U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20410
www.hud.gov

espanol.hud.gov

Broad-Level Tiered Environmental Review for Activity/Project that is Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5

Pursuant to 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)

Project Information

Project Name: Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program

Responsible Entity (RE): Georgia Department of Community Affairs

State/Local Identifier: 01-DCA Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

RE Preparer: Candice Mahoney, Hunt, Guillot & Associates

Certifying Officer: Rusty Haygood, Deputy Commissioner, Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity): Dougherty County
Point of Contact: Kathleen Vaughn, Office of Community Development

Consultant (if applicable): Hunt, Guillot & Associates
Point of Contact: Candice Mahoney, cmahoney@hga-llc.com, 504-410-8981

Project Location: Zip Code 31705 in Dougherty County, Georgia

Additional Location Information: Scattered sites in Dougherty County, Georgia, concentrated in zip code 31705. Site specific reviews will be prepared for each qualified property slated to undergo repair/elevation/reconstruction.

Direct Comments to: Kathleen Vaughn, Office of Community Development, Kathleen.Vaughn@dca.ga.gov, 404-679-0594

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) proposes to use Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to meet the unmet housing needs in Dougherty County that were caused by Hurricane Michael. The DCA allocated $10,459,250 total to the state-wide program. This broad level Tier 1 review is for the following activities: rehabilitation, repair, remediation, elevation, and/or reconstruction of single-family residences that were impacted by Hurricane Michael.

Approximate size of the project area: Scattered sites located in Dougherty County, Georgia (335 sq. miles), concentrated in zip code 31705 (145 sq. miles)

Length of time covered by this review: Five (5) years

Maximum number of dwelling units or lots addressed by this tiered review: Up to 100 units

Level of Environmental Review Determination:
Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR 58.35(a), and subject to laws and authorities at §58.5 (a)(3)(i): Rehabilitation or reconstruction of buildings and improvements when the following conditions are met: In the case of a building for residential use (single-family units), the density is not increased beyond four units and the land use will not be changed.

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Program Name	Funding Amount
P-19-GA-13-DD2	CDBG-DR	Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program	$10,459,250

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: $10,459,250

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]**:**
$10,459,250

Compliance with 24 CFR 50.4, 58.5, and 58.6 Laws and Authorities and Written Strategies

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR 50.4, 58.5, and 58.6	Was compliance achieved at the broad level of review?	**If Yes:** Describe compliance determinations made at the broad level. **If No:** Describe the policy, standard, or process to be followed in the site-specific review.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.6		
Airport Hazards	Yes No	Airport hazards will be evaluated on a site-specific basis. Each site will be reviewed to

24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	☐ ☒	verify it is not located in a Runway Protection Zone, Clear Zone, or Accident Potential Zone. This will be verified in the Noise Abatement and Control Section of the Site-Specific Checklist. See **Exhibit K** for reference.
Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes No ☒ ☐	Dougherty County is not located in a Coastal Barrier Resource Area. This project is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. See **Exhibit C** for reference.
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	Yes No ☐ ☒	Compliance with the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 will be conducted on a site-specific basis. Each site will be identified on FEMA DFIRM maps to determine if it is located within a floodplain. If a site is located within a floodplain, flood insurance will be required. See **Exhibit K** for reference.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR §58.5		
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes No ☒ ☐	This project involves the repair of existing single-family homes. The footprint will not be expanded, and no conversion will take place. This project is not located within a nonattainment county. This project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act. See **Exhibit D** for reference.
Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes No ☒ ☐	Dougherty County is not located in a coastal zone management area. This project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. See **Exhibit E** for reference.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)]	Yes No ☐ ☒	Contamination and toxic substances will be evaluated on a site-specific basis. See **Exhibit K** for reference.
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes No ☒ ☐	This project involves the repair of existing single-family homes. The footprint will not be expanded, and no conversion will take place. Due to the nature of the activities involved in the project, this project will have no effect on the listed species or habitats. This

		project is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. See **Exhibit F** for reference.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes ☒ No ☐	This project does not involve construction or rehabilitation that will increase residential densities. Based on the project description, no activities require further evaluation under this section. This project is in compliance with explosive and flammable hazard requirements. See **Exhibit G** for reference.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	Yes ☒ No ☐	This project involves the rehabilitation of existing single-family homes in developed areas. The footprint of the home will not be expanded. This project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act. See **Exhibit H** for reference.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	Yes ☐ No ☒	Compliance with Executive Order 11988 will be conducted on a site-specific basis. See **Exhibit K** for reference.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes ☐ No ☒	Compliance with the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 will be evaluated on a site-specific basis. See **Exhibit K** for reference.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes ☐ No ☒	Compliance with Noise Abatement and Control requirements will be evaluated on a site-specific basis. See **Exhibit K** for reference.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes ☒ No ☐	No sole-source aquifers are in or near the project area. This project is in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. See **Exhibit I** for reference.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes ☐ No ☒	Compliance with Executive Order 11990 will be evaluated on a site-specific basis. See **Exhibit K** for reference.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes ☒ No ☐	There are no designated wild and scenic rivers located within proximity of the project, but there are some study rivers located in Dougherty County. However, this project is not a water resources project. This project involves the rehabilitation of existing single-

		family homes in developed areas. The footprint of the home will not be expanded. This project is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. See **Exhibit J** for reference.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	Yes ☐ No ☒	Compliance with Executive Order 12898 will be conducted on a site-specific basis. See **Exhibit K** for reference.

The Tier 2 Site Specific Checklist is attached to this submission.

Determination:

☐ Extraordinary circumstances exist and this project may result in significant environmental impact. This project requires preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA); OR

☒ There are no extraordinary circumstances which would require completion of an EA, and this project may remain CEST.

Preparer Signature: Candice Mahoney Date: 6/20/2022

Name/Title/Organization: Candice Mahoney/Senior Grant Manager/Hunt, Guillot & Associates

Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature:

_____Date: _____

Name/Title: Rusty Haygood/Deputy Commissioner/Georgia Department of Community Affairs

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).

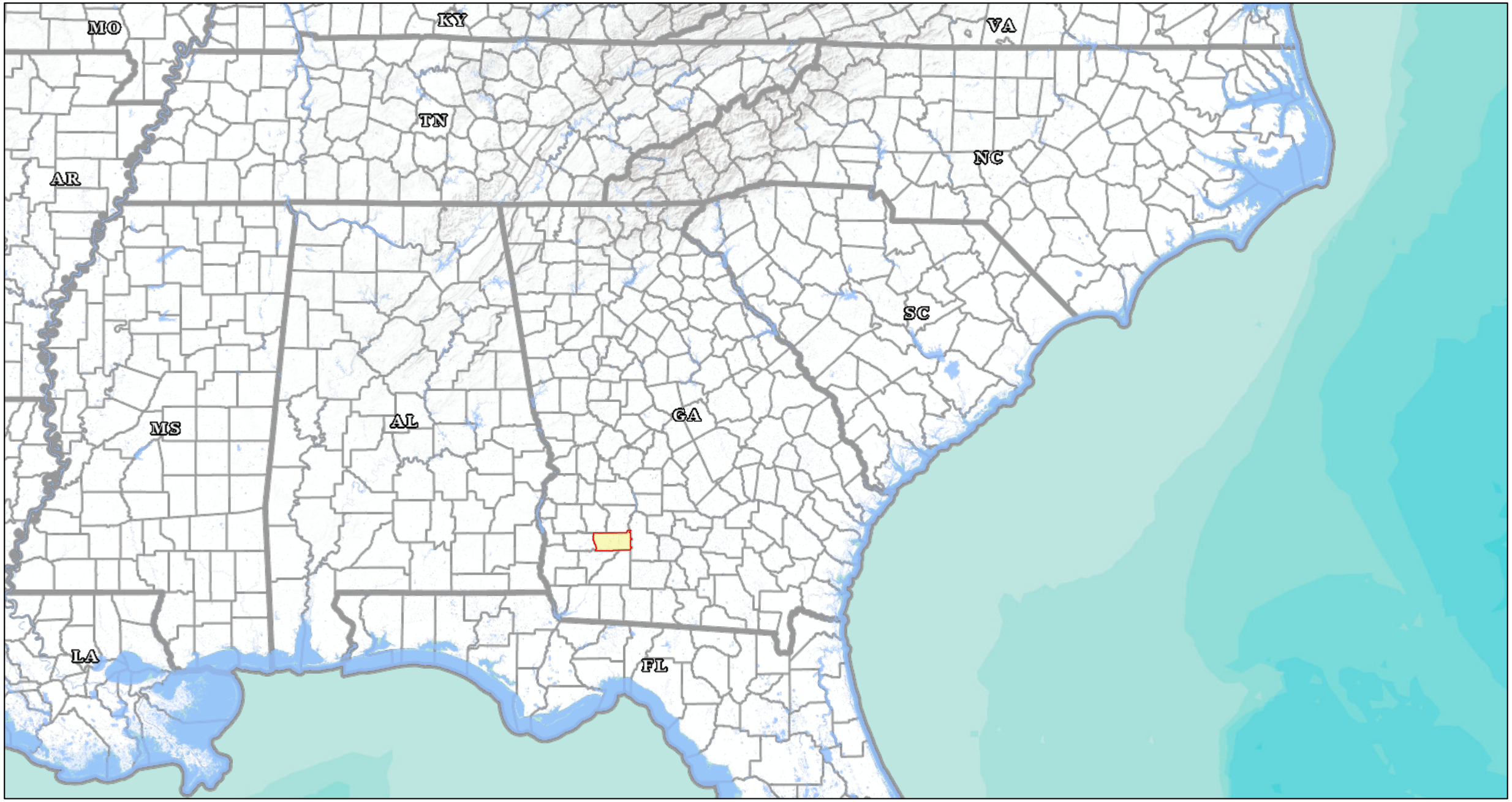
This document represents the Tier 1 or Broad-Level review *only*. As individual sites are selected, this review must be supplemented by individual Tier 2 or Site-Specific reviews for each site. All laws and authorities requiring site-specific analysis will be addressed in these individual reviews.

Supporting Documentation

Exhibit A: County Location Maps
Exhibit B: County NEPAssist Report
Exhibit C: Coastal Barrier Resources Maps
Exhibit D: NEPAssist Attainment Area Map
Exhibit E: Coastal Zone Management Area Map
Exhibit F: Biological Assessment, Species List
Exhibit G: Explosives – Partner Worksheet
Exhibit H: Farmlands – Partner Worksheet
Exhibit I: Sole Source Aquifer Map
Exhibit J: Wild and Scenic Rivers Map, Nationwide Rivers Inventory Map
Exhibit K: Tier 2 Site Specific Checklist and Strategy

A – COUNTY LOCATION MAPS

Dougherty County Location



June 20, 2022

1:5,124,496

0 55 110 220 mi

0 85 170 340 km

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Created with: TIGERweb
(c)Copyright 2022 - US Census Bureau

Dougherty County Location Map

June 20, 2022

1:640,562

0 5 10 20 mi

0 10 20 40 km

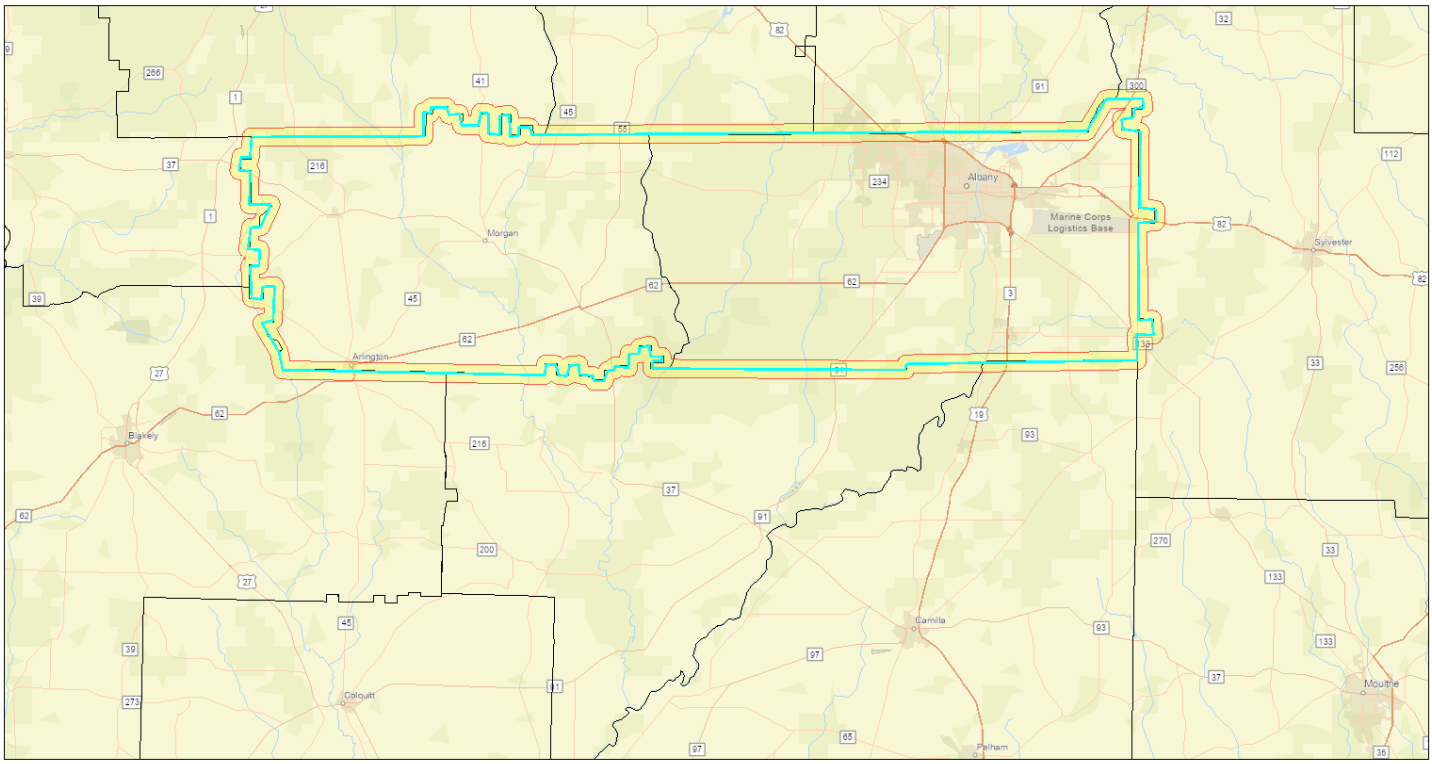
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Created with: TIGERweb
(c)Copyright 2022 - US Census Bureau

B – COUNTY NEPASSIST REPORT

NEPAssist Report

Dougherty County Map



June 20, 2022

Dougherty County Map

Project Buffer

Counties

1:366,900

0 4 8 16 mi

0 5 10 20 km

Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, EPA OEI

Input Coordinates: 31.619427,-84.817753,31.620011,-84.658452,31.639305,-84.658452,31.638136,-84.652272,31.642812,-84.651585,31.642812,-84.637166,31.636966,-84.635106,31.637551,-84.625493,31.628782,-84.623433,31.628782,-84.607640,31.638720,-84.605580,31.638136,-84.598713,31.622350,-84.598713,31.621181,-84.587727,31.636382,-84.587727,31.636966,-84.579487,31.619427,-84.578114,31.620596,-84.570561,31.627028,-84.570561,31.627028,-84.560261,31.621181,-84.558201,31.624104,-84.044591,31.649242,-84.026738,31.649827,-83.993092,31.642812,-83.991719,31.642228,-83.999959,31.634628,-84.002019,31.633459,-84.012318,31.625858,-84.011632,31.623520,-83.995152,31.563862,-83.995839,31.562107,-83.980732,31.552746,-83.980732,31.551575,-83.997212,31.474891,-83.996525,31.475476,-83.984166,31.463178,-83.982792,31.463763,-83.998585,31.443262,-83.997899,31.440333,-84.211445,31.435646,-84.212819,31.436818,-84.446965,31.442676,-84.446278,31.442676,-84.438038,31.446191,-84.438038,31.446191,-84.448338,31.454978,-84.449711,31.453220,-84.458638,31.448534,-84.459324,31.448534,-84.468251,31.437404,-84.468937,31.438575,-84.481297,31.435646,-84.481984,31.435060,-84.488164,31.426858,-84.491597,31.426858,-84.500523,31.430959,-84.501896,31.432131,-84.514256,31.439747,-84.514943,31.439161,-84.523182,31.430959,-84.525929,31.431545,-84.533482,31.439747,-84.536229,31.440333,-84.545155,31.431545,-84.546528,31.435646,-84.788914,31.449706,-84.792347,31.472548,-84.808140,31.474891,-84.797841,31.501825,-84.796467,31.501240,-84.807454,31.491287,-84.808827,31.492458,-84.817753,31.517631,-84.819127,31.518217,-84.810887,31.530508,-84.810200,31.531093,-84.821187,31.548064,-84.818440,31.548650,-84.809514,31.566203,-84.799901,31.566203,-84.819813,31.592526,-84.819127,31.593111,-84.829426,31.603638,-84.827366,31.603053,-84.819127,31.618842,-84.817753

Length of digitized line	148.80 mi
Within 0.5 miles of an Ozone 8-hr (1997 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	no
Within 0.5 miles of an Ozone 8-hr (2008 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	no
Within 0.5 miles of a Lead (2008 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	no
Within 0.5 miles of a SO2 1-hr (2010 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	no
Within 0.5 miles of a PM2.5 24hr (2006 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	no
Within 0.5 miles of a PM2.5 Annual (1997 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	no
Within 0.5 miles of a PM2.5 Annual (2012 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	no

Within 0.5 miles of a PM10 (1987 standard) Non-Attainment/Maintenance Area?	no
Within 0.5 miles of a Federal Land?	no
Within 0.5 miles of an impaired stream?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of an impaired waterbody?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of a waterbody?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of a stream?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of an NWI wetland?	Available Online
Within 0.5 miles of a Brownfields site?	no
Within 0.5 miles of a Superfund site?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of a Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) site?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of a water discharger (NPDES)?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of a hazardous waste (RCRA) facility?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of an air emission facility?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of a school?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of an airport?	no
Within 0.5 miles of a hospital?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of a designated sole source aquifer?	no
Within 0.5 miles of a historic property on the National Register of Historic Places?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of a Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) site?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of a Land Cession Boundary?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of a tribal area (lower 48 states)?	no
Within 0.5 miles of the service area of a mitigation or conservation bank?	yes
Within 0.5 miles of the service area of an In-Lieu-Fee Program?	yes

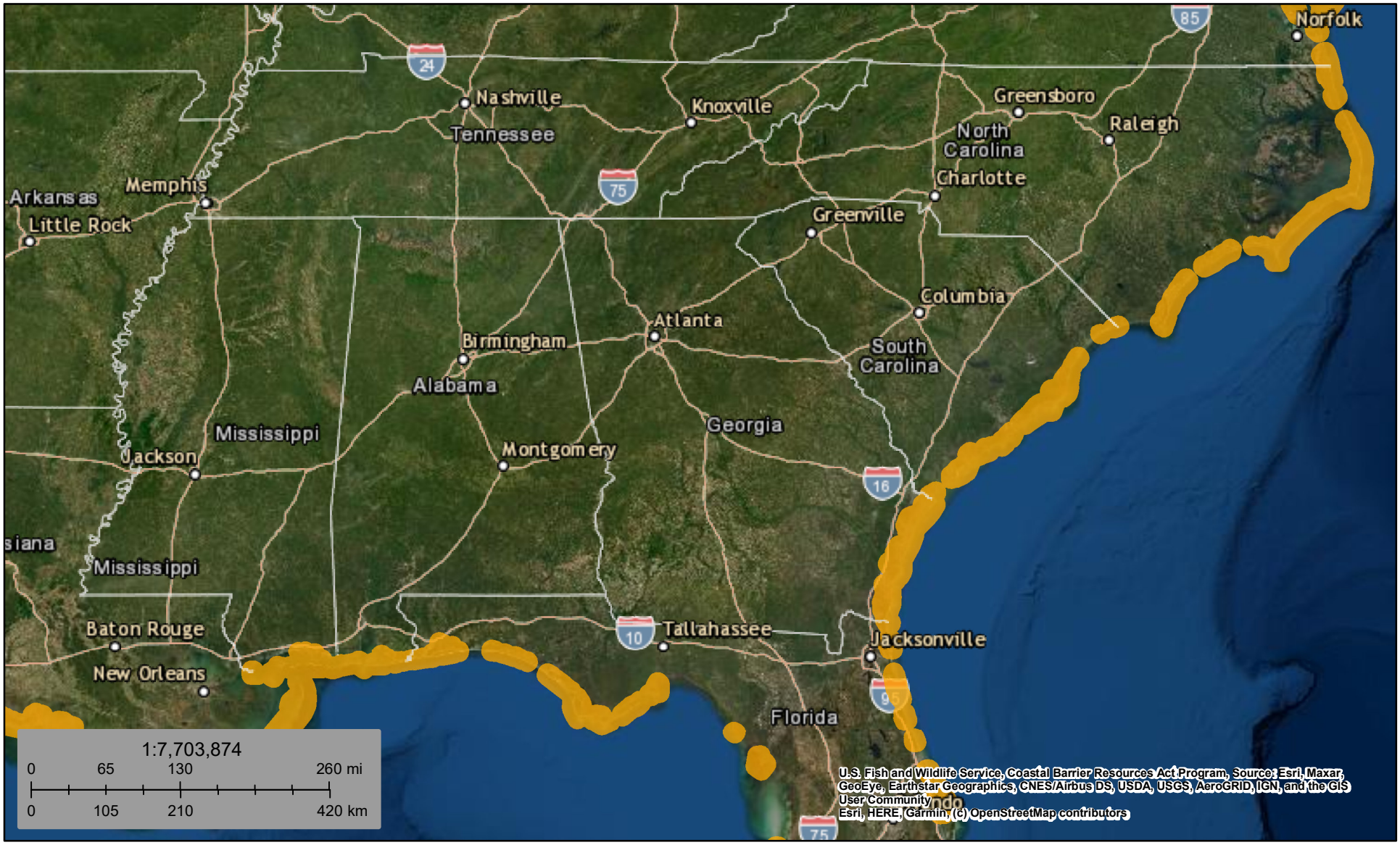
Created on: 6/20/2022 3:03:49 PM

C – COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES MAP

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Coastal Barrier Resources System

Georgia CBRS Map



March 25, 2022

CBRS Units

This map is for general reference only. The Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) boundaries depicted on this map are representations of the controlling CBRS boundaries, which are shown on the official maps, accessible at https://www.fws.gov/cbra/maps/index.html. All CBRS related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the CBRS Mapper website.

The CBRS Buffer Zone represents the area immediately adjacent to the CBRS boundary where users are advised to contact the Service for an official determination (http://www.fws.gov/cbra/Determinations.html) as to whether the property or project site is located "in" or "out" of the CBRS.

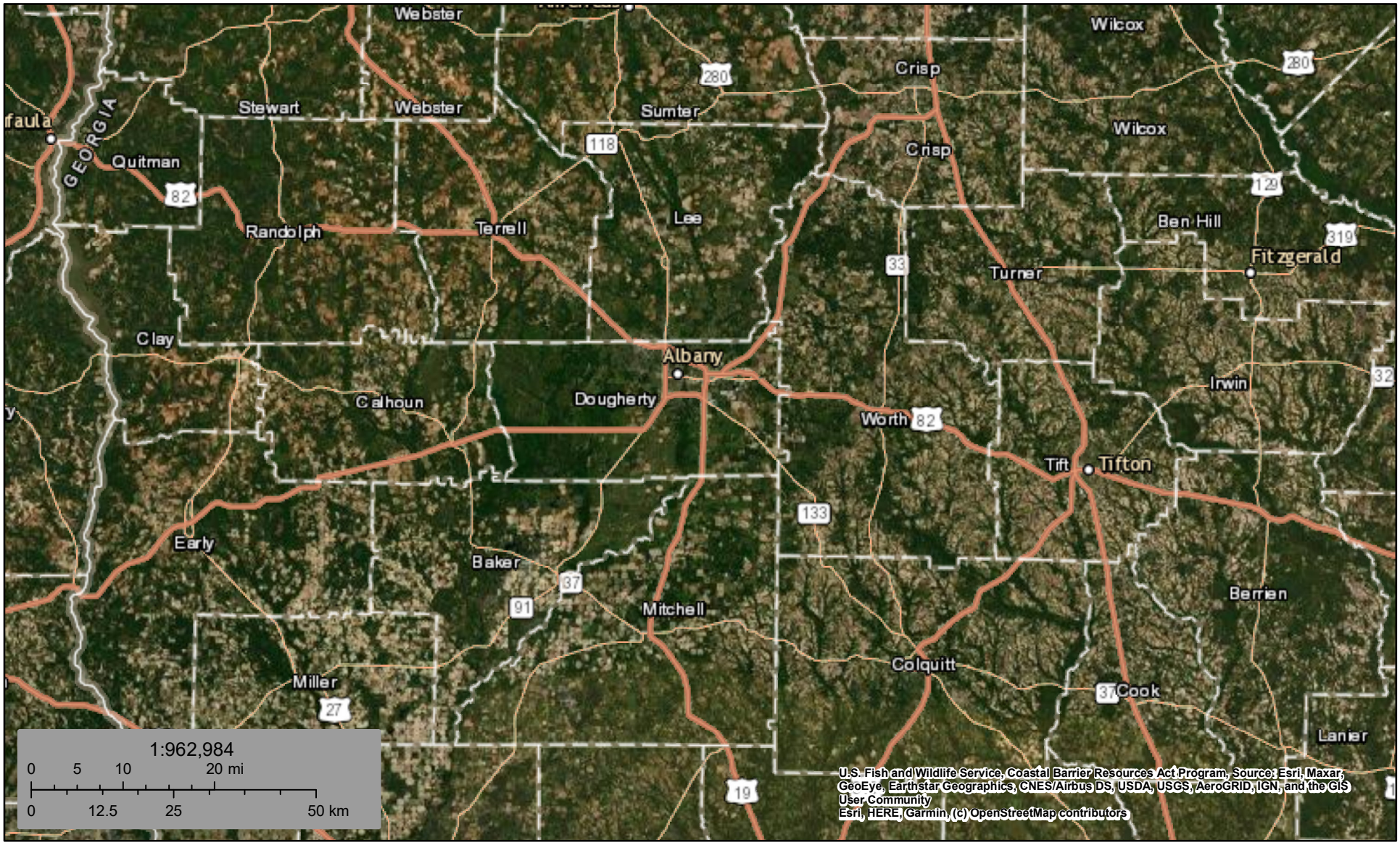
CBRS Units normally extend seaward out to the 20- or 30-foot bathymetric contour (depending on the location of the unit). The true seaward extent of the units is not shown in the CBRS mapper.

This page was produced by the CBRS Mapper

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Coastal Barrier Resources System

Dougherty County



March 25, 2022

CBRS Units

- Otherwise Protected Area
- System Unit

This map is for general reference only. The Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) boundaries depicted on this map are representations of the controlling CBRS boundaries, which are shown on the official maps, accessible at https://www.fws.gov/cbra/maps/index.html. All CBRS related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the CBRS Mapper website.

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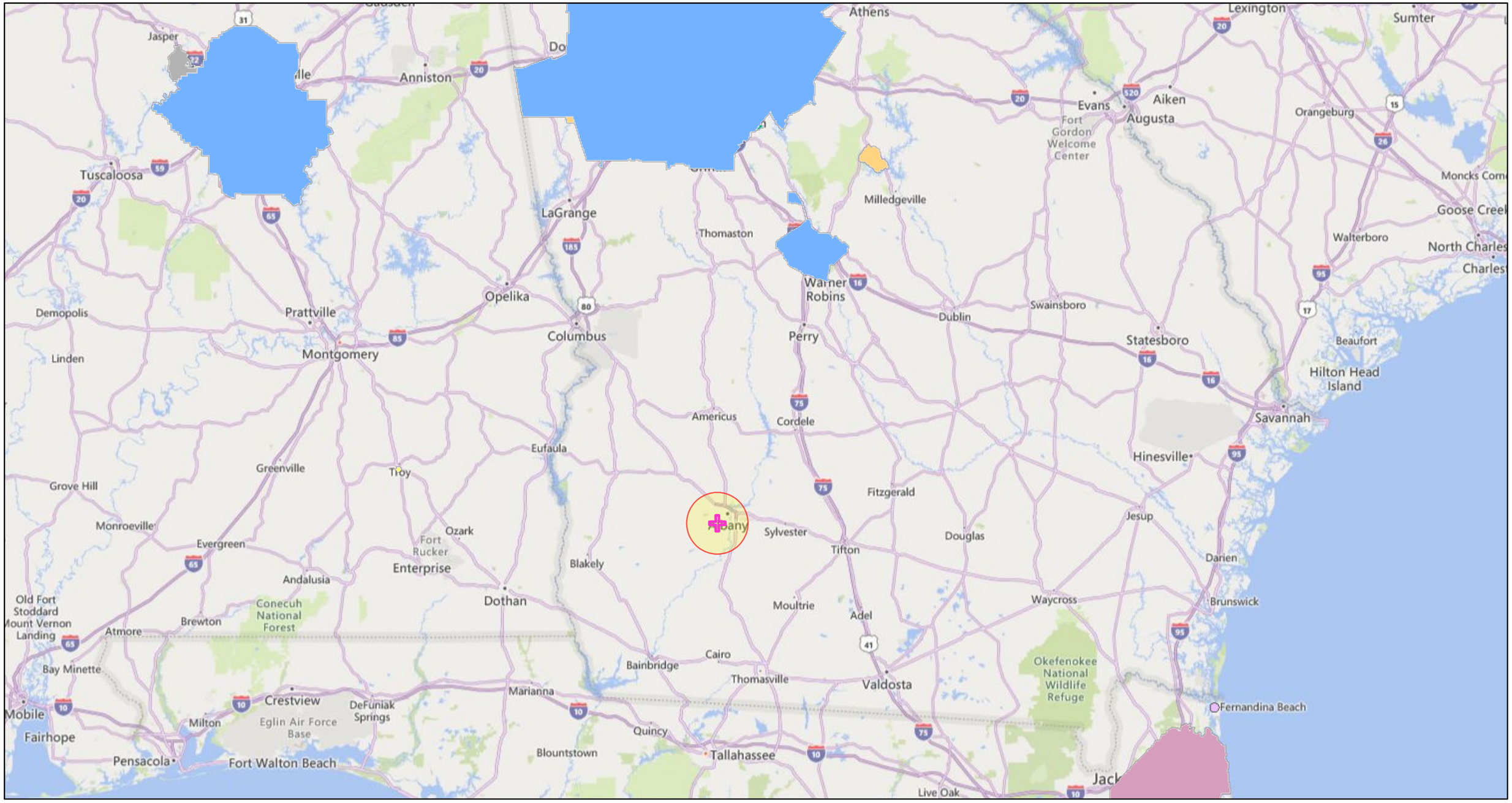
This page was produced by the CBRS Mapper

D – ATTAINMENT AREAS MAP

Dougherty County Attainment Area



March 29, 2022

1:2,311,162

0 20 40 80 mi

0 37.5 75 150 km

Project Buffer

Search Result (point)

Ozone 8-hr (1997 standard)

Maintenance (NAAQS revoked)

Ozone 8-hr (2008 standard)

Maintenance

Ozone 8-hr (2015 Standard)

Nonattainment

Lead (2008 standard)

Maintenance

SO2 1-hr (2010 standard)

Maintenance

PM2.5 24hr (2006 standard)

Maintenance

PM2.5 Annual (1997 standard)

Maintenance (NAAQS revoked)

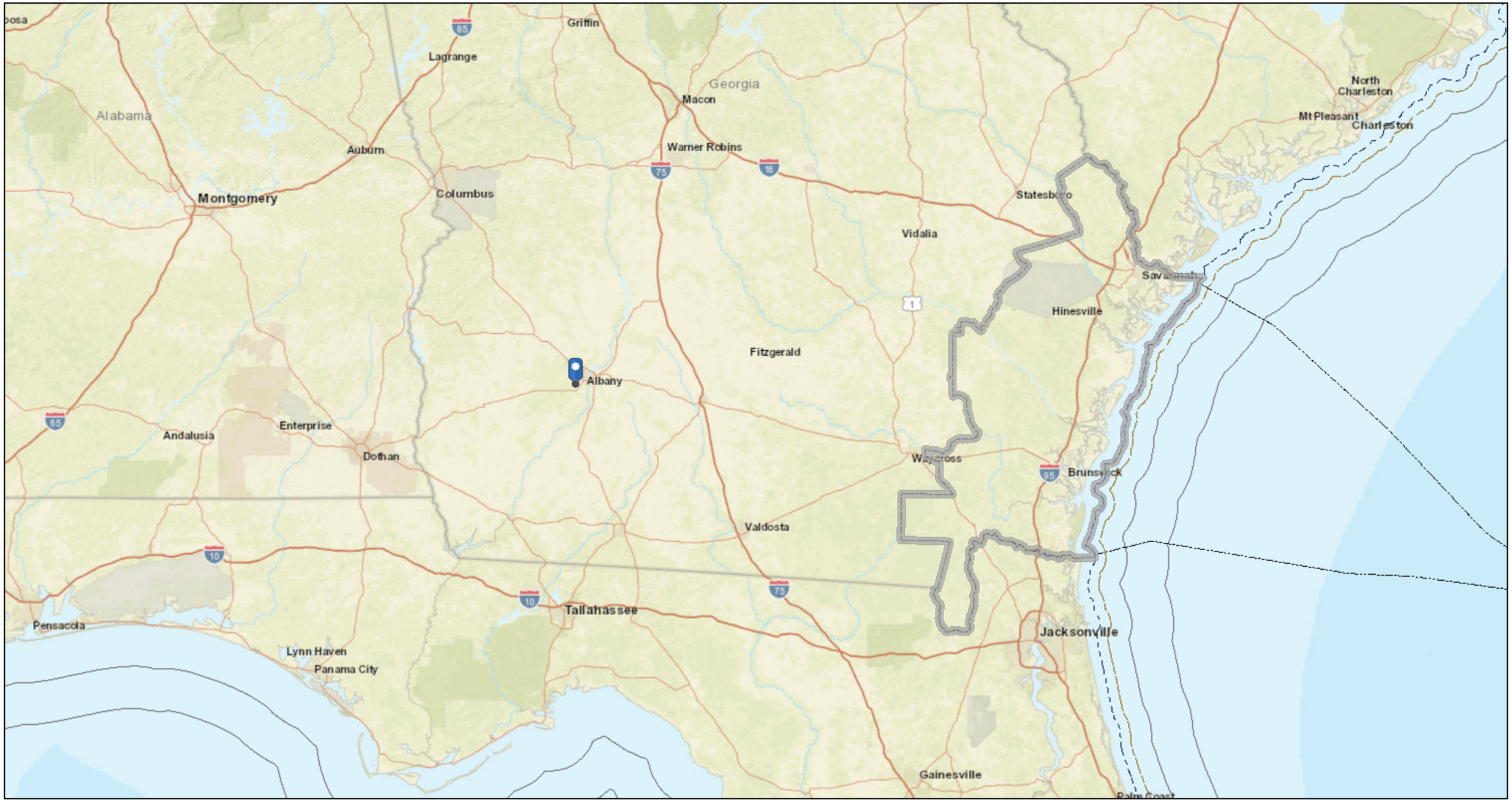
Ozone 1-hr (1979 standard-revoked)

Maintenance (NAAQS revoked)

© 2022 Microsoft Corporation © 2022 TomTom, U.S. EPA Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) - Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS)

E – COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AREAS MAP

Georgia Coastal Zone Management Area Map



3/25/2022, 1:41:27 PM

1:2,311,162

0 25 50 100 mi

0 37.5 75 150 km

- 24NM Contigous Zone
- 12NM Territorial Sea
- Limits of OCSLA '8(g)' zone
- Submerged Land Acts Boundary
- Federal OCS Administrative Boundaries
- Coastal Zone Management Area

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Web AppBuilder for ArcGIS

Esri, HERE, Garmin, NGA, USGS, NPS | NOAA | USFWS, GADNR | Georgia Tech | Ga DNR CRD Naturserv | Dr. Clark Alexander

F – SPECIES LIST, IPAC BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMNET, USFWS CORRESPONDENCE

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Georgia Ecological Services Field Office
355 East Hancock Avenue
Room 320
Athens, GA 30601
Phone: (706) 613-9493 Fax: (706) 613-6059

In Reply Refer To: March 29, 2022
Project Code: 2022-0025356
Project Name: Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your request for information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) as amended (16 USC 701-715), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) as amended (16 USC 668-668c). We are providing the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may or may not occur within your project area and to recommend some conservation measures that can be included in your project design if you determine those species or designated critical habitat may be affected by your proposed project.

FEDERALLY-LISTED SPECIES AND DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT

Attached is a list of endangered, threatened, and proposed species that may occur in your project area. Your project area may not necessarily include all or any of these species. Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency, project proponent, or their designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service further. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service, to make “no effect” determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have “no effect” on threatened or endangered species or their respective critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service. Nevertheless, it is a violation of Federal law to harm or harass any federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species without the appropriate permit. If you need additional information to assist in your effect determination, please contact the Service.

If you determine that your proposed action may affect federally listed species, please consult with the Service. Through the consultation process, we will analyze information contained in a biological assessment or equivalent document that you provide. If your proposed action is associated with Federal funding or permitting, consultation will occur with the Federal agency under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. Otherwise, an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (also known as a Habitat Conservation Plan) may be necessary to exempt harm or harass federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species. For more information regarding formal consultation and HCPs, please see the Service's Section 7 Consultation Library and Habitat Conservation Plans Library Collections.

Action Area. The scope of federally listed species compliance not only includes direct effects, but also any indirect effects of project activities (e.g., equipment staging areas, offsite borrow material areas, or utility relocations). The action area is the spatial extent of an action's direct and indirect modifications or impacts to the land, water, or air (50 CFR 402.02). Large projects may have effects to land, water, or air outside the immediate footprint of the project, and these areas should be included as part of the action area. Effects to land, water, or air outside of a project footprint could include things like lighting, dust, smoke, and noise. To obtain a complete list of species, the action area should be uploaded or drawn in IPaC rather than just the project footprint.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. An updated list may be requested through IPaC.

If you determine that your action may affect any federally listed species and would like technical assistance from our office, please send us a complete project review package (refer to Georgia Ecological Services' Project Planning and Review page for more details), including the following information (reference to these items can be found in 50 CFR§402.13 and 402.14):

1. A description of the proposed action, including any measures intended to avoid, minimize, or offset effects of the action. Consistent with the nature and scope of the proposed action, the description shall provide sufficient detail to assess the effects of the action on listed species and critical habitat, including:
    - The purpose of the action;
    - The duration and timing of the action;
    - The location of the action;
    - The specific components of the action and how they will be carried out;
    - Description of areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the action;
    - Maps, drawings, blueprints, or similar schematics of the action
2. An updated Official Species List

3. Biological Assessments (may include habitat assessments and information on the presence of listed species in the action area);
4. Description of effects of the action on species in the action area and, if relevant, effect determinations for species and critical habitat;
5. Conservation measures and any other available information related to the nature and scope of the proposed action relevant to its effects on listed species or designated critical habitat (examples include: stormwater plans, management plans, erosion and sediment plans). Please see our Georgia Planning and Consultation Tools page for recommendations.

Please submit all consultation documents via email to gaes_assistance@fws.gov or by using IPaC, uploaded documents, and sharing the project with a specific Georgia Ecological Services staff member. If the project is on-going, documents can also be sent to the Georgia Ecological Services staff member currently working with you on your project. For Georgia Department of Transportation related projects, please work with the Office of Environmental Services ecologist to determine the appropriate USFWS transportation liaison.

WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value. We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's NWI program website (https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory) integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The MBTA prohibits the taking of migratory birds, nests, and eggs, except as permitted by the Service's Migratory Birds Program (https://fws.gov/program/migratory-birds). To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to migratory birds, we recommend construction activities occur outside the general bird nesting season from March through August, or that areas proposed for construction during the nesting season be surveyed, and when occupied, avoided until the young have fledged.

We recommend review of Birds of Conservation Concern to fully evaluate the effects to the birds at your site. This list identifies birds that are potentially threatened by disturbance and construction. It can be found at the Service's Migratory Birds Conservation Library Collection (https://fws.gov/library/collections/migratory-bird-conservation-documents).

Information related to best practices and migratory birds can be found at the Service's Avoiding and Minimizing Incidental Take of Migratory Birds Library Collection (https://fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds).

BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was delisted under the ESA on August 9, 2007. Both the bald eagle and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) are still protected under the MBTA and BGEPA. The BGEPA affords both eagles protection in addition to that provided by the MBTA, in particular, by making it unlawful to “disturb” eagles. Under the BGEPA, the Service may issue limited permits to incidentally “take” eagles (e.g., injury, interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior nest abandonment). For information on bald and golden eagle management guidelines, we recommend you review information provided at the Service's Bald and Golden Eagle Management Library Collection (https://fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management).

NATIVE BATS

If your species list includes Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) or northern long-eared bat (*M. septentrionalis*) and the project is expected to impact forested habitat that is appropriate for maternity colonies of these species, forest clearing should occur outside of the period when bats may be present. Federally listed bats could be actively present in forested landscapes from April 1 to October 15 of any year and have non-volant pups from May 15 to July 31 in any year. Non-volant pups are incapable of flight and are vulnerable to disturbance during that time.

Indiana, northern long-eared, and gray (*M. grisescens*) bats are all known to utilize bridges and culverts in Georgia. If your project includes maintenance, construction, or any other modification or demolition to transportation structures, a qualified individual should complete a survey of these structures for bats and submit your findings via the Georgia Bats in Bridges cell phone application, free on Apple and Android devices. Please include these findings in any biological assessment(s) or other documentation that is submitted to our office for technical assistance or consultation.

Additional information on bat avoidance and minimization can be found at Georgia Ecological Services' Planning and Consultations Tools and Bat Conservation in Georgia pages.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY

On December 20, 2020, the Service determined that listing the Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) under the Endangered Species Act is warranted but precluded at this time by higher priority listing actions. With this finding, the monarch butterfly becomes a candidate for listing. The Service will review its status each year until we are able to begin developing a proposal to list the monarch.

As it is a candidate for listing, the Service welcomes conservation measures for this species. Recommended, and voluntary, conservation measures for projects in Georgia can be found at our Monarch Conservation in Georgia page.

STATE AGENCY COORDINATION

Additional information that addresses at-risk or high priority natural resources can be found in the State Wildlife Action Plan (https://georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeActionPlan), at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division Biodiversity Portal (https://

georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern), Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS portal (https://www.gnahrgis.org/gnahrgis/index.do), and the Georgia Ecological Services HUC10 Watershed Guidance page.

Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species. We appreciate your efforts to identify and avoid impacts to listed and sensitive species in your project area. For further consultation on your proposed activity, please email gaes_assistance@fws.gov and reference the project county and your Service Project Tracking Number.

This letter constitutes Georgia Ecological Services' general comments under the authority of the Endangered Species Act.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Georgia Ecological Services Field Office
355 East Hancock Avenue
Room 320
Athens, GA 30601
(706) 613-9493

Project Summary

Project Code: 2022-0025356
Event Code: None
Project Name: Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program
Project Type: Disaster-related Grants
Project Description: Rehabilitation, repair, remediation, elevation, and/or reconstruction of single-family residences that were impacted by Hurricane Michael.
Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@31.543066500000002,-84.22192068070669,14z

Counties: Dougherty County, Georgia

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 15 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* Population: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8477	Threatened

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Indigo Snake *Drymarchon corais couperi* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/646	Threatened
Gopher Tortoise *Gopherus polyphemus* Population: eastern No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6994	Candidate

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander *Ambystoma bishopi* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8939	Endangered

Clams

NAME	STATUS
Fat Threeridge (mussel) *Amblema neislerii* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2574	Endangered
Gulf Moccasinshell *Medionidus penicillatus* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7663	Endangered
Oval Pigtoe *Pleurobema pyriforme* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4132	Endangered
Purple Bankclimber (mussel) *Elliptoideus sloatianus* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7660	Threatened
Shinyrayed Pocketbook *Lampsilis subangulata* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6517	Endangered

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
American Chaffseed *Schwalbea americana* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1286	Endangered
Canby's Dropwort *Oxypolis canbyi* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7738	Endangered
Cooley's Meadowrue *Thalictrum cooleyi* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3281	Endangered
Pondberry *Lindera melissifolia* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1279	Endangered
Relict Trillium *Trillium reliquum* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8489	Endangered

Critical habitats

There are 5 critical habitats wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME	STATUS
Fat Threeridge (mussel) *Amblema neislerii* https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2574#crithab	Final
Gulf Moccasinshell *Medionidus penicillatus* https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7663#crithab	Final
Oval Pigtoe *Pleurobema pyriforme* https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4132#crithab	Final
Purple Bankclimber (mussel) *Elliptoideus sloatianus* https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7660#crithab	Final
Shinyrayed Pocketbook *Lampsilis subangulata* https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6517#crithab	Final

Migratory Birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

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1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Kestrel *Falco sparverius paulus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 31
Bachman's Sparrow *Aimophila aestivalis* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6177	Breeds May 1 to Sep 30

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31
Cerulean Warbler *Dendroica cerulea* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2974	Breeds Apr 26 to Jul 20
Eastern Whip-poor-will *Antrostomus vociferus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20
Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3941	Breeds elsewhere
Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 20
Le Conte's Sparrow *Ammodramus leconteii* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds elsewhere
Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere
Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds elsewhere

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480	Breeds elsewhere
Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8938	Breeds Mar 10 to Jun 30
Willet *Tringa semipalmata* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 5
Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

Probability Of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

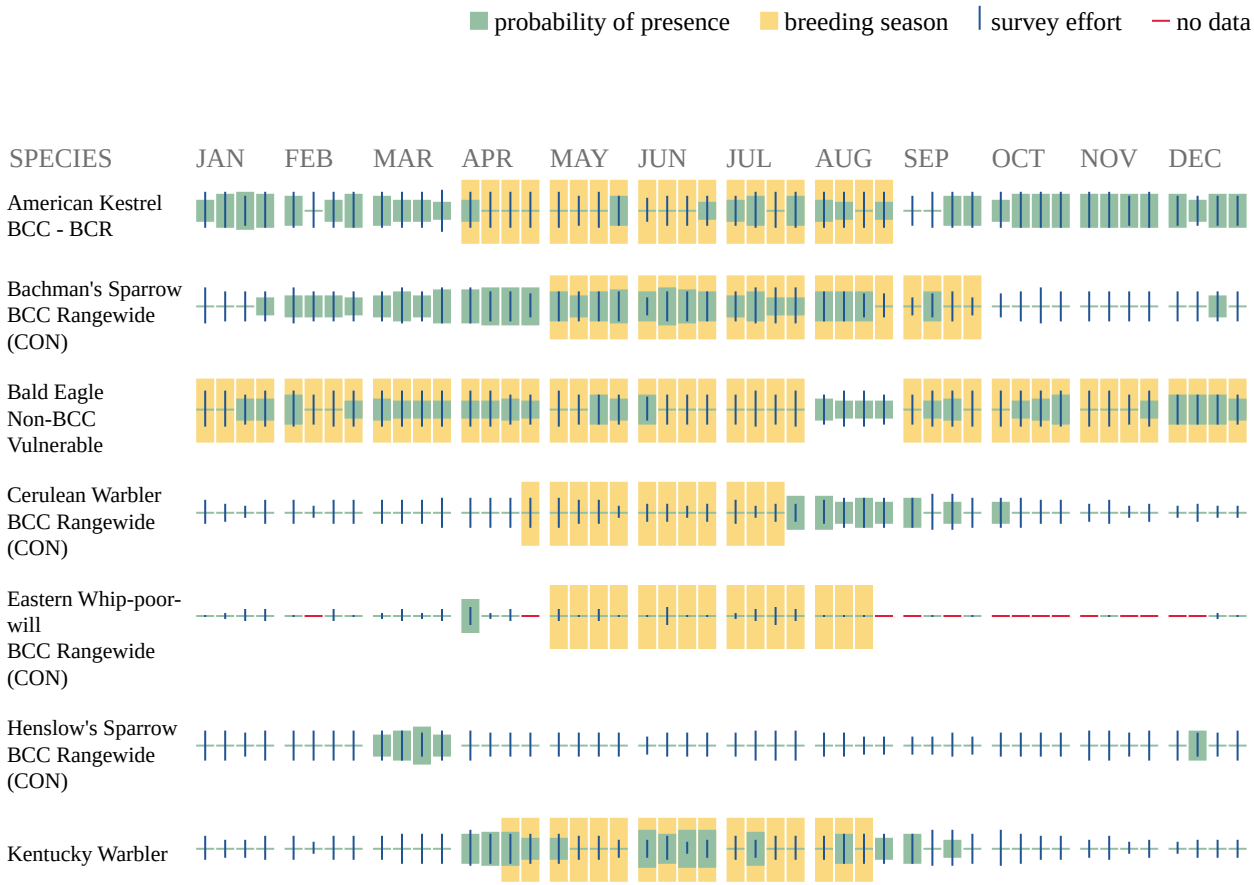
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf

Migratory Birds FAQ

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the AKN Phenology Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets .

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide, or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your

project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?
Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects
For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?
If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report
The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no

data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Wetlands

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

WETLAND INFORMATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE WHEN THIS SPECIES LIST WAS GENERATED. PLEASE VISIT HTTPS://WWW.FWS.GOV/WETLANDS/DATA/MAPPER.HTML OR CONTACT THE FIELD OFFICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

IPaC User Contact Information

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Address: 9357 Interline Avenue
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Zip: 70809
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Lead Agency Contact Information

Lead Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development

Homeowner Rehabilitation And Reconstruction Program

Biological Assessment

Prepared using IPaC

Generated by Candice Mahoney (cmahoney@hga-llc.com)

March 30, 2022

The purpose of this Biological Assessment (BA) is to assess the effects of the proposed project and determine whether the project may affect any Federally threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate species. This BA is prepared in accordance with legal requirements set forth under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1536 (c)).

In this document, any data provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is based on data as of March 29, 2022.

Prepared using IPaC version 6.72.3-rc7

Homeowner Rehabilitation And Reconstruction Program Biological Assessment

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1 Description Of The Action

1.1 Project Name

Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program

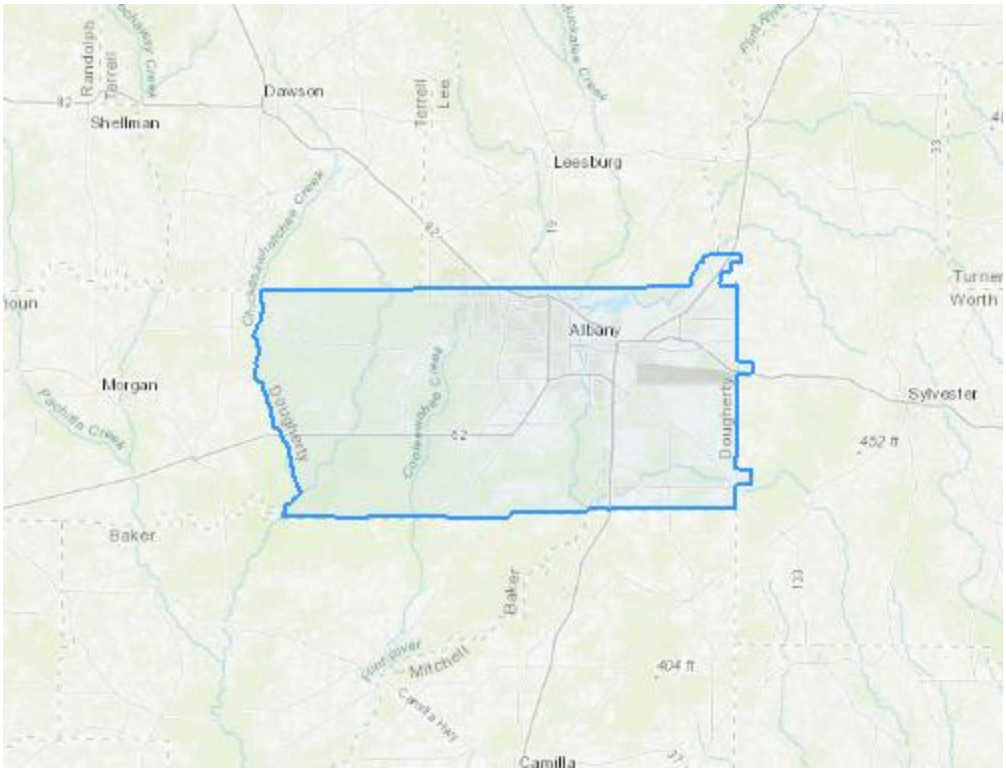
1.2 Executive Summary

Overall, this project should not have any impact on any of these identified species. This project involves the rehabilitation of existing, owner-occupied, single-family homes that sustained damage during Hurricane Michael. The footprint of the units will not be expanded. There may be ground disturbance on some projects, but it will be along the perimeter of the existing home. This project will not involve land clearing, population increases, traffic increases, increased density or development of vacant land.

Effect determination summary

1.3 Project Description

1.3.1 Location



LOCATION
Dougherty County, Georgia

1.3.2 Description of project habitat

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) proposes to use Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to meet the unmet housing needs in Dougherty County that were caused by Hurricane Michael. The DCA allocated $10,459,250 total to the state-wide program. This broad level Tier 1 review is for the following activities: rehabilitation, repair, remediation, elevation, and/or reconstruction of single-family residences that were impacted by Hurricane Michael. This project involves the repair of existing single-family homes. The footprint will not be expanded, and no conversion will take place.

1.3.3 Project proponent information

Provide information regarding who is proposing to conduct the project, and their contact information. Please provide details on whether there is a Federal nexus.

Requesting Agency
Hunt, Guillot & Associates

FULL NAME
Candice Mahoney

STREET ADDRESS
9357 Interline Avenue

CITY	STATE	ZIP
Baton Rouge	LA	70809

PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
5044959097	cmahoney@hga-llc.com

Lead agency
Department of Housing and Urban Development

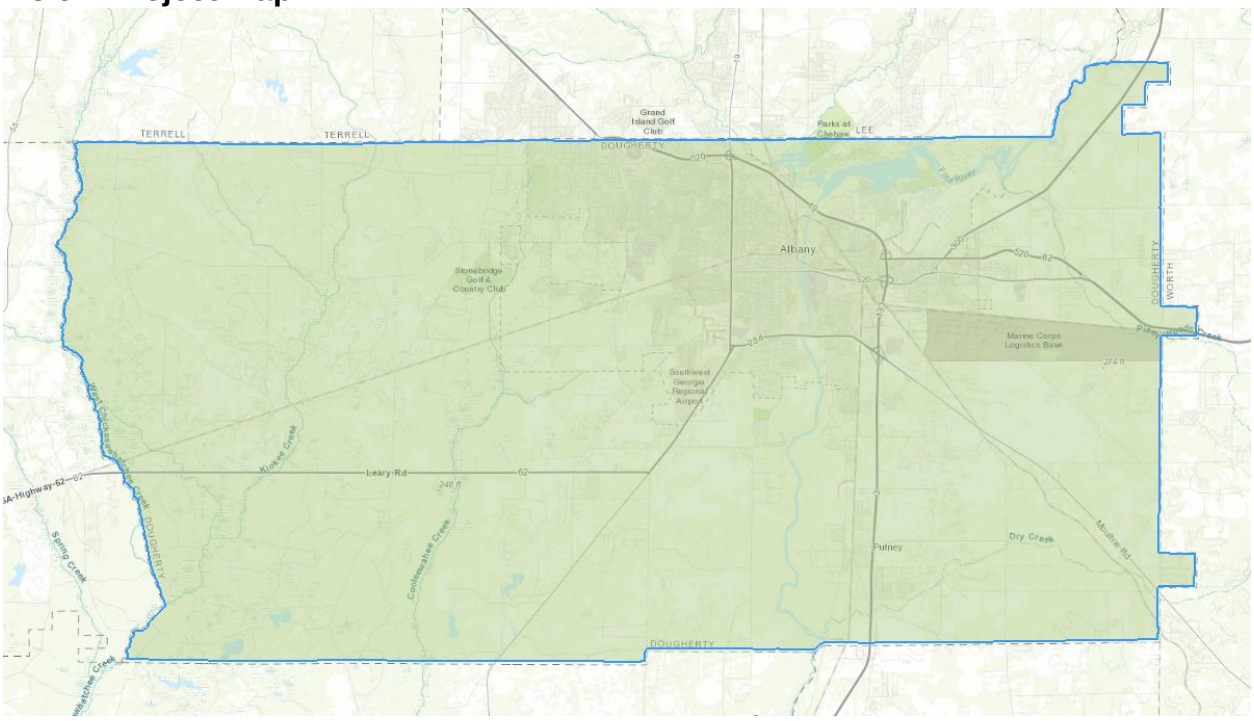
1.3.4 Project purpose

This project is being proposed to address unmet housing repair needs caused by Hurricane Michael.

1.3.5 Project type and deconstruction

This project is a repair/replace residential & commercial structures after flood damage project.

1.3.5.1 Project map



LEGEND

Project footprint

Layer 1: Building (structure)

Layer 2: Debris removal, foundation repair, framing, implement dust controls, install drywall, install flooring, remove damaged framing, remove damaged utilities, remove drywall, remove flooring, building (structure)

1.3.5.2 building

Structure completion date
December 31, 2023

Removal/decommission date (if applicable)
Not applicable

Stressors
This activity is not expected to have any impact on the environment.

Description
This project involves the rehabilitation of up 100, existing, single-family homes on scattered sites in Dougherty County. All buildings already exist, so human presence, traffic and impervious surfaces will not be increased by this project.

1.3.5.3 debris removal

Activity start date
June 01, 2022

Activity end date
December 31, 2023

Stressors
This activity is not expected to have any impact on the environment.

Description
If any debris is removed, it will be done during the rehabilitation process. Debris removal may not be a part of the individual projects; it will be incorporated into the individual scopes of work when needed. The rehabilitation is occurring on scattered sites on single-family homes, so none of the aforementioned stressors should be a problem.

1.3.5.4 foundation repair

Activity start date
June 01, 2022

Activity end date
December 31, 2023

Stressors
This activity is not expected to have any impact on the environment.

Description
This program involves rehabilitation of single-family homes on scattered sites. The need for foundation repairs will be evaluated in the individual scopes of work prepared for each home. Since this work will be done on scattered sites, none of the above stressors should be a concern.

1.3.5.5 framing

Activity start date
June 01, 2022

Activity end date
December 31, 2023

Stressors
This activity is not expected to have any impact on the environment.

Description
Framing may be done on some of the properties. The need for framing work will be determined within each individual scope of work. Since this may be done on single-family homes on scattered sites, none of the above items should be impacted.

1.3.5.6 implement dust controls

Activity start date
June 01, 2022

Activity end date
December 31, 2023

Stressors
This activity is not expected to have any impact on the environment.

Description
This project involves rehabilitation work on scattered sites in Dougherty County. None of these stressors should be triggered.

1.3.5.7 install drywall

Activity start date
June 01, 2022

Activity end date
December 31, 2023

Stressors
This activity is not expected to have any impact on the environment.

Description
Drywall work may be a part of some of the rehabilitation projects. This work will be done on single-family homes located on scattered sites. No impacts are anticipated.

1.3.5.8 install flooring

Activity start date
June 01, 2022

Activity end date
December 31, 2023

Stressors
This activity is not expected to have any impact on the environment.

Description
Flooring work may be a part of some of the rehabilitation projects. No impact on the environment is anticipated.

1.3.5.9 remove damaged framing

Activity start date
June 01, 2022

Activity end date
December 31, 2023

Stressors
This activity is not expected to have any impact on the environment.

Description
There may be some framing repairs done on some of the rehabilitation projects. The need for that work will be determined when the individual scope of work is developed. No impacts are anticipated.

1.3.5.10 remove damaged utilities

Activity start date
June 01, 2022

Activity end date
December 31, 2023

Stressors
This activity is not expected to have any impact on the environment.

Description
Minor utility work may be performed on some of the homes in this project. No impact is anticipated.

1.3.5.11 remove drywall

Activity start date
June 01, 2022

Activity end date
December 31, 2023

Stressors
This activity is not expected to have any impact on the environment.

Description
Drywall work may be performed on some of the homes in this project. No impact is anticipated.

1.3.5.12 remove flooring

Activity start date
June 01, 2022

Activity end date
December 31, 2023

Stressors
This activity is not expected to have any impact on the environment.

Description
Flooring work may be performed on some of the homes in this project. No impacts are anticipated.

1.3.6 Anticipated environmental stressors

Describe the anticipated effects of your proposed project on the aspects of the land, air and water that will occur due to the activities above. These should be based on the activity deconstructions done in the previous section and will be used to inform the action area.

1.3.6.1 Animal Features

Individuals from the Animalia kingdom, such as raptors, mollusks, and fish. This feature also includes byproducts and remains of animals (e.g., carrion, feathers, scat, etc.), and animal-related structures (e.g., dens, nests, hibernacula, etc.).

1.3.6.2 Plant Features

Individuals from the Plantae kingdom, such as trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses, ferns, and mosses. This feature also includes products of plants (e.g., nectar, flowers, seeds, etc.).

1.3.6.3 Environmental Quality Features

Abiotic attributes of the landscape (e.g., temperature, moisture, slope, aspect, etc.).

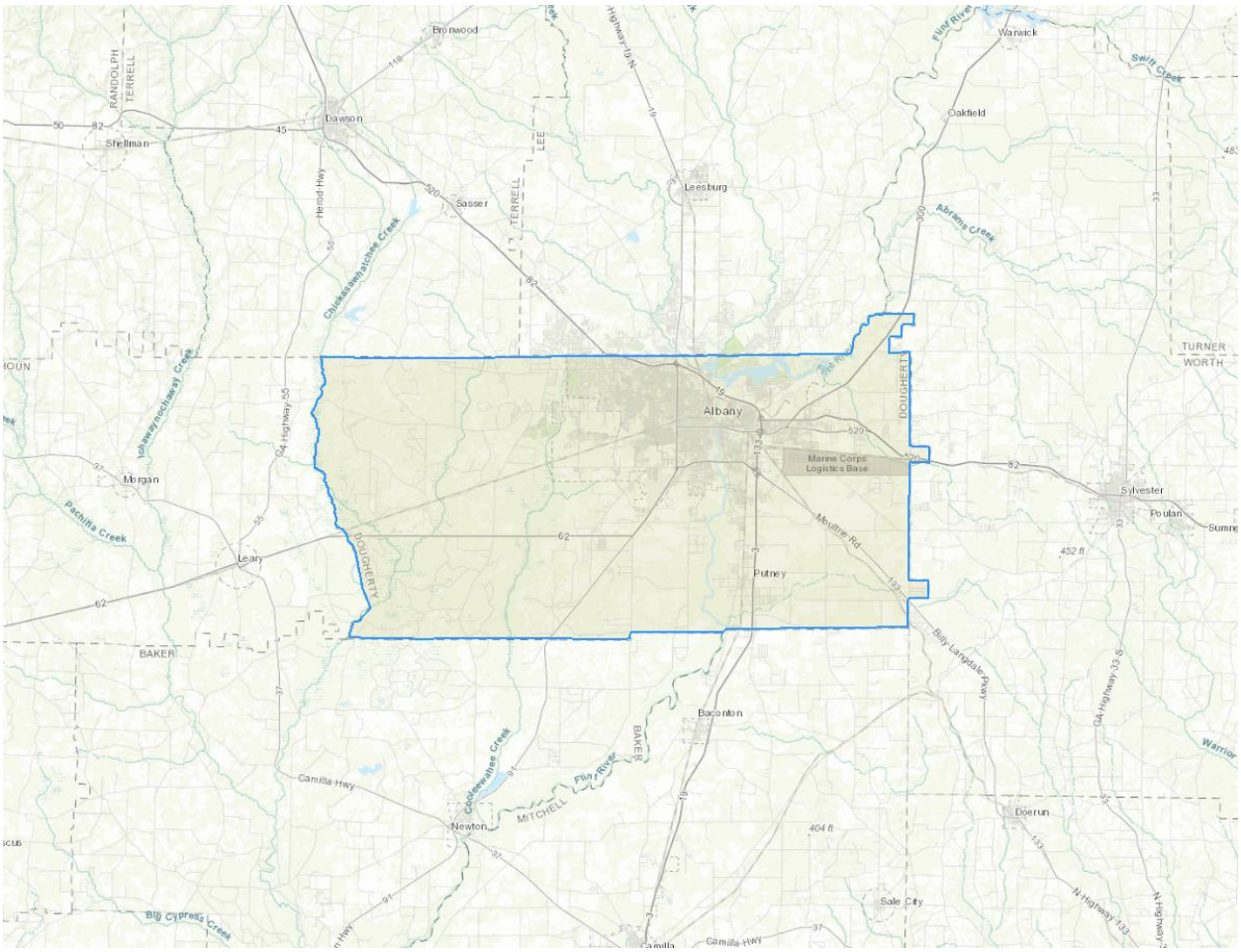
1.3.6.4 Human Features

Man-made Structures on the landscape (e.g., roads, trails, buildings, bridges, farm fields, etc.).

1.3.6.5 Soil and Sediment

The topmost layer of earth on the landscape and its components (e.g., rock, sand, gravel, silt, etc.). This feature includes the physical characteristics of soil, such as depth, compaction, etc. Soil quality attributes (e.g, temperature, pH, etc.) should be placed in the Environmental Quality Features.

1.4 Action Area



1.5 Conservation Measures

1.5.1 will encourage contractors to be aware when removing debris from rehab sites so that snakes are not harmed..

Description
When applicable, language may be written into contracts letting the contractors know that there may be this species of snakes located under, in, or near debris piles. Should they encounter any of this species, they should not disturb them.

Direct interactions

- disturbance

1.6 Prior Consultation History

Most consultations will be performed during the second level of review.

1.7 Other Agency Partners And Interested Parties

- Georgia State Historic Preservation Division (https://www.dca.ga.gov/georgia-historic-preservation-division)
- Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (https://gema.georgia.gov/)
- United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians (https://www.ukb-nsn.gov/)
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town (http://www.alabama-quassarte.org/)
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana (http://koasatiheritage.org/)
- Muscogee Creek Nation (http://www.mcn-nsn.gov/)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (https://www.sas.usace.army.mil/)

1.8 Other Reports And Helpful Information

Not applicable.

2 Species Effects Analysis

This section describes, species by species, the effects of the proposed action on listed, proposed, and candidate species, and the habitat on which they depend. In this document, effects are broken down as direct interactions (something happening directly to the species) or indirect interactions (something happening to the environment on which a species depends that could then result in effects to the species).

These interactions encompass effects that occur both during project construction and those which could be ongoing after the project is finished. All effects, however, should be considered, including effects from direct and indirect interactions and cumulative effects.

2.1 American Chaffseed

2.1.1 Status of the species

This section should provide information on the species' background, its biology and life history that is relevant to the proposed project within the action area that will inform the effects analysis.

2.1.1.1 Legal status

The American Chaffseed is federally listed as 'Endangered' and additional information regarding its legal status can be found on the ECOS species profile.

2.1.1.2 Recovery plans

Available recovery plans for the American Chaffseed can be found on the ECOS species profile.

2.1.1.3 Life history information

https://www.fws.gov/southeast/wildlife/plants/american-chaffseed/

Identified resource needs

Sunlight

Observations on the francis marion national forest indicate that schwalbea plants burned during the growing season will reflower. porcher (1994) reports that mature schwalbea plants in flower will immediately resprout after being burned, resulting in seedsfalling on a bare, mineral soil in full sunlight, which may be a key factor in the plant’s reproductive biology.

2.1.1.4 Conservation needs

Recovery of Schwalbea will be achieved through a combination of the following: habitat protection and management, reintroduction ofSchw2lbea in portions of its former range, research aimed at a better understanding of the species' biology in order to predict viability of populations, and research to determine the best techniques to maintain the species and its habitat. Although many more sites are known for Schwalbea than were known at the time of its listing, the species' existence continues to be tenuous because of the general loss of native ecosystems adapted to frequent fire. Decline of the current fire management employed for game lands and forestry practices could result in a rapid decline of the species. In order to ensure long-term protection for Schwalbea, consideration will be given to obtaining commitments or agreements from private landowners that would afford some level of protection and management conducive to maintaining and increasing Schwalbea populations on these lands. In most cases, the current management of private properties that support Schwalbea includes fire. In such instances, agreements would document existing management practices and provide some assurance of long-term continuance of maintaining a fire regime suited to the native vegetation, including Schwalbea. Existing Federal programs (e.g., the Forest Stewardship Program) could, in some situations, provide landowner incentive for protection and maintenance of Schwalbea habitat on private property.

Source: Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/950929c.pdf)

2.1.2 Environmental baseline

The environmental baseline describes the species' health ***within the action area only*** *at the time of the consultation, and does not include the effects of the action under review. Unlike the species information provided above, the environmental baseline is at the scale of the Action area.*

2.1.2.1 Species presence and use

According to the American chaffseed Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/950929c.pdf) , "threats to this species, habitat destruction/modification, and fire suppression, continue across its range." This project involves the rehabilitation of existing single-family homes that were damaged by Hurricane Michael. The footprint of the homes will not be expanded, so none of the actions that are a threat to this species will take place as a part of this project.

2.1.2.2 Species conservation needs within the action area

Recovery of Schwalbea will be achieved through a combination of the following: habitat protection and management, reintroduction ofSchw2lbea in portions of its former range, research aimed at a better understanding of the species' biology in order to predict viability of populations, and research to determine the best techniques to maintain the species and its habitat. Although many more sites are known for Schwalbea than were known at the time of its listing, the species' existence continues to be tenuous because of the general loss of native ecosystems adapted to frequent fire. Decline of the current fire management employed for game lands and forestry practices could result in a rapid decline of the species. In order to ensure long-term protection for Schwalbea, consideration will be given to obtaining commitments or agreements from private landowners that would afford some level of protection and management conducive to maintaining and increasing Schwalbea populations on these lands. In most cases, the current management of private properties that support Schwalbea includes fire. In such instances, agreements would document existing management practices and provide some assurance of long-term continuance of maintaining a fire regime suited to the native vegetation, including Schwalbea. Existing Federal programs (e.g., the Forest Stewardship
Program) could, in some situations, provide landowner incentive for protection and maintenance of Schwalbea habitat on private property. To expedite recovery efforts on Federal properties, management plans or other
mechanisms that specify protection, management, and monitoring of Schwalbea will be considered (or updated) as necessary. Monitoring will be a required component of both management plans and landowner agreements to ensure that recovery efforts are focused and quantifiable. In addition to protection and management of existing populations, recovery will include limited reintroduction of the species into historical or other suitable habitats, particularly in the northern and, possibly, western portions of the species' historic range. Recovery will entail continued research on the effects of fire and disturbance.

Source: Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/950929c.pdf)

2.1.2.3 Habitat condition (general)

In Georgia, Schlbea occurs on soils that, as indicated by U.S. Department of Agriculture soil surveys, generally include poorly-drained Grady soils in the wetlands surrounded by well-drained loamy sands or sandy beams, such as Wagram, Norfolk and Duplin series (Kirkman 1993). In North Carolina, soils include those in the Blaney, Candor, Gelead, Fuquay, Lakeland, and Vaucluse series (The Nature Conservancy 1993).

Source: Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/950929c.pdf)

2.1.2.4 Influences

Schwalbea has been, and continues to be, endangered by development and by succession of its habitat. Sandy pineland communities where the species exists have proven to be especially vulnerable to development because soils are level, deep, and suitable for building sites. In addition, many SchwaThea populations were or are very near the Atlantic Coast where development pressures are high (Rawinski and Cassin 1986). While the demise of many populations can be attributed to direct loss of habitat to development (Rawinski and Cassin 1986, Johnson 1988, The Nature Conservancy 1993), development also presents indirect threats to the species, as urbanization generally results in total fire suppression, which ultimately leads to the loss of the open ecosystems inhabited by Schwalbea. Threats to the survival of Schwalbea also continue on private and public lands managed for recreation, economic, and other uses. Continuing concerns regarding the species survival on private lands include discontinuation of game management and subsequent cessation of burning resulting in vegetational succession and loss of suitable habitat; conversion of the fire-maintained flatwoods and savannas to commercial pine plantations, which can create dense canopies unsuitable for Schwalbea; and direct destruction of Schwalbea plants due to the placement of firebreaks or the planting of game food plots or other extensive soil disturbances. Potential threats to the species on public lands include inadvertent disturbance to plants and, possibly, commercial pine straw raking. Additionally, prescribed burning of forest tracts, both public and private, is becoming increasingly restricted due to local regulations that prohibit or limit burning to control air pollution. Due to the apparent need for fire to maintain vigorous populations of Schwalbea, reducing prescribed burns where the species occurs would pose a threat to its continued survival.

Occurrences of Schisulbea along roadsides are especially vulnerable to disturbance and loss. Besides succession of habitat, actions such as direct trampling, herbicide application, and road maintenance can adversely affect the plants.

Source: Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/950929c.pdf)

2.1.2.5 Additional baseline information

No additional information.

2.1.3 Effects of the action

This section considers and discusses all effects on the listed species that are caused by the proposed action and are reasonably certain to occur, including the effects of other activities that would not occur but for the proposed action.

2.1.3.1 Indirect interactions

Provide a brief overview of what the applicable science has discovered regarding the species and its response to the stressors that each project activity may cause. This should include an explanation of the pathways and mechanisms that have potential to translate environmental change (impact) into response and effects to individuals.

2.1.3.2 Direct interactions

No direct interactions leading to effects on species are expected to occur from the proposed project.

2.1.4 Cumulative effects

No future state or private activities, other than those previously mentioned in this review, are expected to occur in this project area.

2.1.5 Discussion and conclusion

Determination: NE

2.2 Canby's Dropwort

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

According to the Recover Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/900410.pdf), Canby's Dropwort is primarily located in ponds and similar areas and the primary threats to the dropwort are degradation of the wetland habitats in which it occurs. Other threats include highway construction and dredging of ponds for agriculture or livestock purposes. This project only involves the rehabilitation of existing single-family homes where the footprint will not be expanded, therefore the Dropwort should not be impacted.

2.3 Cooley's Meadowrue

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

The Cooley's meadowrue recovery plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/940421.pdf) does not indicate there existing single-family homes undergoing rehabilitation would be a threat to this species. The larger threats come from construction or clearing work done near power lines or other rights of way, and these activities are not a part of this project.

2.4 Eastern Indigo Snake

2.4.1 Status of the species

This section should provide information on the species' background, its biology and life history that is relevant to the proposed project within the action area that will inform the effects analysis.

2.4.1.1 Legal status

The Eastern Indigo Snake is federally listed as 'Threatened' and additional information regarding its legal status can be found on the ECOS species profile.

2.4.1.2 Recovery plans

Available recovery plans for the Eastern Indigo Snake can be found on the ECOS species profile.

2.4.1.3 Life history information

Average adult size is 60-74 inches (152-188 cm), record is 103.5 inches (262.8 cm). Adults are large and thick bodied. The body is glossy black and in sunlight has iridescent blue highlights. The chin and throat is reddish or white, and the color may extend down the body. The belly is cloudy orange and blue-gray. The scales on its back are smooth, but some individuals may possess some scales that are partially keeled. There are 17 dorsal scale rows at midbody. The pupil is round. Juveniles are black-bodied with narrow whitish blue bands.

Identified resource needs

- Anurans
- Artificial refugia
- Burrows
  - Type: gopher tortoise burrows
- Burrows
  - Type: hollowed root channels, hollow logs, stump holes, or the burrows of rodents, armadillo and or land crabs
- Mammals
  - Size: small
- Native vegetation
- Sandy substrates
- Snakes
- Turtles

2.4.1.4 Conservation needs

The recovery strategy for the eastern indigo snake is to ensure the long-term viability of the species by maintaining and enhancing existing populations via habitat conservation, restoration and management; monitoring the status of extant populations; identifying and securing additional eastern indigo snake populations and habitat; repatriating populations through translocations or reintroductions; and supporting research that guides land management and provides demographic and ecological data. The recovery strategy requires that habitat is protected and managed and that populations are genetically-connected to promote the
stability and growth of multiple populations across the species' range. Recovery (or viability) of the eastern indigo snake is based upon the ecological principles of resiliency, redundancy, and representation (3 R's, Wolf et al. 2015). Resiliency is positively related to population size and growth and describes the ability of a population to withstand stochastic disturbance. Highly resilient populations are better able to withstand disturbances such as random fluctuations in birth rates (demographic stochasticity), variations in temperatures
(environmental stochasticity), or the effects of anthropogenic (human-driven) activities. Representation describes the ability of a species to adapt to changing environmental conditions over time as characterized by the breadth of genetic and ecological diversity within and among populations. The SSA (Service 2019a) estimated 53 extant eastern indigo snake populations based on verified species occurrence records buffered by the snake's estimated maximum home range width (5miles or 8 kilometers). The SSA highlighted the importance of maintaining large patches of good-quality habitat and of connecting eastern indigo snake populations to support highly resilient populations. Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation from development and sea level rise were identified as the primary negative factors influencing resiliency of populations. Habitat protection and management plans should be developed and implemented for all recovery populations. Habitat management includes maintaining corridors with low road density allowing dispersal between occupied upland and lowland habitats; minimizing soil disturbance and loss of native herbaceous ground cover vegetation; conducting prescribed burning, particularly during the growing season; maintaining appropriate lowland habitat; and restoring degraded upland habitat. Habitat on private land that could be managed for eastern indigo snakes need to be identified. Site analyses and habitat management actions that improve the connectivity between upland and lowland habitats utilized by eastern indigo snakes are needed. Long-term monitoring programs and a range-wide population viability analysis (PVA) are needed to track population trends and the response of this species to habitat changes, and to better define populations. Gopher tortoise populations should be regularly monitored and managed in areas where both eastern indigo snakes and tortoises co-occur. Monitoring programs should be critically evaluated and revised as needed. Since recovery of the eastern indigo snake will necessitate finding new or repatriating populations, assessment of potentially suitable habitat within the range of the species and additional presence/ absence surveys are needed. Range-wide monitoring and PVAs should be used to evaluate delisting criteria and determine when delisting criteria have been met. Source: [Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/2019_E%20indigo%20snake_RIS_DRAFT_1.pdf)](https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/2019_E%20indigo%20snake_RIS_DRAFT_1.pdf)

2.4.2 Environmental baseline

The environmental baseline describes the species' health ***within the action area only*** *at the time of the consultation, and does not include the effects of the action under review. Unlike the species information provided above, the environmental baseline is at the scale of the Action area.*

2.4.2.1 Species presence and use

According to the recovery plan, (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Eastern%20Indigo%20Snake%20Recovery%20Plan%20Revision.pdf), "Across its range, the most important factors limiting the suitability of these environments as habitat for the eastern indigo snake are their quantity and quality. Estimates of good-quality (low fragmentation, road density and urban land cover with adequate shelter sites) habitat patches needed to support an eastern indigo snake population range from 5,000 to 20,000 acres." The rehabilitation of existing single-family homes will have no effect on this snake's habitats since density will not be increased and the footprint of the home will not be expanded.

2.4.2.2 Species conservation needs within the action area

One of the measures is to establish partnerships with private landowners that have property supporting eastern indigo snakes and develop protective agreements and management plans. This project does assist private landowners, but only on the rehabilitation of existing houses where the footprint will not be expanded, so it would have no impact on this snake's habitat.

2.4.2.3 Habitat condition (general)

In Georgia, researchers found the indigo snake populations were typically associated with sand ridges along major coastal plain streams. The snake also depends on the burrows of the gopher tortoise, a species that requires fire-maintained sandhill habitats. None of the single-family homes that will undergo rehabilitation in this program will be located on sand ridges along the streams. Source: Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/2019_E%20indigo%20snake_RIS_DRAFT_1.pdf)

2.4.2.4 Influences

Loss of native habitats that support the snakes are continuing due to the pressures of human population growth and development within the species range. This project is not increasing population or development density. Source: Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/2019_E%20indigo%20snake_RIS_DRAFT_1.pdf)

2.4.2.5 Additional baseline information

No additional information.

2.4.3 Effects of the action

This section considers and discusses all effects on the listed species that are caused by the proposed action and are reasonably certain to occur, including the effects of other activities that would not occur but for the proposed action.

2.4.3.1 Indirect interactions

Provide a brief overview of what the applicable science has discovered regarding the species and its response to the stressors that each project activity may cause. This should include an explanation of the pathways and mechanisms that have potential to translate environmental change (impact) into response and effects to individuals.

2.4.3.2 Direct interactions

DIRECT IMPACT	CONSERVATION MEASURES	INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED	IMPACT EXPLANATION
Disturbance	Will encourage contractors to be aware when removing debris from rehab sites so that snakes are not harmed..	No	Contractors will be made aware of the potential presence of snakes when removing debris around a rehab project.

2.4.4 Cumulative effects

No anticipated future state or private activities, other than what was listed in this assessment, are expected to occur within the project sites.

2.4.5 Discussion and conclusion

Determination: NE

2.5 Fat Threeridge (Mussel)

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

According to the Fat Threeridge Recovery Plan, (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Fat%20Theeridge%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf), these populations live in rivers. This project involves the rehabilitation of existing single-family homes and will not impact rivers in any way.

2.6 Gopher Tortoise

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

According to the recovery plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/901226.pdf), threats to the population of the gopher tortoise include forest management practices, conversion of dry sties to agriculture, road placement and other developments and urbanization. This project only involves rehabilitation of existing single-family homes. Residential density will not be increased and undeveloped sites will not be impacted.

2.7 Gulf Moccasinshell

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

According to the Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Gulf%20Moccasinshell,%20Oval%20Pigtoe,%20Purple%20Bankclimber,%20Shinyrayed%20Pocketbook%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf), the Gulf Moccasinshell primarily live in streams draining the Apalachicolan Region. This project involves the rehabiliation of existing single-family homes and will not have an impact on local waterways or the habitat of this species.

2.8 Monarch Butterfly

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

The monarch is a candidate species and not yet listed or proposed for listing.

2.9 Oval Pigtoe

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

According to the Recovery Plan for mussels, (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/030930.pdf), this species lives in local streams and waterways. This project involves the rehabilitation of existing single-family homes, will not increase size, footprint or density, and should not have any impact on these mussels or their habitat.

2.10 Pondberry

2.10.1 Status of the species

This section should provide information on the species' background, its biology and life history that is relevant to the proposed project within the action area that will inform the effects analysis.

2.10.1.1 Legal status

The Pondberry is federally listed as 'Endangered' and additional information regarding its legal status can be found on the ECOS species profile.

2.10.1.2 Recovery plans

Available recovery plans for the Pondberry can be found on the ECOS species profile.

2.10.1.3 Life history information

Pondberry, Lindera melissifolia, is a deciduous shrub, growing from less than 1 ft. (30 cm) to, infrequently, more than 6 ft. (2 m) in height. Leaves are aromatic, alternate, elliptical, somewhat thin and membranaceous, with entire margins. Shrubs usually are sparsely branched, with fewer branches on smaller plants. Plants are rhizomatous, frequently propagating by vegetative sprouts and forming clonal colonies. Plants are dioecious (each plant is either a male or a female) and produce clusters of small, yellow flowers in early spring prior to leaf development from buds on branches produced from the growth during the preceding year. Fruits are drupes that green when immature and ripen to red by fall.

Identified resource needs

Wetland vegetation

Pondberry is closely associated with seasonally flooded wetlands. the species has been adversely affected by wetland drainage, timber-harvesting, road construction, and conversion of its habitat to agricultural use. pondberry is found in the wet edges of sinks, ponds, and depressions.

2.10.1.4 Conservation needs

Conservation needs are outlined in the recovery plan and are as follows:

- Continue searches for new populations;
- Protect and maintain the known populations and their habitat;
- Protect areas where L. melissifolia has not been located but provide suitable habitat; and
- Establish new populations or reestablish extirpated populations at suitable sites if necessary to meet recovery objectives.

Source: [Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/930923a.pdf)](https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/930923a.pdf)

2.10.2 Environmental baseline

The environmental baseline describes the species' health ***within the action area only*** *at the time of the consultation, and does not include the effects of the action under review. Unlike the species information provided above, the environmental baseline is at the scale of the Action area.*

2.10.2.1 Species presence and use

According to the Recovery Plan, (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/930923a.pdf), Pondberry is associated with seasonally flooded wetlands and has been adversely affected by wetland drainage, timber-harvesting, road construction, and conversion of its habitat to agricultural use. This project only involves rehabilitation of existing single-family homes and should therefore have no impact on the Pondberry.

2.10.2.2 Species conservation needs within the action area

According to the recovery plan, "Three privately owned populations of pondberry occur in Wheeler
County. One of these populations was severely damaged by domestic hogs, so three small colonies of that population were transplanted to sites on Little Ocinulgee State Park. Currently, only one colony lives and reproduces vegetatively. The colony is protected by a fence. The other populations are located on lightly disturbed land: however, due to their unprotected state, they are still threatened by development. A forth population was discovered in Baker County by A. Gholson (Wurdack 1989). Conservation needs include protecting existing populations and establishing new populations at suitable sites. This project involves the rehabilitation of existing single-family homes and the footprint will not be expanded, so this project should not have any impact on this species. Source: [Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/930923a.pdf)](https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/930923a.pdf)

2.10.2.3 Habitat condition (general)

Lindera rnelissifolia occurs in seasonally flooded wetlands, sandy sinks, pond margins (Radford et al. 1968) and swampy depressions. See recovery plan for further information: Pondberry Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/930923a.pdf)

2.10.2.4 Influences

According to the recovery plan, the primary reasons for decline are:

- alteration or destruction of its habitat through band-clearing, drainage modification, or timber-harvesting.
- Some pondberry populations have been adversely affected by domestic animals, such as hogs, and by wildlife. These populations and others may decline in numbers because of animal interference.
- changes in climatic conditions
  and the presence of a fungus and a weevil.

Source: Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/930923a.pdf)

2.10.2.5 Additional baseline information

No additional information.

2.10.3 Effects of the action

This section considers and discusses all effects on the listed species that are caused by the proposed action and are reasonably certain to occur, including the effects of other activities that would not occur but for the proposed action.

2.10.3.1 Indirect interactions

Provide a brief overview of what the applicable science has discovered regarding the species and its response to the stressors that each project activity may cause. This should include an explanation of the pathways and mechanisms that have potential to translate environmental change (impact) into response and effects to individuals.

2.10.3.2 Direct interactions

No direct interactions leading to effects on species are expected to occur from the proposed project.

2.10.4 Cumulative effects

At this time, no future state or private activities, other than the ones listed in this report, are proposed to occur within the action area.

2.10.5 Discussion and conclusion

Determination: NE

2.11 Purple Bankclimber (Mussel)

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

According to the Recovery Plan, (https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7660), purple bankclimber are typically found in localized patches in streams. This project involves the rehabilitation of existing single-family homes and should have no impact on the streams in the area.

2.12 Relict Trillium

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

According to the Recovery Plan, (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/910131b.pdf), relect trillium is typically found in mature undisturbed hardwood stands and the primary threat to the species are loss of habitat to development, conversion of habitat to agricultural use, and timber harvest. This project involves none of those activities and only includes the rehabilitation of existing single-family homes. Relect trillium should not be impacted by this project.

2.13 Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

According to the Recovery Plan, (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/20210615_RETICULATED_Flatwoods_Salamander_RP.pdf), flatwoods salamanders typically live in wetlands. The primary threats to this salamander include lack of regular lightening season, feral swine, disruptions to hydrology, forestry operations, road construction, invasive plants, disease, overuse of pesticides, and predatory fish. This project involves none of those threats and it should not have any impact on the salamander or its habitat.

2.14 Shinyrayed Pocketbook

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

According to the Recover Plan, (https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6517), the shinyrayed pocketbook lives in streams and waterways. This project involves the rehabilitation of existing single-family homes where the footprint will not be expanded and density will not be increased. This project should not have any impact on this mussel or its habitat.

2.15 Wood Stork

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

According to the Recovery Plan, (https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8477), the wood stork lives mostly in the Everglades and it's decline was due to a loss in food based because of a loss of wetland habitat. Nests are usually in large cypress trees or mangroves. The rehabilitation of single-family homes should not have an impact on this species or its habitat.

3 Critical Habitat Effects Analysis

3.1 Fat Threeridge (Mussel) Critical Habitat

This critical habitat has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

The Fat Threeridge is located along and in streams and waterways. Source: Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/030930.pdf) We do not anticipate performing rehabilitation of single-family homes that are located on streams or waterways. It is therefore highly unlikely that this species will be impacted by this project.

3.2 Gulf Moccasinshell Critical Habitat

This critical habitat has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

The Gulf Moccasinshell is located along and in streams and waterways. Source: Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/030930.pdf) We do not anticipate performing rehabilitation of single-family homes that are located on streams or waterways. It is therefore highly unlikely that this species will be impacted by this project.

3.3 Oval Pigtoe Critical Habitat

This critical habitat has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

The Oval Pigtoe is located along and in streams and waterways. Source: Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/030930.pdf) We do not anticipate performing rehabilitation of single-family homes that are located on streams or waterways. It is therefore highly unlikely that this species will be impacted by this project.

3.4 Purple Bankclimber (Mussel) Critical Habitat

This critical habitat has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

The Purple Bankclimber is located along and in streams and waterways. Source: Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/030930.pdf) We do not anticipate performing rehabilitation of single-family homes that are located on streams or waterways. It is therefore highly unlikely that this species will be impacted by this project.

3.5 Shinyrayed Pocketbook Critical Habitat

This critical habitat has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

The Shinyrayed Pocketbooks is located along streams and waterways. Source: Recovery Plan (https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/030930.pdf) We do not anticipate performing rehabilitation of single-family homes that are located on streams or waterways. It is therefore highly unlikely that this species will be impacted by this project.

4 Summary Discussion, Conclusion, And Effect Determinations

4.1 Effect Determination Summary

SPECIES (COMMON NAME) OR CRITICAL HABITAT	SCIENTIFIC NAME	LISTING STATUS	PRESENT IN ACTION AREA	EFFECT DETERMINATION
American Chaffseed	Schwalbea americana	Endangered	Yes	NE
Canby's Dropwort	Oxypolis canbyi	Endangered	No	NE
Cooley's Meadowrue	Thalictrum cooleyi	Endangered	No	NE
Eastern Indigo Snake	Drymarchon corais couperi	Threatened	Yes	NE
Fat Threeridge (mussel)	Amblema neislerii	Endangered	No	NE
Gopher Tortoise	Gopherus polyphemus	Candidate	Excluded from analysis	Excluded from analysis
Gulf Moccasinshell	Medionidus penicillatus	Endangered	No	NE
Monarch Butterfly	Danaus plexippus	Candidate	Excluded from analysis	Excluded from analysis
Oval Pigtoe	Pleurobema pyriforme	Endangered	No	NE
Pondberry	Lindera melissifolia	Endangered	Yes	NE
Purple Bankclimber (mussel)	Elliptoideus sloatianus	Threatened	No	NE
Relict Trillium	Trillium reliquum	Endangered	No	NE
Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander	Ambystoma bishopi	Endangered	No	NE
Shinyrayed Pocketbook	Lampsilis subangulata	Endangered	No	NE
Wood Stork	Mycteria americana	Threatened	No	NE
Fat Threeridge (mussel) critical habitat	Amblema neislerii	Final	No	NE
Gulf Moccasinshell critical habitat	Medionidus penicillatus	Final	No	NE

SPECIES (COMMON NAME) OR CRITICAL HABITAT	SCIENTIFIC NAME	LISTING STATUS	PRESENT IN ACTION AREA	EFFECT DETERMINATION
Oval Pigtoe critical habitat	Pleurobema pyriforme	Final	No	NE
Purple Bankclimber (mussel) critical habitat	Elliptoideus sloatianus	Final	No	NE
Shinyrayed Pocketbook critical habitat	Lampsilis subangulata	Final	No	NE

4.2 Summary Discussion

Overall, this project should not have any impact on any of these identified species. This project involves the rehabilitation of existing, owner-occupied, single-family homes that sustained damage during Hurricane Michael. The footprint of the units will not be expanded. There may be ground disturbance on some projects, but it will be along the perimeter of the existing home. This project will not involve land clearing, population increases, traffic increases, increased density or development of vacant land.

4.3 Conclusion

Overall, this project should not have any impact on any of these identified species. This project involves the rehabilitation of existing, owner-occupied, single-family homes that sustained damage during Hurricane Michael. The footprint of the units will not be expanded. There may be ground disturbance on some projects, but it will be along the perimeter of the existing home. This project will not involve land clearing, population increases, traffic increases, increased density or development of vacant land.

G – EXPLOSIVES WORKSHEET

OMB No. 2506-0177
(exp.9/30/2021)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those "Partners" (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

Explosive and Flammable Hazards (CEST and EA) – PARTNER

https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/explosive-and-flammable-facilities

1. **Does the proposed HUD-assisted project include a hazardous facility (a facility that mainly stores, handles or processes flammable or combustible chemicals such as bulk fuel storage facilities and refineries)?**

   ☒ No
   → *Continue to Question 2.*

   ☐ Yes
   Explain:
   Click here to enter text.
   → *Continue to Question 5.*

2. **Does this project include any of the following activities: development, construction, rehabilitation that will increase residential densities, or conversion?**

   ☒ No → *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.*

   ☐ Yes → *Continue to Question 3.*

3. **Within 1 mile of the project site, are there any current *or planned* stationary aboveground storage containers:**
   - Of more than 100-gallon capacity, containing common liquid industrial fuels OR
   - Of any capacity, containing hazardous liquids or gases that are not common liquid industrial fuels?

   ☐ No → *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide all documents used to make your determination.*

   ☐ Yes → *Continue to Question 4.*

4. **Is the Separation Distance from the project acceptable based on standards in the Regulation?**
   Please visit HUD's website for information on calculating Acceptable Separation Distance.

   ☐ Yes
   → *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.*

Provide map(s) showing the location of the project site relative to any tanks and your separation distance calculations. If the map identifies more than one tank, please identify the tank you have chosen as the "assessed tank."

☐ No

→ *Continue to Question 6.*

Provide map(s) showing the location of the project site relative to any tanks and your separation distance calculations. If the map identifies more than one tank, please identify the tank you have chosen as the "assessed tank."

5. **Is the hazardous facility located at an acceptable separation distance from residences and any other facility or area where people may congregate or be present?**

   Please visit HUD's website for information on calculating Acceptable Separation Distance.

   ☐ Yes

   → *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.*

   Provide map(s) showing the location of the project site relative to residences and any other facility or area where people congregate or are present and your separation distance calculations.

   ☐ No

   → *Continue to Question 6.*

   Provide map(s) showing the location of the project site relative to residences and any other facility or area where people congregate or are present and your separation distance calculations.

6. **For the project to be brought into compliance with this section, all adverse impacts must be mitigated. Explain in detail the exact measures that must be implemented to make the Separation Distance acceptable, including the timeline for implementation. If negative effects cannot be mitigated, cancel the project at this location.**

   Note that only licensed professional engineers should design and implement blast barriers. If a barrier will be used or the project will be modified to compensate for an unacceptable separation distance, provide approval from a licensed professional engineer.

   Click here to enter text.

<u>Worksheet Summary</u>

Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.

This project involves rehabilitation of existing single-family homes that sustained hurricane damage. No conversion will take place and residential densities will not be increased.

H – FARMLANDS WORKSHEET

OMB No. 2506-0177
(exp.9/30/2021)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

This Worksheet was designed to be used by those "Partners" (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, and nonprofits) who assist Responsible Entities and HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves. Responsible Entities and HUD should use the RE/HUD version of the Worksheet.

Farmlands Protection (CEST and EA) - PARTNER

https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/farmlands-protection

1. **Does your project include any activities, including new construction, acquisition of undeveloped land or conversion, that could convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use?**
   ☐ Yes → *Continue to Question 2.*
   ☒ No
   → *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below.*

2. **Does "important farmland," including prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide or local importance regulated under the Farmland Protection Policy Act, occur on the project site?**
   You may use the links below to determine important farmland occurs on the project site:
   - Utilize USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Web Soil Survey http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm
   - Check with your city or county's planning department and ask them to document if the project is on land regulated by the FPPA (zoning important farmland as non-agricultural does not exempt it from FPPA requirements)
   - Contact NRCS at the local USDA service center http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs or your NRCS state soil scientist http://soils.usda.gov/contact/state_offices/ for assistance

   ☐ No → *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documents used to make your determination.*

   ☐ Yes → *Continue to Question 3.*

3. **Consider alternatives to completing the project on important farmland and means of avoiding impacts to important farmland.**
   - Complete form **AD-1006**, "Farmland Conversion Impact Rating" and contact the state soil scientist before sending it to the local NRCS District Conservationist.
   - Work with NRCS to minimize the impact of the project on the protected farmland. When you have finished with your analysis, return a copy of form AD-1006 to the USDA-NRCS State Soil Scientist or his/her designee informing them of your determination.

   Work with the RE/HUD to determine how the project will proceed. Document the conclusion:

☐Project will proceed with mitigation.

Explain in detail the proposed measures that must be implemented to mitigate for the impact or effect, including the timeline for implementation.

Click here to enter text.

→ *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide form AD-1006 and all other documents used to make your determination.*

☐Project will proceed without mitigation.

Explain why mitigation will not be made here:

Click here to enter text.

→ *If the RE/HUD agrees with this recommendation, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide form AD-1006 and all other documents used to make your determination.*

Worksheet Summary

Provide a full description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

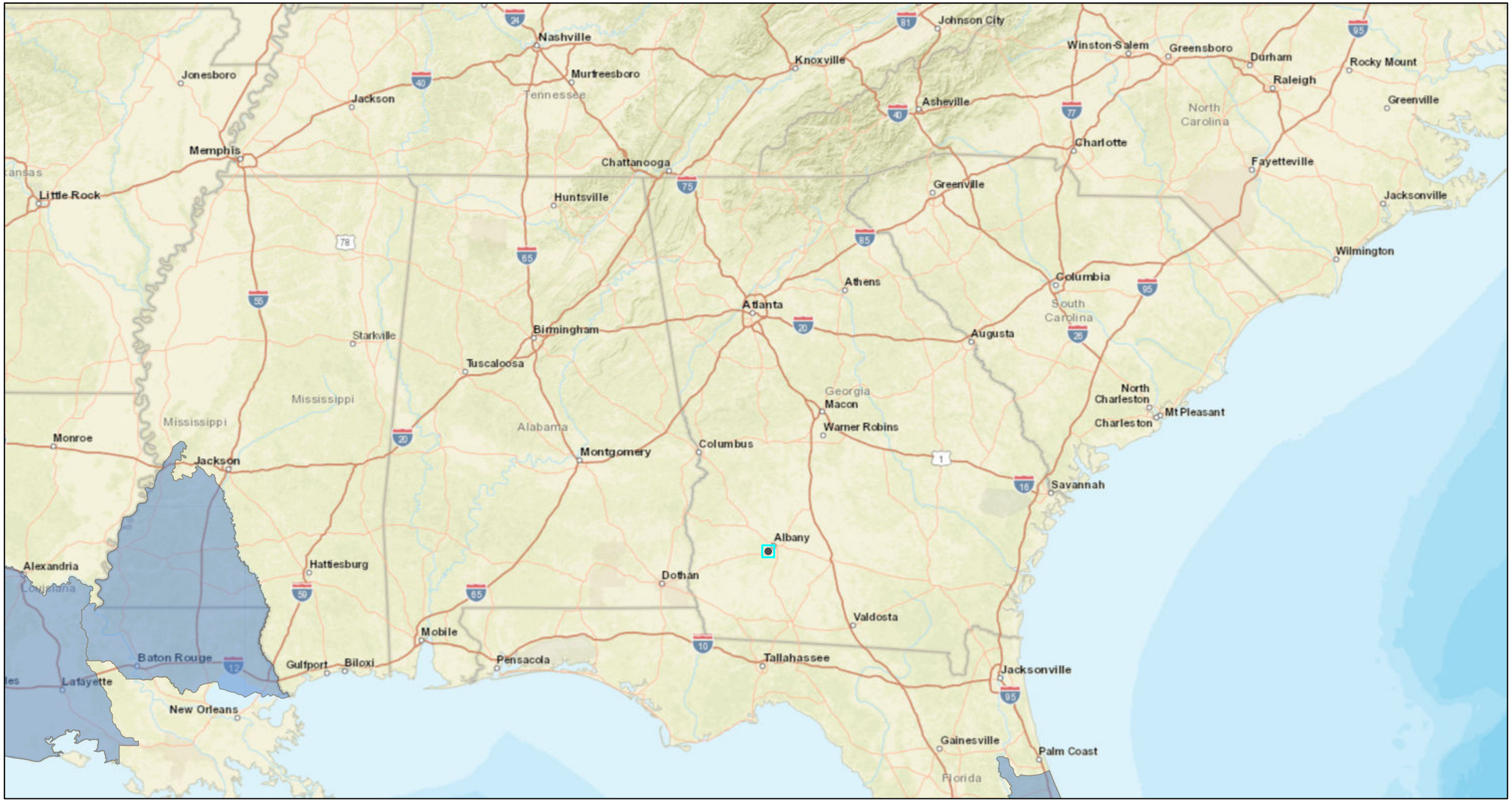
- Map panel numbers and dates
- Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
- Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
- Any additional requirements specific to your program or region

Include all documentation supporting your findings in your submission to HUD.

This project involves the rehabilitation of existing single-family homes in developed areas. The footprint of the home will not be expanded.

I – SOLE SOURCE AQUIFERS MAP

ArcGIS Web AppBuilder



3/31/2022, 9:24:52 AM

1:4,622,324

Sole_Source_Aquifers

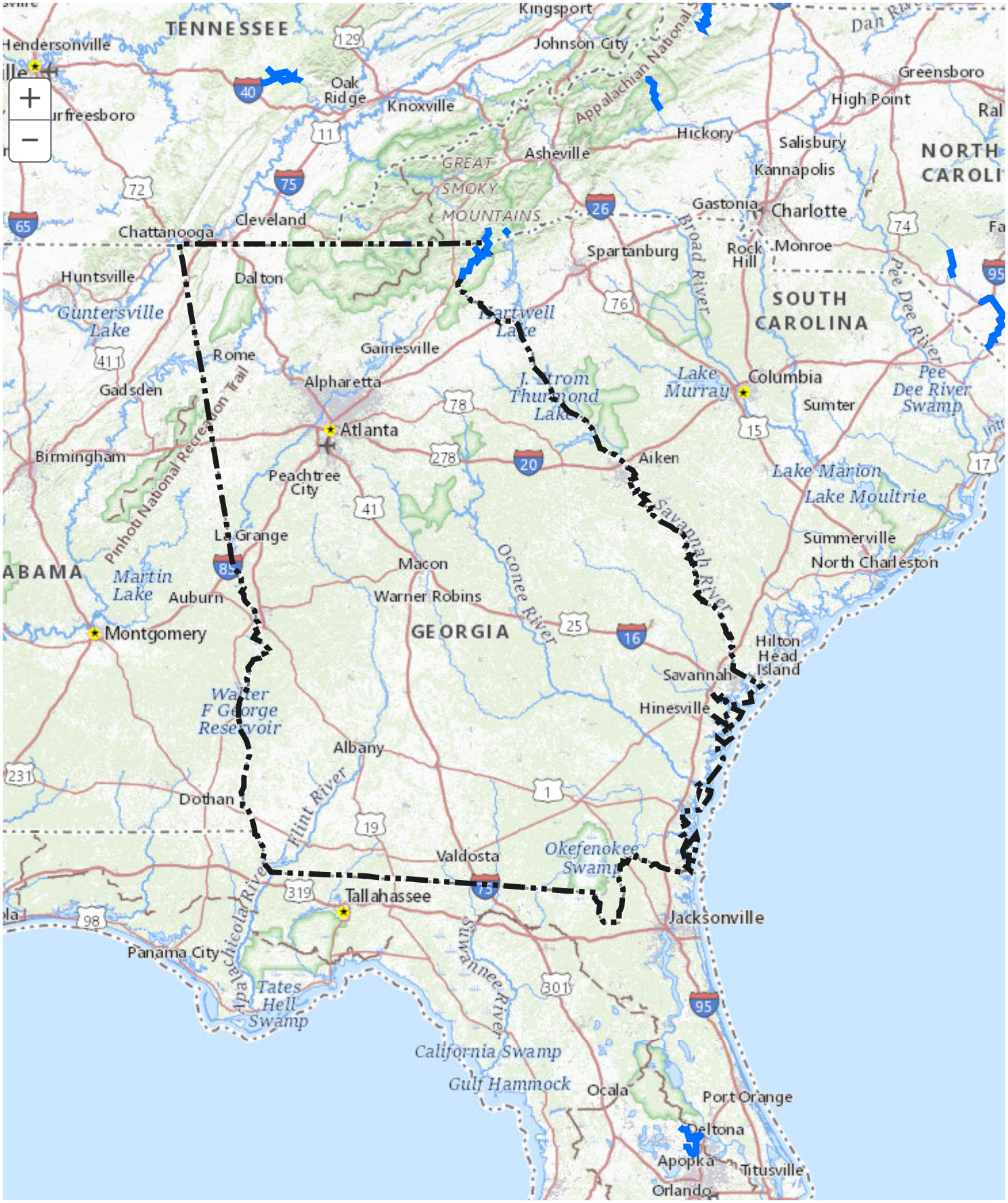
0 45 90 180 mi

0 75 150 300 km

Esri, HERE, Garmin, NGA, USGS, NPS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

J – WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS MAPS

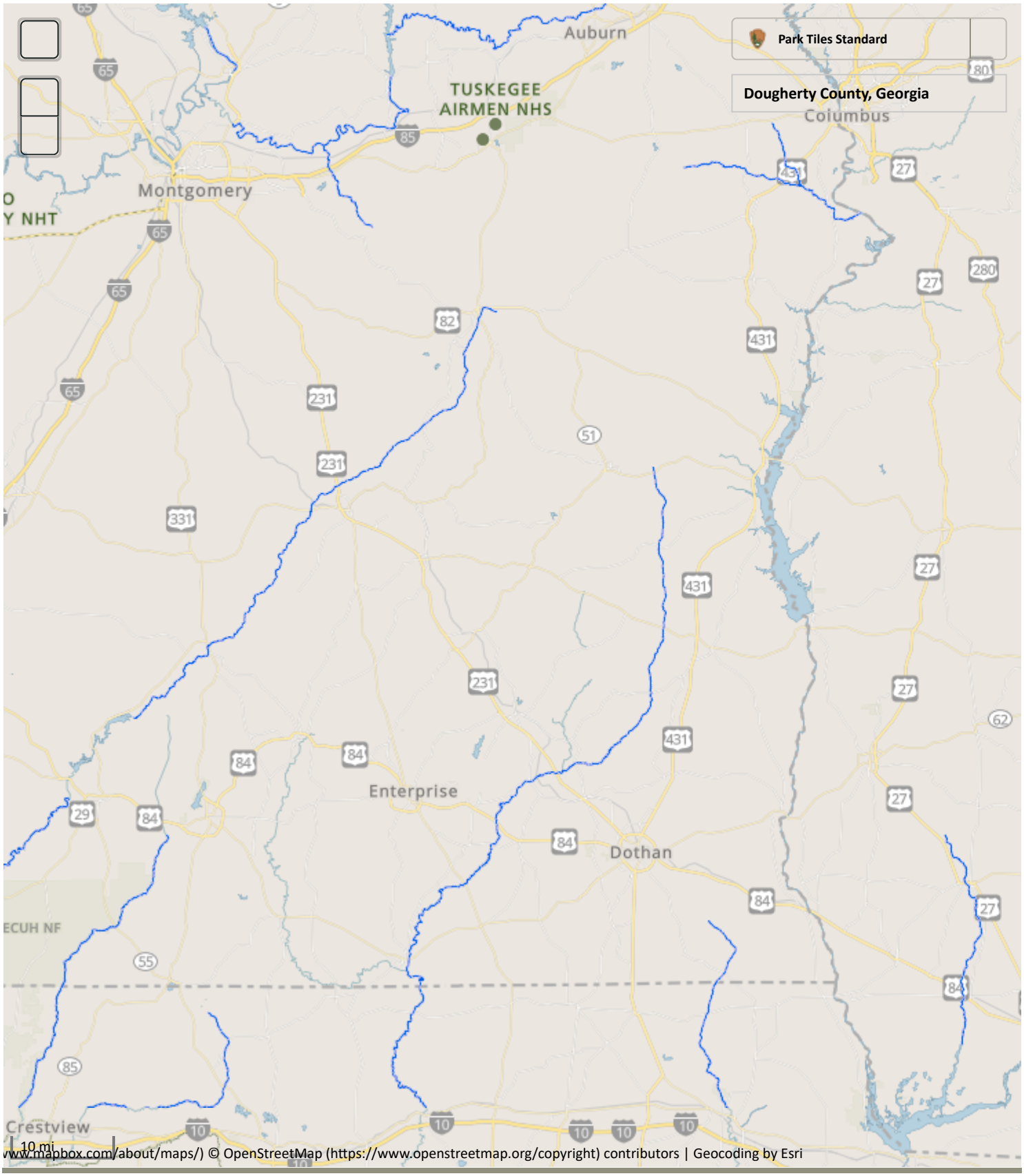

TENNESSEE
Kingsport
Johnson City
Hendersonville
Oak Ridge
Knoxville
Appalachian National
Greensboro
High Point
Hickory
Salisbury
Asheville
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS
Kannapolis
NORTH CAROLI
Gastonia
Charlotte
Cleveland
Chattanooga
Spartanburg
Rock Hill
Monroe
Huntsville
Dalton
Guntersville Lake
Hartwell Lake
Broad River
SOUTH CAROLINA
Pee Dee River
Rome
Gainesville
Gadsden
Alpharetta
J. Strom Thurmond Lake
Lake Murray
Columbia
Sumter
Pee Dee River Swamp
Atlanta
Birmingham
Aiken
Lake Marion
Lake Moultrie
Peachtree City
Pinhoti National Recreation Trail
Savannah River
La Grange
Summerville
North Charleston
Macon
Oconee River
Martin Lake
Auburn
Warner Robins
GEORGIA
Montgomery
Hilton Head Island
Savannah
Walter F George Reservoir
Hinesville
Albany
Dothan
Flint River
Valdosta
Okefenokee Swamp
Tallahassee
Jacksonville
Panama City
Apalachicola River
Tates Hell Swamp
Suwannee River
California Swamp
Gulf Hammock
Ocala
Port Orange
Deltona
Apopka
Titusville
Orlando

Legend

Nationwide Rivers Inventory

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

This is a listing of more than 3,200 free-flowing river segments in the U.S....



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K – TIER 2 SITE SPECIFC CHECKLIST & SITE SPECIFIC STRATEGY

CDBG-DR Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program
Environmental Review Record
Tier 2 – Site Specific Checklist

Property Identification Number: _____

County: _____ Estimated Project Cost: _____

Structure Address: _____

Coordinates: _____ Year Structure Built: _____

Section 58.5 Site Specific Compliance Factors:

I. AIRPORT HAZARDS

1. Is the project within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport?

☐ Yes: Continue to Question 2.

☐ No: Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Provide a map showing that the site is not within the applicable distances to a military or civilian airport.

2. Is the project located within a Runway Potential Zone/Clear Zone or Accident Potential Zone?

☐ Yes: STOP HERE. Project may not continue without further evaluation regarding this requirement.

☐ No: Based on this response, the review is in compliance with this section. Provide a map showing the site is not within either zone. Continue to Part II.

II. FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT & FLOOD INSURANCE

FEMA Floodplain Zone Designation: _____ Panel ID #: _____ Date: _____

1. Is the property within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)?

☐ Yes: Continue to Question 2.

☐ No: No further action is required. No floodplain notices required. Continue to Part III.

2. Does the property carry a flood insurance policy?

☐ Yes: Provide a copy of the policy declaration. Continue to question 3.

☐ No: STOP HERE. Project may not proceed until flood insurance is obtained.

3. Was the 8-step process completed?

☐ Yes: Enter dates of publication of required notices:

Early Floodplain Notice Date: _____ Final Floodplain Notice Date: _____

☐ No: STOP HERE. Project may not proceed until the 8-step process is completed.

4. Did the 8-step process result in a determination that there is no practicable alternative to carrying out the residential rehabilitation activities within the SFHA?

☐ Yes: Continue to Part III.

☐ No: STOP HERE. Project may not proceed.

III. CONTAMINATION AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

1. Evaluate the project site for contamination. Were any on-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances found that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property?

☐ No: Based on this response, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to Part IV.

☐ Yes: Describe the findings, including any recognized environmental conditions in the below text box and continue to question 2.

2. Can adverse environmental impacts be mitigated?

☐ Yes. Attach all mitigation documents and continue to Part IV.

☐ No. STOP HERE. Project may not proceed.

IV. HISTORIC PRESERVATION **(will be updated to reflect terms of PA)**

SHPO Determination:

☐ No historic properties affected; no further action is required regarding historic preservation.

☐ Historic properties present but will not be adversely affected; no further action is required.

☐ Historic properties may be aversely affected. STOP HERE. Further action is required. Continue required consultation.

V. TRIBAL CONSULTATION

1. Does the project include either significant ground disturbance (foundation repairs, footings, etc.,) OR work on a building with significant tribal association?

☐ No: based on this response, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to Part VI.

☐ Yes: this project requires Tribal Consultation. Continue to question 2.

2. Solicitation of Views (SOVs) letters were sent to the following tribes as required by HUD TDAT (check all that apply):

☐ Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town

☐ Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana

☐ Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

☐ Muscogee Creek Nation

3. SOVs were sent on the following date: _____ with a response required by _____.

4. The response received by the tribe stated (check all that apply):

☐ The tribe(s) indicated they wanted to be a consulting party. STOP HERE. Project may not proceed without further consultation.

☐ The tribe(s) indicated that there were no objections to this project, and they did not wish to enter consultation. Continue to Part VI.

☐ The tribe(s) indicated that there were no objections to this project, but they requested an inadvertent discovery clause be added to any applicable construction contracts. Attach contract language and continue to Part VI.

☐ The tribe(s) did not respond within the 30-day response period. Continue to Part VI.

VI. NOISE ABATEMENT AND CONTROL

1. Is the project located within 1,000 feet of a busy road or highway?

☐ No: No further action is required. Continue to question 2.

☐ Yes: Name of road(s): _____ Distance(s) to project site: _____

2. Is the project located within 3,000 feet of a railroad?

☐ No. No further action is required. Continue to question 3.

☐ Yes: Name of railroad operator: _____ Distance to project site: _____

3. Is the project located within 5 miles of a civil airport or 15 miles of a military airfield?

☐ No: No further action is required. Continue to Part VII.

☐ Yes: Name of airport: _____ Distance to project site: _____

4. If the answer to any of the above questions in this section is 'yes,' complete the HUD DNL Calculator for this site. Attach calculation to this review. The site DNL was calculated to be:

☐ Less than 65 decibels. No further action is required. Continue to Part VII.

☐ Greater than 65 decibels. Continue to Question 5.

5. Can adverse noise impacts be mitigated?

☐ Yes. Attach all mitigation documents and continue to Part VII.

☐ No. STOP HERE. Project cannot continue without further consultation.

VII. WETLANDS

1. Does this project involve ground disturbance?

☐ No: No further action is required. Continue to Part VIII.

☐ Yes: Continue to question 2.

2. Will the ground disturbing activities impact an on- or off-site wetlands?

☐ No: Include NWI map showing there are no wetlands on or near the property. No further action is required. Continue to Part VIII.

☐ Yes: Continue to Question 3.

3. Was the 8-step process completed?

☐ Yes: Enter dates of publication of required notices:

Early Floodplain Notice Date: _____ Final Floodplain Notice Date: _____

☐ No: STOP HERE. Project may not proceed until the 8-step process is completed.

4. Did the 8-step process result in a determination that there is no practicable alternative to carrying out the residential rehabilitation activities within the wetlands area?

☐ Yes: Attached all related correspondence and mitigation documents. Continue to Part VIII.

☐ No: STOP HERE. Project may not proceed.

VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

1. Were any adverse environmental impacts identified in any other compliance review portion of this project's environmental review?

☐ No: No further action is required. Continue to Part IX.

☐ Yes: Continue to question 2.

2. Were these adverse environmental impacts disproportionately high for low-income and/or minority communities?

No: Explain in the below text box then continue to Part IX.

Yes: Explain in the below text box then continue to question 3.

3. Are there any adverse impacts that will involve mitigations measures?

Yes: Explain mitigation measures, including the timeline for implementation, in the text box below. Then continue to question 4.

No: Explain why mitigation is not required in the text box below, then continue to question 4.

4. Describe how the affected low-income or minority community was engaged or meaningfully involved in the decision on which mitigation actions, if any, will be taken.

Continue to Part IX.

IX. MITIGATION MEASURES

1. Are formal compliance steps or mitigation measures required to implement this project?

☐ No: Execute site specific checklist. Signature date is date property is considered environmentally cleared.

☐ Yes: Explain all compliance steps and mitigation measures in the text box below:

Attach all applicable mitigation documents.

DETERMINATION:

Compliance has been established with regulations regarding historic preservation, floodplain management, and wetlands protection. The project may now proceed.

PREPARER:

Preparer's Signature	Date
Preparer's Name (printed)	Title (printed)

CDBG-DR Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program
Environmental Review Record
Tier 2 – Site Specific Strategy

I. INTRODUCTION

A Tiered Review is a type of environmental review that allows local governments to eliminate unnecessary or repetitive discussions of issues at subsequent levels of review (24 CFR 58.15). This Strategy is intended to cover owner occupied rehabilitation and reconstruction activities occurring throughout Decatur, Dougherty, and Seminole counties in Georgia. A map of the areas where these activities may occur is provided in the appendices of the Tier 1 Broad Level Review.

The purpose of this written strategy is to provide instructions and context for completing the accompanying Site-Specific Checklist covering the Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program. The Site-Specific Checklist is the second part of the Tiered Environmental Review process and must be completed for all sites once unique addresses are known.

No funds may be committed or expended until the Site-Specific Checklist is completed, signed, and dated.

Rehabilitation and reconstruction activities covered by this Strategy must mee the following conditions:

1. Activities will be limited to residential dwelling units.

2. For dwelling units intended to house one (1) to four (4) families (single-family):
    a. Unit density is not increased beyond four units;
    b. Property use is not changed; and
    c. The building or any supporting feature footprint is not expanded.

If the proposed activity does not meet or exceed any of the above criteria, a separate environmental review will be required. Separate environmental reviews will include submittal of a Request for Release of Funds (RROF) to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) prior to committing funds. Strategy criteria have been established to conform with HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, particularly Section 58.35(a)(3), and Council on Environmental Quality regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508.

Each section below contains instructions for completing each compliance factor of the Tier 2 checklist. The remaining compliance factors were compiled with and documented during the Tier 1 Review. Refer to accompanying Tier 1 Review to see those compliance factors.

II. STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.6

i. Airport Hazards – 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D

If the proposed project is located near an airport or in the immediate area of the landing and approach zones, additional information is necessary to determine whether this issue is a concern and if so, how to mitigate it. It is HUD's policy to apply standards to prevent incompatible development around civil airports and military airfields. See 24 CFR 51, Subpart D.

Using either GIS software or the NEPA assist tool, map the distance of the property to airports in the area. The NEPA assist tool can be accessed using the following link: https://nepassisttool.epa.gov/nepassist/nepamap.aspx

The environmental review record should contain one of the following:

- A map showing the site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport.
- A map showing the site is not within a Runway Potential Zone or Clear Zone.

- A map of the project's location in proximity to the APZ and documentation showing the project is in compliance with DOD guidelines for Accident Potential Zones (APZ).
- A map of the project's location in proximity to the APZ and documentation of approval from the DCA Certifying Office or HUD Official.

ii. Flood Insurance – Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]

The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (402 U.S.C. 4012a) requires that projects receiving federal assistance and located in an area identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as being within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) be covered by flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). To be able to purchase flood insurance, the community must be participating in the NFIP. If the community is not participating in the NFIP, federal assistance cannot be used in those areas.

The environmental review record should contain one of the following:

- Documentation supporting the determination that the project does not require flood insurance or is exempt from flood insurance.
- A FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) showing that the project is not located in a Special Flood Hazard Area.
- A FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) showing that the project is in a Special Flood Hazard Area along with a copy of the flood insurance policy declaration or a paid receipt for the current annual flood insurance premium and a copy of the application for flood insurance in the review.

III. STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.5

i. Contamination and Toxic Substances – 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)

It is HUD policy that all properties that are being proposed for use in HUD programs be free of hazardous materials, contamination, toxic chemicals and gases, and radioactive substances, where a hazard could affect the health and safety of the occupants or conflict with the intended utilization of the property. See 24 CFR 58.5(i)(2) and 24 CFR 50.3(i).

All projects will be reviewed for compliance with the Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals requirements. Particular attention shall be given to any site where an activity in or is within one mile of an area that contains or may have contained hazardous waste, such as dumps, landfills, and industrial sites.

Verify using NEPA assist that the site is not on or near a Superfund site, within one mile of a landfill or toxic site, and does not contain any underground storage tanks other that residential fuel tanks.

An onsite investigation will need to be completed as properties are identified to determine if any of the following contamination indicators exist: stressed vegetations; soil or pavement staining; pools of unknown liquid; strong, pungent, or noxious orders; oil/chemical spills; drums or barrels; pits or lagoons; multiple abandoned heavy machines, automobiles, or large appliances; dumped or stored transformers; evidence of frequent automobile or heavy machine repair activities; unusual subsidence depressions; adjacent contamination sources such as landfills. If the onsite investigation reveals no conditions indicating the presence of potential hazards that may affect the health and safety of future occupants or restrict the indented use of the site, the site visit shall be documented, and no further action will be required for compliance with Toxic Chemicals and Radioactive Materials requirements.

If conditions are present to indicate the presence of potential hazards that may affect the health and safety of future occupants, the completion of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment is necessary; or the property will be rejected. If necessary additional investigations reveal hazards that may affect the health and safety of future occupants' appropriate mitigation shall be implemented; or the property will be rejected.

Document observations from the site visit on the Site Visit Checklist and include the checklist as supporting documentation in the ERR.

No funds may be committed for acquisition, rehabilitation, demolition, or construction of a property until the property has been screened for toxic chemicals and radioactive materials; and where applicable, contamination issues have been appropriately addressed.

ii. Floodplain Management – Executive Order 11988, 24 CFR Part 55

Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management requires Federal activities to avoid impacts to floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development to the extent practicable. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates floodplains as geographic zones subject to varying levels of flood risk. Each zone reflects the severity of type of potential flooding in the area.

Documentation in the ERR must include a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with the project location clearly marked to confirm whether the site is within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Compliance is different for the two project options below:

1. If the site is within a SFHA and the rehabilitation costs are less than 50% of the market value before rehabilitation, the documentation must indicate that pursuant to 24 CFR 55.12(b)(2) the floodplain 8-step decision making process does not apply. Attach FEMA FIRM and document compliance on Site Specific Checklist. No further action is required.
2. If the site is within a SFHA and the project is either a major rehabilitation with costs that are equal to or more than 50% of the market value before rehabilitation/reconstruction, the documentation must show compliance with the 8-step decision process (24 CFR 55.20).
    a. Determine if proposed property is in a floodplain or wetland by using FIRMs, NEPA assist, coastal zone, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maps, and any other relevant information.
    b. Involve public in decision-making process using the notice forms located at https://www.dca.ga.gov/node/3757, notify the public by publishing in a newspaper in communities which have local newspapers. In all other communities, post the notice on the post office bulletin board for fifteen (15) days including postmarks on the notice to document the date the notice was posted and the date it was removed.
    c. Determine if there is a practicable alternative. Identify and evaluate at least three (3) alternatives, including, when possible, alternative sites outside of the floodplain or wetland, alternative actions, and the "no action" option.
    d. Identify adverse and beneficial impacts including direct and indirect support or other floodplain and wetland development that might result from the project. Analyze the following factors: (1) natural environment (topography, habitat, hazards); (2) social concerns (aesthetics, historic and cultural values, land use patterns); (3) economic aspects (costs of construction, transportation, and relocation); and (4) legal considerations (deeds, leases).
    e. Mitigate adverse impacts. Minimize the impacts identified and restore and preserve the beneficial values served by floodplains and wetlands.
    f. Re-evaluate alternatives. Considering the information gained to determine if the proposed action is still practicable. If new construction is to be in a floodplain or wetland, apply accepted flood proofing and other measures. To achieve flood protection, wherever practicable elevate the structures above the flood level rather than fill in land.
    g. Announce and explain decision to the public. Notify the public by publishing in the local newspaper when possible or posting on a local bulletin board for seven (7) days, postmarking the notice at posting and at removal.
    h. Implement proposal with appropriate mitigation. Review during site visits to ensure that mitigation measures are fully implemented.

Each of the above steps should be documented and included in the environmental review record.

iii. HISTORIC PRESERVATION – National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 36 CFR Part 800

All assisted activities require Section 106 review except projects that are 'exempt' or 'categorically excluded not subject to' under HUD regulations (24 CFR Parts 50 and 58) or that are determined by HUD to have "No potential to Affect Historic Properties" as defined at 36 CFR 800.3.

DCA, beginning with a consultation process, has executed the Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office (HPD), and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. The Programmatic Agreement (PA) is in the Appendices of the Environmental Review Record.

The allowances consist of two tiers – First Tier and Second Tier. Staff may apply First Tier allowances without meeting any professional historic preservation qualification standards, while only staff meeting the applicable SOI Professional Qualifications Standards in accordance with the Agreement may apply Second Tier allowances.

Should the project require HPD consultation, the following must be submitted to the HPD:

____ Complete Environmental Review Form (included in the Site-Specific Checklist) including all contact information.

____ Map indicating:

- Precise location of the project (USGS topographic map preferred: http://www.digital-topo-maps.com/)
- In urban areas, please include a city map that shows more detail.
- Boundaries of the APE as noted in Section II above.

____ Detailed project plans to supplement, including (if applicable and available):

- Site plans (before and after)
- Project plans
- Elevations

___ High-resolution color photographs (2 photos per page) illustrating:

- The project area and the entire APE.
- Any adjacent properties that are within the APE, with clear views of buildings or structures, if applicable.
- If the project entails the alteration of existing historic structures, please provide detailed photographs of existing conditions of sites, buildings, and interior areas/materials to be impacted.
- Google Street view images are not accepted.

___ Any information concerning known or suspected archeological resources in the APE.

iv. TRIBAL CONSULTATION

The local government must consult with federally recognized Indian tribes when a HUD-assisted project may affect historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them. If the project includes any of the types of activities below, tribal consultation is required:

- Significant ground disturbance (digging): Examples – new sewer lines, utility lines (above and below ground), foundations, footings, grading, and access roads.
- New construction in undeveloped natural areas: Examples – industrial-scale energy facilities, transmission lines, pipelines, or new recreational facilities, in undeveloped natural areas like mountaintops, canyons, islands, forests, native grasslands, etc., and housing, commercial, and industrial facilities in such areas.
- Incongruent visual changes: Examples – construction of a focal point that is out of character with the surrounding natural area, impairment of the vista or viewshed from an observation point in the natural landscape, or impairment of the recognized historic scenic qualifies of an area.
- Incongruent audible changes: Examples – increase in noise levels above an acceptable standard in areas known for their quiet, contemplative experience.
- Incongruent atmospheric changes: Examples – introduction of lights that create skyglow in an area with a dark night sky.

- Work on a building with significant tribal association: Examples – rehabilitation, demolition or removal of a surviving ancient tribal structure or village, or a building or structure that there is reason to believe was the location of a significant tribal event, home of an important person, or that served as a tribal school or community hall.
- Transfer, lease, or sale of a historic property of religious and cultural significance: Example – transfer, lease, or sale of properties that contain archeological sites, burial grounds, sacred landscapes or features, ceremonial areas, plant and animal communities, or buildings and structures with significant tribal association.

If the project does not include any of these activities, select "none of the above apply" on the "When to Consult with Tribes under Section 106" worksheet and place in the ERR. This worksheet has been provided in the Site-Specific Checklist.

If any of the activities apply, using the Tribal Directory Assessment Tool (TDAT) can be accessed using the following link: https://egis.hud.gov/tdat/, locate the tribes within the county. Send each tribe either by mail or email a letter inviting them to comment on the project. A letter template, for part 58 projects, can be accessed using the following link: https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3785/tribal-consultation-letter-template/ .

If the tribe does not respond to the invitation to consult within 30 days (if e-mailed) or 35 days (if mailed), the grantee should document the invitation and lack of response in the ERR, further consultation is not required.

If further action is required because of the THPO response, document the action required and place in file. If the action requires a MOA, place in file.

v. NOISE ABATEMENT AND CONTROL – Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B

Single-family rehabilitation and demolition only activities are not subject to the Noise Abatement regulation (24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B). However, for projects located within 3,000 feet of a railroad, 1,000 feet from a highway, or 15 miles of an airport, noise calculations will be required for rehabilitation projects that can attenuate for noise (roof replacement, window replacement, insulation replacement).

All reconstruction activities are subject to the Noise Abatement Regulation.

Documentation must include a map that shows whether the site is within 3,000 feet of a railroad, 1,000 feet of a major highway, or 15 miles of an airport. If the site is 3,000 feet from a railroad, 1,000 feet from a highway or 15 miles from an airport a noise assessment required. If the site is not within these distances to an airport, railroad, or highway, place a map documenting this information into the ERR.

If a project is within 1,000 feet of major highway or 3,000 feet of a railroad, then traffic and rail data must be collected and entered into the HUD DNL Calculator to determine the decibel level. Traffic data can be obtained from the GA DOT website. Railroad data can be obtained from the railroad operator. Airport noise levels will also need to be entered if the site is within 15 miles of an airport. The calculator can be accessed using the following link:

https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/dnl-calculator/

Attach a copy of the DNL Calculation that includes the analysis of all major roads, railroads, and airports that affect the project site.

If the noise level at the activity site is Normally Unacceptable (>65 DNL to 75 DNL). A specific noise attenuation plan detailing the sound transmission classifications (STC) ratings for building materials must be developed prior to approval of this form. Attach the plan detailing how noise will be attenuated to an interior level of 45 DNL and 65 DNL (for exterior use).

If the noise level at the site is Unacceptable (>75 DNL), an EIS or EIS waiver will be required, or the project is rejected.

vi. WETLANDS PROTECTION – Executive Order 11990

Project does not involve new construction as defined in Executive Order 11990, expansion of a building's footprint, or new ground disturbance. All rehabilitation and reconstruction activities occur on previously developed sites, do not cause new ground disturbance. However, some eligible residential properties may be situated proximate to surface water and many types of wetland resources and include substantial rehabilitation. Documentation supporting the determination that projects including minor repairs or improvements on one- to four-family properties that do not meet the thresholds for "substantial improvement" under 55.2(b)(10) or meet an exception at 55.12(a)(3), 55.12(a)(4), 55.12(c)(3), 55.12(c)(7), or 55.12(c)(10) applies must be recorded. Projects not meeting the requirements must complete and document an 8-step process.

The eight-step decision-making process entails the following:

1. Determine if proposal is in a floodplain or wetland by using FIRMS, NEPA assist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maps or other relevant information.
2. Involve the public in decision-making process using the notice forms located at https://www.dca.ga.gov/node/3757 notify the public by publishing in a newspaper in communities which have local newspapers. In all other communities, post the notice on the post office bulletin board for 15 days including postmarks on the notice to document the date was posted and the date it was remove.
3. Determine if there is a practicable alternative. Identify and evaluate at least three alternatives, including, when possible, alternative sites outside the floodplain or wetland, alternative actions, and the "no action" option.
4. Identify adverse and beneficial impacts including direct and indirect support of other floodplain and wetland development that might result from the project. Analyst the following factors: (1) Natural environmental (topography, habitat, hazards); (2) Social concerns (aesthetics, historic and cultural values, land use patterns); (3) Economic aspects (costs of construction, transportation, and relocation); and (4) Legal considerations (deeds, leases).
5. Mitigate adverse impacts. Minimize the impacts identified and restore and preserve the beneficial values served by floodplains and wetlands.
6. Re-evaluate alternatives considering the information gained to determine if the proposed action is still practicable. If new construction is to be in a floodplain or wetland, apply accepted flood proofing and other measures. To achieve flood protection, wherever practicable elevate the structures above the flood level rather than fill in land.
7. Announce and explain decision to the public via a public notice in the local newspaper for seven days.
8. Implement proposal with appropriate mitigation. Review during site visits to ensure that mitigation measures are fully implemented.

Each of the above steps should be documented and included in the environmental review record. The ERR should contain one of the following:

- Documentation supporting the determination that an exception at 55.12(a)(s), 55.12(a)(4). 55.12(c)(7), or 55.12(c)(10) applies.
- Documentation supporting the determination that the project does not involve new construction (as defined in Executive Order 11990), expansion of a building's footprint, or ground disturbance.
- A map or other relevant documentation supporting the determination that the project does not impact an on- or off-site wetland.
- A completed 8-step process, including a map and the early and final public notices.

vii. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE – Executive Order 12898

Projects eligible for funding are targeted towards low- and moderate-income households. There is no expected impact to low-income and minority populations; however, each site will be reviewed to endure it does not have a disproportionate adverse impact on low-income and minority individuals. This rule will be evaluated on the site-specific using land use plans, census information and the U.S. EPA Environmental Justice website at https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice.

The ERR should contain one of the following:

- Evidence that the site or surrounding neighborhood does not suffer from adverse environmental conditions and evidence that the proposed action will not create an adverse and disproportionate environmental impact or

aggravate an existing impact. (Describe how the proposed action will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on minority or low-income populations.)

- Evidence that the project is not in an environmental justice community of concern (demographics, income, etc.) or evidence that the project does not disproportionately affect a low-income or minority population.
- If there are adverse effects on low-income or minority populations, documentation that the affected community residents have been meaningfully informed and involved in a participatory planning process to address (remove, minimize, or mitigate) the adverse effect from the project and the resulting changes.