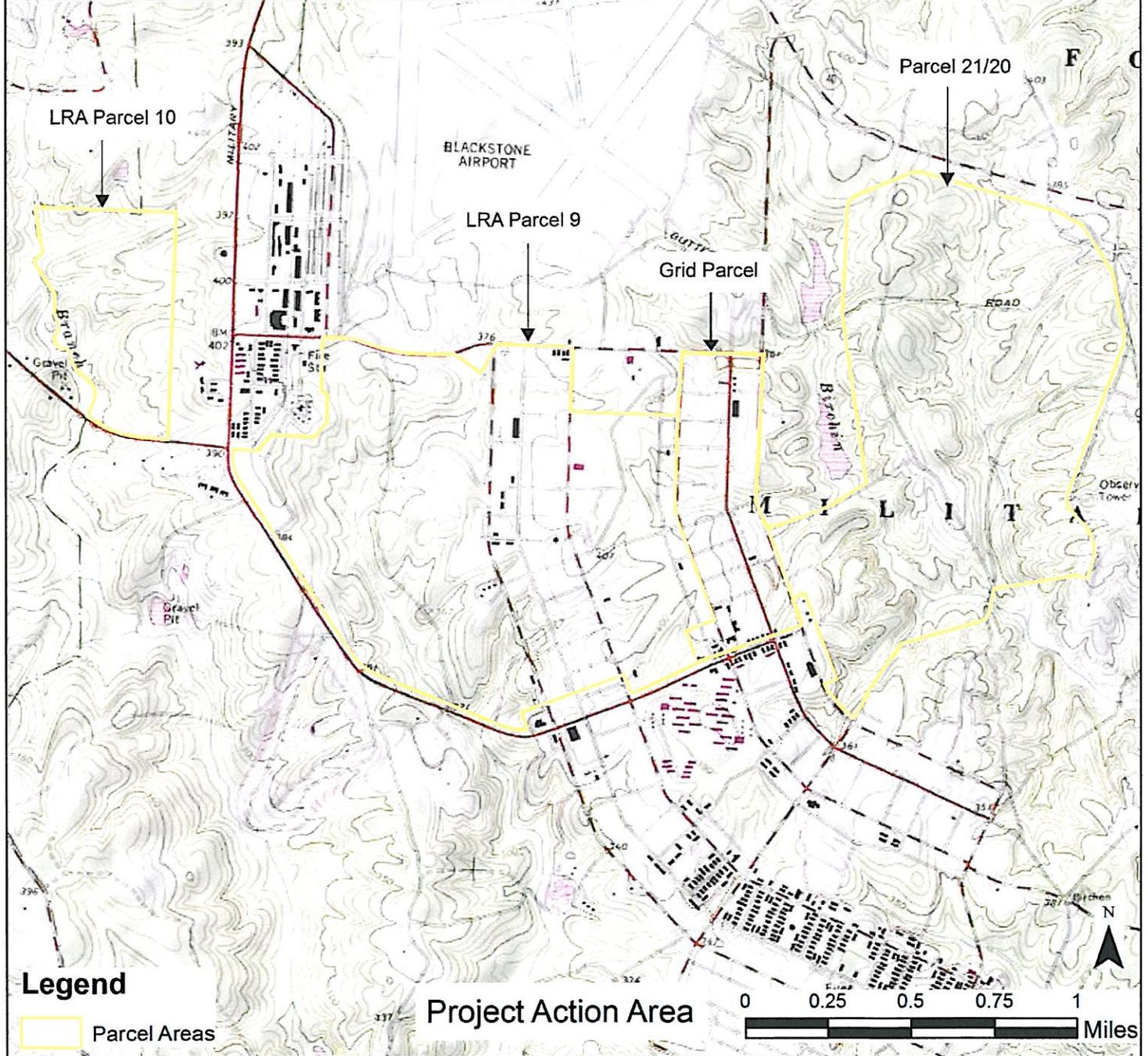
National Guard Bureau, Katherine Clayton, katherine.a.clayton.ctr@us.army.mil
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Irwin Garskof, Irwin.Garskof@usace.army.mil)
U.S. Department of State, Janice Smith,
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Barbara Rudnick, rudnick.barbara@epa.gov
Virginia Army National Guard – Fort Pickett, Kenneth Oristaglio, kenneth.l.oristaglio@us.army.mil

References:

USFWS 2003. Fact Sheet: Roanoke Logperch (*Percina rex*). August 2003.

USFWS 1993. Dwarf Wedge Mussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*) Recovery Plan. February 8, 1993.

VAARNG 2007. Draft Final Revision Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and Environmental Assessment Fort Pickett Maneuver Training Center Blackstone, Virginia. FY 2007.





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OFFICE OF REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECURITY TRAINING CENTER
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FORT PICKETT, BLACKSTONE, VA

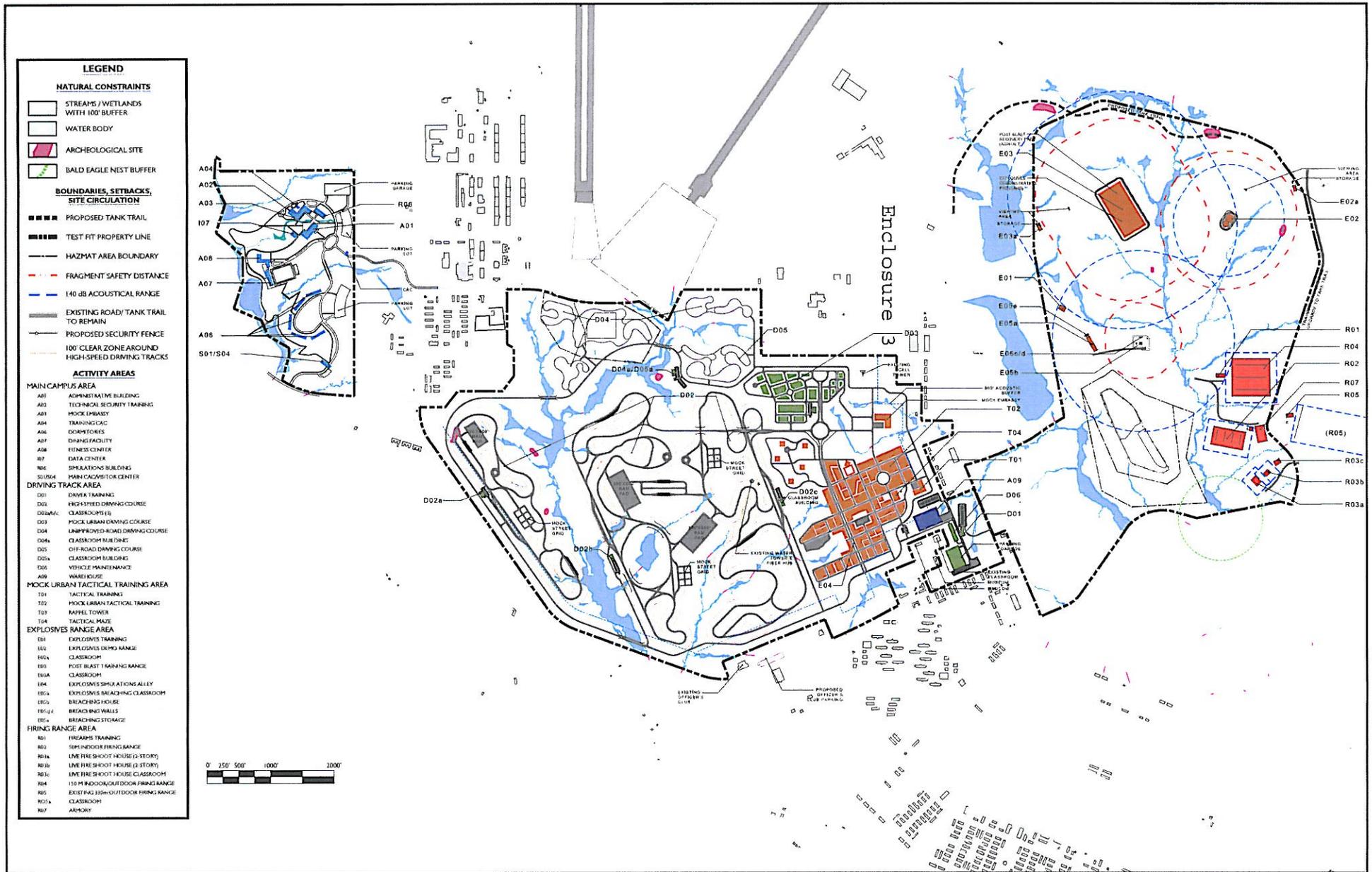
BUILD ALTERNATIVE 1

JULY 17, 2012



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WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Project name: FASTC

Official Species-list: *FASTC*

Virginia Ecological Services Field Office

Following is an official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species-list from the Virginia Ecological Services Field Office. The species-list identifies listed and proposed species and designated and proposed critical habitat that may be affected by the project "FASTC". You may use this list to meet the requirements of section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA).

This species-list has been generated by the Service's on-line Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) decision support system based on project type and location information you provided on March 23, 2012, 9:35 AM. This information is summarized below.

Please reference our tracking number, 05E2VA00-2012-SLI-0488, in future reference to this project to assist in expediting the process.

Newer information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of listed species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact the office(s) identified below if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential presence of federally proposed, listed, or candidate species, or proposed or designated critical habitat. Please note that under the ESA, a species-list is valid for 90 days. Therefore, the Service recommends that you visit the IPaC site at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species-lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive this list. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

This list below only addresses federally proposed, listed, or candidate species and federally designated critical habitat. Please contact the appropriate State agencies for information regarding State species of special designation. Also, please feel free to contact the office(s) identified below if you would like information on other important trust resources (such as migratory birds) in your project area.



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: FASTC

This Species-list document is provided by:

VIRGINIA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

6669 SHORT LANE

GLOUCESTER, VA 23061

(804) 693-6694

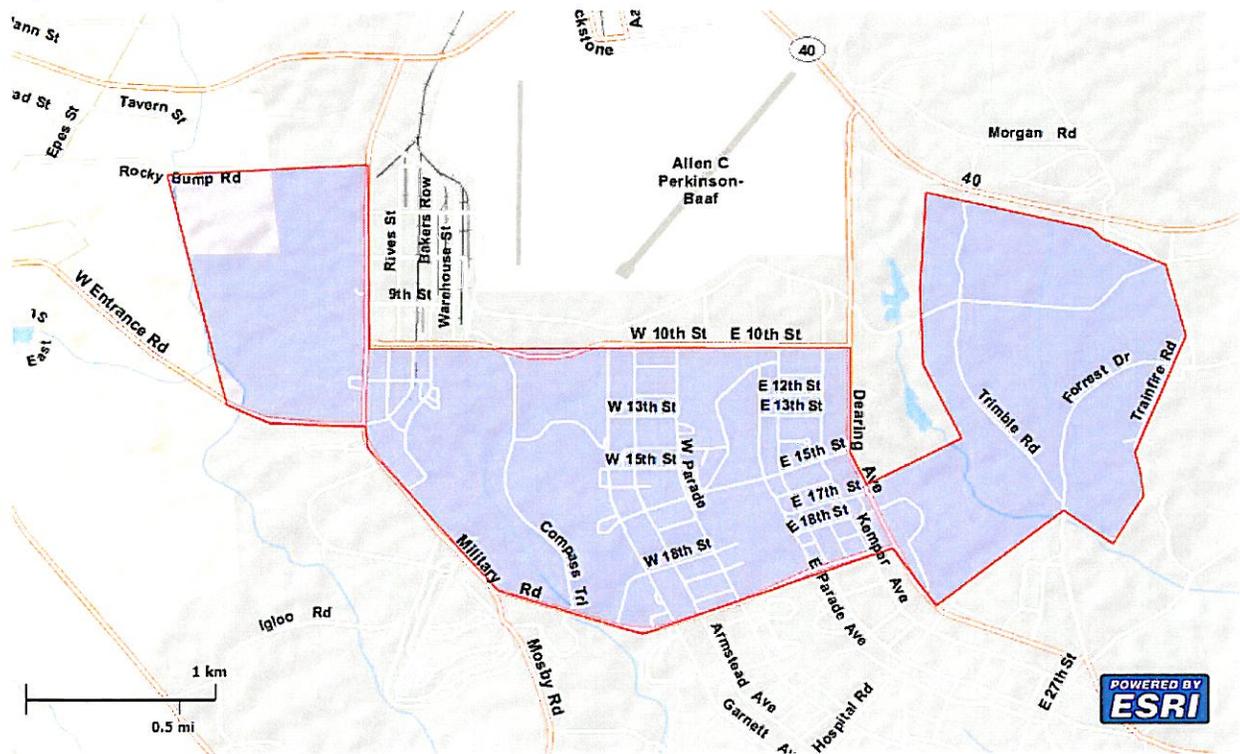
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/>

TAILS consultation code: 05E2VA00-2012-SLI-0488

Project type: Development



Project location map:



Project coordinates: MULTIPOLYGON (((-77.983716 37.074628, -77.9717855 37.0752288, -77.9716997 37.0643283, -77.9432039 37.0643283, -77.9432039 37.0581485, -77.942174 37.0561744, -77.9365091 37.058921, -77.9388266 37.0632984, -77.9389982 37.0678474, -77.9386549 37.0735122, -77.9287844 37.0713664, -77.9280977 37.0707656, -77.924407 37.0692207, -77.9232054 37.065015, -77.9262094 37.0580627, -77.9258661 37.0568611, -77.9256945 37.0554878, -77.9274969 37.0526554, -77.9304152 37.0546295, -77.9380541 37.0489646, -77.940629 37.0523979, -77.9554777 37.0473339, -77.9640608 37.0499088, -77.9717855 37.058406, -77.9719572 37.0596935, -77.977622 37.0598651, -77.980197 37.0609809, -77.983716 37.074628))))))

Project counties: Nottoway, VA



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: FASTC

Endangered Species Act Species-list

Dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*)

Listing Status: Endangered

Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii*)

Listing Status: Endangered

Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*)

Listing Status: Endangered



PEAKS TO PRAIRIES ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Verl Emrick
 1117 Suiter Road
 Bland, Virginia, 24315

Date: 6/23/2012

To: Kathleen Hall (FASTC EIS Project Manager_CARDNO TEC)

From: Verl Emrick (Ecologist _Peaks to Prairies Ecological Services)

Subject: Completion of the Survey of utility right-of-way for the Presence/Absence of Michaux's Sumac.

Background

On June 14, 2012 I conducted a survey for the federally endangered Michaux's Sumac (*Rhus michauxii*) on a utility right of way located on Nottoway Co. Virginia managed land adjacent to Fort Pickett-Maneuver Training Center. The right of way is part of a proposed project to build a training facility for FASTC.

Rhus michauxii Sargent (Michaux's sumac) is a 1.5 - 4.0 dm tall, densely pubescent, dioecious, rhizomatous shrub of the Anacardiaceae family (Radford et al. 1968). The narrow winged or wingless rachis supports 9 - 13 sessile, oblong leaflets that are 4 - 9 cm long, 2 - 5 cm wide, and acute to acuminate. Small, 4 - 5 parted, greenish-yellow flowers are borne in a dense, erect terminal cluster. The red fruit is borne on a 5 - 6 mm, broad densely pubescent panicle. Individual plants may have multiple flowering stems that are all the same sex. Michaux's sumac was first described 1895 by Sargent (1895) who considered it one of the most poisonous plants in North America. Subsequently it has been found not to cause allergic reactions in humans, hence one of its colloquial names, false poison sumac. Michaux's sumac is closely related to *Rhus glabra* L. (smooth sumac), and the two will occasionally hybridize (Hardin & Phillips 1985). Michaux's sumac is generally much shorter than smooth sumac, has a winged rachis, and is covered with dense hairs on both the leaves and stems.

Michaux's sumac was listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1989 (USFWS 1989) and was discovered on Army National Guard Maneuver Training Center-Fort Pickett (Fort Pickett) in 1993 (Fleming and Van Alstine 1994). Habitat loss and degradation through fire suppression, agricultural conversion, herbicide applications, and road construction were the main factors that led to the loss of Michaux's sumac habitat and the primary cause of the species' decline and reason for listing (Russo 1993, USFWS 1993). Other potential threats are hybridization with *R. glabra*, geographic isolation of small, single-sex populations, fungal disease, stem borers, and damage caused by off-target herbicide drift (Russo 1993). In addition, Wilkinson et al. (1996) found that *Eurytoma rhios* (a Chalcid wasp) parasitized seeds at Fort Pickett and reduced numbers of viable seed.

Michaux's sumac is endemic to the inner coastal plain and piedmont of the southeastern United States, where it occupies sandy or rocky savannas and open woods (USFWS 1993). These sites typically have low cation exchange capacities and depend on some form of disturbance to maintain the open character of the habitat (Boyer 1993). Primary disturbances are fire (accidental or prescribed), right-of-way maintenance, and agricultural brush clearing (USFWS 1993). Many authors concluded that Michaux's sumac requires a combination of soil disturbance and occasional fire to maintain a healthy population (Emrick and Hill 1997, 1998; Hardin and Phillips 1985; Russo 1993; Wilkinson et al. 1996; and USFWS 1993). Soil disturbance appears to stimulate rhizomatous growth, while periodic fire keeps other scrub/brush species from out-competing Michaux's sumac for sunlight and soil nutrients (Emrick and Jones 2008).

Methods

Prior to the field survey the site was investigated using aerial photography and the closest known colony of Michaux's sumac was identified. Previous surveys conducted in the Fort Pickett area were also reviewed to determine if there were previous records for Michaux's Sumac within the survey area.

The field survey was conducted on June 14, 2012. The entire right of way from Hurricane Branch to the Fort Pickett Border was traversed 4 times (Figures 1 and 2). All conspicuous plant species were identified (Note: This was not a complete botanical survey but I identified the vast majority of plants onsite). Any plant that resembled Michaux's sumac, even superficially, was closely examined. In addition, the habitat composition and structure was noted and compared to known Michaux's sumac habitat.

Results

The closest known location of Michaux's Sumac is colony 66 located approximately 7 km southeast of the survey site. This colony is located within the Controlled Access Area at Fort Pickett. No previous surveys have identified a colony within 7 km of the survey site.

There were 26 woody species and 47 herbaceous species identified during the field survey. **However, Michaux's sumac was not found to be growing at the site.** The habitat was dominated by coppice growth of sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*) and a variety of Oaks (*Quercus* spp.). The herbaceous stratum was mixed and had no consistent dominant species with deer tongue panic grass (*Dicanthelium clandestinum*), poverty grass (*Danthonia spicata*), broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*) and a variety of *Lespedeza* species being the most common (Plates 1 and 2). Based upon this survey and previous research the habitat has some vegetation components typical of Michaux's sumac habitat but because of the lack of disturbance (notably fire) the habitat is marginal at best. The Survey Summation Form is attached.

Literature Cited

- Emrick, V.R. and A. Hill. 1997. Density of *Rhus michauxii* stems at Fort Pickett Military Reservation, Virginia. United States Army Construction and Engineering Research Labs: Natural Resources, Assessment and Management Division. Technical Report: 97/111. 18 pp
- Emrick, V.R. and A. Hill. 1998. Plant community composition of *Rhus michauxii* colonies at Fort Pickett Military Reservation, Virginia with an ecological assessment of colonies Located on ranges 15 and 16. United States Army Construction and Engineering Research Labs: Natural Resources, Assessment and Management Division. Technical Report: 98/49. 54 pp.
- Emrick Verl R. and Jeff Jones. 2008. Influence of competition on the density of the federally endangered Michaux's Sumac (*Rhus michauxii*) at Fort Pickett, Virginia. Southeastern Naturalist. 7(1):61-68.
- Fleming, G.P. and N.E. Van Alstine. 1994. A natural heritage inventory of Fort Pickett, VA. Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage, Richmond, VA., Unpublished report submitted to U.S. Army. June 1994. 165 pp. plus appendices.
- Hardin, J.W. and L.L. Phillips. 1985. Hybridization in eastern North American *Rhus* (Anacardiaceae). Association of Southeastern Biologists Bulletin 32:99-106.
- Radford, A.E., H.E. Ahles, and C.R. Bell. 1968. Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC. 1,183 pp.
- Russo, M.J. 1993. Element stewardship abstract: *Rhus michauxii*. NC Nature Conservancy/NC Natural Heritage Program, Carrboro/Raleigh, NC. 10 pp.
- Wilkinson, C.A., H.A. DeMarco, and J.L. Jones. 1996. Viability, germination, and propagation of *Rhus michauxii* at Fort Pickett. Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blackstone, VA. 32 pp.
- USFWS. Federal Register. 1989. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: determination of endangered status for *Rhus michauxii* (Michaux's sumac) 54(187):39853-39857.
- USFWS. 1993. Michaux's sumac recovery plan. Southeast Region U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, GA.

3. Contact Information

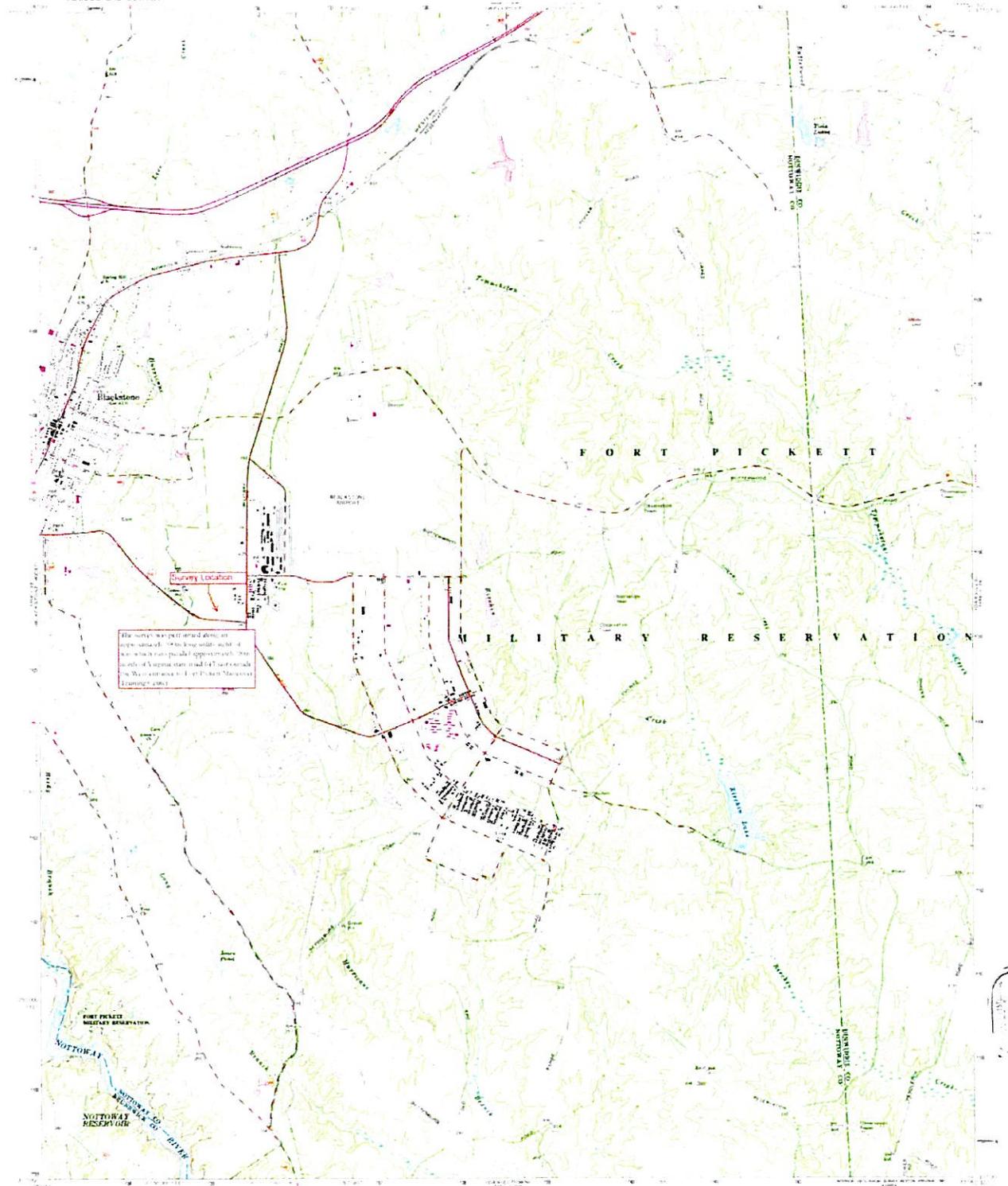
Verl Emrick
1117 Suiter Road
Bland, Va
Phone: 276-613-1424
vemrick@vt.edu

Figure 1

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES

BLACKSTONE EAST QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Map(s) edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control and data source:
 Topographic photography provided by the National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC), Fort Belvoir, VA
 Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Zone 18N
 Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83)
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 Elevation: 2000 feet (610 meters)
 Contour interval: 10 feet
 Elevation: 2000 feet (610 meters)

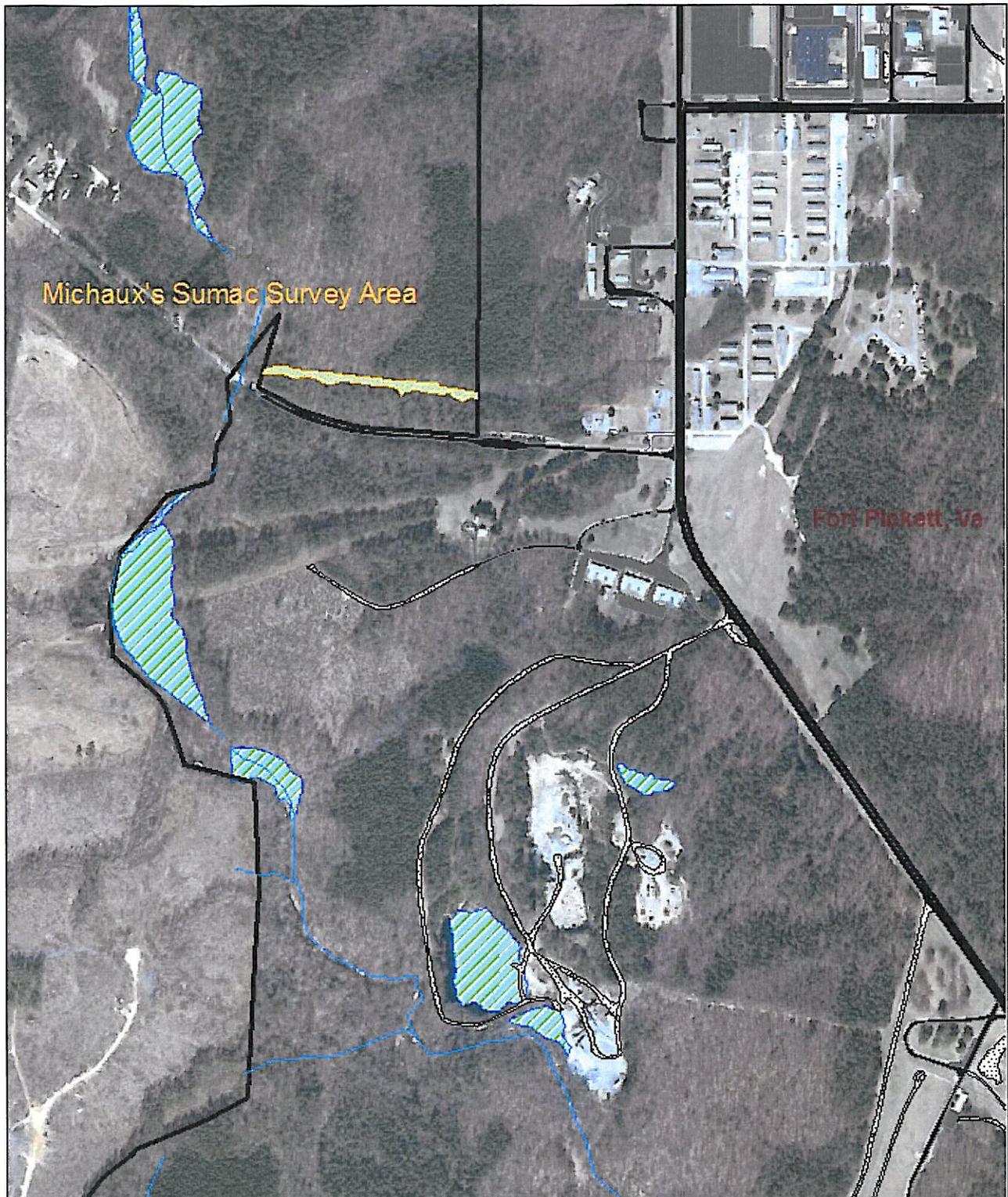
SCALE 1:24,000
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 METERS
 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000
 FEET
 NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC SURVEY
 UTM ZONE 18N
 DATUM: NAD 83
 ELEVATION: 2000 FEET (610 METERS)

BLACKSTONE EAST, VA
 1:24,000
 7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
 1984
 1:24,000
 7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1984 S O 40V
 1:24,000
 7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Michaux's Sumac FAST_C Survey Area



Legend

- stream_pick
- ▭ boundary_pickett2010
- ▨ nwwetlands

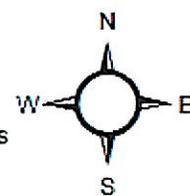
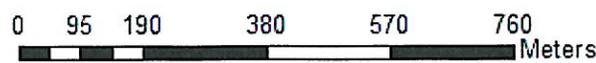




Plate 1: Overall habitat of right-of-way Michaux's sumac survey site Nottoway Co., Va.



Plate 1: Close up view of habitat of right-of-way Michaux's sumac survey site Nottoway Co., Va.

Please provide a clear copy of a USGS topographic map(s),
with the survey area(s) clearly indicated on the map(s).

SURVEY SUMMATION FORM		Year:	2012	
Report Title:	Survey of Utility Right-of-Way for the Presence of Michaux's Sumac			
Collector(s):	Verl R. Emrick			
Quad(s):	Blackstone East			
County / City:	Nottoway County, Virginia			
Survey Site Information ⁽¹⁾ :	See Attached			
Habitat Type:	<input type="radio"/> Appropriate <input type="radio"/> Not Appropriate <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Definitive			
SPECIES INFORMATION:				
Target Species:	Michaux's Sumac (<i>Rhus michauxii</i>)			
Target Species Found ?	<input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO			
Species (common or scientific name):	Number of Specimens ⁽²⁾			
	Live	Fresh Dead	Relic	Unspecified
Comments:				

(1) This is detailed information on where the survey was done (Example: 50 yards above, and 200 yards below the Route 623 crossing of the Pamunkey River). This information will assist in mapping of the survey data.
(2) Place a check mark in any of the columns if present but not counted.

VaFWIS Search Report Compiled on 5/14/2012, 11:47:00 AM

[Help](#)

Observations reported or potential habitat occurs within a **3 mile radius around point 37,03,22.2 -77,57,08.6**
in **135 Nottoway County, VA**

[View Map of Site Location](#)

353 Known or Likely Species ordered by Status Concern for Conservation (displaying first 21) (21 species with Status* or Tier I** or Tier II**)

BOVA Code	Status*	Tier**	Common Name	Scientific Name
010214	FESE	I	Logperch, Roanoke	Percina rex
060003	FESE	II	Wedgemussel, dwarf	Alasmidonta heterodon
040129	ST	I	Sandpiper, upland	Bartramia longicauda
040293	ST	I	Shrike, loggerhead	Lanius ludovicianus
040385	ST	I	Sparrow, Bachman's	Aimophila aestivalis
040093	FSST	II	Eagle, bald	Haliaeetus leucocephalus
060173	FSST	II	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni
010070	ST	IV	Shiner, whitemouth	Notropis alborus
040292	ST		Shrike, migrant loggerhead	Lanius ludovicianus migrans
060029	FS	III	Lance, yellow	Elliptio lanceolata
070105	FS	III	Crayfish, Chowanoke	Orconectes virginienis
030063	CC	III	Turtle, spotted	Clemmys guttata
010077		I	Shiner, bridle	Notropis bifrenatus
040225		I	Sapsucker, yellow-bellied	Sphyrapicus varius
040319		I	Warbler, black-throated green	Dendroica virens
010174		II	Bass, Roanoke	Ambloplites cavifrons
040052		II	Duck, American black	Anas rubripes
040213		II	Owl, northern saw-whet	Aegolius acadicus
040105		II	Rail, king	Rallus elegans
040320		II	Warbler, cerulean	Dendroica cerulea
040266		II	Wren, winter	Troglodytes troglodytes

To view **All 353 species** [View 353](#)

* FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened; FC=Federal Candidate; FS=Federal Species of Concern; CC=Collection Concern

** I=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier I - Critical Conservation Need; II=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier II - Very High Conservation Need; III=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier III - High Conservation Need; IV=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier IV - Moderate Conservation Need

NOTE: For ESA consultation purposes only those species listed as state or federally threatened or endangered were addressed in this correspondence and the entire VaFWIS species list is not enclosed.

Anadromous Fish Use Streams

N/A

Impediments to Fish Passage (2 records)

[View Map of All Fish Impediments](#)

ID	Name	River	View Map
226	BUTTERWOOD LAKE UPPER DAM	BIRCHIN CREEK	Yes
227	BUTTERWOOD LOWER DAM	BIRCHIN CREEK	Yes

Threatened and Endangered Waters

N/A

Managed Trout Streams

N/A

Bald Eagle Concentration Areas and Roosts

N/A

Bald Eagle Nests

N/A

Habitat Predicted for Aquatic WAP Tier I & II Species (3 Reaches)

[View Map Combined Reaches from Below of Habitat Predicted for WAP Tier I & II Aquatic Species](#)

Stream Name	Tier Species						View Map
	Highest TE*	BOVA Code, Status*, Tier**, Common & Scientific Name					
Birchin Creek (03010201)	FESE	010214	FESE	I	Logperch, Roanoke	Percina rex	Yes
		060173	FSST	II	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni	
Hurricane Branch (03010201)	FESE	010214	FESE	I	Logperch, Roanoke	Percina rex	Yes
		060173	FSST	II	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni	
Tommeheton Creek (03010201)	FESE	010214	FESE	I	Logperch, Roanoke	Percina rex	Yes
		060173	FSST	II	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni	

Habitat Predicted for Terrestrial WAP Tier I & II Species

BOVA Code	Status*	Tier**	Common Name	Scientific Name	View Map
040385	ST	I	Sparrow, Bachman's	Aimophila aestivalis	Yes

Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks (6 records)

[View Map of All Query Results Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks](#)

BBA ID	Atlas Quadrangle Block Name	Breeding Bird Atlas Species			View Map
		Different Species	Highest TE*	Highest Tier**	
47054	Blackstone East, CE	73		IV	Yes
47053	Blackstone East, CW	73		IV	Yes
47052	Blackstone East, NE	72		IV	Yes
47051	Blackstone East, NW	68		III	Yes
47056	Blackstone East, SE	63		IV	Yes
47055	Blackstone East, SW	71		IV	Yes

Public Holdings: (1 names)

Name	Agency	Level
Fort Pickett Military Reservation	U.S. Dept. of Army	Federal

Summary of BOVA Species Associated with Cities and Counties of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

FIPS Code	City and County Name	Different Species	Highest TE	Highest Tier
135	Nottoway	334	FESE	I

USGS 7.5' Quadrangles:

Blackstone West
Blackstone East

USGS NRCS Watersheds in Virginia:

N/A

USGS National 6th Order Watersheds Summary of Wildlife Action Plan Tier I, II, III, and IV Species:

HU6 Code	USGS 6th Order Hydrologic Unit	Different Species	Highest TE	Highest Tier
CU07	Nottoway River-Cedar Creek	60	FESE	I
CU08	Hurricane Branch-Long Branch	52	FESE	I
CU10	Tommeheton Creek	54	FESE	I
JA30	Cellar Creek	48	FSST	I

Site Location

37,03,22.1 -77,57,08.5

is the Search Point

Show Position Rings

Yes No

1 mile and 1/4 mile at the Search Point

Show Search Area

Yes No

Search distance miles radius

Search Point is at map center

Base Map Choices

Topography

Map Overlay Choices

Current List: Position, Search, BECAR, BAEANests, TEWaters, TierII, Habitat, Trout, Anadromous

Map Overlay Legend

T & E Waters

- Federal
- State

Trout Waters

- Class I - IV
- Class V - VI

Anadromous Fish Reach

- Confirmed
- Potential

Impediment

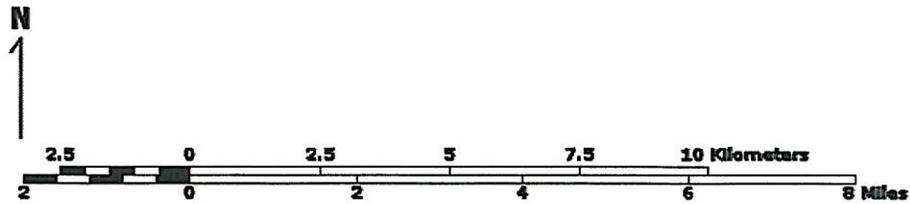
- Position Rings
- 1 mile and 1/4 mile at the

Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service



[Refresh Browser Page](#)

Map Click Pan In Zoom Out Screen Size Small Size Big [Help](#)



Point of Search 37,03,22.1 -77,57,08.5
Map Location 37,03,22.1 -77,57,08.5

 Search Point  3 mile radius Search Area Bald Eagle Concentration Areas and Roosts  Bald Eagle Nests  Data Observation Site <small>2 Mile WAP Tier I+II</small>	<p>Select Coordinate System: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Degrees,Minutes,Seconds Latitude - Longitude <input type="radio"/> Decimal Degrees Latitude - Longitude <input type="radio"/> Meters UTM NAD83 East North Zone <input type="radio"/> Meters UTM NAD27 East North Zone</p> <p>Base Map source: USGS 1:250,000 topographic maps (see Microsoft terraserver-usa.com for details)</p> <p>Map projection is UTM Zone 18 NAD 1983 with left 227881 and top 4114797. Pixel size is 32 meters . Coordinates displayed are Degrees, Minutes, Seconds North and West.Map is currently displayed as 600 columns by 600 rows for a total of 360000 pixles. The map display represents 19200 meters east to west by 19200 meters north to south for a total of 368.6 square kilometers. The map display represents 63002 feet east to west by 63002 feet north to south for a total of 142.3 square miles.</p> <p>A UTM Zone change occurs within the image.The left-hand side of the image is a pseudo projection from UTM Zone 17 into UTM Zone 18 resulting in reduced spatial accuracy within the portion of the image occurring in UTM Zone 17.</p> <p>Topographic maps and Black and white aerial photography for year 1990+- are from the United States Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey. Color aerial photography aquired 2002 is from Virginia Base Mapping Program, Virginia Geographic Information Network. Shaded topographic maps are from TOPO! ©2006 National Geographic http://www.national.geographic.com/topo All other map products are from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.</p> <p>map assembled 2012-05-14 11:48:05 (qa/qc December 1, 2011 15:16 - tn=395878.0 dist=4827 Visitor)</p>
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 © Copyright: 1998-2011 Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

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	Submit Query		

Enclosure 7 - Species Conclusion Table

Project Name: FASTC

Date: 6/10/2012

Species / Resource Name	Conclusion	ESA Section 7 / Eagle Act Determination	Notes / Documentation
Dwarf Wedgemussel (<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>)	No suitable habitat present. Spillway interferes with fish passage and their ability to transport larvae. All known populations of this species occur in Nottoway River mainstem.	No effect	
Roanoke Logperch (<i>Percina rex</i>)	No suitable habitat present. Spillway interferes with fish passage	No effect	
Michaux's Sumac (<i>Rhus michauxii</i>)	No Suitable habitat present	No effect	Survey Report included
Bald Eagle	Unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles Does not intersect with an eagle concentration area	No Eagle Act permit required	Cleared area required for facility construction is likely to extend into 660 foot buffer area. Facility will either be relocated outside of the buffer or constructed outside of nesting season (August –January). Clearing of trees that provide visual barrier between facility and nest will be minimized to the extent feasible.
Critical habitat	No critical habitat present	No effect	



Eagle Guidelines

Northeast Region

[Eagle Guidelines Home](#)

Bald Eagle Management Guidelines

[Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#)

Determining Whether Blasting or Conducting Other Activities with Loud, Intermittent Noises May Disturb Nesting Bald Eagles: Step 4

Step 4. Your activity is blasting or other loud, intermittent noises near nesting bald eagles during the breeding season.

[National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#)

You will avoid blasting and other activities that produce extremely loud noises within 1/2 mile of active nests (or within 1 mile in open areas), unless greater tolerance to the activity (or similar activity) has been demonstrated by the eagles in the nesting area. Therefore, disturbance of nesting bald eagles is unlikely to occur.

[Recreational Activities Precautions](#)

[New or Intermittent Activities Guidance](#)

You may print this page, then sign and date it for your records. This page documents that you are following the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recommendations for avoiding disturbance of nesting bald eagles.

[Additional Conservation Measures](#)

Management Guidelines At a Glance:

Two factors most influence an eagle's response to human activity:

1. The activity's visibility from the eagle nest and;
2. The regular occurrence of similar activities near the nest.

General recommendations to avoid disturbing nesting bald eagles:

1. Keep distance between the activity and the nest (distance buffers).
2. Maintain forested or natural areas between the activity and the nest tree (landscape buffers).
3. Avoid certain activities during the nesting season (timing buffers).

[Bald Eagle Natural History & Sensitivity](#)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

These recommendations are valid only for the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.

[Back](#)

Last updated: August 15, 2011



Eagle Guidelines

Northeast Region

Eagle Guidelines Home

Bald Eagle Management Guidelines

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

Determining Whether Construction or Development Activities may Disturb Nesting Bald Eagles: Step 6

Step 6. Documentation

You may document that you are following the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recommendations for avoiding disturbance of nesting bald eagles by printing this page, then signing and dating it for your records.

National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines

Your activity is: (Check your selection to document your choice)

Recreational Activities Precautions

- Building construction, 3 or more stories
- Building construction, 1 or 2 story, with a project footprint of more than 1/2 acre.
- Mining.
- Oil and natural gas drilling and refining.
- Installation or expansion of marinas with a capacity of 6 or more boats.

New or Intermittent Activities Guidance

Additional Conservation Measures

Bald Eagle Natural History & Sensitivity

Management Guidelines At a Glance:

Two factors most influence an eagle's response to human activity:

1. The activity's visibility from the eagle nest and;
2. The regular occurrence of similar activities near the nest.

General recommendations to avoid disturbing nesting bald eagles:

1. Keep distance between the activity and the nest (distance buffers).
2. Maintain forested or natural areas between the activity and the nest tree (landscape buffers).
3. Avoid certain activities during the nesting season (timing buffers).

The bald eagle nest (active or alternate nest) cannot be seen from the project site and there is no activity similar to your proposed project within 1 mile of the nest.

You will adopt the following recommendations to avoid disturbing nesting eagles and their young:

(1) maintain a **buffer** of at least 660 feet (200 meters) between all your activities and the nest (including active and alternate nests), and

(2) maintain established landscape buffers that screen the activity from the nest.

Therefore, disturbance of nesting bald eagles is unlikely to occur.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

These recommendations are valid only for the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.

Back

Last updated: August 15, 2011



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, Virginia 23061



Date:

Online Project Review Certification Letter

Project Name:

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Virginia Field Office online project review process. By printing this letter in conjunction with your project review package, you are certifying that you have completed the online project review process for the referenced project in accordance with all instructions provided, using the best available information to reach your conclusions. This letter, and the enclosed project review package, completes the review of your project in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884), as amended (ESA), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c, 54 Stat. 250), as amended (Eagle Act). This letter also provides information for your project review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, 83 Stat. 852), as amended. A copy of this letter and the project review package must be mailed to the address on the letterhead for this certification to be valid. This letter and the project review package will be maintained in our records.

The species conclusions table in the enclosed project review package summarizes your ESA and Eagle Act conclusions. These conclusions resulted in “no effect” and/or “not likely to adversely affect” determinations for listed species and critical habitat and/or “no Eagle Act permit required” determinations for eagles regarding potential effects of your proposed project. We certify that the use of the online project review process in strict accordance with the instructions provided as documented in the enclosed project review package results in reaching the appropriate determinations. Therefore, we concur with the “no effect” and “not likely to adversely affect” determinations for listed species and critical habitat and “no Eagle Act permit required” determinations for eagles. Additional coordination with this office is not needed.

Candidate species are not legally protected pursuant to the ESA. However, the Service encourages consideration of these species by avoiding adverse impacts to them. Please contact this office for additional coordination if your project action area contains candidate species.

Should project plans change or if additional information on the distribution of listed species, critical habitat, or bald eagles becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered. This certification letter is valid for one year.

Applicant

Page 2

Information about the online project review process including instructions and use, species information, and other information regarding project reviews within Virginia is available at our website http://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/endspecies/project_reviews.html. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Smith of this office at (804) 693-6694, extension 124.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cynthia A. Schulz

Cindy Schulz
Supervisor
Virginia Field Office

Enclosures - project review package



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Douglas W. Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Robert W. Duncan
Executive Director

July 30, 2012

Erika Fuery
179 Main Street 100 Plaza Middlesex 3rd Floor,
Middletown, CT 06457
Email erika.fuery@cardnotec.com

**Re: Proposed Development of a Foreign Affairs Security Training Center
in Nottoway County**

Dear Ms. Fuery:

We appreciate your interest in submitting your project(s) for review by VDGIF to ensure the protection of sensitive wildlife resources during project development. Unfortunately, due to staffing limitations, our Fish and Wildlife Information Services Section (FWIS) is unable to review or provide an assessment of any projects submitted to them for review.

No response from VDGIF does not constitute "no comment" nor does it imply support of the project or associated activities. It simply means VDGIF has not been able to respond.

If you should have further questions or need additional information, please visit:
<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/environmental-programs/>

Please feel free to attach a copy of this letter/email with your project paper work.

Thank You and Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Gladys D. Cason".

Mrs. Gladys D. Cason
Environmental Services Division
Phone: (804) 367-0909 Fax: (804) 367-2427
gladys.cason@dgif.virginia.gov



GSA Mid-Atlantic Region

July 16, 2012

Gladys Cason
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Environmental Services Section
P.O. Box 11104
4010 W. Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23230

Re: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECURITY TRAINING CENTER (FASTC) IN NOTTOWAY COUNTY, VIRGINIA BY THE U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY.

Dear Ms. Cason,

The United States (U.S.) General Services Administration (GSA) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed acquisition of land and development of a U.S. Department of State (DOS), Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC). This letter is to request informal consultation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, including review of GSA's determination for the proposed action.

GSA is the action proponent for the proposed project and is acting in cooperation with DOS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Guard Bureau. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will have permitting authority over this action as it would affect waters of the U.S. (i.e. jurisdictional wetlands) and would participate in consultation with your agency, if deemed necessary.

Project Description

The proposed development would occur on four parcels of land at the Army National Guard Maneuver Training Center (ARNG-MTC) and Pickett Park in Nottoway County, Virginia, near the town of Blackstone (Enclosure 1); referred to herein as ARNG-MTC Parcels 21/20 and Grid Parcel and Nottoway County LRA Parcel 9 and LRA Parcel 10. These parcels comprise the "Action Area" (Enclosure 1). The use of Parcel 21/20 would be authorized by a Land Use Agreement implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding with VAARNG, and LRA Parcels 9 and 10 would be purchased from Nottoway County.

The project would consolidate existing dispersed training functions into a single location to improve training efficiency and enhance the training operations of DS. At project completion, the proposed FASTC would be a complete training center for 8,000-10,000 students annually. The facility would provide state-of-the-art instruction in soft and hard skills, as well as administrative and life support functions, including a residential campus. Facilities that would be constructed to support the FASTC program include a Main Campus (classrooms, dormitories and other life support, administration, and security), a Mock Urban Tactical Training Area, High Speed Driving Tracks, Off Road/Unimproved Driving Tracks, Firing Ranges, and Explosives Ranges.

U.S. General Services Administration
20 N. 8th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3191
www.gsa.gov

FASTC would be developed in three phases between 2014 and 2020 and would require the clearing of approximately 1,400 acres of primarily forested land for the construction of facilities.

GSA is considering two build alternatives for the proposed FASTC facility and a no action alternative. The main differences between the build alternatives are the location of the Main Campus and the layout of the project on two parcels versus four parcels. The two action alternatives consist of varied layouts that consider the programmatic requirements of the proposed FASTC facility and configurations that minimize environmental impacts. Design of this project has not been completed and a final decision on the preferred alternative has not yet been made. Therefore, GSA is requesting your review of both alternatives, which are described below and depicted on Enclosures 2 and 3.

- Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, the facilities would be constructed on Parcel 21/20 and LRA Parcel 9 (Enclosure 2). The Main Campus would be centrally located on a plateau along the western boundary of Parcel 21/20. Locating the Main Campus on a plateau of Parcel 21/20 utilizes a relatively flat area to minimize re-grading. A dense development footprint minimizes encroachment on existing wetlands.

Firing Ranges would be located in the east-central portion of Parcel 21/20, northeast of the campus area. Range buildings are located to maximize the use of existing roads and an existing ARNG-MTC 300 meter firing range (Range 8), which would minimize the area of development and associated environmental impacts.

Explosives Ranges would be located in the northern portion of Parcel 21/20. Access to the Explosives Ranges would be achieved with a combination of new roads and existing tank trails. Individual explosive pads are positioned to keep all blast fragment clearances entirely within Parcel 21/20 boundaries.

The Mock Urban Tactical Training Area would be situated in the eastern portion of LRA Parcel 9 and the High Speed Driving Track and Off Road/Unimproved Driving Track Areas would occupy the majority of the remaining land area. FASTC Emergency Services (EMS) would be co-located with the ARNG-MTC EMS adjacent to the southern boundary of LRA Parcel 9, on Military Road to take advantage of synergies between the agencies.

- Alternative 2

Alternative 2 includes all of the FASTC program elements that are included in Alternative 1. The Main Campus would be located on LRA Parcel 10 to the west of LRA Parcel 9 and the Explosive Ranges would be constructed in an alternative configuration (Enclosure 3).

Similar to Alternative 1, the High Speed Driving Tracks and Off Road/Unimproved Driving Track Areas would be located on LRA Parcel 9; however, the driving tracks would be spaced farther apart and Mock Urban Tactical Training Area would be located on the Grid Parcel.

State Threatened and Endangered species

A Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service (VaFWIS) query was conducted on an area with a 3-mile radius that fully encompassed the project parcels as well as outlying areas (Enclosure 4). The following species were listed by the VaFWIS as having potential to occur in the project area and are afforded legal

status under the provisions of the Virginia Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act (Chapter 10 §3.2-1000 through 1011 of the Code of Virginia):

Status*	Common Name	Scientific Name
FESE	Logperch, Roanoke	<i>Percina rex</i>
FESE	Woodpecker, Red-cockaded	<i>Picoides borealis</i>
FESE	Wedgemussel, Dwarf	<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>
ST	Sandpiper, Upland	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>
ST	Shrike, Loggerhead	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>
ST	Shrike, Migrant loggerhead	<i>Lanius ludovicianus migrans</i>
ST	Sparrow, Bachman's	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>
FSST	Pigtoe, Atlantic	<i>Fusconaia masoni</i>
ST	Shiner, Whitemouth	<i>Notropis alborus</i>
FS*ST	Eagle, Bald	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>

FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened; FS=Federal Species of Concern* The Bald Eagle was removed from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in 2007.

The Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*) typically inhabits medium-to-large, warm, usually clear streams and small rivers of moderate to low gradient. Adults usually inhabit the main body of stream pools, runs, and riffles and select areas with exposed, silt free gravel substrate (USFWS 2003a). An online inquiry with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Fish and Wildlife Information Service identified approximately 300 feet of Hurricane Branch, along the western boundary of LRA Parcel 10, as potential Roanoke Logperch habitat. The potential for logperch to occur in this area is low due the presence of a downstream spillway that would hinder fish movements and because of adverse impacts to stream tributaries from utility crossings. No development on LRA Parcel 10 would occur along the banks of Hurricane Branch and no stream crossings of this waterbody are proposed. One stream crossing is proposed across a tributary to Hurricane Branch. This tributary has been previously disturbed by the installation of underground utilities. No in-stream work would occur in Hurricane Branch or its tributaries eliminating the potential for direct impacts to Roanoke logperch. The use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sedimentation and erosion control during all aspects of FASTC construction would eliminate the potential for impacts to surface waters on or downstream of the project area, including Hurricane Branch and its tributaries. Therefore, GSA has determined that the proposed action would have no effect on Roanoke logperch.

Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) is listed as an endangered species within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Red-cockaded woodpeckers require open pine woodlands and savannahs with large old pines for nesting and roosting habitat. Large old pines are required as cavity trees because the cavities are excavated completely within inactive heartwood, so that the cavity interior remains free from resin that can entrap the birds. Also, old pines are preferred as cavity trees, because of the higher incidence of the heartwood decay that greatly facilitates cavity excavation. Cavity trees must be in open stands with little or no hardwood midstory and few or no overstory hardwoods, a condition frequently resulting from periodic burning of the understory. Hardwood encroachment resulting from fire suppression is a well-known cause of cluster abandonment(USFWS 2003b). The habitat on the FASTC parcels is dominated by closed canopy forests. The limited grassland areas are managed by frequent

mowing rather than prescribed burning. As a result, the habitat on the project area parcels would not meet the habitat requirements for Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers. Additionally, according to the Ft. Pickett Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, this species has never been documented at Fort Pickett. Therefore, this species would not occur in the project area.

The dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*) lives on muddy sand, sand, and gravel bottoms in creeks and rivers of various sizes. It requires areas of slow to moderate current, good water quality, and little silt deposition. The only known population of dwarf wedgemussel in Nottoway County is found in the main stem of the Nottoway River (USFWS 1993). This species is not known to occur in the project area, however, the use of BMPs for sedimentation and erosion control during all aspects of FASTC construction would eliminate the potential for impacts to surface waters on or downstream of the project area, thereby eliminating any potential impacts to dwarf wedgemussel should they be present on LRA Parcel in Hurricane Branch. Therefore, GSA has determined that the proposed action would have no effect on dwarf wedgemussel.

Upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) are birds of open grasslands and short-grass prairie. They may be found in large fallow fields, pastures and grassy areas greater than 250 acres. Upland sandpipers need a mosaic of grasses in a large area, using the shorter grass areas for foraging and courtship and the taller grasses for nesting and brood cover (PGC 2009a). They are likely a fall migrant in Nottoway County. None of the grassland areas within the study area are large enough to be considered upland sandpiper habitat and this species is not likely to be present.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) is a resident subspecies of shrike. Loggerhead shrikes prefer short grass pastures with scattered shrubs and fencerows or small utility lines. They have been observed using agricultural landscapes, shelterbelts, cemeteries, golf courses and reclaimed strip mines in other parts of their range. Essential elements in suitable habitat include short grasses and forbs interspersed with perching locations for hunting and shrubs/small trees for nesting (PGC 2009b). Where shrubs and low trees are not present, there are no occurrences of shrikes (USACE 1997). Preferred nest trees include thorny species (e.g. hawthorn and locust), presumably to deter predators from getting to the eggs (PGC 2009b). Territories are usually about 15-20 acres in size (Dechant et. al. 2002). Prescribed burns are beneficial to shrike habitat because it reduces midstory woody vegetation and promotes herbaceous layer which increases prey (USACE 1997). According to the Fort Pickett INRMP, loggerhead shrikes have never been documented at Fort Pickett (VAANG 2007). The habitat present in the study areas does not meet the requirements for loggerhead shrike; therefore, this species is not likely to be present in the project area.

Migrant Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*) is a migrant subspecies of shrike that differs slightly in coloring and has shorter wings than the resident species of shrike. Breeding season is similar to resident shrike, but migratory populations of shrike head northward to breeding ground from early April to May (USACE 1997). The habitat for migrant loggerhead shrike is similar to that of resident shrike. Migrant loggerhead Shrike have never been documented or observed at Fort Pickett. In addition, the habitat present in the study areas does not meet the requirements for migrant loggerhead shrike and this species is not likely to be present in the project area.

Bachman's sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*) historically inhabited open pine forests, but has also adapted to open clear cuts and utility right-of-ways where open grassy habitat exists. It has been observed on Fort Pickett in association with areas frequently burned, however areas burned too infrequently or too frequently are abandoned (VAARNG 2007). Bachman sparrow is commonly found in pine savannahs

with sparse understory and shrub growth, or areas with adequate ground cover of grass and forbs. All confirmed sightings of Bachman's Sparrows at ARNG-MTC Fort Pickett to date have been within or just north of the Controlled Access Area, approximately 2,000 feet from Parcel 21/20. The Controlled Access Area is an approximately 10,500-acre area where VAARNG conducts live-fire training in convoy operations, helicopter door gunnery, engineer breach lanes, defense, aerial gunnery, and combined arms operations. The frequent fires caused by military training that occur in the Controlled Access Area provide the necessary habitat for Bachman's sparrow (VAARNG 2007). Bachman sparrow have not been documented on the project area parcels and because of the lack of burn maintenance, the project area parcels do not contain suitable habitat for Bachman's sparrow (VAARNG 2007). Therefore, this species is not likely to occur.

Atlantic Pigtoe (*Fusconaia masoni*) require fast-flowing, well-oxygenated streams and are restricted to fairly pristine habitats. They are very sensitive to sedimentation and channel modification, and the larvae are extremely sensitive to pollution (Wolf 2010). The Nottoway River is habitat to one of the healthiest populations of Atlantic pigtoe. Extensive surveys for this species have been conducted at Fort Pickett and all known populations are located in the Nottoway River mainstem to the south of the study area (Wolf 2010). According to VAFWIS, there is predicted habitat present for Atlantic pigtoe in the southern 300 feet of Hurricane Branch where it forms the southwest boundary of LRA Parcel 10. The potential for habitat to be present on LRA Parcel 10 was confirmed through a field survey of the reach as the stream substrate was observed to be composed of sand and finer sediment, with visible flow and an average depth of six inches. However, this reach and its tributaries have been subject to disturbance from road and utility crossings. Additionally, a spillway is present on Hurricane Branch to the south of Parcel 10 that would impede movement of Atlantic pigtoe upstream from the known populations in the Nottoway River. Therefore, this species is not likely to occur within the project area. However, BMPs for sedimentation and erosion control would be employed during all aspects of FASTC construction to eliminate the potential for impacts to surface waters on or downstream of the project area, thereby ensuring there would be no impacts to Atlantic pigtoe in downstream areas.

Whitemouth Shiner (*Notropis alborus*) are known to occur from North Carolina river drainages to Virginia where they occur in the Chowan and Roanoke drainages. Shiner inhabit small to medium sized warm streams that are high to medium gradient. They prefer clear to turbid water streams with sand to rubble bedrock substrate and a swift current with alternating pools and riffles. Whitemouth shiner habitat is threatened by development and land use practices that cause sedimentation of stream characteristics and by impoundments (Naturserve 2012). The stream located on LRA Parcel 9 are all listed on the Virginia 303(d) list of impaired waters due to nonattainment of the dissolved oxygen standard. The stream does not meet its designated use for aquatic life. Therefore, it is unlikely to support populations of whitemouth shiner. Parcel 21/20 contains Birch Creek and several unnamed tributaries. Birch Creek contains two large manmade impoundments and many portions of its drainage is slow moving and marshy, forming extensive wetlands. The presence of the impoundments would prevent the movement of fish between the Nottoway River and Birch Lake to the south of the 21/20 parcel. The low stream flows and marsh habitats associated with Birch Creek are not likely to support populations of Whitemouth shiner. Therefore this species is not likely to occur on Parcel 21/20. Hurricane Branch is located along the western boundary of LRA Parcel 10. This stream is primarily composed of sand and finer sediment, has visible perennial flow and an average depth of 6 inches at its southern extent. Therefore, it would provide suitable habitat for whitemouth shiner. A spillway is present on Hurricane Branch to the south of Parcel 10 that would impede upstream movement of fish and therefore this species is not likely to occur in the Parcel 10 project area. Construction for FASTC at this location would not occur within 100 feet of the stream and BMPs for sedimentation and erosion

control would be employed during all aspects of FASTC construction to eliminate the potential for impacts to surface waters on or downstream of the project area, thereby ensuring there would be no impacts to whitemouth shiner should they be present in downstream areas.

In addition to the species listed by VAFWIS, Michaux's sumac was identified by the USFWS as having the potential to occur in the project area (Enclosure 5). Michaux's sumac is known to occur on ARNG-MTC, and all known stands of this plant have been mapped (VAARNG 2007). Michaux's sumac is unlikely to occur on Parcel 21/20, Grid Parcel or LRA Parcel 9. The fringe areas of the forests on these parcels are dominated by shrubs that are much larger than Michaux's sumac, and it would not be able to compete for space and necessary resources in these areas. The frequent use of mowing instead of prescribed burning of open areas on the parcels also renders the habitat unlikely to support this species. Potential habitat for Michaux's sumac was identified during the habitat review of LRA Parcel 10 along the southernmost power utility easement. One site access road is planned to traverse this easement. GSA conducted a survey for Michaux's sumac in June 2012, and this species was not identified on the parcel.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

Although no longer a listed species under the Endangered Species Act, bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) are known to occur at ARNG-MTC Fort Pickett and are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and are listed as threatened by the Commonwealth of Virginia. There are two known active bald eagle nests on ARNG-MTC; however, no eagle concentration areas are present. One active nest (Nest Code: NY0801) is located on Hurricane Branch approximately 2.5 miles south of LRA Parcel 9. This nesting site would not be affected by the proposed action. A second active bald eagle nest was discovered near Parcel 21/20 during a 2012 field survey conducted for the EIS and VDGIF has not yet assigned it a nest code. It is unknown at this time if this is a recurrent nest, if this nest has ever successfully fledged young, or whether the nest will be used again in the future. VAARNG has advised that they intend to perform studies of the nest. The nest is located approximately 440 feet east and 225 feet south of the southeast 21/20 parcel boundary, near existing VAARNG outdoor firing ranges (Enclosures 2 and 3).

The closest proposed FASTC project facilities to the nest are indoor firing range buildings and classrooms. Operations at these facilities are not likely to disturb nesting eagles as most noise and activity would be contained within the buildings. Moreover, the nest is currently located within an environment of similar activity because it is located approximately 1,000 feet west of an existing VAARNG outdoor firing range. This range is the closest to the nest and is not associated with the FASTC project. The range is used by VAARNG.

Under Alternative 1, construction of the southernmost firing range building would occur within 660 feet of the nest. If bald eagles are using this nest at the time of planned construction of this firing range building, construction would be scheduled to occur only between August and January, outside of the eagle nesting season. Under Alternative 2, construction of the southernmost firing range building would occur outside of the 660 foot buffer. Under either alternative, the nest is not visible from the proposed construction areas due to the presence of pine forest between the site and the nest. As part of design specifications, the clearing of trees around the facility at the Alternative 1 location would be minimized to the maximum extent practicable to avoid any potential line of sight impacts to the nest.

Outdoor firing ranges and explosives pads associated with FASTC are not anticipated to disturb nesting eagles. The closest proposed explosives pad is located approximately 2,800 feet away from the nest site and the noise produced by it would be similar to current noise levels produced at ARNG-MTC. The

closest outdoor firing range proposed for use for the FASTC project is located approximately 1,750 feet northeast of the eagle nest at an existing VAARNG range (300 Meter Range). The increased use of the 300 Meter Range (Range 8) is not anticipated to disturb nesting eagles as the birds would be accustomed to noise disturbance by the various existing VAARNG ranges in the area.

GSA will coordinate with USFWS and VADCR to implement measures to minimize impacts of the proposed action on bald eagles to ensure that there are no "takes" of bald eagles as defined by 16 U.S.C. 668-668c.

We appreciate your review of the proposed project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 215-446-4570 or myles.goodman@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,



Myles Goodman
General Services Administration

Enclosures: 1. Project Location Map
 2. Alternative 1 Site Map
 3. Alternative 2 Site Map
 4. VaFWIS Initial Project Assessment
 5. USFWS Official Species List

Cc:

Virginia Army National Guard – Fort Pickett
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Division of Natural Heritage
U.S. Department of State

References:

Dechant, J. A., M. L. Sondreal, D. H. Johnson, L. D. Igl, C. M. Goldade, M. P. Nenneman, A. L. Zimmerman, and B. R. Euliss. 1998 (revised 2002). Effects of management practices on grassland birds: Loggerhead Shrike. Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, ND. 19 pages.

NatureServe. 2012. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: May 7, 2012).

Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) 2009a. Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). November 13, 2009.

PGC 2009b. Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). October 16, 2009.

USACE. 1997. Species Profile: Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) on Military Installations in the Southeastern United States. Technical Report SERDP-97-8. September.

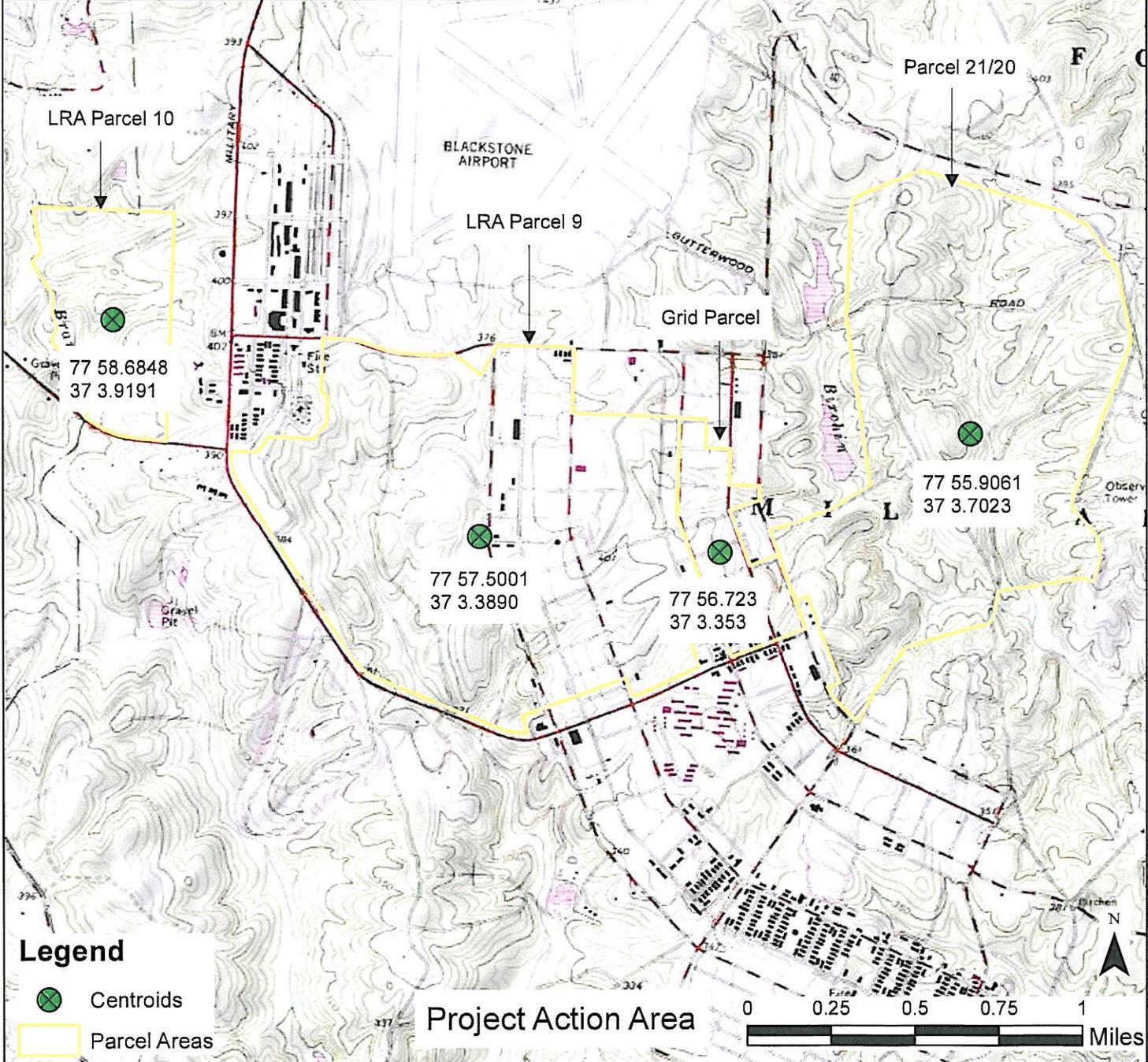
USFWS 2003a. Fact Sheet: Roanoke Logperch (*Percina rex*). August 2003.

USFWS 2003b. Recovery Plan for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*): Second Revision. January 27, 2003.

USFWS 1993. Dwarf Wedge Mussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*) Recovery Plan. February 8, 1993.

VAARNG 2007. Draft Final Revision Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and Environmental Assessment Fort Pickett Maneuver Training Center Blackstone, Virginia. FY 2007.

Wolf 2010. Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program. Project Number 09-450. Propagation of Species At Risk Atlantic Pigtoe on Military Installations. April 30, 2010.



Enclosure 2



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECURITY TRAINING CENTER
MASTER PLAN
FORT PICKETT, BLACKSTONE, VA

BUILD ALTERNATIVE 1

JULY 17, 2012

RHODESIDE & HARWELL

KARN CHARUHAS CHAPMAN & TWOHEY
Architectural | Planning | Interiors
1120 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 1250
Washington, DC 20036 202 659 5600 www.kccct.com

K C
C T

VaFWIS Search Report Compiled on 5/14/2012, 11:47:00 AM

[Help](#)

Observations reported or potential habitat occurs within a **3 mile radius around point 37,03,22.2 -77,57,08.6** in **135 Nottoway County, VA**

[View Map of Site Location](#)

353 Known or Likely Species ordered by Status Concern for Conservation (displaying first 21) (21 species with Status* or Tier I** or Tier II**)

BOVA Code	Status*	Tier**	Common Name	Scientific Name
010214	FESE	I	Logperch, Roanoke	Percina rex
060003	FESE	II	Wedgemussel, dwarf	Alasmidonta heterodon
040129	ST	I	Sandpiper, upland	Bartramia longicauda
040293	ST	I	Shrike, loggerhead	Lanius ludovicianus
040385	ST	I	Sparrow, Bachman's	Aimophila aestivalis
040093	FSST	II	Eagle, bald	Haliaeetus leucocephalus
060173	FSST	II	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni
010070	ST	IV	Shiner, whitemouth	Notropis alborus
040292	ST		Shrike, migrant loggerhead	Lanius ludovicianus migrans
060029	FS	III	Lance, yellow	Elliptio lanceolata
070105	FS	III	Crayfish, Chowanoke	Orconectes virginienis
030063	CC	III	Turtle, spotted	Clemmys guttata
010077		I	Shiner, bridle	Notropis bifrenatus
040225		I	Sapsucker, yellow-bellied	Sphyrapicus varius
040319		I	Warbler, black-throated green	Dendroica virens
010174		II	Bass, Roanoke	Ambloplites cavifrons
040052		II	Duck, American black	Anas rubripes
040213		II	Owl, northern saw-whet	Aegolius acadicus
040105		II	Rail, king	Rallus elegans
040320		II	Warbler, cerulean	Dendroica cerulea
040266		II	Wren, winter	Troglodytes troglodytes

To view **All 353 species** [View 353](#)

* FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened; FC=Federal Candidate; FS=Federal Species of Concern; CC=Collection Concern

** I=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier I - Critical Conservation Need; II=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier II - Very High Conservation Need; III=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier III - High Conservation Need; IV=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier IV - Moderate Conservation Need

NOTE: For ESA consultation purposes only those species listed as state or federally threatened or endangered were addressed in this correspondence and the entire VaFWIS species list is not enclosed.

Anadromous Fish Use Streams

N/A

Impediments to Fish Passage (2 records)

[View Map of All Fish Impediments](#)

ID	Name	River	View Map
226	BUTTERWOOD LAKE UPPER DAM	BIRCHIN CREEK	Yes
227	BUTTERWOOD LOWER DAM	BIRCHIN CREEK	Yes

Threatened and Endangered Waters

N/A

Managed Trout Streams

N/A

Bald Eagle Concentration Areas and Roosts

N/A

Bald Eagle Nests

N/A

Habitat Predicted for Aquatic WAP Tier I & II Species (3 Reaches)

[View Map Combined Reaches from Below of Habitat Predicted for WAP Tier I & II Aquatic Species](#)

Stream Name	Tier Species						View Map
	Highest TE*	BOVA Code, Status*, Tier**, Common & Scientific Name					
Birchin Creek (03010201)	FESE	010214	FESE	I	Logperch, Roanoke	Percina rex	Yes
		060173	FSST	II	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni	
Hurricane Branch (03010201)	FESE	010214	FESE	I	Logperch, Roanoke	Percina rex	Yes
		060173	FSST	II	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni	
Tommeheton Creek (03010201)	FESE	010214	FESE	I	Logperch, Roanoke	Percina rex	Yes
		060173	FSST	II	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni	

Habitat Predicted for Terrestrial WAP Tier I & II Species

BOVA Code	Status*	Tier**	Common Name	Scientific Name	View Map
040385	ST	I	Sparrow, Bachman's	Aimophila aestivalis	Yes

Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks (6 records)

[View Map of All Query Results](#)
[Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks](#)

BBA ID	Atlas Quadrangle Block Name	Breeding Bird Atlas Species			View Map
		Different Species	Highest TE*	Highest Tier**	
47054	Blackstone East, CE	73		IV	Yes
47053	Blackstone East, CW	73		IV	Yes
47052	Blackstone East, NE	72		IV	Yes
47051	Blackstone East, NW	68		III	Yes
47056	Blackstone East, SE	63		IV	Yes
47055	Blackstone East, SW	71		IV	Yes

Public Holdings: (1 names)

Name	Agency	Level
Fort Pickett Military Reservation	U.S. Dept. of Army	Federal

Summary of BOVA Species Associated with Cities and Counties of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

FIPS Code	City and County Name	Different Species	Highest TE	Highest Tier
135	Nottoway	334	FESE	I

USGS 7.5' Quadrangles:

Blackstone West
 Blackstone East

USGS NRCS Watersheds in Virginia:

N/A

USGS National 6th Order Watersheds Summary of Wildlife Action Plan Tier I, II, III, and IV Species:

HU6 Code	USGS 6th Order Hydrologic Unit	Different Species	Highest TE	Highest Tier
CU07	Nottoway River-Cedar Creek	60	FESE	I
CU08	Hurricane Branch-Long Branch	52	FESE	I
CU10	Tommeheton Creek	54	FESE	I
JA30	Cellar Creek	48	FSST	I

Site Location

37,03,22.1 -77,57,08.5
is the Search Point

Show Position Rings
 Yes No
 1 mile and 1/4 mile at the Search Point

Show Search Area
 Yes No
 Search distance miles radius

Search Point is at map center

Base Map Choices

Map Overlay Choices
 Current List: Position, Search, BECAR, BAEANests, TEWaters, TierII, Habitat, Trout, Anadromous

Map Overlay Legend

T & E Waters

- Federal
- State

Trout Waters

- Class I - IV
- Class V - VI

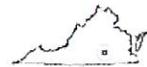
Anadromous Fish Reach

- Confirmed
- Potential

J23 Impediment

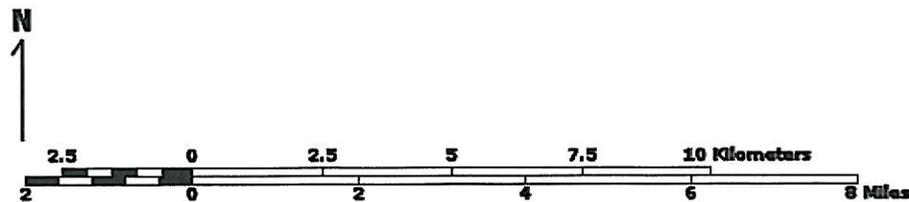
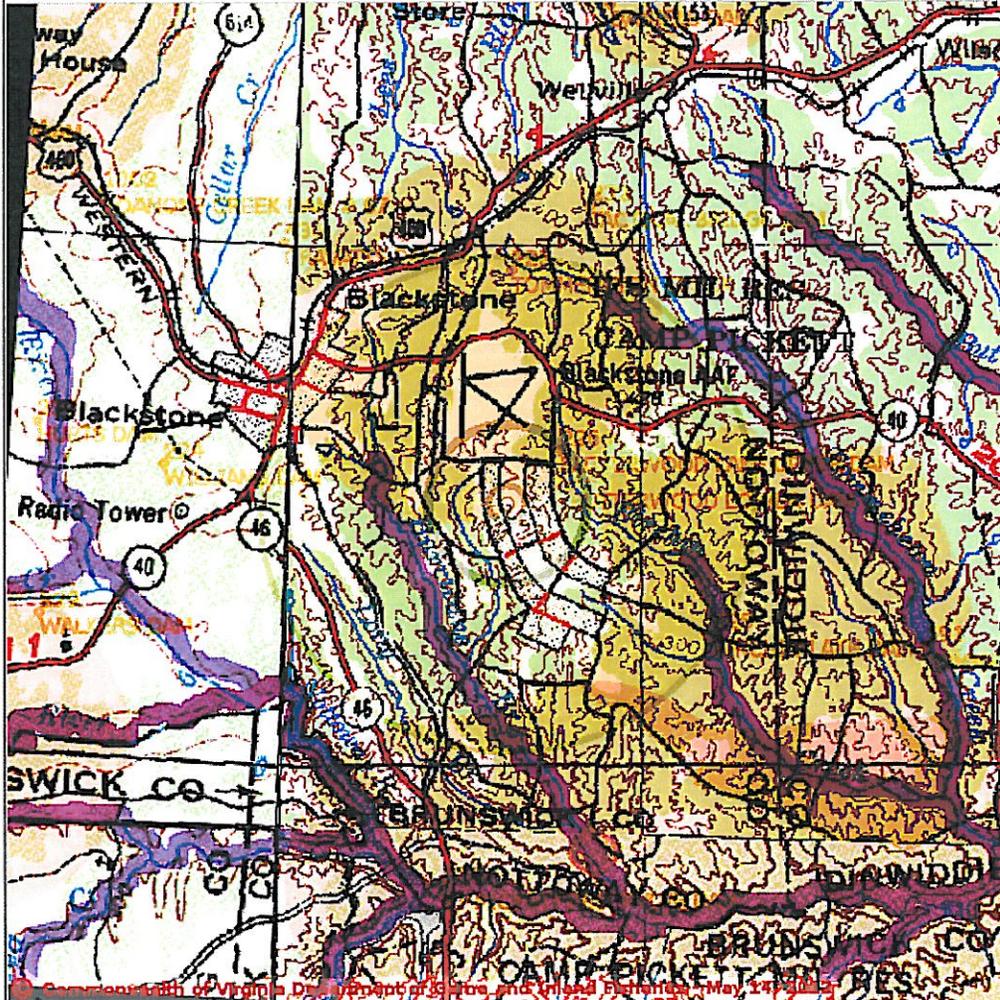
Position Rings
 1 mile and 1/4 mile at the

Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service



[Refresh Browser Page](#)

Map Click Pan In Zoom Out Screen Size Small Size Big [Help](#)



Point of Search 37,03,22.1 -77,57,08.5
 Map Location 37,03,22.1 -77,57,08.5

Search Point

3 mile radius Search Area

Bald Eagle Concentration Areas and Roosts

Bald Eagle Nests

Data Observation Sites

Select **Coordinate System:** Degrees,Minutes,Seconds Latitude - Longitude
 Decimal Degrees Latitude - Longitude
 Meters UTM NAD83 East North Zone
 Meters UTM NAD27 East North Zone

Base Map source: USGS 1:250,000 topographic maps (see [Microsoft terraserver-usa.com](http://Microsoft.terraserver-usa.com) for details)

Map projection is UTM Zone 18 NAD 1983 with left 227881 and top 4114797. Pixel size is 32 meters . Coordinates displayed are Degrees, Minutes, Seconds North and West.Map is currently displayed as 600 columns by 600 rows for a total of 360000 pixles. The map display represents 19200 meters east to west by 19200 meters north to south for a total of 368.6 square kilometers. The map display represents 63002 feet east to west by 63002 feet north to south for a total of 142.3 square miles.

A UTM Zone change occurs within the image.The left-hand side of the image is a pseudo projection from UTM Zone 17 into UTM Zone 18 resulting in reduced spatial accuracy within the portion of the image occurring in UTM Zone 17.

Topographic maps and Black and white aerial photography for year 1990+- are from the United States Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey. Color aerial photography aquired 2002 is from Virginia Base Mapping Program, Virginia Geographic Information Network.
 Shaded topographic maps are from TOPO! ©2006 National Geographic
<http://www.national.geographic.com/topo>
 All other map products are from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

map assembled 2012-05-14 11:48:05 (qa/qc December 1, 2011 15:16 - tn=395878.0 dist=4827 Visitor)

| [DGIF](#) | [Credits](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | Contact shirl.dressler@dgif.virginia.gov |Please view our [privacy policy](#) |
 © Copyright: 1998-2011 Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

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		0	
	Submit Query		



Project name: FASTC

Official Species-list: *FASTC*

Virginia Ecological Services Field Office

Following is an official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species-list from the Virginia Ecological Services Field Office. The species-list identifies listed and proposed species and designated and proposed critical habitat that may be affected by the project "FASTC". You may use this list to meet the requirements of section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA).

This species-list has been generated by the Service's on-line Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) decision support system based on project type and location information you provided on March 23, 2012, 9:35 AM. This information is summarized below.

Please reference our tracking number, 05E2VA00-2012-SLI-0488, in future reference to this project to assist in expediting the process.

Newer information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of listed species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact the office(s) identified below if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential presence of federally proposed, listed, or candidate species, or proposed or designated critical habitat. Please note that under the ESA, a species-list is valid for 90 days. Therefore, the Service recommends that you visit the IPaC site at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species-lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive this list. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

This list below only addresses federally proposed, listed, or candidate species and federally designated critical habitat. Please contact the appropriate State agencies for information regarding State species of special designation. Also, please feel free to contact the office(s) identified below if you would like information on other important trust resources (such as migratory birds) in your project area.



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: FASTC

This Species-list document is provided by:

VIRGINIA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

6669 SHORT LANE

GLOUCESTER, VA 23061

(804) 693-6694

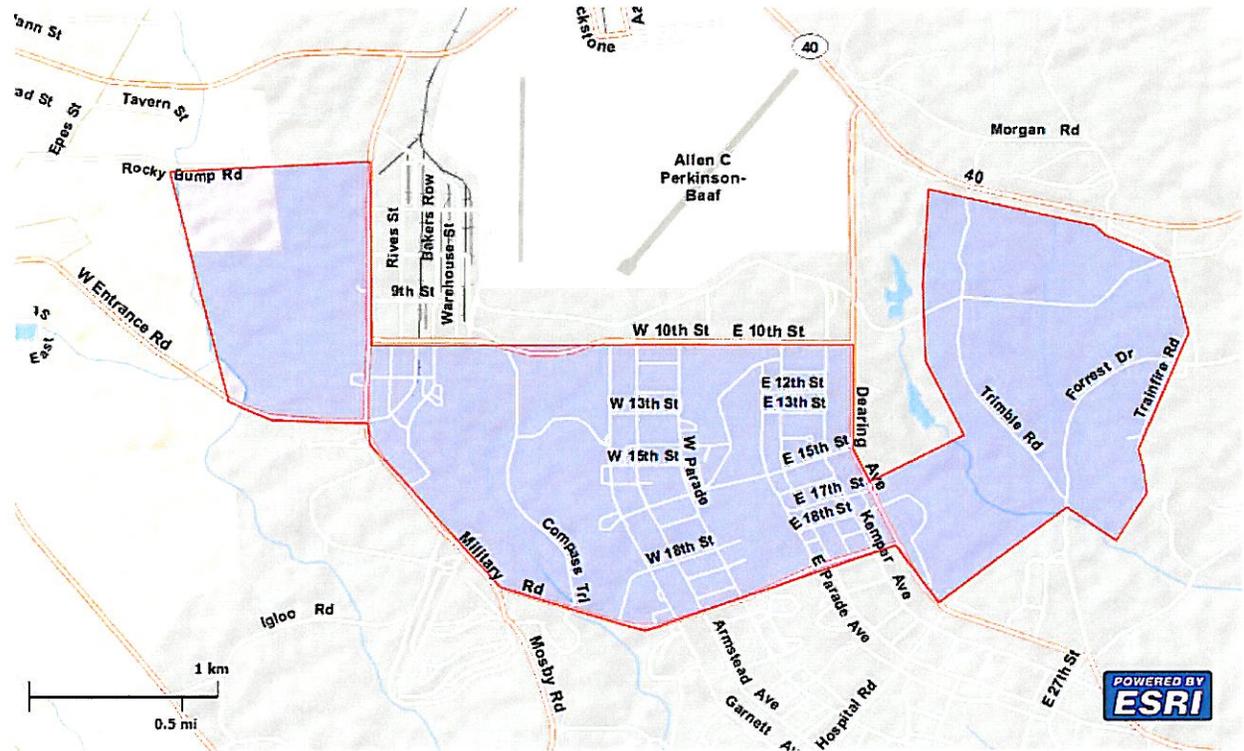
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/>

TAILS consultation code: 05E2VA00-2012-SLI-0488

Project type: Development



Project location map:



Project coordinates: MULTIPOLYGON (((-77.983716 37.074628, -77.9717855 37.0752288, -77.9716997 37.0643283, -77.9432039 37.0643283, -77.9432039 37.0581485, -77.942174 37.0561744, -77.9365091 37.058921, -77.9388266 37.0632984, -77.9389982 37.0678474, -77.9386549 37.0735122, -77.9287844 37.0713664, -77.9280977 37.0707656, -77.924407 37.0692207, -77.9232054 37.065015, -77.9262094 37.0580627, -77.9258661 37.0568611, -77.9256945 37.0554878, -77.9274969 37.0526554, -77.9304152 37.0546295, -77.9380541 37.0489646, -77.940629 37.0523979, -77.9554777 37.0473339, -77.9640608 37.0499088, -77.9717855 37.058406, -77.9719572 37.0596935, -77.977622 37.0598651, -77.980197 37.0609809, -77.983716 37.074628)))

Project counties: Nottoway, VA



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: FASTC

Endangered Species Act Species-list

Dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmodonta heterodon*)

Listing Status: Endangered

Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii*)

Listing Status: Endangered

Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*)

Listing Status: Endangered



GSA Mid-Atlantic Region

July 16, 2012

Ms. Rene Hypes
Environmental Review Coordinator
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Division of Natural Heritage
217 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECURITY TRAINING CENTER (FASTC) IN NOTTOWAY COUNTY, VIRGINIA BY THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY.

Dear Ms. Hypes,

The United States (U.S.) General Services Administration (GSA) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed acquisition of land and development of a U.S. Department of State (DOS), Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC). This letter is to request informal consultation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, including review of GSA's determination for the proposed action.

GSA is the action proponent for the proposed project and is acting in cooperation with DOS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Guard Bureau. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will have permitting authority over this action as it would affect waters of the U.S. (i.e. jurisdictional wetlands) and would participate in consultation with your agency, if deemed necessary.

Project Description

The proposed development would occur on four parcels of land at the Army National Guard Maneuver Training Center (ARNG-MTC) and Pickett Park in Nottoway County, Virginia, near the town of Blackstone (Enclosure 1); referred to herein as ARNG-MTC Parcels 21/20 and Grid Parcel and Nottoway County LRA Parcel 9 and LRA Parcel 10. These parcels comprise the "Action Area" (Enclosure 1). The use of Parcel 21/20 would be authorized by a Land Use Agreement implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding with VAARNG, and LRA Parcels 9 and 10 would be purchased from Nottoway County.

The project would consolidate existing dispersed training functions into a single location to improve training efficiency and enhance the training operations of DS. At project completion, the proposed FASTC would be a complete training center for 8,000-10,000 students annually. The facility would provide state-of-the-art instruction in soft and hard skills, as well as administrative and life support functions, including a residential campus. Facilities that would be constructed to support the FASTC program include a Main Campus (classrooms, dormitories and other life support, administration, and security), a Mock Urban Tactical Training Area, High Speed Driving Tracks, Off Road/Unimproved Driving Tracks, Firing Ranges, and Explosives Ranges.

U.S. General Services Administration
20 N. 8th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3191
www.gsa.gov

FASTC would be developed in three phases between 2014 and 2020 and would require the clearing of approximately 1,400 acres of primarily forested land for the construction of facilities.

GSA is considering two build alternatives for the proposed FASTC facility and a no action alternative. The main differences between the build alternatives are the location of the Main Campus and the layout of the project on two parcels versus four parcels. The two action alternatives consist of varied layouts that consider the programmatic requirements of the proposed FASTC facility and configurations that minimize environmental impacts. Design of this project has not been completed and a final decision on the preferred alternative has not yet been made. Therefore, GSA is requesting your review of both alternatives, which are described below and depicted on Enclosures 2 and 3.

- Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, the facilities would be constructed on Parcel 21/20 and LRA Parcel 9 (Enclosure 2). The Main Campus would be centrally located on a plateau along the western boundary of Parcel 21/20. Locating the Main Campus on a plateau of Parcel 21/20 utilizes a relatively flat area to minimize re-grading. A dense development footprint minimizes encroachment on existing wetlands.

Firing Ranges would be located in the east-central portion of Parcel 21/20, northeast of the campus area. Range buildings are located to maximize the use of existing roads and an existing ARNG-MTC 300 meter firing range (Range 8), which would minimize the area of development and associated environmental impacts.

Explosives Ranges would be located in the northern portion of Parcel 21/20. Access to the Explosives Ranges would be achieved with a combination of new roads and existing tank trails. Individual explosive pads are positioned to keep all blast fragment clearances entirely within Parcel 21/20 boundaries.

The Mock Urban Tactical Training Area would be situated in the eastern portion of LRA Parcel 9 and the High Speed Driving Track and Off Road/Unimproved Driving Track Areas would occupy the majority of the remaining land area. FASTC Emergency Services (EMS) would be co-located with the ARNG-MTC EMS adjacent to the southern boundary of LRA Parcel 9, on Military Road to take advantage of synergies between the agencies.

- Alternative 2

Alternative 2 includes all of the FASTC program elements that are included in Alternative 1. The Main Campus would be located on LRA Parcel 10 to the west of LRA Parcel 9 and the Explosive Ranges would be constructed in an alternative configuration (Enclosure 3).

Similar to Alternative 1, the High Speed Driving Tracks and Off Road/Unimproved Driving Track Areas would be located on LRA Parcel 9; however, the driving tracks would be spaced farther apart and Mock Urban Tactical Training Area would be located on the Grid Parcel.

State Threatened and Endangered species

A Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service (VaFWIS) query was conducted on an area with a 3-mile radius that fully encompassed the project parcels as well as outlying areas (Enclosure 4). The following species were listed by the VaFWIS as having potential to occur in the project area and are afforded legal

status under the provisions of the Virginia Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act (Chapter 10 §3.2-1000 through 1011 of the Code of Virginia):

Status*	Common Name	Scientific Name
FESE	Logperch, Roanoke	<i>Percina rex</i>
FESE	Woodpecker, Red-cockaded	<i>Picoides borealis</i>
FESE	Wedgemussel, Dwarf	<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>
ST	Sandpiper, Upland	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>
ST	Shrike, Loggerhead	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>
ST	Shrike, Migrant loggerhead	<i>Lanius ludovicianus migrans</i>
ST	Sparrow, Bachman's	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>
FSST	Pigtoe, Atlantic	<i>Fusconaia masoni</i>
ST	Shiner, Whitemouth	<i>Notropis alborus</i>
FS*ST	Eagle, Bald	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>

FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened; FS=Federal Species of Concern* The Bald Eagle was removed from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in 2007.

The Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*) typically inhabits medium-to-large, warm, usually clear streams and small rivers of moderate to low gradient. Adults usually inhabit the main body of stream pools, runs, and riffles and select areas with exposed, silt free gravel substrate (USFWS 2003a). An online inquiry with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Fish and Wildlife Information Service identified approximately 300 feet of Hurricane Branch, along the western boundary of LRA Parcel 10, as potential Roanoke Logperch habitat. The potential for logperch to occur in this area is low due the presence of a downstream spillway that would hinder fish movements and because of adverse impacts to stream tributaries from utility crossings. No development on LRA Parcel 10 would occur along the banks of Hurricane Branch and no stream crossings of this waterbody are proposed. One stream crossing is proposed across a tributary to Hurricane Branch. This tributary has been previously disturbed by the installation of underground utilities. No in-stream work would occur in Hurricane Branch or its tributaries eliminating the potential for direct impacts to Roanoke logperch. The use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sedimentation and erosion control during all aspects of FASTC construction would eliminate the potential for impacts to surface waters on or downstream of the project area, including Hurricane Branch and its tributaries. Therefore, GSA has determined that the proposed action would have no effect on Roanoke logperch.

Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) is listed as an endangered species within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Red-cockaded woodpeckers require open pine woodlands and savannahs with large old pines for nesting and roosting habitat. Large old pines are required as cavity trees because the cavities are excavated completely within inactive heartwood, so that the cavity interior remains free from resin that can entrap the birds. Also, old pines are preferred as cavity trees, because of the higher incidence of the heartwood decay that greatly facilitates cavity excavation. Cavity trees must be in open stands with little or no hardwood midstory and few or no overstory hardwoods, a condition frequently resulting from periodic burning of the understory. Hardwood encroachment resulting from fire suppression is a well-known cause of cluster abandonment(USFWS 2003b). The habitat on the FASTC parcels is dominated by closed canopy forests. The limited grassland areas are managed by frequent

mowing rather than prescribed burning. As a result, the habitat on the project area parcels would not meet the habitat requirements for Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers. Additionally, according to the Ft. Pickett Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, this species has never been documented at Fort Pickett. Therefore, this species would not occur in the project area.

The dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*) lives on muddy sand, sand, and gravel bottoms in creeks and rivers of various sizes. It requires areas of slow to moderate current, good water quality, and little silt deposition. The only known population of dwarf wedgemussel in Nottoway County is found in the main stem of the Nottoway River (USFWS 1993). This species is not known to occur in the project area, however, the use of BMPs for sedimentation and erosion control during all aspects of FASTC construction would eliminate the potential for impacts to surface waters on or downstream of the project area, thereby eliminating any potential impacts to dwarf wedgemussel should they be present on LRA Parcel in Hurricane Branch. Therefore, GSA has determined that the proposed action would have no effect on dwarf wedgemussel.

Upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) are birds of open grasslands and short-grass prairie. They may be found in large fallow fields, pastures and grassy areas greater than 250 acres. Upland sandpipers need a mosaic of grasses in a large area, using the shorter grass areas for foraging and courtship and the taller grasses for nesting and brood cover (PGC 2009a). They are likely a fall migrant in Nottoway County. None of the grassland areas within the study area are large enough to be considered upland sandpiper habitat and this species is not likely to be present.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) is a resident subspecies of shrike. Loggerhead shrikes prefer short grass pastures with scattered shrubs and fencerows or small utility lines. They have been observed using agricultural landscapes, shelterbelts, cemeteries, golf courses and reclaimed strip mines in other parts of their range. Essential elements in suitable habitat include short grasses and forbs interspersed with perching locations for hunting and shrubs/small trees for nesting (PGC 2009b). Where shrubs and low trees are not present, there are no occurrences of shrikes (USACE 1997). Preferred nest trees include thorny species (e.g. hawthorn and locust), presumably to deter predators from getting to the eggs (PGC 2009b). Territories are usually about 15-20 acres in size (Dechant et. al. 2002). Prescribed burns are beneficial to shrike habitat because it reduces midstory woody vegetation and promotes herbaceous layer which increases prey (USACE 1997). According to the Fort Pickett INRMP, loggerhead shrikes have never been documented at Fort Pickett (VAANG 2007). The habitat present in the study areas does not meet the requirements for loggerhead shrike; therefore, this species is not likely to be present in the project area.

Migrant Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*) is a migrant subspecies of shrike that differs slightly in coloring and has shorter wings than the resident species of shrike. Breeding season is similar to resident shrike, but migratory populations of shrike head northward to breeding ground from early April to May (USACE 1997). The habitat for migrant loggerhead shrike is similar to that of resident shrike. Migrant loggerhead Shrike have never been documented or observed at Fort Pickett. In addition, the habitat present in the study areas does not meet the requirements for migrant loggerhead shrike and this species is not likely to be present in the project area.

Bachman's sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*) historically inhabited open pine forests, but has also adapted to open clear cuts and utility right-of-ways where open grassy habitat exists. It has been observed on Fort Pickett in association with areas frequently burned, however areas burned too infrequently or too frequently are abandoned (VAARNG 2007). Bachman sparrow is commonly found in pine savannahs

with sparse understory and shrub growth, or areas with adequate ground cover of grass and forbs. All confirmed sightings of Bachman's Sparrows at ARNG-MTC Fort Pickett to date have been within or just north of the Controlled Access Area, approximately 2,000 feet from Parcel 21/20. The Controlled Access Area is an approximately 10,500-acre area where VAARNG conducts live-fire training in convoy operations, helicopter door gunnery, engineer breach lanes, defense, aerial gunnery, and combined arms operations. The frequent fires caused by military training that occur in the Controlled Access Area provide the necessary habitat for Bachman's sparrow (VAARNG 2007). Bachman sparrow have not been documented on the project area parcels and because of the lack of burn maintenance, the project area parcels do not contain suitable habitat for Bachman's sparrow (VAARNG 2007). Therefore, this species is not likely to occur.

Atlantic Pigtoe (*Fusconaia masoni*) require fast-flowing, well-oxygenated streams and are restricted to fairly pristine habitats. They are very sensitive to sedimentation and channel modification, and the larvae are extremely sensitive to pollution (Wolf 2010). The Nottoway River is habitat to one of the healthiest populations of Atlantic pigtoe. Extensive surveys for this species have been conducted at Fort Pickett and all known populations are located in the Nottoway River mainstem to the south of the study area (Wolf 2010). According to VAFWIS, there is predicted habitat present for Atlantic pigtoe in the southern 300 feet of Hurricane Branch where it forms the southwest boundary of LRA Parcel 10. The potential for habitat to be present on LRA Parcel 10 was confirmed through a field survey of the reach as the stream substrate was observed to be composed of sand and finer sediment, with visible flow and an average depth of six inches. However, this reach and its tributaries have been subject to disturbance from road and utility crossings. Additionally, a spillway is present on Hurricane Branch to the south of Parcel 10 that would impede movement of Atlantic pigtoe upstream from the known populations in the Nottoway River. Therefore, this species is not likely to occur within the project area. However, BMPs for sedimentation and erosion control would be employed during all aspects of FASTC construction to eliminate the potential for impacts to surface waters on or downstream of the project area, thereby ensuring there would be no impacts to Atlantic pigtoe in downstream areas.

Whitemouth Shiner (*Notropis alborus*) are known to occur from North Carolina river drainages to Virginia where they occur in the Chowan and Roanoke drainages. Shiner inhabit small to medium sized warm streams that are high to medium gradient. They prefer clear to turbid water streams with sand to rubble bedrock substrate and a swift current with alternating pools and riffles. Whitemouth shiner habitat is threatened by development and land use practices that cause sedimentation of stream characteristics and by impoundments (Naturserve 2012). The stream located on LRA Parcel 9 are all listed on the Virginia 303(d) list of impaired waters due to nonattainment of the dissolved oxygen standard. The stream does not meet its designated use for aquatic life. Therefore, it is unlikely to support populations of whitemouth shiner. Parcel 21/20 contains Birch Creek and several unnamed tributaries. Birch Creek contains two large manmade impoundments and many portions of its drainage is slow moving and marshy, forming extensive wetlands. The presence of the impoundments would prevent the movement of fish between the Nottoway River and Birch Lake to the south of the 21/20 parcel. The low stream flows and marsh habitats associated with Birch Creek are not likely to support populations of Whitemouth shiner. Therefore this species is not likely to occur on Parcel 21/20. Hurricane Branch is located along the western boundary of LRA Parcel 10. This stream is primarily composed of sand and finer sediment, has visible perennial flow and an average depth of 6 inches at its southern extent. Therefore, it would provide suitable habitat for whitemouth shiner. A spillway is present on Hurricane Branch to the south of Parcel 10 that would impede upstream movement of fish and therefore this species is not likely to occur in the Parcel 10 project area. Construction for FASTC at this location would not occur within 100 feet of the stream and BMPs for sedimentation and erosion

control would be employed during all aspects of FASTC construction to eliminate the potential for impacts to surface waters on or downstream of the project area, thereby ensuring there would be no impacts to whitemouth shiner should they be present in downstream areas.

In addition to the species listed by VAFWIS, Michaux's sumac was identified by the USFWS as having the potential to occur in the project area (Enclosure 5). Michaux's sumac is known to occur on ARNG-MTC, and all known stands of this plant have been mapped (VAARNG 2007). Michaux's sumac is unlikely to occur on Parcel 21/20, Grid Parcel or LRA Parcel 9. The fringe areas of the forests on these parcels are dominated by shrubs that are much larger than Michaux's sumac, and it would not be able to compete for space and necessary resources in these areas. The frequent use of mowing instead of prescribed burning of open areas on the parcels also renders the habitat unlikely to support this species. Potential habitat for Michaux's sumac was identified during the habitat review of LRA Parcel 10 along the southernmost power utility easement. One site access road is planned to traverse this easement. GSA conducted a survey for Michaux's sumac in June 2012, and this species was not identified on the parcel.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

Although no longer a listed species under the Endangered Species Act, bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) are known to occur at ARNG-MTC Fort Pickett and are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and are listed as threatened by the Commonwealth of Virginia. There are two known active bald eagle nests on ARNG-MTC; however, no eagle concentration areas are present. One active nest (Nest Code: NY0801) is located on Hurricane Branch approximately 2.5 miles south of LRA Parcel 9. This nesting site would not be affected by the proposed action. A second active bald eagle nest was discovered near Parcel 21/20 during a 2012 field survey conducted for the EIS and VDGIF has not yet assigned it a nest code. It is unknown at this time if this is a recurrent nest, if this nest has ever successfully fledged young, or whether the nest will be used again in the future. VAARNG has advised that they intend to perform studies of the nest. The nest is located approximately 440 feet east and 225 feet south of the southeast 21/20 parcel boundary, near existing VAARNG outdoor firing ranges (Enclosures 2 and 3).

The closest proposed FASTC project facilities to the nest are indoor firing range buildings and classrooms. Operations at these facilities are not likely to disturb nesting eagles as most noise and activity would be contained within the buildings. Moreover, the nest is currently located within an environment of similar activity because it is located approximately 1,000 feet west of an existing VAARNG outdoor firing range. This range is the closest to the nest and is not associated with the FASTC project. The range is used by VAARNG.

Under Alternative 1, construction of the southernmost firing range building would occur within 660 feet of the nest. If bald eagles are using this nest at the time of planned construction of this firing range building, construction would be scheduled to occur only between August and January, outside of the eagle nesting season. Under Alternative 2, construction of the southernmost firing range building would occur outside of the 660 foot buffer. Under either alternative, the nest is not visible from the proposed construction areas due to the presence of forest between the site and the nest. As part of design specifications, the clearing of trees around the facility at the Alternative 1 location would be minimized to the maximum extent practicable to avoid any potential line of sight impacts to the nest.

Outdoor firing ranges and explosives pads associated with FASTC are not anticipated to disturb nesting eagles. The closest proposed explosives pad is located approximately 2,800 feet away from the nest site and the noise produced by it would be similar to current noise levels produced at ARNG-MTC. The

closest outdoor firing range proposed for use for the FASTC project is located approximately 1,750 feet northeast of the eagle nest at an existing VAARNG range (300 Meter Range). The increased use of the 300 Meter Range (Range 8) is not anticipated to disturb nesting eagles as the birds would be accustomed to noise disturbance from existing VAARNG ranges in the area.

GSA will coordinate with USFWS and VADIF to implement measures to minimize impacts of the proposed action on bald eagles to ensure that there are no "takes" of bald eagles as defined by 16 U.S.C. 668-668c.

We appreciate your review of the proposed project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 215-446-4570 or myles.goodman@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,



Myles Goodman
General Services Administration

Enclosures: 1. Project Location Map
 2. Alternative 1 Site Map
 3. Alternative 2 Site Map
 4. VaFWIS Initial Project Assessment
 5. USFWS Official Species List

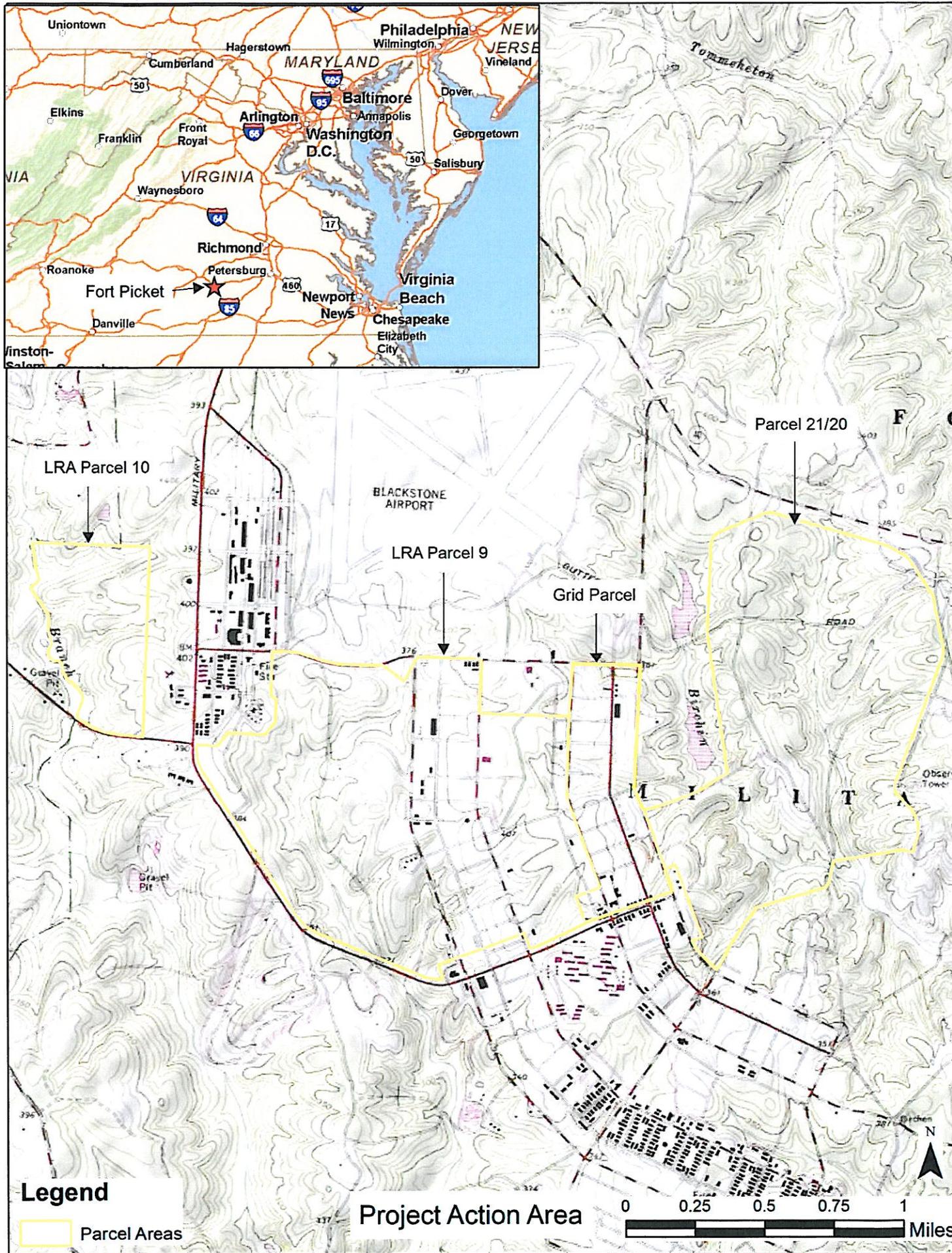
Cc:
Virginia Army National Guard – Fort Pickett
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
U.S. Department of State

References:

Dechant, J. A., M. L. Sondreal, D. H. Johnson, L. D. Igl, C. M. Goldade, M. P. Nenneman, A. L. Zimmerman, and B. R. Euliss. 1998 (revised 2002). Effects of management practices on grassland birds: Loggerhead Shrike. Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, ND. 19 pages.

- NatureServe. 2012. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: May 7, 2012).
- Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) 2009a. Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). November 13, 2009.
- PGC 2009b. Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). October 16, 2009.
- USACE. 1997. Species Profile: Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) on Military Installations in the Southeastern United States. Technical Report SERDP-97-8. September.
- USFWS 2003a. Fact Sheet: Roanoke Logperch (*Percina rex*). August 2003.
- USFWS 2003b. Recovery Plan for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*): Second Revision. January 27, 2003.
- USFWS 1993. Dwarf Wedge Mussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*) Recovery Plan. February 8, 1993.
- VAARNG 2007. Draft Final Revision Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and Environmental Assessment Fort Pickett Maneuver Training Center Blackstone, Virginia. FY 2007.
- Wolf 2010. Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program. Project Number 09-450. Propagation of Species At Risk Atlantic Pigtoe on Military Installations. April 30, 2010.

Enclosure 1



Enclosure 2



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECURITY TRAINING CENTER
MASTER PLAN
FORT PICKETT, BLACKSTONE, VA

BUILD ALTERNATIVE 1

JULY 17, 2012

RHODESIDE & HARWELL

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Enclosure 3



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECURITY TRAINING CENTER
MASTER PLAN
FORT PICKETT, BLACKSTONE, VA

BUILD ALTERNATIVE 2

JULY 17, 2012



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Architecture | Planning | Interiors
1120 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 1250
Washington, DC 20036 202 659 5600 www.kccct.com

VaFWIS Search Report Compiled on 5/14/2012, 11:47:00 AM

[Help](#)

Observations reported or potential habitat occurs within a **3 mile radius around point 37,03,22.2 -77,57,08.6** in **135 Nottoway County, VA**

[View Map of Site Location](#)

353 Known or Likely Species ordered by Status Concern for Conservation (displaying first 21) (21 species with Status* or Tier I** or Tier II**)

BOVA Code	Status*	Tier**	Common Name	Scientific Name
010214	FESE	I	Logperch, Roanoke	Percina rex
060003	FESE	II	Wedgemussel, dwarf	Alasmidonta heterodon
040129	ST	I	Sandpiper, upland	Bartramia longicauda
040293	ST	I	Shrike, loggerhead	Lanius ludovicianus
040385	ST	I	Sparrow, Bachman's	Aimophila aestivalis
040093	FSST	II	Eagle, bald	Haliaeetus leucocephalus
060173	FSST	II	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni
010070	ST	IV	Shiner, whitemouth	Notropis alborus
040292	ST		Shrike, migrant loggerhead	Lanius ludovicianus migrans
060029	FS	III	Lance, yellow	Elliptio lanceolata
070105	FS	III	Crayfish, Chowanoke	Orconectes virginianensis
030063	CC	III	Turtle, spotted	Clemmys guttata
010077		I	Shiner, bridle	Notropis bifrenatus
040225		I	Sapsucker, yellow-bellied	Sphyrapicus varius
040319		I	Warbler, black-throated green	Dendroica virens
010174		II	Bass, Roanoke	Ambloplites cavifrons
040052		II	Duck, American black	Anas rubripes
040213		II	Owl, northern saw-whet	Aegolius acadicus
040105		II	Rail, king	Rallus elegans
040320		II	Warbler, cerulean	Dendroica cerulea
040266		II	Wren, winter	Troglodytes troglodytes

To view **All 353 species** [View 353](#)

* FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened; FC=Federal Candidate; FS=Federal Species of Concern; CC=Collection Concern

** I=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier I - Critical Conservation Need; II=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier II - Very High Conservation Need; III=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier III - High Conservation Need; IV=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier IV - Moderate Conservation Need

NOTE: For ESA consultation purposes only those species listed as state or federally threatened or endangered were addressed in this correspondence and the entire VaFWIS species list is not enclosed.

Anadromous Fish Use Streams

N/A

Impediments to Fish Passage (2 records)

[View Map of All Fish Impediments](#)

ID	Name	River	View Map
226	BUTTERWOOD LAKE UPPER DAM	BIRCHIN CREEK	Yes
227	BUTTERWOOD LOWER DAM	BIRCHIN CREEK	Yes

Threatened and Endangered Waters

N/A

Managed Trout Streams

N/A

Bald Eagle Concentration Areas and Roosts

N/A

Bald Eagle Nests

N/A

Habitat Predicted for Aquatic WAP Tier I & II Species (3 Reaches)

[View Map Combined Reaches from Below of Habitat Predicted for WAP Tier I & II Aquatic Species](#)

Stream Name	Tier Species						View Map
	Highest TE*	BOVA Code, Status*, Tier**, Common & Scientific Name					
Birchin Creek (03010201)	FESE	010214	FESE	I	Logperch, Roanoke	Percina rex	Yes
		060173	FSST	II	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni	
Hurricane Branch (03010201)	FESE	010214	FESE	I	Logperch, Roanoke	Percina rex	Yes
		060173	FSST	II	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni	
Tommeheton Creek (03010201)	FESE	010214	FESE	I	Logperch, Roanoke	Percina rex	Yes
		060173	FSST	II	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni	

Habitat Predicted for Terrestrial WAP Tier I & II Species

BOVA Code	Status*	Tier**	Common Name	Scientific Name	View Map
040385	ST	I	Sparrow, Bachman's	Aimophila aestivalis	Yes

Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks (6 records)

[View Map of All Query Results Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks](#)

BBA ID	Atlas Quadrangle Block Name	Breeding Bird Atlas Species			View Map
		Different Species	Highest TE*	Highest Tier**	
47054	Blackstone East, CE	73		IV	Yes
47053	Blackstone East, CW	73		IV	Yes
47052	Blackstone East, NE	72		IV	Yes
47051	Blackstone East, NW	68		III	Yes
47056	Blackstone East, SE	63		IV	Yes
47055	Blackstone East, SW	71		IV	Yes

Public Holdings: (1 names)

Name	Agency	Level
Fort Pickett Military Reservation	U.S. Dept. of Army	Federal

Summary of BOVA Species Associated with Cities and Counties of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

FIPS Code	City and County Name	Different Species	Highest TE	Highest Tier
135	Nottoway	334	FESE	I

USGS 7.5' Quadrangles:

Blackstone West
Blackstone East

USGS NRCS Watersheds in Virginia:

N/A

USGS National 6th Order Watersheds Summary of Wildlife Action Plan Tier I, II, III, and IV Species:

HU6 Code	USGS 6th Order Hydrologic Unit	Different Species	Highest TE	Highest Tier
CU07	Nottoway River-Cedar Creek	60	FESE	I
CU08	Hurricane Branch-Long Branch	52	FESE	I
CU10	Tommehton Creek	54	FESE	I
JA30	Cellar Creek	48	FSST	I

Site Location

37,03,22.1 -77,57,08.5

is the Search Point

Show Position Rings

Yes No

1 mile and 1/4 mile at the Search Point

Show Search Area

Yes No

Search distance miles radius

Search Point is at map center

Base Map Choices

Topography

Map Overlay Choices

Current List: Position, Search, BECAR, BAEANests, TEWaters, TierII, Habitat, Trout, Anadromous

Map Overlay Legend

T & E Waters

- Federal
- State

Trout Waters

- Class I - IV
- Class V - VI

Anadromous Fish Reach

- Confirmed
- Potential

J23 Impediment

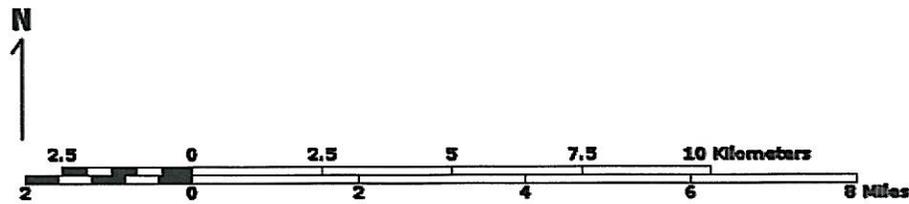
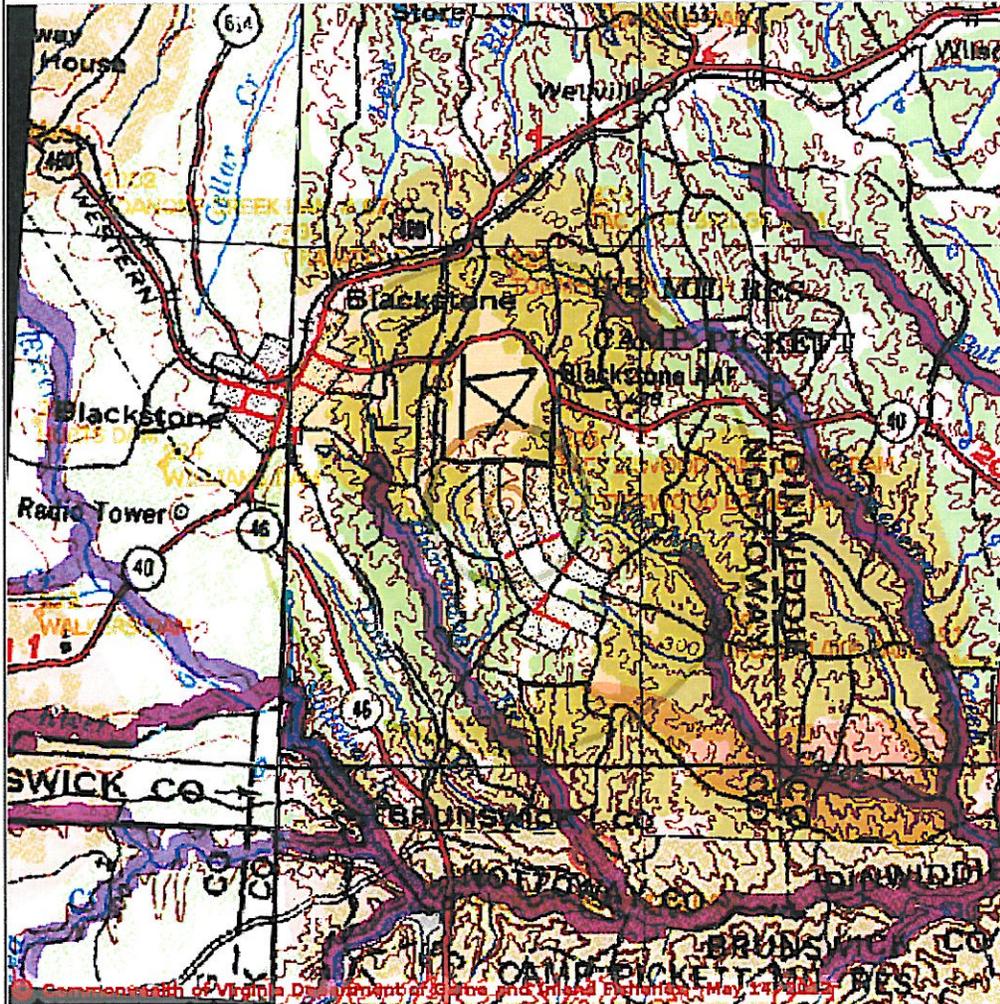
Position Rings
1 mile and 1/4 mile at the

Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service



[Refresh Browser Page](#)

Map Click Pan In M Map Scale In Zoom Out Screen Size Small Size Big [Help](#)



Point of Search 37,03,22.1 -77,57,08.5
Map Location 37,03,22.1 -77,57,08.5

<p>Search Point</p> <p>3 mile radius Search Area</p> <p>Bald Eagle Concentration Areas and Roosts</p> <p>Bald Eagle Nests</p> <p>Data Observation Sites</p>	<p>Select Coordinate System: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Degrees,Minutes,Seconds Latitude - Longitude <input type="radio"/> Decimal Degrees Latitude - Longitude <input type="radio"/> Meters UTM NAD83 East North Zone <input type="radio"/> Meters UTM NAD27 East North Zone</p> <p>Base Map source: USGS 1:250,000 topographic maps (see Microsoft terraserver-usa.com for details)</p> <p>Map projection is UTM Zone 18 NAD 1983 with left 227881 and top 4114797. Pixel size is 32 meters . Coordinates displayed are Degrees, Minutes, Seconds North and West.Map is currently displayed as 600 columns by 600 rows for a total of 360000 pixles. The map display represents 19200 meters east to west by 19200 meters north to south for a total of 368.6 square kilometers. The map display represents 63002 feet east to west by 63002 feet north to south for a total of 142.3 square miles.</p> <p>A UTM Zone change occurs within the image.The left-hand side of the image is a pseudo projection from UTM Zone 17 into UTM Zone 18 resulting in reduced spatial accuracy within the portion of the image occurring in UTM Zone 17.</p> <p>Topographic maps and Black and white aerial photography for year 1990+- are from the United States Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey. Color aerial photography aquired 2002 is from Virginia Base Mapping Program, Virginia Geographic Information Network. Shaded topographic maps are from TOPO! ©2006 National Geographic http://www.national.geographic.com/topo All other map products are from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.</p> <p>map assembled 2012-05-14 11:48:05 (qa/qc December 1, 2011 15:16 - tn=395878.0 dist=4827 Visitor)</p>
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	Submit Query		



Project name: FASTC

Official Species-list: *FASTC*

Virginia Ecological Services Field Office

Following is an official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species-list from the Virginia Ecological Services Field Office. The species-list identifies listed and proposed species and designated and proposed critical habitat that may be affected by the project "FASTC". You may use this list to meet the requirements of section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA).

This species-list has been generated by the Service's on-line Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) decision support system based on project type and location information you provided on March 23, 2012, 9:35 AM. This information is summarized below.

Please reference our tracking number, 05E2VA00-2012-SLI-0488, in future reference to this project to assist in expediting the process.

Newer information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of listed species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact the office(s) identified below if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential presence of federally proposed, listed, or candidate species, or proposed or designated critical habitat. Please note that under the ESA, a species-list is valid for 90 days. Therefore, the Service recommends that you visit the IPaC site at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species-lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive this list. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

This list below only addresses federally proposed, listed, or candidate species and federally designated critical habitat. Please contact the appropriate State agencies for information regarding State species of special designation. Also, please feel free to contact the office(s) identified below if you would like information on other important trust resources (such as migratory birds) in your project area.



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: FASTC

This Species-list document is provided by:

VIRGINIA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

6669 SHORT LANE

GLOUCESTER, VA 23061

(804) 693-6694

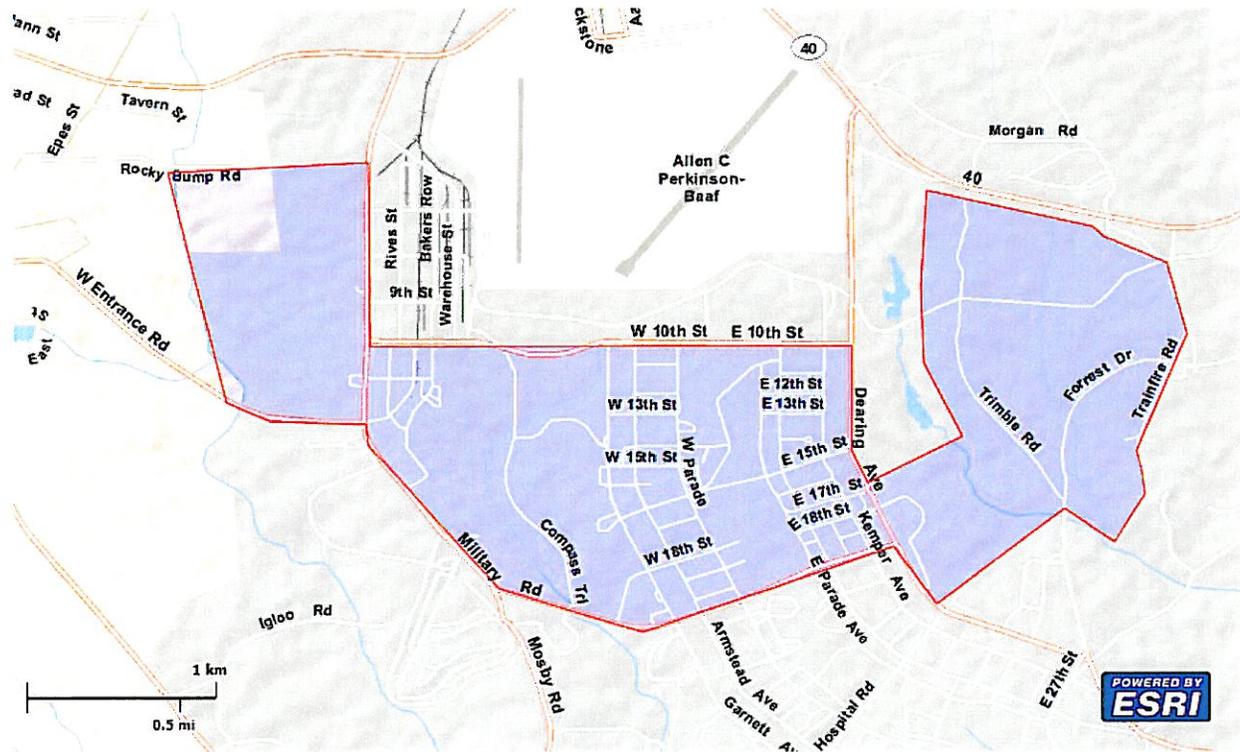
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/>

TAILS consultation code: 05E2VA00-2012-SLI-0488

Project type: Development



Project location map:



Project coordinates: MULTIPOLYGON (((-77.983716 37.074628, -77.9717855 37.0752288, -77.9716997 37.0643283, -77.9432039 37.0643283, -77.9432039 37.0581485, -77.942174 37.0561744, -77.9365091 37.058921, -77.9388266 37.0632984, -77.9389982 37.0678474, -77.9386549 37.0735122, -77.9287844 37.0713664, -77.9280977 37.0707656, -77.924407 37.0692207, -77.9232054 37.065015, -77.9262094 37.0580627, -77.9258661 37.0568611, -77.9256945 37.0554878, -77.9274969 37.0526554, -77.9304152 37.0546295, -77.9380541 37.0489646, -77.940629 37.0523979, -77.9554777 37.0473339, -77.9640608 37.0499088, -77.9717855 37.058406, -77.9719572 37.0596935, -77.977622 37.0598651, -77.980197 37.0609809, -77.983716 37.074628)))

Project counties: Nottoway, VA



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: FASTC

Endangered Species Act Species-list

Dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*)

Listing Status: Endangered

Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii*)

Listing Status: Endangered

Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*)

Listing Status: Endangered

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NOTTOWAY COUNTY

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STEVE D. FERGUSON

March 14, 2012

Ms. Abby Low
United States General Services Administration
20 North 8th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Ms. Low,

Enclosed is a resolution from the Nottoway County, Virginia, Planning Commission. The resolution states that this body has found no conflict between the County's Comprehensive Plan and the proposed Foreign Affairs Training Center (FASTC). Additionally, the resolution also states the Planning Commission's support of the planned project.

Please consider this document as further evidence of overall community support for the location of FASTC in Pickett Park.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John N. Prosisie".

John N. Prosisie

Nottoway County Planning Commission

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Whereas, the Nottoway County Planning Commission is an advisory body to the Nottoway County Board of Supervisors on matters concerning land use, and

Whereas, the Nottoway County Planning Commission has been charged with the responsibility of developing the County's Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map, for the Board of Supervisors' approval, and

Whereas, the Nottoway County Planning Commission has knowledge of the proposed Federal project known as the Foreign Affairs Security Training Center considered for County property at Pickett Park, and

Whereas the Planning Commission has not determined there to be any conflicts or negative impacts this project may have with the Comprehensive Plan or Zoning objectives meant to benefit the citizens of Nottoway County.

Now, therefore, the Nottoway County Planning Commission gives it support to the proposed Foreign Affairs Security Training Center as it is now planned for the area of Nottoway County known as Pickett Park.

Approved this day, March 13, 2012, by a vote of 8 for and 0 against.



Chairman

OFFICE OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NOTTOWAY COUNTY

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COUNTY PLANNER
STEVE D. FERGUSON

September 11, 2012

Ms. Abby Low
General Services Administration
20 North 8th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Ms. Low,

Upon my return to the office today and reviewing county zoning information, please note that parcel #10 at Pickett Park is zoned General Business.

Until recently and unlike other Pickett Park parcels, parcel #10 carried no zoning designation since its transfer from the Federal Government to Nottoway County. The current zoning designation is relatively flexible in the uses it permits.

Thank you for your patience with me in confirmation of this information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John N. Prosisie".

John N. Prosisie

From: [Jones, Dennis - NRCS, Farmville, VA](#)
To: [Coniff, Todd D.](#)
Cc: [Hall, Kathy E.](#); [Nicholson, John - NRCS, Rustburg, VA](#)
Subject: RE: FASTC Parel Soils
Date: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 9:46:24 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[GSA.FASTC.Pickett.pdf](#)

Todd,

I have completed parts 2,3,4,5 of the AD 1006 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for the FASTC Project at Fort Pickett, Blackstone Virginia. The form is attached.

Dennis H. Jones
District Conservationist
100-B Dominion Drive
Farmville, Va. 23901
434-392-4127, x 101
dennis.jones@va.usda.gov

From: Coniff, Todd D. [<mailto:Todd.Coniff@cardnotec.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 12:03 PM
To: Jones, Dennis - NRCS, Farmville, VA
Cc: Hall, Kathy E.
Subject: FASTC Parel Soils

Dennis attached you will find soil maps with the project footprint overlayed for the three parcels.

Please note that there are areas from the CAD that show buffer areas and do not involve any construction/disturbance. This is mainly on 21/20 and on the tracks in the northern portion of LRA 9.

Please let me know if you need any addition information.

Todd Coniff
CARDNO TEC



Phone (+1) 860-343-1776 Fax (+1) 860-343-0809
Address 179 Main Street 100 Plaza Middlesex 3rd Floor, Middletown, CT 06457 USA
Email todd.coniff@cardnotec.com Web www.cardno.com - www.cardnotec.com

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request 10/3/12			
Name Of Project FASTC		Federal Agency Involved GSA			
Proposed Land Use Foreign Affairs Security Training Center		County And State Nottoway, VA			
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS 10/3/12			
Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form).		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated 0	Average Farm Size 178 ac
Major Crop(s) Corn	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: 166,000 % 84	Amount Of Farmland As Defined In FPPA Acres: 135,322 % 69		Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS 10/5/12	
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used LESA	Name Of Local Site Assessment System None				
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating			
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		14.0	19.0	322.0	20.0
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly		25.0	40.0	138.0	293.0
C. Total Acres In Site		39.0	59.0	460.0	313.0
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland		42.5	0	183.1	175.3
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland		33.1	0	93.8	77.9
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted		0.055%		0.28%	0.187%
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value		86%		86%	86%
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion					
Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)		0 67.4	0 —	0 70.8	0 71.9
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b))	Maximum Points	All of FASTC			
1. Area In Nonurban Use		8		8	8
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use		4		4	4
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed		0		0	0
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government		0		0	0
5. Distance From Urban Builtup Area		3		3	3
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		0		0	0
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		6		6	6
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland		10		10	10
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		5		5	5
10. On-Farm Investments		0		0	0
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		0		0	0
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		0		0	0
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	0 36	0	0 36	0 36
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	0 36	0	0 36	0 36
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	0 67.4	0	0 70.8	0 71.9
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260	0 103.4	0	0 106.8	0 107.9
Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Reason For Selection:					

(See Instructions on reverse side)

This form was electronically produced by National Production Services Staff

Form AD-1006 (10-83)