

North Carolina Department of Transportation
PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION FORM
I.D. No. B-3673

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

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| a. | Consultation Phase: | Construction |
| b. | Project Description | Bridge No. 17 on US 221 Over the Second Broad River, McDowell County |
| c. | Federal Project:
WBS Element No. | BRNHS-221(10)
33217.1.1 |
| d. | Document Type: | Categorical Exclusion 4/30/13 |

II. CONCLUSIONS

The above environmental document has been evaluated as required by 23 CFR 771. It was determined that the current proposed action is essentially the same as the original proposed action. Proposed changes, if any, are noted below in Section III. It has been determined that anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts were accurately described in the above referenced document(s) unless noted otherwise herein. Therefore, the original Administration Action remains valid.

III. CHANGES IN PROPOSED ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The changes depicted in the following paragraph to the proposed action have occurred since the approval of the Categorical Exclusion document (CE). As a result, no additional environmental consequences are anticipated from the proposed action.

The bridge length will be increased 50 feet to total 320 feet. Due to the increase in length of the bridge, the retaining wall length has been reduced to 574 feet. The wall location remains unchanged. This project will not require any design exception.

Water Resources

The water resources impacted for project B-3673 are located in the Broad River Basin, Hydrological Cataloguing Unit 03050105. Jurisdictional resources in the project area include the Second Broad River and six perennial unnamed tributaries and two floodplain wetlands. Neither High Quality Waters (HQW), Water Supplies (WS-I: undeveloped watersheds or WS-II: predominately undeveloped watersheds), nor Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) occur within 1.0 mile of project study area. None of the project area streams are listed on the Division of Water Quality 2012 303(d) list of impaired waters nor are any listed within one mile downstream of the project area.

Table 1. B-3673 Water Resource Impacts

Stream Name	Stream Class	Permanent Impacts (Linear feet/Acres)
UT1 to Second Broad River	WS-V	75 lf/0.01Ac
UT2 to Second Broad River	WS-V	No impacts
UT3 to Second Broad River	WS-V	182 lf/0.03Ac
UT4 to Second Broad River	WS-V	135 lf/0.02Ac
UT5 to Second Broad River	WS-V	71 lf/<0.01Ac
UT6 to Second Broad River	WS-V	No impacts
Second Broad River	WS-V	245 lf/0.04Ac

Two floodplain wetlands are not slated to be impacted by this project.

Protected Species

Plants and animals with federal classifications of Endangered (E), Threatened (T), Proposed Endangered (PE), Proposed Threatened (PT), are protected under provisions of Section 7 and Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. As of January 14, 2014, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists four federally protected species for McDowell County (Table 1). NCDOT personnel resurveyed the project area for small-whorled pogonia on April 30, 2013 with no specimens found.

Since the CE was signed, a US Fish and Wildlife Service proposal for listing the Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) as an Endangered species was published in the Federal Register in October 2013. The listing will become effective on or before April 2015. Furthermore, this species is included in the USFWS's current list of protected species for McDowell County. NCDOT is working closely with the USFWS to understand how this proposed listing may impact NCDOT projects. NCDOT will continue to coordinate appropriately with USFWS to determine if this project will incur potential effects to the Northern long-eared bat, and how to address these potential effects if necessary.

Habitat for the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalis*) primarily consists of mature forest in proximity to large bodies of open water for foraging. Large, dominant trees are utilized for nesting sites, typically within 1.0 mile of open water. Suitable habitat for bald eagle does not exist within the study area and to a distance of 660 feet on all sides. Therefore, no surveys were conducted.

Table 2. Federally Protected Species for McDowell County

Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat	Status	Biological Conclusion
Bog turtle	<i>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</i>	No	T(S/A)	Not Required
Small whorled pogonia	<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	Yes	T	No Effect
Mountain golden heather	<i>Hudsonia montana</i>	No	T	No Effect
Carolina northern flying squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus coloratus</i>	No	E	No Effect

IV. LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

D.O.T. will implement all practical measures and procedures to minimize and avoid environmental impacts.

There is a new commitment associated with the construction of this project indicated on the green sheet.

V. COORDINATION

Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit personnel have discussed current project proposals with others as follows:

Design Engineer:	<u>Andrew P. Young, PE</u>	<u>12/22/14</u> Date
FHWA Engineer:	<u>Michael Batuzich</u>	<u>1/20/15</u> Date
Permits Section:	<u>Jeff Hemphill</u>	<u>12/4/14</u> Date

VI. NCDOT CONCURRENCE

<u>Andrea Majors</u> Project Development Engineer	<u>1/22/15</u> Date
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<u>[Signature]</u> Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit Head	<u>1/22/15</u> Date
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PROJECT COMMITMENTS

Bridge No. 17 on US 221
Over Second Broad River
Federal Aid Project No. BRNHS-221(10)
W.B.S. No. 33217.1.1
State Project No. 8.1871901
S.T.I.P. No. B-3673

Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit:

- Surveys for federally-listed Threatened and Endangered species (Small whorled pogonia) will be updated. Coordination will be completed prior to authorization of construction. *NCDOT personnel conducted a survey for Small whorled pogonia on April 30, 2013 and found no specimens. No other species listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for McDowell County has habitat on this project.*

Hydraulics Unit:

- The Hydraulics Unit will coordinate with the NC Floodplain Mapping Program (FMP), to determine status of the project with regard to applicability of NCDOT's Memorandum of Agreement, or approval of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) and subsequent final Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

Division 13 Office:

- This project involves construction activities on or adjacent to FEMA-regulated stream(s). Therefore the Division shall submit sealed as-built construction plans to the Hydraulics Unit upon completion of project construction, certifying that the drainage structure(s) and roadway embankment(s) that are located within the 100-year floodplain were built as shown in the construction plans, both horizontally and vertically.