

Anson County
Bridge No. 8 on SR 1627 (Pinkston River Rd.)
over Brown Creek
Federal Aid Project No. BRZ-1627(13)
W.B.S. No. 32638
T.I.P. No. B-2506

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

AND

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

1-27-2015

DATE

for

Jennifer Harris

Richard W. Hancock, PE,
Manager, Project Development & Environmental Analysis Unit

1-29-15

DATE

for

Michael V. Estyich

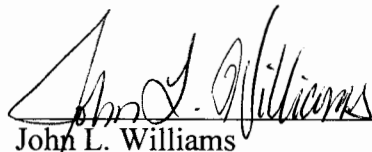
John F. Sullivan, III, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

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Documentation Prepared in
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit By:

1-26-15
DATE

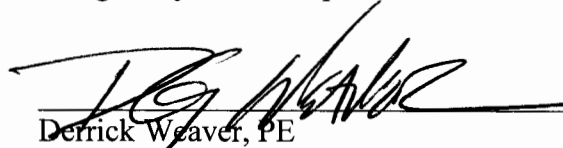


John L. Williams

Project Planning Engineer
Bridge Project Development Section



1/26/15
DATE



Derrick Weaver, PE

Project Engineer
Bridge Project Development Section

PROJECT COMMITMENTS:

**Anson County
Bridge No. 8 on SR 1627
Over Brown Creek
Federal Aid Project No. BRZ-1627(13)
W.B.S. No. 32638
T.I.P. No. B-2506**

Roadway Design, Division, Right of Way, Archaeology – Environmentally Sensitive Area

The proposed project is located adjacent to an environmentally sensitive area. The plans will show a clear line delineating a line beyond which no ground disturbing activities shall take place. This line will also be marked in the field. If there are any proposed changes during design or construction need to cross the environmentally sensitive line Shane Petersen of PDEA-Archaeology Group, (919-707-6083), must be contacted first.

Hydraulic Unit – FEMA Coordination

The Hydraulics Unit will coordinate with the NC Floodplain Mapping Program (FMP), to determine status of 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 Construction-FEMA

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 that are located within the 100-year floodplain were built as shown in the construction plans, both horizontally and vertically.

INTRODUCTION: Bridge No. 8 is included in the latest approved North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Transportation Improvement Program. The location is shown in Figure 1. No substantial environmental impacts are anticipated. The project is classified as a Federal “Categorical Exclusion”.

I. PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

NCDOT Bridge Management Unit records indicate Bridge No. 8 has a sufficiency rating of 19.2 out of a possible 100 for a new structure. The bridge is considered structurally deficient due to super and substructure ratings of 4 out of 9 according to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) standards.

Bridge No. 8 has a fifty-five year old timber substructure which has a typical life expectancy between 40 to 50 years due to the natural deterioration rate of wood. Rehabilitation of a timber structure is generally practical only when a few members are damaged or prematurely deteriorated. However, past a certain degree of deterioration, timber structures become impractical to maintain and upon eligibility are programmed for replacement. Bridge No. 8 is approaching the end of its useful life.

II. EXISTING CONDITIONS

The project is located within the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Anson County (see Figure 1). The area is completely forested with no residential or commercial development.

SR 1627 is classified as a rural local route in the Statewide Functional Classification System and it is not a National Highway System Route.

In the vicinity of the bridge, SR 1627 has a 18-foot pavement width with 5-foot grass shoulders (see Figures 3 and 4). The roadway grade is flat through the project area. The existing bridge is on a tangent. The roadway is situated approximately 12.0 feet above the creek bed.

Bridge No. 8 is a two-span structure that consists of a timber deck on steel girders. The substructure is made up of timber caps and piles. The existing bridge was constructed in 1959. The overall length of the structure is 81 feet. The clear roadway width is 17 feet. The posted weight limit on this bridge is 7 tons for single vehicles and 13 tons for TTST's.

The only utility in the area is an overhead power line along the western side of the road.

The current traffic volume of 200 vehicles per day (VPD) is expected to increase to 300 VPD by the year 2040. The projected volume includes two percent truck-tractor semi-trailer (TTST) and 19 percent dual-tired vehicles (DT). The posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour in the project area. No school buses currently use the bridge.

There was only one accident reported in the vicinity of Bridge No. 8 during a recent ten-year period.

This section of SR 1627 is not part of a designated bicycle route nor is it listed in the T.I.P. as needing incidental bicycle accommodations. Sidewalks do not exist on the existing bridge and there is no indication of pedestrian usage on or near the bridge. Neither permanent nor temporary bicycle/pedestrian accommodations are required for this project.

III. ALTERNATIVE

Bridge No. 8 will be replaced on a slightly shifted alignment to the east side (see Figure 2) while traffic is detoured offsite during construction (see Figure 1). The total length of the improvements will be approximately 1550 feet.

The permanent replacement structure will be a bridge approximately 125 feet long providing a minimum 26 feet clear deck width. The bridge will include two 10-foot lanes and 2-foot offset on one shoulder and a 5-foot, 10-inch offset on the other to accommodate hydraulic spread. The bridge length is based on preliminary design information and is set by hydraulic requirements. The roadway grade of the new structure will be approximately the same as the existing structure.

The approach roadway will extend approximately 615 feet from the south end and 800 feet from the north end of the new bridge. The approaches will be widened to include a 20-foot pavement width providing two 10-foot lanes. Three-foot grass shoulders will be provided on each side (6-foot shoulders where guardrail is included). The roadway will be designed as a Rural Local Route using Sub-Regional Tier Guidelines with a 60 mile per hour design speed. There are not any design exceptions anticipated on this project.

Traffic is to be detoured offsite during construction. NCDOT Guidelines for Evaluation of Offsite Detours for Bridge Replacement Projects considers multiple project variables beginning with the additional time traveled by the average road user resulting from the offsite detour. The offsite detour for this project would include SR 1649, US 52, and SR 1634. The majority of traffic on the road is through traffic. The detour for the average road user would result in 7 minutes additional travel time (5 miles additional travel). Up to a 12-month duration of construction is expected on this project. This is within the acceptable range for delay.

Anson County Emergency Services along with Anson County Schools Transportation have also indicated that the detour is acceptable. NCDOT Division 10 has indicated the condition of all roads, bridges and intersections on the offsite detour are acceptable without improvement.

Given that the proposed alternative offers the greatest minimization of impacts and with the availability of an acceptable offsite detour, no other alternatives were studied. NCDOT Division 10 concurs that this is the preferred alternative.

IV. ESTIMATED COSTS

The estimated costs, based on 2014 prices, are as follows:

Structure	\$ 384,000
Roadway Approaches	306,000
Structure Removal	29,000
Misc. & Mob.	200,000
Eng. & Contingencies	131,000
Total Construction Cost	\$ 1,050,000
Right-of-way Costs	28,000
Right-of-way Utility Costs	26,000
Total Project Cost	\$ 1,104,000

V. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Physical Resources

The study area lies in the southern piedmont physiographic region of North Carolina. Topography in the project vicinity is comprised of gently rolling hills with broad, level floodplains along streams. Elevations in the study area range from 195 to 215 feet above sea level. Land use in the project vicinity consists primarily of rural forestland.

Soils

The Anson County Soil Survey identifies two soil types within the study area (Table 1).

Table 1. Soils in the study area.

Soil Series	Mapping Unit	Drainage Class	Hydric Status
Chewacla loam	ChA	somewhat poorly drained	Hydric*
Iredell fine sandy loam	IrB	moderately well drained	non-hydric

* - Soils which are primarily non-hydric, but which may contain hydric inclusions

Water Resources

Water resources in the study area are part of the Yadkin River basin [U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Hydrologic Unit 03040104]. Three streams were identified in the study area (Table 2). The location of each water resource is shown in Figure 2. The physical characteristics of these streams are provided in Table 3.

Table 2. Water resources in the study area.

Stream Name	Map ID	NCDWQ Index Number	Best Usage Classification
Brown Creek	Brown Creek	13-20	C
Hurricane Creek	Hurricane Creek	13-20-17	C
UT to Brown Creek	SA	13-20	C

Table 3. Physical characteristics of water resources in the study area.

Map ID	Bank Height (ft)	Bankful Width (ft)	Water Depth (in)	Channel Substrate	Velocity	Clarity
Brown Creek	10	35	18	Sand, Silt, Gravel, Cobble	Moderate	Slightly Turbid
Hurricane Creek	2.5	3.5	10	Sand, Silt, Gravel	Moderate	Clear
SA	1.5	3	3	Sand, Silt, Gravel	Slow	Clear

There are no North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) designated trout waters, Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW), High Quality Waters (HQW) or water supply watersheds (WS-I or WS-II) within 1.0 mile of the study area. The North Carolina 2012 Final 303(d) list of impaired waters does not identify any impaired waters within one mile and downstream of the project area.

Benthic samples have been taken at Brown Creek at SR 1627 and given a rating of “Fair” on August 21, 1996. No recent fish surveys have been conducted within 1.0 mile of the study area.

BIOTIC RESOURCES

Terrestrial Communities

Two terrestrial communities were identified in the study area: maintained/disturbed and piedmont bottomland forest. A brief description of each community type follows.

Maintained/Disturbed

Maintained/disturbed areas are located in the study area along roadside shoulders where the vegetation is periodically mowed. The vegetation in this community is comprised of low growing grasses, herbs and shrubs including fescue, Japanese honeysuckle, Chinese privet and blackberry.

Piedmont Bottomland Forest

The piedmont bottomland forest community exists throughout the study area and along Brown Creek. There are six headwater forest wetlands located in this community. Figure 2 shows the locations of these wetlands. Dominant species in this community include American beech, sourwood, American elm, red maple, white oak, American hornbeam, loblolly pine, sweet gum, water oak, southern red oak, northern red oak,

yellow poplar and swamp chestnut oak in the overstory. American hornbeam, sweet gum, dogwood, American holly, post oak, giant cane, yellow jasmine, greenbrier, multiflora rose, sweet woodreed, smallspike false nettle, poison ivy and wood oats are located in the shrub and ground layers.

Terrestrial Community Impacts

Terrestrial communities in the study area may be impacted by project construction as a result of grading and paving of portions of the study area. At this time, decisions regarding the final location and design of the proposed bridge replacement have not been made. Therefore, community data are presented in the context of total coverage of each type within the study area (Table 4). Once a final alignment and preliminary design have been determined, probable impacts to each community type will be calculated.

Table 4. Coverage of terrestrial communities in the study area.

Community	Coverage (ac.)
Maintained/ Disturbed	1.7
Piedmont Bottomland Forest	22.4
Total	24.1

Terrestrial Wildlife

Terrestrial communities in the study area are comprised of both natural and disturbed habitats that may support a diversity of wildlife species (those species actually observed are indicated with *). Mammal species that commonly exploit forested habitats and stream corridors found within the study area include species such as eastern cottontail, raccoon, Virginia opossum, and white-tailed deer. Birds that commonly use forest and forest edge habitats include the American woodcock*, downy woodpecker* and ruby-crowned kinglet*. Birds that may use the open habitat or water bodies within the study area include American kestrel, belted kingfisher, eastern bluebird and turkey vulture. Reptile and amphibian species that may use terrestrial communities located in the study area include the black rat snake, eastern box turtle, eastern fence lizard and ground skink.

Aquatic Communities

Aquatic communities in the study area consist of both perennial and intermittent piedmont streams. Perennial streams in the study area could support creek chub, sandbar shiner, redbreast sunfish and two-ridge rams horn*. Intermittent streams in the study area could support aquatic communities of spring peeper, crayfish, and various benthic macroinvertebrates.

Invasive Species

Three species from the NCDOT Invasive Exotic Plant List for North Carolina were found to occur in the study area. The species identified were Chinese privet (Severe Threat), multiflora rose (Severe Threat) and Japanese honeysuckle (Threat). NCDOT will manage invasive plant species as appropriate.

JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES

Clean Water Act Waters of the U.S.

Three jurisdictional streams were identified in the study area (Table 5). The location of these streams is shown on Figure 2. All jurisdictional streams in the study area have been designated as warm water streams for the purposes of stream mitigation.

Table 5. Jurisdictional characteristics of water resources in the study area.

Map ID	Length (ft.)	Classification	Compensatory Mitigation Required	River Basin Buffer
Brown Creek	1,340	Perennial	Yes	Not Subject
Hurricane Creek	35	Perennial	Yes	Not Subject
SA	430	Intermittent	Yes	Not Subject
Total	1,805			

Six jurisdictional wetlands were identified within the study area (Figure 2). Wetland classification and quality rating data are presented in Table 6. All wetlands in the study area are within the Yadkin River basin (USGS Hydrologic Unit 03040104). Characteristics of wetlands WA, WB and WC were similar enough to be represented on the same form. Wetlands WD, WE and WF also were represented on the same form. Descriptions of the terrestrial communities at each wetland site are presented in the earlier section on Terrestrial Communities. All wetland sites are included within the piedmont bottomland forest community.

Table 6. Jurisdictional characteristics of wetlands in the study area.

Map ID	NCWAM Classification	Hydrologic Classification	NCDWQ Wetland Rating	Area (ac.)
WA	Headwater forest	Riparian	24	0.2
WB	Headwater forest	Riparian	24	0.2
WC	Headwater forest	Riparian	24	0.2
WD	Headwater forest	Riparian	18	0.1
WE	Headwater forest	Riparian	18	0.1
WF	Headwater forest	Riparian	18	0.1
			Total	0.9

Clean Water Act Permits

The proposed project has been designated as a Categorical Exclusion (CE) for the purposes of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation. As a result, a Nationwide Permit (NWP) 23 will likely be applicable. A NWP No. 33 may also apply for temporary construction activities such as stream dewatering, work bridges, or temporary causeways that are often used during bridge construction or rehabilitation. The USACE holds the final discretion as to what permit will be required to authorize project construction. If a Section 404 permit is required then a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the NCDWR will be needed.

Construction Moratoria

Anson County is not a trout county thus no moratoria are anticipated for this project.

River Basin Buffer Rules

The streams within the study area are not subject to DWR buffer rules.

Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 Navigable Waters

According to information from the USACE Asheville office, there are no designated navigable waters under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act within the study area.

Wetland and Stream Mitigation

Avoidance and Minimization of Impacts

In coordination with USFWS, NCDOT has selected an alternative that minimizes impacts to protected resources. As design continues, NCDOT will continue to work toward minimization.

Compensatory Mitigation of Impacts

The NCDOT will investigate potential on-site stream and wetland mitigation opportunities once a final decision has been rendered on the location of the preferred alternative. If on-site mitigation is not feasible, mitigation will be provided by North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP).

Endangered Species Act Protected Species

As of August 7, 2014 the United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) lists four federally protected species for Anson County. A brief description of each species’ habitat requirements follows, along with the Biological Conclusion rendered based on survey results in the study area. Habitat requirements for each species are based on the current best available information from referenced literature and/or USFWS.

Table 7. Federally protected species listed for Anson County.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	Habitat Present	Biological Conclusion
<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Red cockaded woodpecker	E	No	No Effect
<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	Shortnose sturgeon	E	No	No Effect
<i>Helianthus schweinitzii</i>	Schweinitz’s sunflower	E	Yes	No Effect
<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus</i>	Atlantic sturgeon	E	No	No

E – Endangered

Red cockaded woodpecker Biological Conclusion: No Effect

Suitable habitat for the red cockaded woodpecker does not exist in the study area.

Forests in the study area are comprised of a closed hardwood canopy and sub-canopy.

Longleaf pine trees do not occur in the study area. Loblolly pines occur in the study area but are not of sufficient density to provide suitable nesting or foraging habitat. A review

of NCNHP records, updated April 13, 2010, indicates no known RCW occurrence within 1.0 mile of the study area.

Shortnose sturgeon**Biological Conclusion: No Effect**
Suitable habitat for the shortnose sturgeon does not exist in the study area. Personal communication with Fritz Rohde of the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) indicated that this project will have no effect on the shortnose sturgeon as it is highly unlikely that it would be found in the main stem of Brown Creek or its tributaries in North Carolina. A review of NCNHP records, updated April 13, 2010, indicates no known occurrence of the shortnose sturgeon within 5.0 miles of the study area.

Schweinitz's sunflower**Biological Conclusion: No Effect**
A review of NCNHP records, updated April 13, 2010, indicates no known occurrence of Schweinitz's sunflower within 1.0 mile of the study area. A walking survey of all areas of potential habitat within the study area was conducted by NCDOT biologist. Good potential habitat within the study area was conducted by NCDOT biologists on 9/27/2011 and 10/01/13. Other species of sunflower were observed, but no Schweinitz's sunflowers were identified within the project area during the survey. Therefore it is anticipated that this project will have No Effect on Schweinitz's sunflower.

Atlantic sturgeon
Atlantic sturgeon has been added to the list of protected species for Anson County since the preparation of the NRTR. In conversing with Fritz Rhode of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on October 9, 2014, NMFS indicated that this project will have no effect on the Atlantic sturgeon because it is highly unlikely that this species would be found on the main stem of the Pee Dee River upstream of the Blewett Falls Dam. A check of the NHP database on October 10, 2014 showed no known occurrences of Atlantic sturgeon within 5.0 miles of the project area.

Northern long-eared bat
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 USFWS's current list of protected species for Anson 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

Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act

A desktop-GIS assessment of the project study area, as well as the area within a 1.13-mile radius (1.0 mile plus 660 feet) of the project limits, was performed on June 20, 2011 using 2010 color aerials. No water bodies large enough or sufficiently open to be considered potential feeding sources were identified. Since there was no foraging habitat within the review area, a survey of the project study area and the area within 660 feet of the project limits was not conducted. Additionally, a review of the NCNHP database on

June 20, 2011 revealed no known occurrences of this species within 1.0 mile of the project study area. Due to the lack of habitat, known occurrences, and minimal impact anticipated for this project, it has been determined that this project will not affect this species.

Endangered Species Act Candidate Species

As of August 7, 2014 the USFWS does not list any Candidate species for Anson County

VI. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Section 106 Compliance Guidelines

This project is subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and implemented by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106, codified at Title 36 CFR Part 800. Section 106 requires Federal agencies to take into account the effect of their undertakings (federally funded, licensed, or permitted) on properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and afford the Advisory Council a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings.

Historic Architecture

NCDOT – Human Environment Unit, under the provisions of a Programmatic Agreement with FHWA, NCDOT, HPO, OSA and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (effective July 1, 2009), reviewed the proposed project and determined that no surveys are required (see **Attachment 1**).

Archaeology

1993-2000 In 1993 a survey was recommended for the project study area. Within the project study area an archaeological site (31AN165) was found and documented in an Archaeological Survey Report in 1993 and subsequently followed up with an Archaeological Study in 1994. Documented within the study area were a scatter of pre-Columbian lithics and early historic materials, the structural remains of an early 19th century mill complex, possible mid-19th century rock dams and an earlier bridge across Brown Creek. NCDOT recommended the mill elements as eligible with SHPO and US Fish & Wildlife concurring (**Attachment 2**) but adding that the rock dams were also part of the complex. Meetings were held in the field in 2000 to address the mitigation of the effects of the site. Consensus was not reached at this time on how to move forward.

2000-2010 The project went dormant through 2010 when a review of the current files and maps were undertaken. In 2011 NCDOT archaeologists conducted a reconnaissance investigation to verify/ update site condition. The site was found to be well preserved. In 2013 consultation with SHPO and USFWS was re-initiated. With the boundaries well defined and documented, NCDOT developed an alignment that

will miss the resource entirely. Therefore it is concluded that this project will not affect any National Register eligible or listed archaeological sites (see **Attachment 3**). On October 13, 2014 the State Historic Preservation Office concurred with this finding (see **Attachment 4**).

Community Impacts

No adverse impact on families or communities is anticipated. Right-of-way acquisition will be limited. No relocatees are expected with implementation of the proposed alternative.

No adverse effect on public facilities or services is expected. The project is not expected to adversely affect social, economic, or religious opportunities in the area.

The project is not in conflict with any plan, existing land use, or zoning regulation. No change in land use is expected to result from the construction of the project.

The Farmland Protection Policy Act requires all federal agencies or their representatives to consider the potential impact to prime farmland of all land acquisition and construction projects. All construction will take place along existing alignment. There are soils classified as prime, unique, or having state or local importance in the vicinity of the project. Part VI of the National Resources Conservation Service Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form totaled 56 points. Since this does not exceed the NCRS threshold of 60 points, impacts to FPPA eligible soils are not anticipated as a result of the project.

The project will not have a disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effect on any minority or low-income population.

Noise & Air Quality

The project is located in Anson County, which has been determined to comply with the National Air Quality Standards. The proposed project is located in an attainment area; therefore, 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 are not applicable. This project is not anticipated to create any adverse effects on the air quality of this attainment area.

This project will not result in any meaningful changes in traffic volume, vehicle mix, location of the existing facility, or any other factor that would cause an increase in emissions impacts relative to the no-build alternative. As such FHWA has determined that this project will generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria pollutants and has not been linked with any special MSAT concerns. Consequently this effort is exempt from analysis for MSAT's.

Noise levels may increase during project construction; however, these impacts are not expected to be substantial considering the relatively short-term nature of construction noise and the limitation of construction to daytime hours. The transmission loss characteristics of nearby natural elements and man-made structures are believed to be sufficient to moderate the effects of intrusive construction noise.

VII. 4(f) – De minimis

The proposed project will require right-of-way acquisition or easement from any land protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. The Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge is a 4(f) resource and will have slight impacts from the construction of the project. The US Fish & Wildlife Service who manages the refuge has commented that the project will not have an adverse effect on any features, attributes or functions of the refuge (see Attachment 5). Therefore, FHWA has determined that the impacts associated with this project are de minimus.

VIII. GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The project is expected to have an overall positive impact. Replacement of an inadequate bridge will result in safer traffic operations.

The bridge replacement will not have an adverse effect on the quality of the human or natural environment with the use of the current North Carolina Department of Transportation standards and specifications.

An examination of local, state, and federal regulatory records by the GeoEnvironmental Section revealed no sites with a Recognized Environmental Concern (REC) within the project limits. RECs are most commonly underground storage tanks, dry cleaning solvents, landfills and hazardous waste disposal areas.

Anson County is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program. There are no practical alternatives to crossing the floodplain area. Any shift in alignment will result in an impact area of about the same magnitude. The proposed project is not anticipated to increase the level or extent of upstream flood potential.

The Federal Highways Administration has determined that a U.S. Coast Guard Permit is not required for this project.

IX. COORDINATION & AGENCY COMMENTS

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge

Because this project lies within the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge NCDOT has closely coordinated with USFWS who manages the resource. They have three major interests:

- Compliance with the Threatened and Endangered Species Act- addressed in an earlier section of this document.
- Avoidance of an archaeological site in the vicinity of the project – addressed in an earlier section of this document.
- Overall minimizations of impacts to the resource – There have been numerous conversations and meetings between USFWS and NCDOT in assuring that we have the minimum footprint possible while still avoiding the archaeological site. Those conversations will be ongoing through final design.

In a letter dated May 31, 2011, the **N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission** has commented that Brown Creek is both a Significant Natural Heritage Area and on the 303(d) list of impaired waters at the project site. Records of several State-listed mussel species occur downstream in Brown Creek and the Pee Dee River. Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds are recommended to protect downstream resources and prevent further degradation of water quality. NCDOT. **Response:** Regarding 303(d), at the time of scoping, Brown Creek was listed on the 2010 Final 303(d) list for impaired benthos and low dissolved oxygen, not turbidity and therefore DSSW would not be of benefit. Regardless Brown Creek has since been removed from the list. Regarding State Listed Species, state listed species do not require special measures of protection. Best Management Practices for the Protection of Surface Waters is adequate for this project.

NCDOT has sought input from the following agencies as a part of the project development:

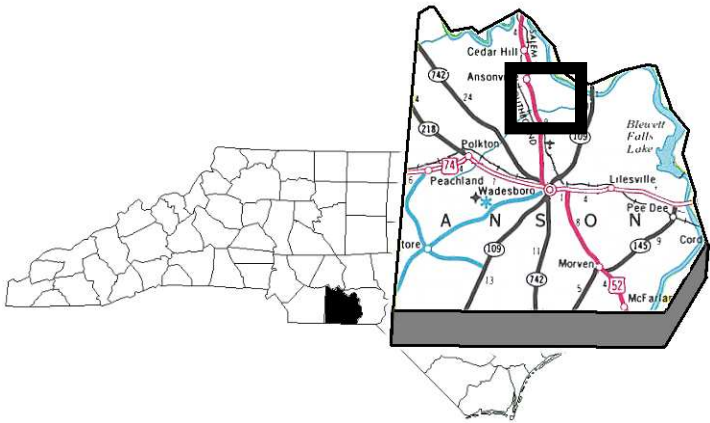
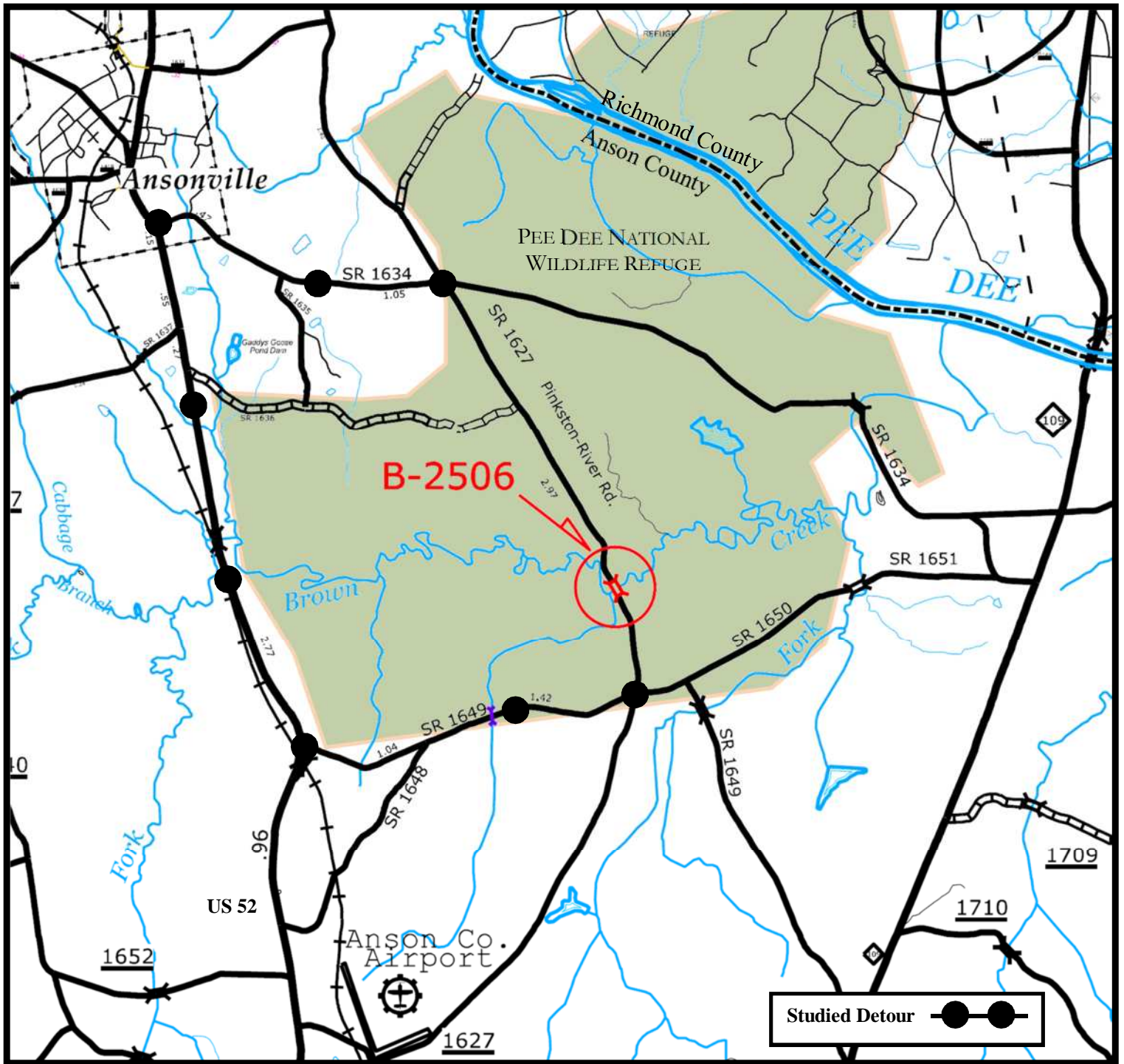
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – no special concerns
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – standard concerns
- NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources – did not respond
- Anson County Planning Department – no special concerns
- nearby Town of Ansonville – did not respond

X. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

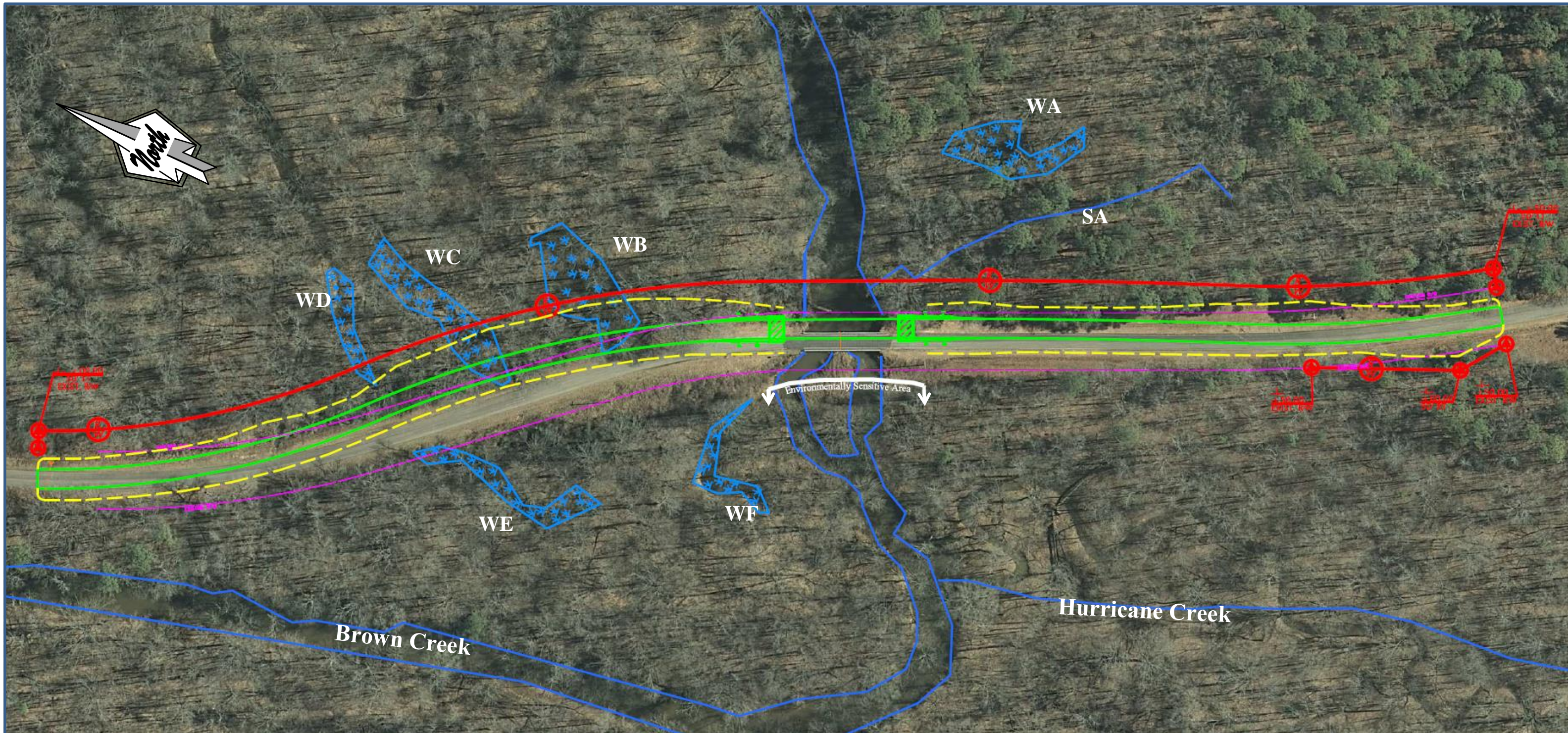
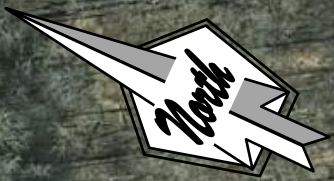
In December 2010 a Notification Letter was sent to all property owners living along SR 1627 from the intersection with SR 1634 to the intersection of SR 1649. Property owners were invited to comment. No comments have been received to date. Based on lack of response by property holders and based on feedback from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service no further public involvement is planned for this project other than notification just prior to closure.

XI. CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above discussion, it is concluded that no substantial adverse environmental impacts will result from implementation of the project. The project is therefore considered to be a federal “Categorical Exclusion” due to its limited scope and lack of substantial environmental consequences.




	<p>NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH</p>
<p>ANSON COUNTY REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 8 ON SR 1627 OVER BROWN CREEK B-2506</p>	
<p>FIGURE 1</p>	



LEGEND

-  Proposed Roadway
-  Proposed Footprint
-  Existing Easement
-  Proposed Easement Needed
-  Wetlands
-  Streams

	NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH
	ANSON COUNTY REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 8 ON SR 1627 OVER BROWN CREEK B-2506
Figure 2	

10-11-0003

NO SURVEY REQUIRED FORM**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project No: B-2506 *County:* Anson
WBS No: 32638.1.2.1 *Document:*
F.A. No: BRZ-1627(13) *Funding:* State Federal

Federal (USACE) Permit Required? Yes No *Permit Type:*

Project Description:

Replace Bridge No. 8 on SR 1627 (Pinkson River Rd.) over Brown Creek.

SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW*Brief description of review activities, results of review, and conclusions:*

Review of HPO quad maps, relevant background reports, historic designations roster, and indexes was undertaken on November 15, 2010. Based on this review, there were no existing NR, SL, LD, DE, or SS properties in the Area of Potential Effects Anson County GIS mapping (2007) including aerial photography and tax information revealed no structures exists within the APE.

Brief Explanation of why the available information provides a reliable basis for reasonably predicting that there are no unidentified historic properties in the APE:

No structures were identified near the APE of this project. The Anson County Tax Parcel Data is considered valid for the purposes of determining the likelihood of historic resources being present.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

See attached:

FINDING BY NCDOT CULTURAL RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL

NO SURVEY REQUIRED


 NCDOT Cultural Resources Specialist

11/15/2010
 Date

10-11-0003

SURVEY REQUIRED FORM**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project No: B-2506 County: Anson
 WBS No: 32638.1.2.1 Document: PCE/CE
 F.A. No: BRZ-1627(13) Funding: State Federal

Federal (USACE) Permit Required? Yes No Permit Type: Unknown at time of review

Project Description:

NCDOT intends to replace Bridge No. 8 on SR 1627 (Pinkston-River Road) over Brown Creek in Anson County. The existing bridge within a 60-foot (18.29-meter) ROW is considered structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. Although the replacement project is assumed to fall within a 600-foot (182.88-meter) long corridor, no design alternatives were available at the time of review. Permits from the US Fish and Wildlife Service as well as the US Army Corps of Engineers are assumed.

SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW – SURVEY REQUIRED*Brief description of review activities, results of review, and conclusions:*

A survey for the replacement of Bridge No. 8 over Brown Creek was conducted in 1993 by NCDOT archaeologists Cynthia Satterfield and Deborah Joy, with follow-up testing begun conducted by Joy in 1994. These investigations resulted in the identification of site 31AN165/165** a site containing a scatter of pre-Columbian lithics (including one Guilford projectile point) and early historic materials (including a sherd of blue transfer-printed pearlware). Additionally, structural remains of an early 19th-century mill complex, possible mid-19th century additions (rock dams) and an earlier bridge across Brown Creek were documented. NCDOT recommended the mill elements as NRHP-eligible with SHPO and US Fish & Wildlife concurring, but adding that the rock dams were part of the complex. Meetings were held in the field and at SHPO in 2000 to address the mitigation of effects to the site (with a preliminary draft MOA being circulated by Fish & Wildlife). Nevertheless, it appears that NCDOT dropped the project in 2000. These issues remain to be resolved in cooperation with US Fish & Wildlife and SHPO once new design alternatives have been generated.

A review of the current files and maps at SHPO for Anson County was undertaken on December 7, 2010. No other archaeological resources are documented in the project area.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

See attached: Location map; site maps for 31AN165/165** from 1993-1994 investigations; review agency correspondence.

FINDING BY NCDOT CULTURAL RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL -- SURVEY REQUIRED

Archaeology Historic Architecture (circle one)



NCDOT Cultural Resources Specialist

12-07-10

Date

TBD (awaiting design alternatives before agency consultation)

Proposed fieldwork completion date



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office
Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Pat McCrory
Secretary Susan Kluttz

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

October 13, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Wilkerson
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Ramona M. Bartos *RSE for Ramona M. Bartos*

SUBJECT: Replacement of Bridge 8 on SR 1627 (Pinkston River Road) over Brown Creek, B-2506,
Anson County, ER 93-9106

Thank you for your letter of September 23, 2014, transmitting the above referenced information.

The NCDOT has determined that the above project will not adversely affect any archaeological sites, in particular, site 31AN165 during the construction process and that all pertinent documentation will be included in the 2014-2015 Annual Report on the Programmatic Agreement of Minor Transportation Projects in North Carolina. We concur with this assessment.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Williams, John L

From: Bricken, Jeffrey <jeffrey_bricken@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2014 11:33 AM
To: Williams, John L
Cc: Allyne Askins
Subject: Fwd:

Mr. John Williams

NCDOT Project Development

Dear Mr. Williams:

Subject: Letter in reference to Section 4(f) inquiry.

On November 5, 2014 we received your E:mail request for a letter indicating what effect NCDOT Project # B-2506 would have on the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge.

In my effort to reach a conclusion I discussed the proposal with Asheville Ecological Service Biologist Jason Mays. He reviewed the project information and the categorical exclusion with ES Field Supervisor Janet Mizzi. I received a letter from Ms. Mizzi stating: all the information that we have available indicates that none of the endangered or threatened species listed for Anson County, North Carolina will be affected by the proposed project.

We have addressed the Section 7 obligation and found there to be "no effect" in terms of Endangered Species.

I have also presented all of the project information to Region 4 USFWS Archaeologist Rick Kanaski. The proposal must also meet the guidelines put forth by Mr. Kanaski to avoid the nearby archaeological site.

The process to change or alter the location of the right-of-way must be coordinated through Barbara West in the USFWS Atlanta Realty Office.

As Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge Manager, based on the information provided and input from other USFWS representatives, I find the impact from this proposed project will not negatively affect the features, attributes or functions of the refuge. I also concur with the DOT determination that there would be no reasonable alternative to this project.

J.D. Bricken
Wildlife Refuge Manager
Federal Wildlife Officer
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Pee Dee NWR
5770 Hwy. 52 North
Wadesboro, NC 28170
(704) 694-4424 Office
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