

**North Carolina Department of Transportation  
PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION FORM  
T.I.P. No. R-5516**

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. Consultation Phase: Right of Way
- B. Project Description: From US 70 to Slocumb Road at Cherry Point  
Military Base Construct Interchange
- C. Federal Project: NHS-0070(154)  
WBS No.: 45492.1.1
- D. Document Type: CE December 2013

**II. CONCLUSIONS**

The above environmental document has been reevaluated 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 Administrative Action remains valid.

**III. CHANGES IN PROPOSED ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

**Design:**

There have been no major design changes since the referenced CE was completed, in December 2013.

**Water Resources:**

Water resource classifications have not changed since the completion of the CE.

**Protected Species:**

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) list seven federally protected species for Craven County as of the September 22, 2014 listing (Table 1).

**Table 1: Federally Protected Species in Craven County**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	Habitat Present	Biological Conclusion
American alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	T(S/A)	Yes	Not Required
Atlantic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus</i>	E	No	No Effect
Leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	E	No	No Effect
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	No	No Effect
West Indian manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	E	No	No Effect
Rough-leaved loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia sperulaefolia</i>	E	No	No Effect
Sensitive joint-vetch	<i>Aeschynomene virginica</i>	T*	No	No Effect

E – Endangered; T – Threatened ; T (S/A) – Threatened due to similarity of appearance

\*Historic – the species was last observed in the county more than 50 years ago

A USFWS proposal for listing the rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) as a threatened species was published in the Federal Register in September 2013. The listing became effective on December 11, 2014 and includes Craven County; however, since there is no beach habitat or mudflats within the project area, the proposed project will result in No Effect to the rufa red knot. Additionally, a USFWS 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 may become effective on April 2, 2015. These species are included in USFWS's current list of protected species for Craven County. NCDOT is working closely with the USFWS to understand how these proposed listings may impact NCDOT projects. NCDOT will continue to coordinate appropriately with USFWS to determine if this project will incur potential effects to the rufa red knot or the northern long-eared bat, and how to address these potential effects, if necessary.

A review of the N.C Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) element occurrence (EO) database, updated October 2014, indicated no known occurrences of protected species within 1.0 mile of the project area.

In the July 9, 2007 Federal Register (72:37346-37372), the bald eagle was declared recovered, and removed (de-listed) from the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered wildlife. This delisting took effect August 8, 2007. After delisting, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act) (16 U.S.C. 668-668d) became the primary law protecting bald eagles. A survey conducted on August 6, 2012 found no nests within 660 feet of the project limits; however, nesting and foraging habitat was present.



## Wetland/Streams:

The CE stated that six jurisdictional streams and two tributaries to Waters of the U.S. were identified in the study area. The provisions of the Neuse River Buffer Rules apply to all jurisdictional streams in the study area and must be adhered to during the design and construction of this project. For the purposes of stream mitigation, all jurisdictional streams in the study area have been designated as warm water streams.

**Table 2: Jurisdictional Characteristics and Impacts of Water Resources**

Map ID*	Length (ft.)	Classification	Compensatory Mitigation Required?	River Basin Buffer	Alt. A Impacts (linear ft.)
SA	1,157	Perennial	Yes	Subject	606
SB(I)**	360	Intermittent	Yes	Subject	0
SB(P)**	598	Perennial	Yes	Subject	362
SC	62	Intermittent	Yes	Not Subject	0
SD	139	Perennial	Yes	Subject	0
SE	141	Perennial	Yes	Subject	76
SF	141	Intermittent	Yes	Not Subject	0
TB***	126	n/a	No	Not Subject	44
TC***	73	n/a	No	Not Subject	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,797</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>1,088</b>

\*TA was determined to be non-jurisdictional by the USACE and NCDWR.

\*\*SB is divided into two segments to account for intermittent and perennial portions of the stream.

\*\*\*Jurisdictional non-mitigable man-made ditch (USACE/DWR) and are considered tributaries to waters of the U.S.

**Table 3: Jurisdictional Characteristics of Wetlands in the Study Area**

Map ID	NCWAM Classification	Hydrologic Classification	NCDWR Rating	Alt. A Impact Area (ac.)
WA	Wet Pine Flat	Non-Riparian	15	0
WB	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	46	0.3
WC	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	23	0.2
WD	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	60	0
WE	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	57	0.2
WF	Headwater Forest	Riparian	16	0
WG	Headwater Forest	Riparian	42	0.3
WH	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	35	0
WI	Headwater Forest	Riparian	23	0
WJ	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	70	0
WK	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	27	0.2
WL	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	20	0
<b>Total</b>				<b>1.2</b>

Twelve jurisdictional wetlands were identified in the study area. All wetlands in the study area are located within the Neuse River Basin (USGS Hydrologic Unit 03020204).

NCDOT has utilized an alignment which attempts to avoid and minimize impacts to streams and wetlands to the greatest extent practicable. NCDOT will investigate potential onsite stream and wetland mitigation opportunities once a final decision has been rendered with regard to the location of the final alignment. If onsite mitigation is not feasible, mitigation will be provided by North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP). In accordance with the "Memorandum of Agreement among the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District" (MOA), July 22, 2003, the EEP will be requested to provide off-site mitigation to satisfy the federal Clean Water Act compensatory mitigation requirements for this project.

*This has not changed.*

#### **IV. LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS**


See attached list of Project Commitments.

#### **V. COORDINATION**

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

Design Engineer:	Susan C. Lancaster, PE	<u>11/24/14</u> Date
Permits Specialist:	Tyler Stanton	<u>11/14/14</u> Date
Hydraulics Engineer:	Paul Atkinson, P.E.	<u>11/25/14</u> Date
FHWA Area Engineer:	Ron Lucas, P.E.	<u>12/2/14</u> Date

**VI. NCDOT CONCURRENCE**



Tamara Makhoul  
Project Development Engineer

3-12-15

Date



Robert P. Hanson, PE  
Eastern Region Project Development Section Head  
Project Development and Environmental Analysis  
Unit

3/10/15

Date

**VII. FHWA CONCURRENCE**

  
for

Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

3-18-15

Date



## **PROJECT COMMITMENTS**

**Proposed Improvements to US 70 and Slocum Road  
City of Havelock, Craven County  
Federal Aid Project # NHS-0070(154)  
WBS # 45492.1.1  
STIP # R-5516**

### **Local Programs Management Unit**

A municipal agreement will be executed by NCDOT and the City of Havelock to fund the construction of new sidewalks along the north side of Marsha's Way Connector. Based on NCDOT's Pedestrian Policy, the City of Havelock will fund 30% of the cost of these improvements.

*NCDOT will coordinate with the City of Havelock regarding this agreement.*

### **Project Development & Environmental Analysis Unit - Human Environment Section**

Pending approval of property owners, a noise wall has been recommended to mitigate noise impacts. The proposed wall is located to the east of the Hickman Hill neighborhood. A Design Noise Report will be prepared prior to construction of this project to verify the need for and to refine the height and location of the noise wall, based on the NCDOT Traffic Noise Abatement Policy.

*This will be coordinated prior to completion of final plans.*

### **Hydraulics Unit, Project Development & Environmental Analysis Unit - Natural Environment Section**

The provisions of the Neuse River Buffer Rules apply to all jurisdictional streams in the study area and must be adhered to during the design and construction of this project. For the purposes of stream mitigation, all jurisdictional streams in the study area have been designated as warm water streams.

*This will be coordinated during design and construction.*

### **Division 2 Construction, Utilities Unit**

There will be no impacts to USFS rare species since construction activities, including the placement of staging areas, in close proximity to the NFS lands west of existing US 70 near the intersection with Slocum Road have been avoided. Any encroachment by the project onto any National Forest Service (NFS) lands will require coordination with the USFS and possible further evaluation of USFS rare species for which habitat is present. Impacts to



spring-flowering goldenrod on NFS lands will require coordination with USFS; impacts to the species on private lands will not require coordination with USFS.

*This will be monitored during final design. Current plans show no encroachment onto USFS property.*

Any utility relocations that occur on USFS property must be processed as a separate permit action and coordinated with the USFS.

*This will be monitored during final design. Current plans show no encroachment onto USFS property.*