Appendix B Environmental Coordination Correspondence

- * B1: Environmental Coordination Correspondence
- **& B2: Cultural Resources Coordination Correspondence**
- **& B3: Draft U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report Evaluation**

B1: Environmental Coordination Correspondence

Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)

From: Richards, Mary E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 1:21 PM

To: Preston, Heather; Chad Johnston; phunter@scag.gov; Cantrell, Wade;

RigginL@dnr.sc.gov; Moore, Kelie; Smith, Bradley; Welte, Jennifer; Wikoff, Bill; Imm, Donald; Higgins, Jamie; Holliman, Daniel; bemccall@usgs.gov; fritz.rohde@noaa.gov;

Cynthia Cooksey - NOAA Federal

Cc: Weiss, Rebecca J CIV USARMY CENWD (USA); Dayan, Nathan S CIV USARMY CESAS

(US)

Subject: USACE Proposed Project - Augusta Training Wall **Attachments:** Training Wall.pdf; Traing Wall Study Area.jpg

All,

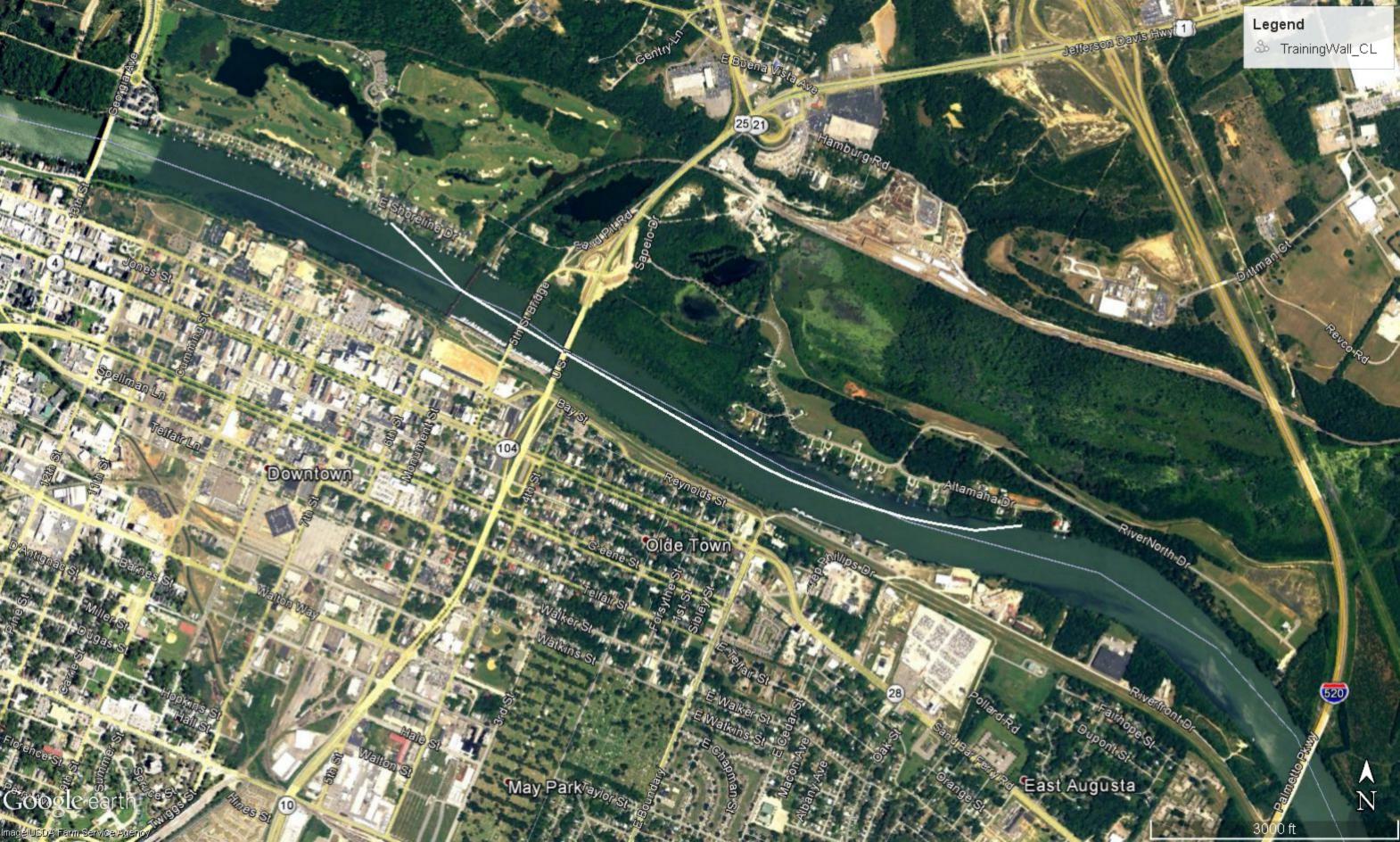
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, has initiated a study regarding a training wall in the Savannah River at Augusta, Georgia conducted under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. The purpose of this type of study is to determine whether a water resources development project operated and maintained by the Corps of Engineers should be deauthorized, and if the associated property should undergo disposal. The training wall (see attached) was constructed as part of the federally authorized project, Savannah River Below Augusta (SRBA), in the early 1900s. The wall, and associated structures, helped prevent formation of sandbars on the Georgia side of the river which impeded commercial navigation at the time. However, commercial navigation effectively ceased by 1980 and maintenance of the channel in that area was discontinued, the last known maintenance activity having been completed in December 1980.

The study area extends between Augusta's 13th Street Bridge and Palmetto Parkway Bridge (Interstate 520). Currently, the training wall, including underwater portions and those exposed during low flow periods controlled by the J. Strom Thurmond Dam, could be a navigational hazard. Again, this study will determine if there remains Federal interest in this navigational feature of the SRBA project and if not, whether disposal of the wall is feasible. Alternative uses and owners of the wall will be considered.

If you have historical information about the training wall, initial concerns or comments on this project please provide me feedback as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Richards U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Biologist-Planning Branch 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue Savannah, GA 31401 (912) 652-5020





Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)

From: Richards, Mary E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)

Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 3:42 PM

To: Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)

Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: [EXTERNAL] USACE Proposed Project - Augusta Training

Wall

Mary E. Richards U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Biologist-Planning Branch 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue Savannah, GA 31401 (912) 652-5020

----Original Message-----

From: Wikoff, Bill [mailto:bill_wikoff@fws.gov] Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 3:08 PM

To: Richards, Mary E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) < Mary.E.Richards@usace.army.mil>

Cc: Donald Imm <donald_imm@fws.gov>; Thomas McCoy <thomas_mccoy@fws.gov>; Mark Caldwell

<mark caldwell@fws.gov>; John Doresky <john doresky@fws.gov>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: [EXTERNAL] USACE Proposed Project - Augusta Training Wall

Hi Mary,

We (FWS - SC ES & GA ES) have no historical information about the training wall that we can provide to you.

My initial concerns are similar to dam or bridge removal projects; sediment, debris, and contaminants released and moving downstream and their effects to fish, mussels, and plants. For fish specific concerns please consider the robust redhorse (at-risk-species) and both sturgeon sp. (NMFS). Additionally I request that your analysis include considering impacts to the gravel bar below the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam.

My apologies for the lateness of this reply.

Bill

bill_wikoff@fws.gov <mailto:bill_wikoff@fws.gov>
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services - Coastal Georgia Sub Office
4980 Wildlife Drive, NE
Townsend, Georgia 31331
912-832-8739 ext.5, 912-832-8744 fax

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----- Forwarded message ------

From: Richards, Mary E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) < Mary.E.Richards@usace.army.mil

<mailto:Mary.E.Richards@usace.army.mil>>

Date: Fri, Aug 9, 2019 at 1:27 PM

Subject: [EXTERNAL] USACE Proposed Project - Augusta Training Wall

To: Preston, Heather <PRESTOHS@dhec.sc.gov <mailto:PRESTOHS@dhec.sc.gov> >, Chad Johnston <CJohnston@willoughbyhoefer.com <mailto:CJohnston@willoughbyhoefer.com> >, phunter@scag.gov <mailto:phunter@scag.gov> <phunter@scag.gov <mailto:phunter@scag.gov> >, Cantrell, Wade <CANTREWM@dhec.sc.gov <mailto:CANTREWM@dhec.sc.gov> >, RigginL@dnr.sc.gov <mailto:RigginL@dnr.sc.gov> <RigginL@dnr.sc.gov <mailto:RigginL@dnr.sc.gov> >, Moore, Kelie <Kelie.Moore@dnr.ga.gov <mailto:Bradley.Smith@dnr.ga.gov <mailto:Bradley.Smith@dnr.ga.gov <mailto:Bradley.Smith@dnr.ga.gov> >, Welte, Jennifer <Jennifer.Welte@dnr.ga.gov <mailto:Jennifer.Welte@dnr.ga.gov> >, Wikoff, Bill <bill_wikoff@fws.gov <mailto:bill_wikoff@fws.gov> >, Imm, Donald <donald_imm@fws.gov <mailto:donald_imm@fws.gov> >, Higgins.Jamie@epa.gov <mailto:Holliman.Daniel@epa.gov <mailto:Holliman.Daniel@epa.gov <mailto:Holliman.Daniel@epa.gov <mailto:bemccall@usgs.gov> <fritz.rohde@noaa.gov <mailto:fritz.rohde@noaa.gov> <fritz.rohde@noaa.gov <mailto:fritz.rohde@noaa.gov <mailto:cynthia.cooksey@noaa.gov> <mailto:cynthia.cooksey@noaa.gov> <mailto:cynthia.cooksey@noaa.gov> >

Cc: Weiss, Rebecca J CIV USARMY CENWD (USA) <Rebecca.J.Weiss@usace.army.mil <mailto:Rebecca.J.Weiss@usace.army.mil>>, Dayan, Nathan S CIV USARMY CESAS (US) <Nathan.S.Dayan@usace.army.mil <mailto:Nathan.S.Dayan@usace.army.mil>>

All,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, has initiated a study regarding a training wall in the Savannah River at Augusta, Georgia conducted under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. The purpose of this type of study is to determine whether a water resources development project operated and maintained by the Corps of Engineers should be deauthorized, and if the associated property should undergo disposal. The training wall (see attached) was constructed as part of the federally authorized project, Savannah River Below Augusta (SRBA), in the early 1900s. The wall, and associated structures, helped prevent formation of sandbars on the Georgia side of the river which impeded commercial navigation at the time. However, commercial navigation effectively ceased by 1980 and maintenance of the channel in that area was discontinued, the last known maintenance activity having been completed in December 1980.

The study area extends between Augusta's 13th Street Bridge and Palmetto Parkway Bridge (Interstate 520). Currently, the training wall, including underwater portions and those exposed during low flow periods controlled by the J. Strom Thurmond Dam, could be a navigational hazard. Again, this study will determine if there remains Federal interest in this navigational feature of the SRBA project and if not, whether disposal of the wall is feasible. Alternative uses and owners of the wall will be considered.

If you have historical information about the training wall, initial concerns or comments on this project please provide me feedback as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Richards U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Biologist-Planning Branch 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue Savannah, GA 31401 (912) 652-5020

Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)

From: Richards, Mary E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)

Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 3:42 PM

To: Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)

Subject: FW: USACE Proposed Project - Augusta Training Wall

Attachments: Training Wall.pdf; Traing Wall Study Area.jpg

Mary E. Richards U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Biologist-Planning Branch 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue Savannah, GA 31401 (912) 652-5020

----Original Message-----

From: Marcinek, Paula [mailto:Paula.Marcinek@dnr.ga.gov]

Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2019 3:18 PM

To: Richards, Mary E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) < Mary.E.Richards@usace.army.mil> Subject: [Non-DoD Source] FW: USACE Proposed Project - Augusta Training Wall

Hello Mary,

This project was forwarded to me for review regarding potential concerns with Robust Redhorse and other aquatic species of conservation interest.

My initial opinion is that removal of the wall will be a good thing in the long run, but I would like to be kept in the loop, as details develop.

Best,

Paula Marcinek

Aquatic Biologist, Wildlife Conservation

Wildlife Resources Division

M: (404) 323-7751 | O: (706) 557-3227

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----Original Message-----From: Albanese, Brett

Sent: Friday, August 09, 2019 2:14 PM

----Original Message-----

From: Moore, Kelie < Kelie. Moore@dnr.ga.gov>

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 1:39 PM

To: Andrews, Jill < Jill.Andrews@dnr.ga.gov>; Barreiro, Deb < Deb.Barreiro@dnr.ga.gov>; Belcher, Carolyn < Carolyn.Belcher@dnr.ga.gov>; Bennett, Buck < Buck.Bennett@dnr.ga.gov>; Brady, Kevin < Kevin.Brady@dnr.ga.gov>; Brinton, Cameron < cameron.brinton@dnr.ga.gov>; Burgess, Karl < Karl.Burgess@dnr.ga.gov>; Crass, David < David.Crass@dnr.ga.gov>; Deener, Bert < Bert.Deener@dnr.ga.gov>; Dodd, Mark < Mark.Dodd@dnr.ga.gov>; Dodson, Jordan < jordan.dodson@dnr.ga.gov>; Flowers, Amy < amy.flowers@dnr.ga.gov>; Flowers, Jared < jared.flowers@dnr.ga.gov>; Foisy, Bruce < Bruce.Foisy@dnr.ga.gov>; George, Clay < Clay.George@dnr.ga.gov>; Guadagnoli, Dom < Dom.Guadagnoli@dnr.ga.gov>; Haymans, Doug < Doug.Haymans@dnr.ga.gov>; Hill, Kelly < Kelly.Hill@dnr.ga.gov>; Jones, Tyler < tyler.jones@dnr.ga.gov>; Keyes, Tim < Tim.Keyes@dnr.ga.gov>; Kline, Jennifer < Jennifer.Kline@dnr.ga.gov>; Labarba, Sam < sam.labarba@dnr.ga.gov>; Lee, Jason < Jason.Lee@dnr.ga.gov>; Leonard, Eddie < Eddie.Leonard@dnr.ga.gov>; Litts, Thom < Thom.Litts@dnr.ga.gov>; Moore, Kelie < Kelie.Moore@dnr.ga.gov>; Noble, Josh < Josh.Noble@dnr.ga.gov>; Ridley, Cindy < Cindy.Ridley@dnr.ga.gov>; Schleiger, Steve < Steve.Schleiger@dnr.ga.gov>; Tobler, Paul < paul.tobler@dnr.ga.gov>; Vick, Alice < Alice.Vick@dnr.ga.gov>; Winsness, Shannon < Shannon.Winsness@dnr.ga.gov>

Subject: FW: USACE Proposed Project - Augusta Training Wall

Do any of you have any historic information, concerns, or comments about the Corps' proposal to investigate removal of this training wall in the Savannah River in Augusta? Thank you.

Kelie Moore Federal Consistency Coordinator Coastal Resources Division (912) 264-7218 | (912) 262-2334 Follow us on Facebook Buy a fishing license today!

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----Original Message----

From: Richards, Mary E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) < Mary.E.Richards@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Friday, August 09, 2019 1:21 PM

To: Preston, Heather <PRESTOHS@dhec.sc.gov>; Chad Johnston <CJohnston@Willoughbyhoefer.com>; phunter@scag.gov; Cantrell, Wade <CANTREWM@dhec.sc.gov>; RigginL@dnr.sc.gov; Moore, Kelie <Kelie.Moore@dnr.ga.gov>; Smith, Bradley <Bradley.Smith@dnr.ga.gov>; Welte, Jennifer <Jennifer.Welte@dnr.ga.gov>; Wikoff, Bill <bild_wikoff@fws.gov>; Imm, Donald <donald_imm@fws.gov>; Higgins, Jamie <Higgins.Jamie@epa.gov>; Holliman, Daniel <Holliman.Daniel@epa.gov>; bemccall@usgs.gov; fritz.rohde@noaa.gov; Cynthia Cooksey - NOAA Federal <cynthia.cooksey@noaa.gov>

Cc: Weiss, Rebecca J CIV USARMY CENWD (USA) <Rebecca.J.Weiss@usace.army.mil>; Dayan, Nathan S CIV USARMY CESAS (US) <Nathan.S.Dayan@usace.army.mil>

Subject: USACE Proposed Project - Augusta Training Wall

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

All,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, has initiated a study regarding a training wall in the Savannah River at Augusta, Georgia conducted under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. The purpose of this type of study is to determine whether a water resources development project operated and maintained by the Corps of

Engineers should be deauthorized, and if the associated property should undergo disposal. The training wall (see attached) was constructed as part of the federally authorized project, Savannah River Below Augusta (SRBA), in the early 1900s. The wall, and associated structures, helped prevent formation of sandbars on the Georgia side of the river which impeded commercial navigation at the time. However, commercial navigation effectively ceased by 1980 and maintenance of the channel in that area was discontinued, the last known maintenance activity having been completed in December 1980.

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If you have historical information about the training wall, initial concerns or comments on this project please provide me feedback as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Richards U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Biologist-Planning Branch 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue Savannah, GA 31401 (912) 652-5020 From: Sara J. Gottlieb

Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA); Eric Krueger To:

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Mussel Question Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 3:26:23 PM

Hi Robin,

Yes, I've been following the proposal to remove the training wall in Augusta - very interesting.

Here is the species account for Atlantic Pigtoe from GA DNR: Blockedhttps://georgiabiodiversity.a2hosted.com/natels/profile?es id=18858

I checked the GA DNR Heritage data, and the occurrence in that segment of the Savannah River is the original holotype for the species from 1834. There have been no positive surveys in that reach since then, despite multiple surveys (most recently in 2006).

I don't have any additional information beyond this, but I can say that detection of mussels in these types of systems can be extremely difficult. There have been more recent proposals for using eDNA to detect very rare mussels, but I don't know of any eDNA work in the Savannah River.

I think you are right about the habitat; it seems unlikely that a mussel that needs clean river beds dominated by coarse sand and gravel is unlikely to do well in a segment of the Savannah River that has been so impacted over many years by development and the resulting silt runoff. I don't imagine the impacts of construction and operation of Thurmond dam have been particularly conducive to the species' persistence upstream of Augusta, either, not to mention the loss of connectivity due to the dams upstream and downstream.

I hope this is helpful. Happy thanksgiving,

Sara

----Original Message-----

From: Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) < Robin.E. Armetta@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 2:01 PM

To: Eric Krueger <EKRUEGER@TNC.ORG>; Sara J. Gottlieb <sgottlieb@TNC.ORG>

Subject: Mussel Question

Importance: High

Good Afternoon Eric and Sara.

I hope you are both doing well!

I have a question for you both....I am working on the Section 216 Training Wall Disposition Study where we are looking at possibly removing the training wall in the Augusta area that was put up back in the late 1800s and early 1900s as part of the Savannah River Below Augusta navigation project to have the water stay deeper on the GA side to allow for commercial navigation traffic to go to Augusta.

Anyway, I have been working with USFWS to obtain a USFWS Coordination Act Report evaluation for the study and they told us that within the study area, the GADNR heritage database indicates that the Atlantic pigtoe, ESA proposed threatened and Georgia endangered could be within the study area as well as downstream.

Based on information gathering, it looks like the preferred habitat of the Atlantic pigtoe is coarse sand and gravel, and rarely in silt and detritus. Historically, the best populations existed in small creeks to larger rivers with excellent water quality, where flows were sufficient to maintain clean, silt-free substrates.

Based on my understanding I am thinking that this type of habitat would be further upstream from the location of the

training wall, probably just downstream of the shoals area but I was wondering if you knew of any mussel surveys that have been done in that area of the Savannah River.

Any information you all might have would be greatly appreciated!

Sincerely, Robin

Phone: 912-652-6148

Robin Armetta Biologist USACE, Savannah District, Planning Branch

Email: Robin.E.Armetta@usace.army.mil

From: <u>Punsalan, April</u>

To: Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)

Cc: Mark Caldwell

Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: [EXTERNAL] Thank you again Mark

Date: Friday, December 13, 2019 9:39:11 AM

Thank you, Robin. Good work! April

On Fri, Dec 13, 2019 at 9:37 AM Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) < Robin.E.Armetta@usace.army.mil> wrote:

Hi April,

I am thinking where we are going to remove the training wall and potentially clear vegetation of the staging area is going be far enough downstream from shoals area that we should not have any impacts to the shoals spider lily. With regards to Ocmulgee skullcap, we will take a look at the staging area to see if it is present.

Sincerely, Robin

Robin Armetta Biologist

USACE, Savannah District, Planning Branch

Phone: 912-652-6148

Email: Robin.E.Armetta@usace.army.mil

----Original Message----

From: Punsalan, April [mailto:april_punsalan@fws.gov]

Sent: Friday, December 13, 2019 9:27 AM To: Mark Caldwell < <u>mark_caldwell@fws.gov</u>>

Cc: Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) < Robin. E. Armetta @usace.army.mil >

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: [EXTERNAL] Thank you again Mark

Hello Robin,

I forgot to mention that I would keep an eye out for the rocky shoals spider lily (Hymenocallis coronaira), this species is not federally listed, but is state listed and is very rare and occurs along the shoals of the river. Blockedhttps://scnps.org/activities/rocky-shoals-spider-lily-preservation-project

Also, I would let the surveyor know about a species we were petitioned to list-Ocmulgee skullcap (Scutellaria ocmulgee). Blockedhttps://Blockedwww.fws.gov/southeast/pdf/fact-sheet/ocmulgee-skullcap.pdf

I recommend surveying for these species as well and avoiding if possible. Please let me know if you find relict trillium, rocky shoals spider lily, or ocmulgee skullcap.

Thank you,

April

On Thu, Dec 12, 2019 at 3:35 PM Mark Caldwell < <u>mark_caldwell@fws.gov</u> < mailto: <u>mark_caldwell@fws.gov</u> > wrote:

Robin,

That language is fine for the RCW. April Punsalan is our Botanist, she will be the POC for the relict trillium efforts, if any.

Have a nice day!

Mark

Mark A. Caldwell
Deputy Field Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
South Atlantic-Gulf Region
South Carolina Ecological Services
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, SC 29407
843-727-4707 ext 215
843-300-0426 (direct line)
843-300-0189 - facsimile

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----Original Message----

From: Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)

<Robin.E.Armetta@usace.army.mil <mailto:Robin.E.Armetta@usace.army.mil>>

Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 3:28 PM

To: Mark caldwell@fws.gov <mailto: Mark caldwell@fws.gov >

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank you again Mark

Hi Mark!

Thank you so much for looking into the proposed staging area for me with regards to RCW and relict trillium.

What I plan to say, if this works for you for my impacts analysis is as follows but please feel free to provide any suggestions. One question I had would be, for this project is there a good person to work with at USFWS that I would want to coordinate my relict trillium efforts with?

"After coordination with USFWS South Carolina field office on the location of the proposed staging area for the construction effort where upland/riparian habitat would need to be cleared for construction access,

there do not appear to be any known populations of red-cockaded woodpeckers in that area. In addition, the area that would be cleared for construction access does not appear to be preferable habitat for relict trillium however, USACE Savannah District, before construction begins will conduct a site visit to confirm and will work with USFWS to determine a plan on how to minimize impacts to that species if present."

Sincerely, Robin

Robin Armetta Biologist

USACE, Savannah District, Planning Branch

Phone: 912-652-6148

Email: Robin.E.Armetta@usace.army.mil < mailto: Robin.E.Armetta@usace.army.mil >

--

April Punsalan, Botanist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

South Carolina Field Office

176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200

Charleston, SC 29407

Office: (843) 727-4707 ext. 218

Fax: (843) 727-4218

<u>April punsalan@fws.gov</u> <mailto:<u>April punsalan@fws.gov</u>>

Please visit our Web Page for information about our office:

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--

April Punsalan, Botanist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

South Carolina Field Office

176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200

Charleston, SC 29407

Office: (843) 727-4707 ext. 218

Fax: (843) 727-4218

April_punsalan@fws.gov

Please visit our Web Page for information about our office: <u>Blockedwww.fws.gov/charleston</u>

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From: Rowe, Matthew

To: <u>Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)</u>

Cc: <u>Marcinek, Paula</u>; <u>Barrett, Tim</u>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Mussel Question

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020 2:15:13 PM

Robin,

I don't have any major reservations about impacts on mussel fauna relating to a full removal of this training wall structure. The largest potential issue would be the impact of the sediment behind the structure being mobilized downstream. Surveys in the downstream reach between the training wall and the Lock and Dam conducted in 2006 by a consultant returned records of several species in the gnus Elliptio which are generally common and tolerant species in the Savannah River. Several of them are tracked by DNR WRC but are not state or federally listed. Fusconaia masoni, while a state listed species has not been recorded in the that reach, nor in the Savannah River within the last 20 years.

Based on the positioning of the structure on a generally straight section of the river and the results of the sediment analysis by USACOE, I think proceeding with the removal of the training wall without first removing the material collected behind it is likely the least damaging course of action in regard to freshwater mussel populations in the impact area. While I would be interested in the results of a survey of the mussels in the area, I do not believe that one is expressly required in this instance.

Matthew Rowe

Aquatic Biologist - Freshwater Invertebrates, Wildlife Conservation

Wildlife Resources Division (706) 557-3217 | M: (678) 836-6132

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----Original Message-----

From: Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) < Robin.E. Armetta@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 1:54 PM

To: Rowe, Matthew <matthew.rowe@dnr.ga.gov>

Subject: RE: Mussel Question

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

Great, I am available now as well. I can call you if you give me your number or you can call me at my desk number below!

Sincerely, Robin

Robin Armetta

Biologist

USACE, Savannah District, Planning Branch

Phone: 912-652-6148

Email: Robin.E.Armetta@usace.army.mil

----Original Message-----

From: Rowe, Matthew [mailto:matthew.rowe@dnr.ga.gov]

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 1:51 PM

To: Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) < Robin.E. Armetta@usace.army.mil>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Mussel Question

Robin,

Yes, I looked over the area and I feel like I've got a pretty good handle on the mussel related issues in the study area and the likely impact area downstream I'm free to talk now If you've got a few minutes.

- Matt

----Original Message-----

From: Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) < Robin.E. Armetta@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 1:41 PM

To: Rowe, Matthew <matthew.rowe@dnr.ga.gov>

Subject: RE: Mussel Question

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hey Matt,

Let me know what time works for you? I am here until 3:00 today!

Did you have time to look over the project area?

Sincerely, Robin

Robin Armetta Biologist

USACE, Savannah District, Planning Branch

Phone: 912-652-6148

Email: Robin.E.Armetta@usace.army.mil

----Original Message-----

From: Rowe, Matthew [mailto:matthew.rowe@dnr.ga.gov]

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 1:33 PM

To: Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) < Robin.E.Armetta@usace.army.mil>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Mussel Question

Robin,

Sure, I'd be happy to talk about it. I Just got off the phone with Tim Barrett actually on the same issue.

----Original Message----

From: Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) < Robin.E. Armetta@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 7:35 AM
To: Rowe, Matthew <matthew.rowe@dnr.ga.gov>
Cc: Barrett, Tim <Tim.Barrett@dnr.ga.gov>

Subject: Mussel Question

Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning Matthew!

Happy New Year! I am just following up with you on this email I sent you last month on a project we are working

Let me know if you have time this week to chat!

Sincerely, Robin

Robin Armetta Biologist USACE, Savannah District, Planning Branch

Phone: 912-652-6148

Email: Robin.E.Armetta@usace.army.mil

----Original Message-----

From: Armetta, Robin E CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)

Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 1:49 PM

To: matthew.rowe@dnr.ga.gov

Cc: Straight, Carrie <carrie straight@fws.gov>

Subject: Mussel Question

Importance: High

Good Afternoon Matthew!

My name is Robin Armetta, I am a biologist with the USACE in Savannah! Currently we are looking at a study to remove a navigational training wall feature within the Savannah River near Augusta/North Augusta! I am attaching a google earth kmz file showing the location of this training wall. To give you a 30 second summary of the project and what we are looking at as far as alternatives, here is where we are:

In November of this year we tested the sediment behind the training wall that has been accumulated over the years to get a sense of what the sediment characteristics were like and how clean it was. Based on sediment results from the sediment sampling it looks like we don't have any major concerns with regards to the sediment itself behind the training wall. According to our geology section team members, the results indicated that there is there is no presence of Metals, PCBs, and SVOCs above the EPA Regional Screening Level (RSL) residential soil standard. In addition, the Background (BG) location results hardly differ from the samples behind the training wall. With regards to the sediment characteristics, the top 0-16 feet of sediment is characterized as poorly graded sand (SP) in the high erodibility zone. Beneath sand, the material characterized as gray lean clay (CL) and saprolite that is not easily erodible.

Based on this information, we are looking at 3 different alternatives:

a. The no action alterative, leave the wall and sediment in place but place safety buoys around the training wall

- b. Remove the training wall and its associated features (dispose of at a local landfill) and let the sediment go naturally into the system (approximately 270,000 cubic yards)
- c. Remove the training wall and its associated features and remove a certain percentage of sediment (dispose of at a local landfill) ranging from approximately 200,000 to 270,000 cubic yards and let the remaining amount of sediment go back into the system naturally. We are still working on determining that that final number of cubic yards will be.

One of my jobs as the project biologist is to analyze each of those alternatives from the environmental point of view. I went ahead and put the project location in in the USFWS IPAC search as well as in the GADNR and SCDNR protected resources database (see attached word file with those species) so I could get a sense of what protected species could be within the project area. One of my big uncertainties is whether or not mussels (protected species as well as other species) might be present where the training wall is located and if they are located downstream of the training wall location. The big reason behind that is that I need to determine how the release of the sediment that has accumulated behind the training wall would impact mussel species (if present) once it gets released back into the system.

Anyway, this is a complicated project and if you have time to chat with me tomorrow that would be great but if you have any information on any mussel species that would be within our study area where the training wall is located or just downstream of that location, I would really appreciate it so I can complete my initial analysis effort for the project!

Thank you so much!

Sincerely, Robin

Robin Armetta

Biologist USACE, Savannah District, Planning Branch

Phone: 912-652-6148

Email: Robin.E.Armetta@usace.army.mil

B2: Cultural ResourcesCoordination Correspondence



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

Ms. Devon Frazier
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cultural Preservation Department
2025 Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801

Dear Ms. Frazier:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, is initiating a study of the Augusta Pool Navigation Features (Richmond County, Georgia/Aiken County, South Carolina) under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. This study will focus on navigation features located in the Savannah River between the 13th Street Bridge and I-520 and determine whether the federal government should continue to retain these features for the authorized use, or if they should be deauthorized and undergo disposal. These features have been determined a hazard to navigation during low flow periods controlled by J. Strom Thurmond Dam. A figure of the study area is enclosed (Figure 1).

As early as the 1880s USACE constructed numerous wing dams, training walls, and bank revetting works in the Savannah River to help prevent shoaling that impeded commercial navigation between the cities of Savannah and Augusta. The current Section 216 study will examine whether these features continue to serve a federal purpose in this limited section of the Savannah River (Figure 2). If the study determines that the project should be deauthorized, USACE will continue with analyses and required investigations to prepare an integrated feasibility and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) report. If the study determines that there is federal interest in retaining the project, the study will terminate.

This information is being sent to your tribe to inform you of the project. If you have historical information about the training wall and associated features, or initial concerns or comments on this project, please contact Ms. Julie Morgan, Archaeologist, Planning Branch, via email at julie.a.morgan@usace.army.mil, or phone, 706-856-0378. USACE

will initiate Section 106 consultation with your tribe if the decision is made to deauthorize these features. If you have no interest in this project please let us know.

Sincerely,

Where I Weiss
Rebecca Weiss

Acting Chief, Planning Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

Ms. Janice Lowe Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Post Office Box 187 101 East Broadway Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883

Dear Ms. Lowe:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, is initiating a study of the Augusta Pool Navigation Features (Richmond County, Georgia/Aiken County, South Carolina) under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. This study will focus on navigation features located in the Savannah River between the 13th Street Bridge and I-520 and determine whether the federal government should continue to retain these features for the authorized use, or if they should be deauthorized and undergo disposal. These features have been determined a hazard to navigation during low flow periods controlled by J. Strom Thurmond Dam. A figure of the study area is enclosed (Figure 1).

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Sincerely,

Mehren J Weiss
Rebecca Weiss

Acting Chief, Planning Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

Dr. Wenonah Haire Catawba Indian Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer 1536 Tom Steven Road Rock Hill, SC 29730

Dear Dr. Haire:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, is initiating a study of the Augusta Pool Navigation Features (Richmond County, Georgia/Aiken County, South Carolina) under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. This study will focus on navigation features located in the Savannah River between the 13th Street Bridge and I-520 and determine whether the federal government should continue to retain these features for the authorized use, or if they should be deauthorized and undergo disposal. These features have been determined a hazard to navigation during low flow periods controlled by J. Strom Thurmond Dam. A figure of the study area is enclosed (Figure 1).

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USACE will initiate Section 106 consultation with your tribe if the decision is made to deauthorize these features. We respectfully request that you notify us if you have no interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Kehiein) Weiss
Rebecca Weiss

Acting Chief, Planning Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

Ms. Elizabeth Toombs Cherokee Nation Special Project Officer Post Office Box 948 Tahleguah, Oklahoma 74465

Dear Ms. Toombs:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, is initiating a study of the Augusta Pool Navigation Features (Richmond County, Georgia/Aiken County, South Carolina) under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. This study will focus on navigation features located in the Savannah River between the 13th Street Bridge and I-520 and determine whether the federal government should continue to retain these features for the authorized use, or if they should be deauthorized and undergo disposal. These features have been determined a hazard to navigation during low flow periods controlled by J. Strom Thurmond Dam. A figure of the study area is enclosed (Figure 1).

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Sincerely,

Kelen J Weiss
Rebecca Weiss

Acting Chief, Planning Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

Dr. Linda Langley Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Post Office Box 10 Elton, Louisiana 70532

Dear Dr. Langley:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, is initiating a study of the Augusta Pool Navigation Features (Richmond County, Georgia/Aiken County, South Carolina) under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. This study will focus on navigation features located in the Savannah River between the 13th Street Bridge and I-520 and determine whether the federal government should continue to retain these features for the authorized use, or if they should be deauthorized and undergo disposal. These features have been determined a hazard to navigation during low flow periods controlled by J. Strom Thurmond Dam. A figure of the study area is enclosed (Figure 1).

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USACE will initiate Section 106 consultation with your tribe if the decision is made to deauthorize these features. We respectfully request that you notify us if you have no interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Weiss

Acting Chief, Planning Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

Ms. Robin Dushane
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Cultural Preservation Director
P.O. Box 350
Seneca, MO 64865

Dear Ms. Dushane:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, is initiating a study of the Augusta Pool Navigation Features (Richmond County, Georgia/Aiken County, South Carolina) under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. This study will focus on navigation features located in the Savannah River between the 13th Street Bridge and I-520 and determine whether the federal government should continue to retain these features for the authorized use, or if they should be deauthorized and undergo disposal. These features have been determined a hazard to navigation during low flow periods controlled by J. Strom Thurmond Dam. A figure of the study area is enclosed (Figure 1).

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USACE will initiate Section 106 consultation with your tribe if the decision is made to deauthorize these features. We respectfully request that you notify us if you have no interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Weiss

Acting Chief, Planning Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

Dr. David Crass
Division Director
DNR Historic Preservation Division
Jewett Center for Historic Preservation
2610 GA Hwy 155, SW
Stockbridge, GA 30281

Dear Dr. Crass:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, is initiating a study of the Augusta Pool Navigation Features (Richmond County, Georgia/Aiken County, South Carolina) under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. This study will focus on navigation features located in the Savannah River between the 13th Street Bridge and I-520 and determine whether the federal government should continue to retain these features for the authorized use, or if they should be deauthorized and undergo disposal. These features have been determined a hazard to navigation during low flow periods controlled by J. Strom Thurmond Dam. A figure of the study area is enclosed (Figure 1).

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will initiate Section 106 consultation with Georgia Historic Preservation Division if the decision is made to deauthorize these features.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Weiss

Acting Chief, Planning Branch

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

Mr. David Cook Kialegee Tribal Town Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Post Office Box 332 Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883

Dear Mr. Cook:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, is initiating a study of the Augusta Pool Navigation Features (Richmond County, Georgia/Aiken County, South Carolina) under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. This study will focus on navigation features located in the Savannah River between the 13th Street Bridge and I-520 and determine whether the federal government should continue to retain these features for the authorized use, or if they should be deauthorized and undergo disposal. These features have been determined a hazard to navigation during low flow periods controlled by J. Strom Thurmond Dam. A figure of the study area is enclosed (Figure 1).

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Sincerely,
Rebeen of Wein

Rebecca Weiss

Acting Chief, Planning Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

Ms. Corain Lowe-Zepeda Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Post Office Box 580 Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Dear Ms. Lowe-Zepeda:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, is initiating a study of the Augusta Pool Navigation Features (Richmond County, Georgia/Aiken County, South Carolina) under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. This study will focus on navigation features located in the Savannah River between the 13th Street Bridge and I-520 and determine whether the federal government should continue to retain these features for the authorized use, or if they should be deauthorized and undergo disposal. These features have been determined a hazard to navigation during low flow periods controlled by J. Strom Thurmond Dam. A figure of the study area is enclosed (Figure 1).

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Sincerely,

Rebecca Weiss

Acting Chief, Planning Branch

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

Mr. Larry Haikey Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Officer 5811 Jack Springs Road Atmore, Alabama 36502

Dear Mr. Haikey:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, is initiating a study of the Augusta Pool Navigation Features (Richmond County, Georgia/Aiken County, South Carolina) under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. This study will focus on navigation features located in the Savannah River between the 13th Street Bridge and I-520 and determine whether the federal government should continue to retain these features for the authorized use, or if they should be deauthorized and undergo disposal. These features have been determined a hazard to navigation during low flow periods controlled by J. Strom Thurmond Dam. A figure of the study area is enclosed (Figure 1).

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Sincerely,

Rebecca Weiss

Acting Chief, Planning Branch



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

W. Eric Emerson, Ph.D. Director South Carolina Department of Archives and History 8301 Parklane Road Columbia, SC 29223

Dear Dr. Emerson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, is initiating a study of the Augusta Pool Navigation Features (Richmond County, Georgia/Aiken County, South Carolina) under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. This study will focus on navigation features located in the Savannah River between the 13th Street Bridge and I-520 and determine whether the federal government should continue to retain these features for the authorized use, or if they should be deauthorized and undergo disposal. These features have been determined a hazard to navigation during low flow periods controlled by J. Strom Thurmond Dam. A figure of the study area is enclosed (Figure 1).

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USACE will initiate Section 106 consultation with South Carolina Department of Archives and History if the decision is made to deauthorize these features.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Weiss

Acting Chief, Planning Branch



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

Dr. Paul Backhouse Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Historic Preservation Officer 30290 Josie Billie Highway PMB 1004 Clewiston, Florida 33440

Dear Dr. Blackhouse:

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Rebecca Weiss

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

Ms. Tonya Tipton Shawnee Tribe Tribal Historic Preservation Office 29 S. Highway 69A Miami, OK 74354

Dear Ms. Tipton:

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Sincerely,

Rebecca Weiss

Acting Chief, Planning Branch



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

Mr. Theodore Isham Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Post Office Box 1498 Wewoka, Oklahoma 74884

Dear Mr. Isham:

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

AUGUST 14, 2019

Planning Branch

Ms. Janet Maylen Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Post Office Box 188 Okemah, Oklahoma 74859

Dear Ms. Maylen:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, is initiating a study of the Augusta Pool Navigation Features (Richmond County, Georgia/Aiken County, South Carolina) under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. This study will focus on navigation features located in the Savannah River between the 13th Street Bridge and I-520 and determine whether the federal government should continue to retain these features for the authorized use, or if they should be deauthorized and undergo disposal. These features have been determined a hazard to navigation during low flow periods controlled by J. Strom Thurmond Dam. A figure of the study area is enclosed (Figure 1).

As early as the 1880s USACE constructed numerous wing dams, training walls, and bank revetting works in the Savannah River to help prevent shoaling that impeded commercial navigation between the cities of Savannah and Augusta. The current Section 216 study will examine whether these features continue to serve a federal purpose in this limited section of the Savannah River (Figure 2). If the study determines that the project should be deauthorized, USACE will continue with analyses and required investigations to prepare an integrated feasibility and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) report. If the study determines that there is federal interest in retaining the project, the study will terminate.

This information is being sent to your tribe to inform you of the project. If you have historical information about the training wall and associated features, or initial concerns or comments on this project, please contact Ms. Julie Morgan, Archaeologist, Planning Branch, via email at julie.a.morgan@usace.army.mil, or phone, 706-856-0378.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Weiss

Acting Chief, Planning Branch

From: Raynella D. Fontenot

To: Morgan-Ryan, Julie A CIV USARMY CESAS (US)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Initiation of study of the Augusta Pool Navigation Features (Richmond County, Ga/Aiken

County, SC).

Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 12:09:38 PM

Dear Ms. Morgan,

Thank you for requesting our 106/EA determination. Based on the information provided, I do not believe that this project will have a negative impact on any archaeological, historic or cultural resources of the Coushatta people. Accordingly, we do not wish to consult further on this project. If any inadvertent discoveries are made in the course of this project, we expect to be contacted immediately and reserve the right to consult with you at that time.

Aliilamo (thank you),

Raynella Fontenot

Coushatta Revitalization Coordinator

Acting Section 106 Coordinator

Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana

P.O. Box 10

Elton, LA 70532

337-584-1585

From: Morgan-Ryan, Julie A CIV USARMY CESAS (US)

To: <u>Turner Hunt</u>

Cc: Parker, Rodney D SAS

Subject: RE: Augusta Pool Navigation Features

Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 8:09:00 AM

Mr. Hunt:

Thank you for your response; I will put it in the project file. We will notify you in the event of an inadvertent discovery.

Respectfully,

Julie A. Morgan Archaeologist, Planning Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District

Ph: 706-856-0378

Email: julie.a.morgan@usace.army.mil

----Original Message----

From: Turner Hunt [mailto:thunt@mcn-nsn.gov] Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 6:07 PM

To: Morgan-Ryan, Julie A CIV USARMY CESAS (US) <Julie.A.Morgan@usace.army.mil>

Cc: Parker, Rodney D SAS < Rodney.D.Parker@usace.army.mil>Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Augusta Pool Navigation Features

Ms. Morgan,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the navigation features located in the Savannah River between 13th Street Bridge and I-520. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) understands that the letter addresses the initiation of a study to determine if the federal government will retain or dispose of these features. MCN does not have any information to provide about the features and they are not historically or culturally related to the Muscogee people. With that understanding, MCN would like to express that we have no interest in the structures themselves. MCN understands that the river needs to remain navigable during all times and if these structures are impeding water traffic they should be deposed of. We would like to reenter consultation in the event of an inadvertent discovery during the course of the project – IAW Corps policy. Otherwise, MCN appreciates the early notification about the project which is really what the spirit of the law and section 106 is. Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is anything else I may be able to assist you with. I appreciate your time, Mvto!

Turner W. Hunt

Historic and Cultural Preservation Department | Archaeological Technician

Muscogee (Creek) Nation

P.O.Box 580 | Okmulgee, OK 74447

T 918.732.7759 | F 918.758.0649

thunt@mcn-nsn.gov < mailto:thunt@mcn-nsn.gov >

MuscogeeNation-nsn.gov

THIS MESSAGE AND ANY ATTACHMENTS ARE COVERED BY THE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS PRIVACY ACT, 18 U.S.C. §§2510 et seq. AND CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL, PRIVILEGED AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE. ANY RECIPIENT OTHER THAN THE INTENDED RECIPIENT IS ADVISED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, RETENTION, DISTRIBUTION, COPYING OR OTHER USE OF THE MESSAGE WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS MESSAGE IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY THE SENDER IMMEDIATELY.

From: Morgan-Ryan, Julie A CIV USARMY CESAS (US)

To: <u>Elizabeth Toombs</u>

Subject: RESPONSE TO: Information Request: Planning Branch, Augusta Pool Navigation Features

Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 8:34:00 AM

Attachments: ~GE9B58.kmz

wall figure.jpg

Ms. Toombs: Please use the below Lat and Longitude for the project area. This will pinpoint the center of the training wall which is located near downtown Augusta, GA. The study area extends from the 13st street bridge (north of the wall) to the I-520 Bridge and includes the river and banks in that area. This area is approximately .4 square miles.

Latitude: 33.473604° Longitutde: -81.951293°

Since the original correspondence was sent to you SAS has been given approval to continue with the study. Please let me know if you are interested in continuing consultation for the study. We will be looking at ways to remove the wall and any associated navigation features in order to make this part of the river safer for recreational navigation. This project has an accelerated schedule and we will be working to complete the draft report before the end of the calendar year.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Julie A. Morgan Archaeologist, Planning Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District

Ph: 706-856-0378

Email: julie.a.morgan@usace.army.mil

----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Toombs [mailto:elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org]

Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:13 PM

To: Morgan-Ryan, Julie A CIV USARMY CESAS (US) <Julie.A.Morgan@usace.army.mil>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] FW: Information Request: Planning Branch, Augusta Pool Navigation Features

Good Afternoon, Ms. Morgan:

The Cherokee Nation is unable to complete our review of the below request without the additional details. However, this Office looks forward to consulting with the United States Army Corps of Engineers regarding this project. Please contact me if there are any questions or concerns, or if additional details are available.

Wado,

Elizabeth Toombs, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Cherokee Nation

Tribal Historic Preservation Office
PO Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948
918.453.5389
From: Elizabeth Toombs Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 8:29 PM To: 'julie.a.morgan@usace.army.mil' <julie.a.morgan@usace.army.mil> Subject: Information Request: Planning Branch, Augusta Pool Navigation Features</julie.a.morgan@usace.army.mil>
Good Evening, Ms. Morgan:
The Cherokee Nation recently received a review request for the Augusta Pool Navigation Features in Richmond County, Georgia and Aiken County, South Carolina. This email is to follow-up and request additional information. Are there latitude/longitude coordinates available for a central point for this proposed project? Alternatively, shapefiles will also help. This information will help this Office review the project with our database.
Thank you for your time and any information. Please let me know if there are any questions or concerns, or if additional clarification is needed.
Wado,
Elizabeth Toombs, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cherokee Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
PO Box 948

Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948

918.453.5389

From: <u>Caitlin Rogers</u>

To: Morgan-Ryan, Julie A CIV USARMY CESAS (US)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Augusta Pool Navigation Features

Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 3:23:39 PM

Ms. Morgan,

Attached is the concurrence letter for your project. Thanks

Caitlin

--

Caitlin Rogers
Catawba Indian Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730

803-328-2427 ext. 226 Caitlinh@ccppcrafts.com < mailto:Caitlinh@ccppcrafts.com>

Please Note: We CANNOT accept Section 106 forms via e-mail, unless requested. Please send us hard copies. Thank you for your understanding



CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

OCT 0.4 2019

Mr. Theodore Isham Historic Preservation Officer Seminole Nation of Oklahoma PO Box 1498 Wewoka, Ok 74884

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Dear Mr. Isham:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is currently studying the feasibility and environmental effects of alternative measures for deauthorization of the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall (Project), in Augusta, Georgia and North Augusta, South Carolina. The Corps has determined the Project no longer meets it authorized purposes under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1881, and a Disposition Study of the Project is being undertaken under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. The purpose of the study is to examine the feasibility of measures to deauthorize and dispose of the Project. The Corps is preparing a Disposition Study and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to examine the alternatives for disposition concurrent with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review process. The purpose of this letter is to initiate consultation, provide a review of the Project, and an Area of Potential Effect (APE).

The Project consists of a training wall and nine pile dikes of brush fascines and riprap. The Project is currently a hazard to navigation, especially at lower Savannah River stages, and is identified as a foul area on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration navigational charts. When the Savannah River is at low stages, the training wall and pile dikes are exposed. The Project is obsolete and it no longer serves it authorized purpose to prevent shoaling within this segment of the Savannah River. The Disposition Study and NEPA document will examine the effects of altering or removing the Project, as well as leaving it in place.

The Corps has established the Disposition Study is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(y) and has identified the Georgia and South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO) as the appropriate SHPOs for consultation since the Project crosses the state line. The Corps has identified the APE as outlined in 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1) for the proposed Project disposal alternatives to include the training wall with a buffer, the

associated dikes, and the portions of the Savannah River that may be affected to the shoreline (Figure 1).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(2), the Corps has reviewed existing information from the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); the Georgia National, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS; and South Carolina's ArcSite. The APE is located in an archaeologically and historically sensitive area. The APE is beneath the Southern Railroad Bridge, a resource the South Carolina SHPO determined is eligible for listing in the NRHP. The APE is also beneath Historic Structure 0295, the Jefferson Davis Memorial Bridge, which has been determined ineligible for listing on the NRHP. The section of the Savannah River north of the Project is recorded in ArcSite as archaeological sites 38AK0644 and 38AK0645. Both of these sites are artifact scatters with material dating from the Early Colonial Period to the present, in addition to historic docks and other features. These sites have not been evaluated for listing on the NRHP.

The boundary for the NRHP-listed Augusta Downtown Historic District (NRIS Reference Number 04000515) is the Savannah River, south of the Project. The identified significance of this District comes from the plan, buildings, structures, and monumentsincluding a Corps-constructed levee along the banks of the Savannah River. The 2014 updated NRHP Supplementary Listing Record notes there are no known "river-related resources" in the District other than the Southern Railroad Bridge. The APE is also located near the NRHP-listed Pinched Gap Historic District (NRIS Reference Number 80001228). The boundaries of this district are the Corps-constructed levee along the Savannah River, south of the APE.

The Corps recognizes additional efforts are necessary to identify historic properties within the APE, assess adverse effects of the proposed actions on historic properties, and resolve any adverse effects, if necessary. The Corps is currently contracting for services to provide the necessary information, including documentation of the Project and identification of additional unrecorded structures within the APE. The results of the investigations, NRHP eligibility recommendations, and determinations of effect will be coordinated with your office at a later date. The Corps kindly requests your comments on the Project and the proposed APE within 30 days from receipt of this letter. If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Christopher Altes by telephone at 904-232-1694 or e-mail at Christopher.F.Altes@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Angela E. Dunn ,

Chief, Environmental Branch

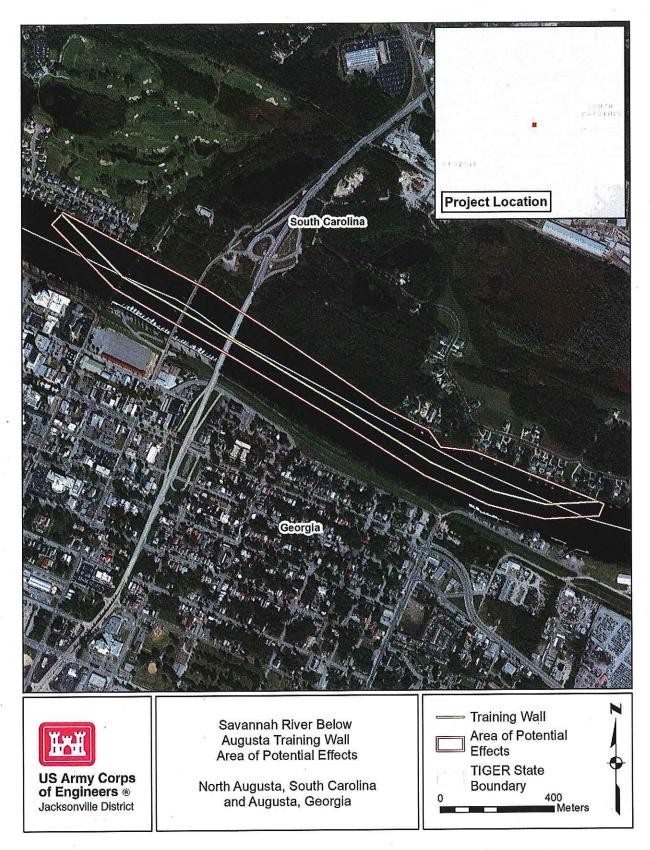


Figure 1. APE for the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall



CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

OCT 0 4 2019

Dr. Paul Backhouse Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Seminole Tribe of Florida 30290 Josie Billie Highway, PMB 1004 Clewiston, Florida 33440

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Dear Dr. Backhouse:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is currently studying the feasibility and environmental effects of alternative measures for deauthorization of the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall (Project), in Augusta, Georgia and North Augusta, South Carolina. The Corps has determined the Project no longer meets it authorized purposes under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1881, and a Disposition Study of the Project is being undertaken under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. The purpose of the study is to examine the feasibility of measures to deauthorize and dispose of the Project. The Corps is preparing a Disposition Study and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to examine the alternatives for disposition concurrent with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review process. The purpose of this letter is to initiate consultation, provide a review of the Project, and an Area of Potential Effect (APE).

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Sincerely,

Angela E. Dunn

Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure -

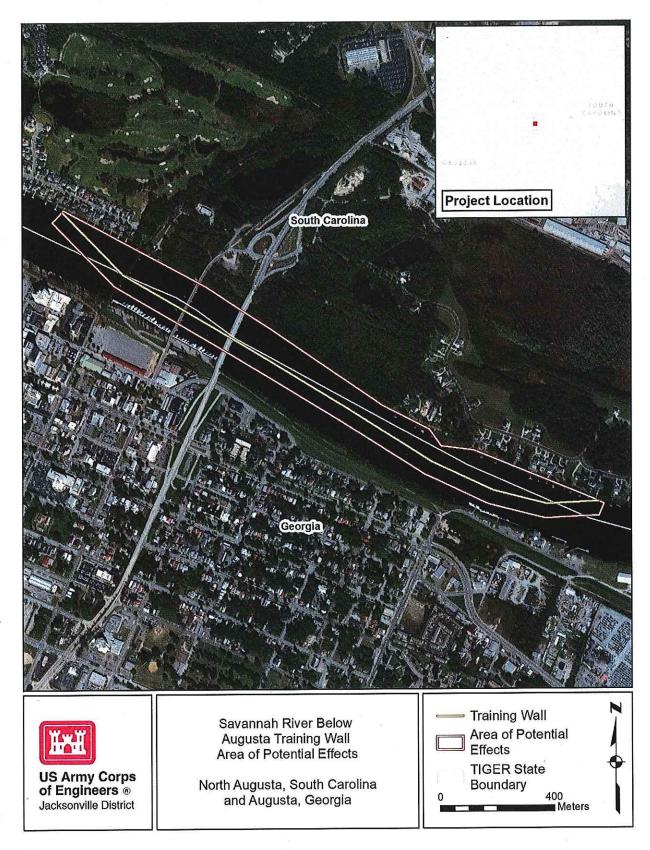


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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY RPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRIC

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

OCT 0 4 2019

Ms. Devon Frazier
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Cultural Preservation Department
2025 Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Dear Ms. Frazier:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is currently studying the feasibility and environmental effects of alternative measures for deauthorization of the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall (Project), in Augusta, Georgia and North Augusta, South Carolina. The Corps has determined the Project no longer meets it authorized purposes under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1881, and a Disposition Study of the Project is being undertaken under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. The purpose of the study is to examine the feasibility of measures to deauthorize and dispose of the Project. The Corps is preparing a Disposition Study and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to examine the alternatives for disposition concurrent with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review process. The purpose of this letter is to initiate consultation, provide a review of the Project, and an Area of Potential Effect (APE).

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Sincerely,

Angela E. Dunn

Chief, Environmental Branch

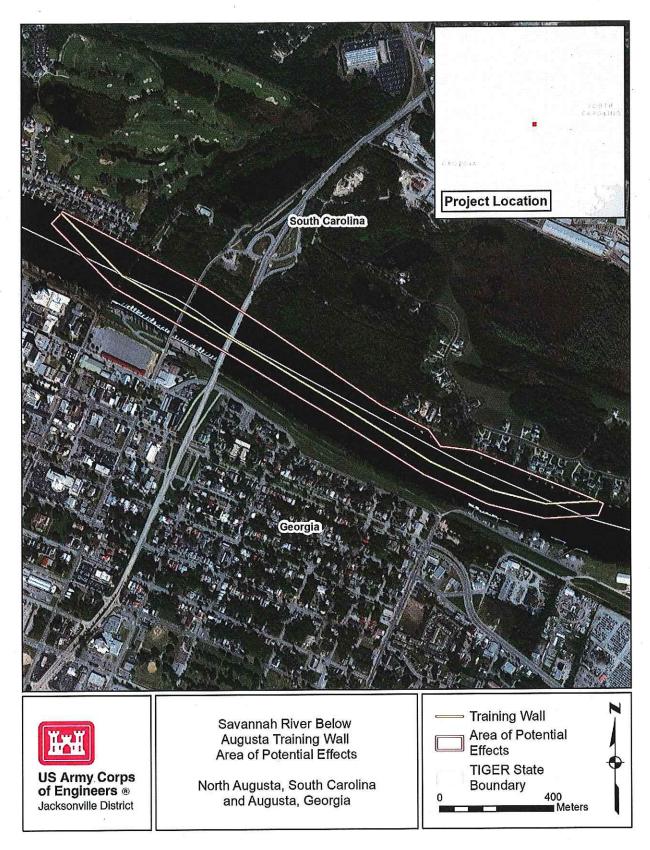


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CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

OCT 0 4 2019

Dr. David Crass
Division Director
DNR Historic Preservation Division
Jewett Center for Historic Preservation
2610 GA Hwy 155, SW
Stockbridge, GA 30281

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Dear Dr. Crass:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is currently studying the feasibility and environmental effects of alternative measures for deauthorization of the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall (Project), in Augusta, Georgia and North Augusta, South Carolina. The Corps has determined the Project no longer meets it authorized purposes under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1881, and a Disposition Study of the Project is being undertaken under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. The purpose of the study is to examine the feasibility of measures to deauthorize and dispose of the Project. The Corps is preparing a Disposition Study and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to examine the alternatives for disposition concurrent with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review process. The purpose of this letter is to initiate consultation, provide a review of the Project, and an Area of Potential Effect (APE).

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Sincerely,

Angela E. Dunn

Chief, Environmental Branch

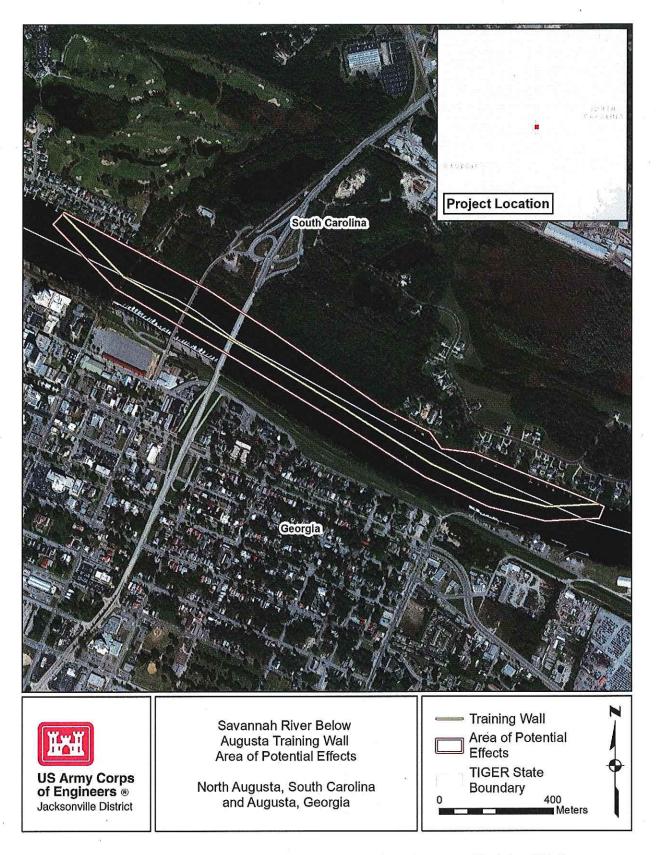


Figure 1. APE for the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall



CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

OCT 0 4 2019

Ms. Janice Lowe Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town Post Office Box 187 101 East Broadway Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Dear Ms. Lowe:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is currently studying the feasibility and environmental effects of alternative measures for deauthorization of the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall (Project), in Augusta, Georgia and North Augusta, South Carolina. The Corps has determined the Project no longer meets it authorized purposes under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1881, and a Disposition Study of the Project is being undertaken under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. The purpose of the study is to examine the feasibility of measures to deauthorize and dispose of the Project. The Corps is preparing a Disposition Study and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to examine the alternatives for disposition concurrent with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review process. The purpose of this letter is to initiate consultation, provide a review of the Project, and an Area of Potential Effect (APE).

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Sincerely,

Angela E. Dunn

Chief, Environmental Branch

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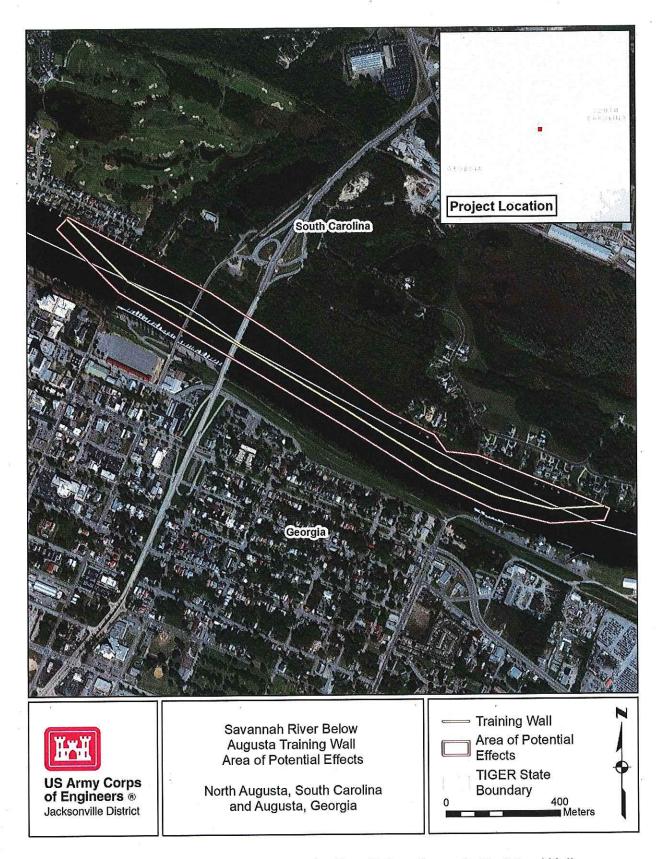


Figure 1. APE for the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall



CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

OCT 0 4 2019

Ms. Elizabeth Toombs Special Project Officer Cherokee Nation Post Office Box 948 Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74465

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Dear Ms. Toombs:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is currently studying the feasibility and environmental effects of alternative measures for deauthorization of the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall (Project), in Augusta, Georgia and North Augusta, South Carolina. The Corps has determined the Project no longer meets it authorized purposes under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1881, and a Disposition Study of the Project is being undertaken under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. The purpose of the study is to examine the feasibility of measures to deauthorize and dispose of the Project. The Corps is preparing a Disposition Study and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to examine the alternatives for disposition concurrent with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review process. The purpose of this letter is to initiate consultation, provide a review of the Project, and an Area of Potential Effect (APE).

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Sincerely,

Angela E. Dunn

Chief, Environmental Branch

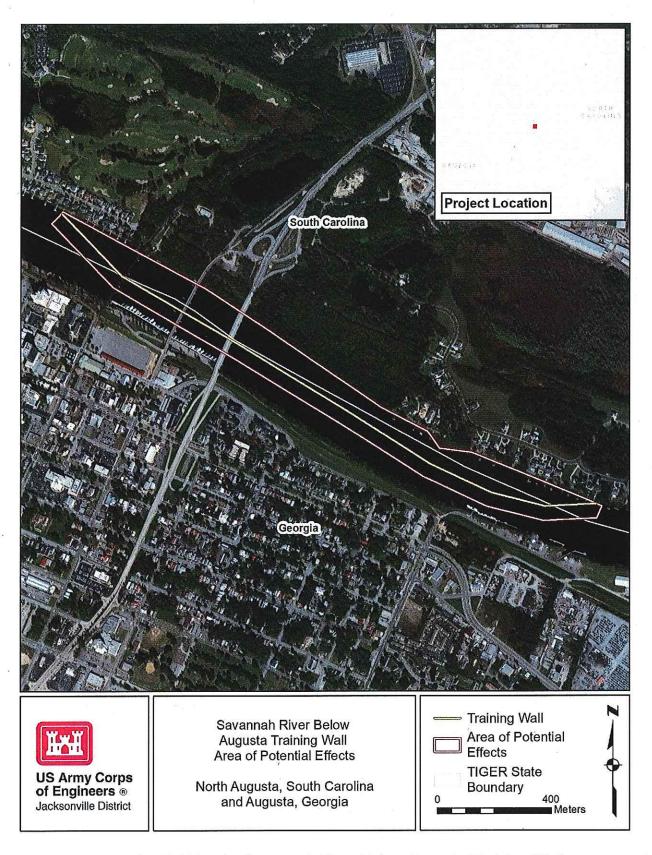


Figure 1. APE for the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall



CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

OCT 0 4 2019

Dr. Linda Langley Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana Post Office Box 10 Elton, Louisiana 70532

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Dear Dr. Langley:

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Angela E. Dunn

Chief, Environmental Branch

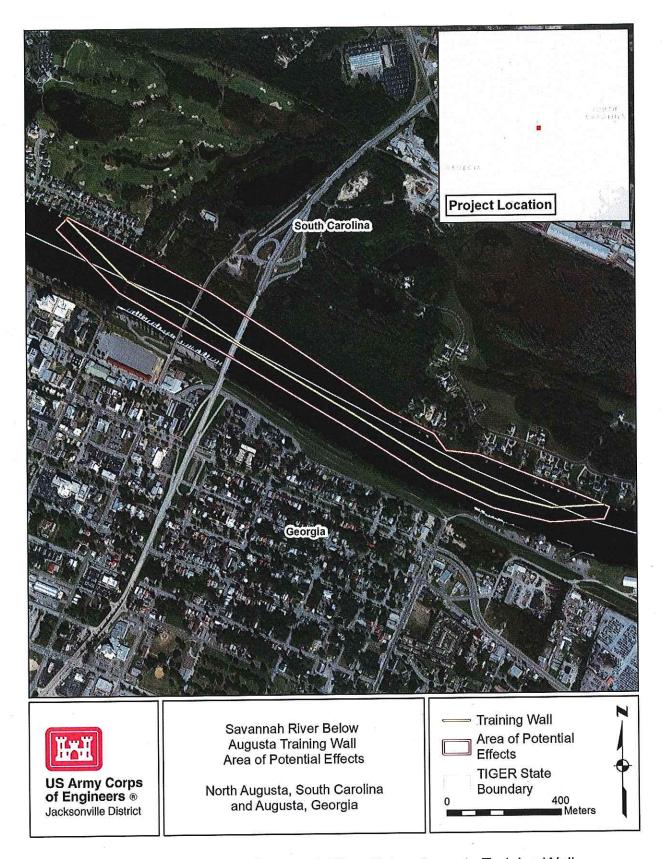


Figure 1. APE for the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall



CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

OCT 0 4 2019

Ms. Tonya Tipton Tribal Historic Preservation Office Shawnee Tribe 29 S. Highway 69A Miami, OK 74354

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Dear Ms. Tipton:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is currently studying the feasibility and environmental effects of alternative measures for deauthorization of the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall (Project), in Augusta, Georgia and North Augusta, South Carolina. The Corps has determined the Project no longer meets it authorized purposes under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1881, and a Disposition Study of the Project is being undertaken under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. The purpose of the study is to examine the feasibility of measures to deauthorize and dispose of the Project. The Corps is preparing a Disposition Study and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to examine the alternatives for disposition concurrent with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review process. The purpose of this letter is to initiate consultation, provide a review of the Project, and an Area of Potential Effect (APE).

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Sincerely,

Angela E. Dunn

Chief, Environmental Branch

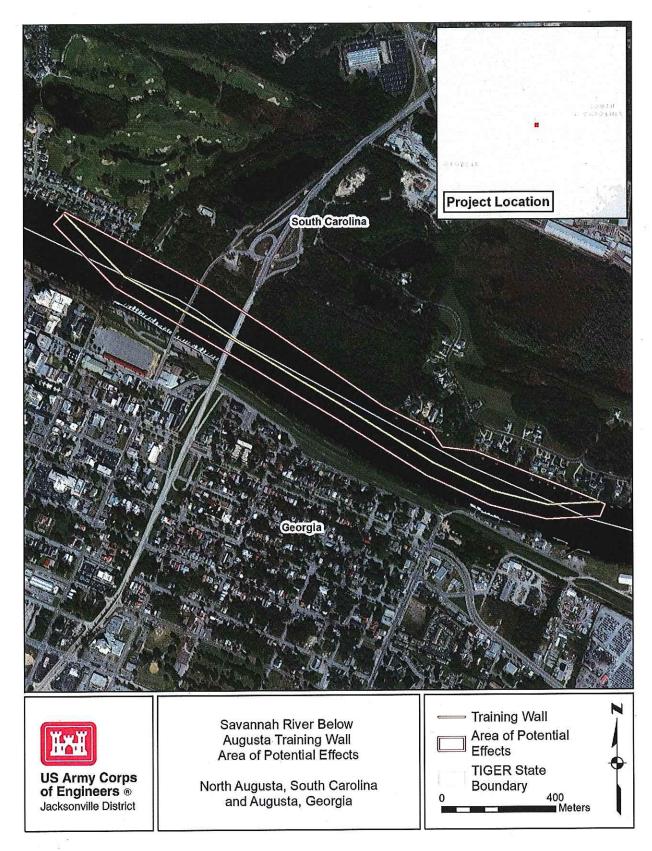


Figure 1. APE for the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall



CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

OCT 04 2019

Mr. Erik Engle Senior Planner August-Richmond County Planning Division 535 Telfair Street Suite 300 Augusta, Georgia 30901

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Dear Mr. Engle:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is currently studying the feasibility and environmental effects of alternative measures for deauthorization of the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall (Project), in Augusta, Georgia and North Augusta, South Carolina. The Corps has determined the Project no longer meets it authorized purposes under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1881, and a Disposition Study of the Project is being undertaken under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. The purpose of the study is to examine the feasibility of measures to deauthorize and dispose of the Project. The Corps is preparing a Disposition Study and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to examine the alternatives for disposition concurrent with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review process. The purpose of this letter is to initiate consultation, provide a review of the Project, and an Area of Potential Effect (APE).

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The Corps has established the Disposition Study is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(y) and has identified the Georgia and South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO) as the appropriate SHPOs for consultation since the Project

crosses the state line. The Corps has identified the APE as outlined in 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1) for the proposed Project disposal alternatives to include the training wall with a buffer, the associated dikes, and the portions of the Savannah River that may be affected to the shoreline (Figure 1).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(2), the Corps has reviewed existing information from the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); the Georgia National, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS; and South Carolina's ArcSite. The APE is located in an archaeologically and historically sensitive area. The APE is beneath the Southern Railroad Bridge, a resource the South Carolina SHPO determined is eligible for listing in the NRHP. The APE is also beneath Historic Structure 0295, the Jefferson Davis Memorial Bridge, which has been determined ineligible for listing on the NRHP. The section of the Savannah River north of the Project is recorded in ArcSite as archaeological sites 38AK0644 and 38AK0645. Both of these sites are artifact scatters with material dating from the Early Colonial Period to the present, in addition to historic docks and other features. These sites have not been evaluated for listing on the NRHP.

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Angela E. Dunn Chief, Environmental Branch

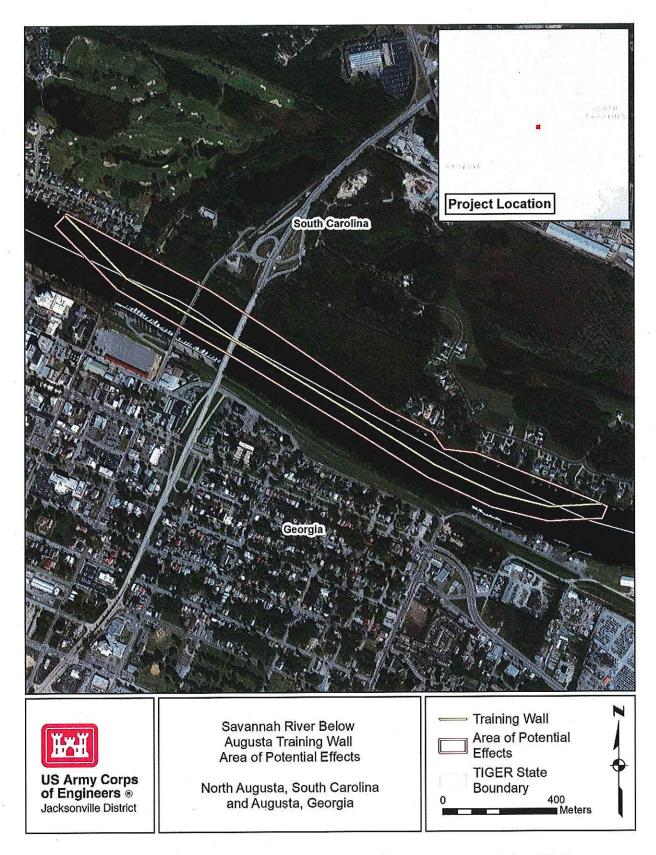


Figure 1. APE for the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall



CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

OCT 0 4 2019

Mr. David Cook Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Kialegee Tribal Town Post Office Box 332 Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Dear Mr. Cook:

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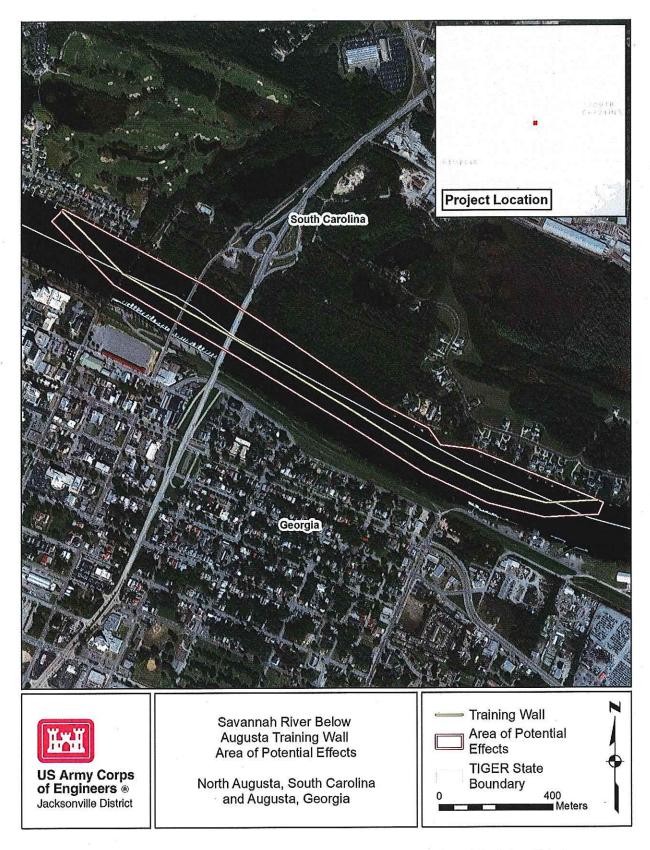


Figure 1. APE for the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall



CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

OCT 0 4 2019

Mr. Larry Haikey Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Poarch Band of Creek Indians 5811 Jack Springs Road Atmore, Alabama 36502

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Dear Mr. Haikey:

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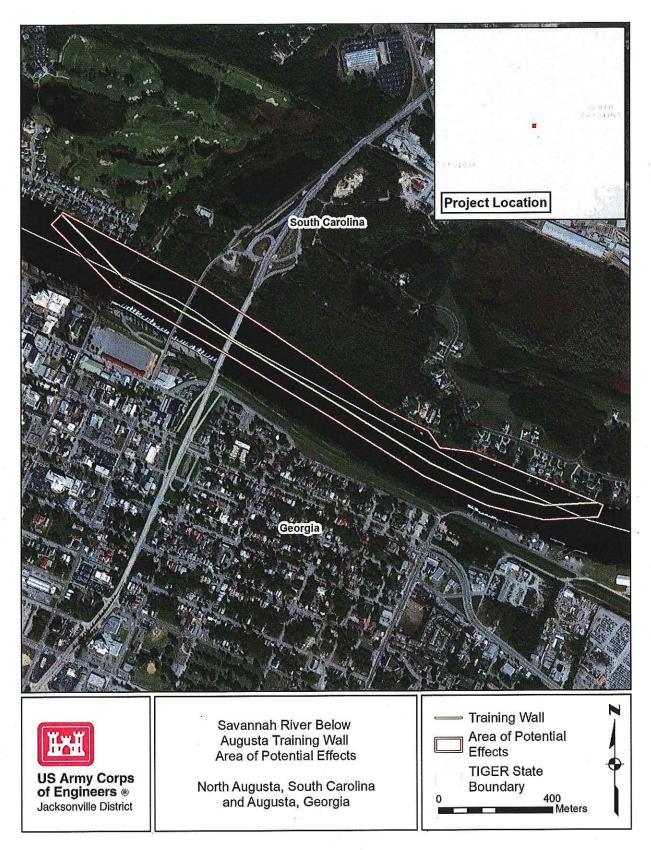


Figure 1. APE for the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall



CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

OCT 04 2019

Dr. W. Eric Emerson Director South Carolina Department of Archives and History 8301 Parklane Road Columbia, South Carolina 29223

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Dear Dr. Emerson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is currently studying the feasibility and environmental effects of alternative measures for deauthorization of the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall (Project), in Augusta, Georgia and North Augusta, South Carolina. The Corps has determined the Project no longer meets it authorized purposes under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1881, and a Disposition Study of the Project is being undertaken under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. The purpose of the study is to examine the feasibility of measures to deauthorize and dispose of the Project. The Corps is preparing a Disposition Study and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to examine the alternatives for disposition concurrent with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review process. The purpose of this letter is to initiate consultation, provide a review of the Project, and an Area of Potential Effect (APE).

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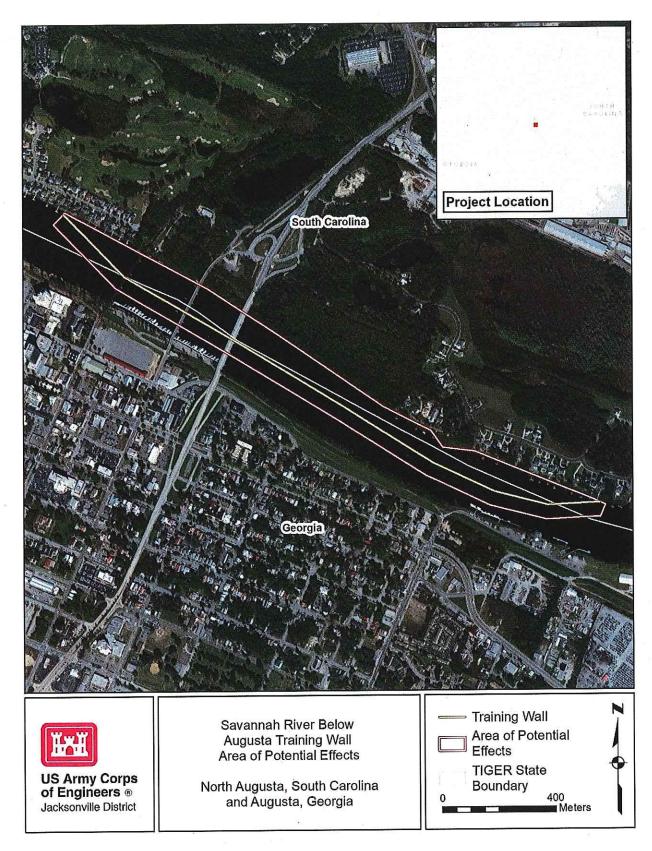


Figure 1. APE for the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall



CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

OCT 04 2019

Ms. Janet Maylen Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Post Office Box 188 Okemah, Oklahoma 74859

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Dear Ms. Maylen:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is currently studying the feasibility and environmental effects of alternative measures for deauthorization of the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall (Project), in Augusta, Georgia and North Augusta, South Carolina. The Corps has determined the Project no longer meets it authorized purposes under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1881, and a Disposition Study of the Project is being undertaken under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. The purpose of the study is to examine the feasibility of measures to deauthorize and dispose of the Project. The Corps is preparing a Disposition Study and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to examine the alternatives for disposition concurrent with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review process. The purpose of this letter is to initiate consultation, provide a review of the Project, and an Area of Potential Effect (APE).

The Project consists of a training wall and nine pile dikes of brush fascines and riprap. The Project is currently a hazard to navigation, especially at lower Savannah River stages, and is identified as a foul area on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration navigational charts. When the Savannah River is at low stages, the training wall and pile dikes are exposed. The Project is obsolete and it no longer serves it authorized purpose to prevent shoaling within this segment of the Savannah River. The Disposition Study and NEPA document will examine the effects of altering or removing the Project, as well as leaving it in place.

The Corps has established the Disposition Study is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(y) and has identified the Georgia and South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO) as the appropriate SHPOs for consultation since the Project crosses the state line. The Corps has identified the APE as outlined in 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1)

for the proposed Project disposal alternatives to include the training wall with a buffer, the associated dikes, and the portions of the Savannah River that may be affected to the shoreline (Figure 1).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(2), the Corps has reviewed existing information from the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); the Georgia National, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS; and South Carolina's ArcSite. The APE is located in an archaeologically and historically sensitive area. The APE is beneath the Southern Railroad Bridge, a resource the South Carolina SHPO determined is eligible for listing in the NRHP. The APE is also beneath Historic Structure 0295, the Jefferson Davis Memorial Bridge, which has been determined ineligible for listing on the NRHP. The section of the Savannah River north of the Project is recorded in ArcSite as archaeological sites 38AK0644 and 38AK0645. Both of these sites are artifact scatters with material dating from the Early Colonial Period to the present, in addition to historic docks and other features. These sites have not been evaluated for listing on the NRHP.

The boundary for the NRHP-listed Augusta Downtown Historic District (NRIS Reference Number 04000515) is the Savannah River, south of the Project. The identified significance of this District comes from the plan, buildings, structures, and monumentsincluding a Corps-constructed levee along the banks of the Savannah River. The 2014 updated NRHP Supplementary Listing Record notes there are no known "river-related resources" in the District other than the Southern Railroad Bridge. The APE is also located near the NRHP-listed Pinched Gap Historic District (NRIS Reference Number 80001228). The boundaries of this district are the Corps-constructed levee along the Savannah River, south of the APE.

The Corps recognizes additional efforts are necessary to identify historic properties within the APE, assess adverse effects of the proposed actions on historic properties, and resolve any adverse effects, if necessary. The Corps is currently contracting for services to provide the necessary information, including documentation of the Project and identification of additional unrecorded structures within the APE. The results of the investigations, NRHP eligibility recommendations, and determinations of effect will be coordinated with your office at a later date. The Corps kindly requests your comments on the Project and the proposed APE within 30 days from receipt of this letter. If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Christopher Altes by telephone at 904-232-1694 or e-mail at Christopher.F.Altes@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Angela E. Dunn

Chief, Environmental Branch

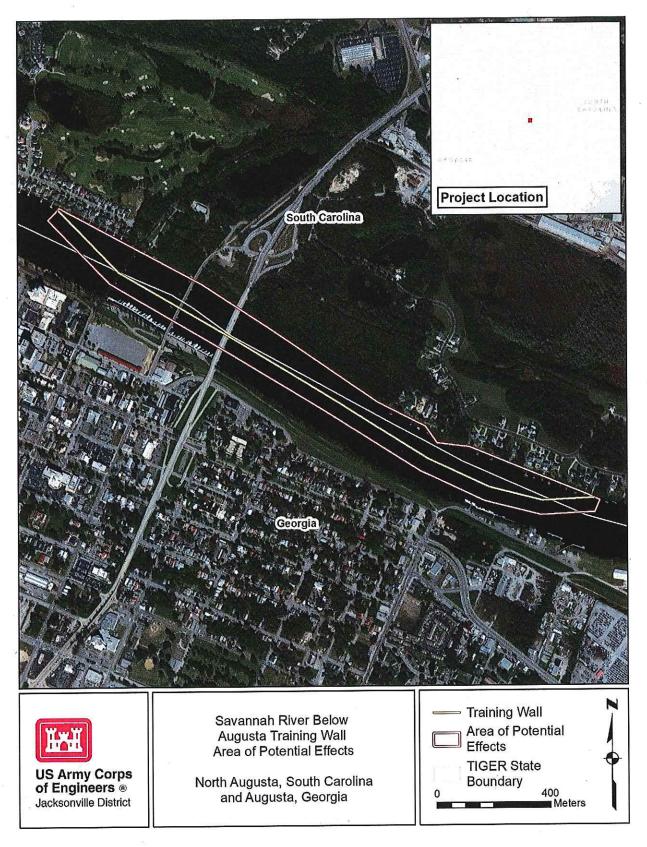


Figure 1. APE for the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall



CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division Environmental Branch

OCT 0 4 2019

Ms. Robin Dushane Cultural Preservation Director Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Post Office Box 350 Seneca, MO 64865

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Dear Ms. Dushane:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is currently studying the feasibility and environmental effects of alternative measures for deauthorization of the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall (Project), in Augusta, Georgia and North Augusta, South Carolina. The Corps has determined the Project no longer meets it authorized purposes under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1881, and a Disposition Study of the Project is being undertaken under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. The purpose of the study is to examine the feasibility of measures to deauthorize and dispose of the Project. The Corps is preparing a Disposition Study and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to examine the alternatives for disposition concurrent with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review process. The purpose of this letter is to initiate consultation, provide a review of the Project, and an Area of Potential Effect (APE).

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Sincerely,

Angela E. Dunn

Chief, Environmental Branch

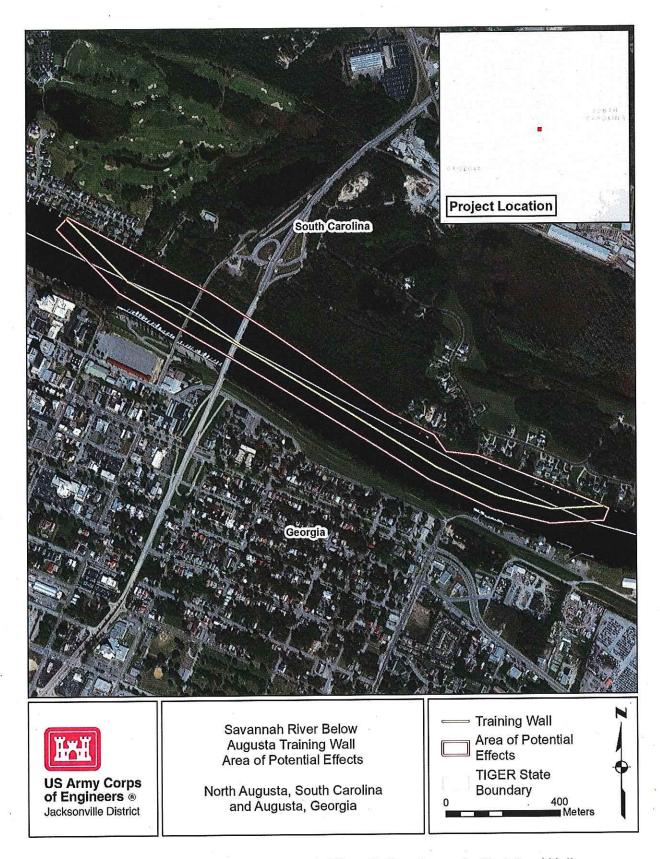


Figure 1. APE for the Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall

From: Raynella D. Fontenot

To: Altes, Christopher F CIV USARMY CESAJ (USA)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Section 106 Review: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Dispostion Study

Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 10:43:18 AM

Dear Mr. Altes,

Thank you for requesting our 106/EA determination. Based on the information provided, I do not believe that this project will have a negative impact on any archaeological, historic or cultural resources of the Coushatta people. Accordingly, we do not wish to consult further on this project. If any inadvertent discoveries are made in the course of this project, we expect to be contacted immediately and reserve the right to consult with you at that time.

Aliilamo (thank you),
Raynella Fontenot
Coushatta Revitalization Coordinator
Acting Section 106 Coordinator
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
P.O. Box 10
Elton, LA 70532
337-584-1585



POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

5811 Jack Springs Road • Atmore, Alabama 36502 Tribal Offices: (251) 368-9136 • Administrative Fax: (251) 368-4502 www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

October 16, 2019

Department of the Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District 701 San Marco Boulevard Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175 F.Altes@usace.army.mil

Re: PBCI THPO 2019-10-003: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Deposition Study

Dear Mr. Altes.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Tribal Historic Preservation Office has received and reviewed the documentation submitted for the referenced project in Augusta, Georgia and North Augusta, South Carolina. Thank you for the information provided. Based upon the information submitted we concur with the Area of Potential Effect(APE) as defined.

Please provide this office with the results of the effort to identify historic properties within the APE and assessment of effects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. We look forward to working with you in the future. Should further correspondence pertaining to the project be necessary, please reference the above file number when responding. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call 251-368-9136 extension 2072.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Haikey

Larry D. Hailey

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Altes, Christopher F CIV USARMY CESAJ (USA)

From: Bradley Mueller
bradleymueller@semtribe.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2019 9:48 AM

To: Altes, Christopher F CIV USARMY CESAJ (USA)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study, GA and SC

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM

TRIBAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM

> 30290 JOSIE BILLIE HIGHWAY PMB 1004 CLEWISTON, FL 33440

THPO PHONE: (863) 983-6549 MUSEUM PHONE: (863) 902-1113 FAX: (863) 902-1117

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TRIBAL OFFICERS

MARCELLUS W. OSCEOLA JR. CHAIRMAN

> MITCHELL CYPRESS VICE CHAIRMAN

LAVONNE ROSE SECRETARY

PETER A. HAHN TREASURER

November 7, 2019

Subject: Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study, Georgia and South Carolina

THPO Compliance Tracking Number: 0031877

Dear Mr. Altes,

Thank you for contacting the Seminole Tribe of Florida – Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO), Compliance Section regarding the Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study, Georgia and South Carolina. The proposed undertaking is outside of the current STOF Area of Interest and we will not be providing any comments. Please feel free to contact us with any guestions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Bradley M. Mueller Bradley M. Mueller, MA, Compliance Specialist

STOF-THPO, Compliance Review Section

30290 Josie Billie Hwy, PMB 1004

Clewiston, FL 33440

Office: 863-983-6549 ext 12245

Fax: 863-902-1117

Email: <u>bradleymueller@semtribe.com</u>
Web: Blockedwww.stofthpo.com



MARK WILLIAMS COMMISSIONER DR. DAVID CRASS DIVISION DIRECTOR

October 30, 2019

Angela E. Dunn Chief, Environmental Branch US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District 701 San Marco Boulevard Jacksonville, Florida 32207-8175

Attn: Christopher Altes, Project Manager

RE: Savannah River Below Augusta (SRBA) Environmental Restoration Study, Training Wall

Burke County et. al., Georgia

HP-161228-014

Dear Ms. Dunn:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has received the early coordination for the above referenced project. Our comments are offered to assist the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

Thank you for notifying our office of this proposed project. We look forward to receiving Section 106 compliance documentation when it becomes available and working with you as this project progresses. In regards to the area of potential effect (APE) proposed, HPD concurs with the APE, so long as visual impacts to nearby historic resources are also being taken into account.

Please refer to project number **HP-161228-014** in future correspondence regarding this project. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at Jennifer.dixon@dnr.ga.gov or (770) 389-7851.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dixon, MHP, LEED Green Associate

Program Manager

Environmental Review & Preservation Planning

cc: Eric Landon, Coastal Georgia Regional Commission



CHEROKEE NATION®

P.O. Box 948 • Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948 918-453-5000 • www.cherokee.org Office of the Chief

Chuck Hoskin Jr.

Principal Chief

Bryan WarnerDeputy Principal Chief

October 29, 2019

Christopher Altes
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175

Re: Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study

Mr. Christopher Altes:

The Cherokee Nation (Nation) is in receipt of your correspondence about **Savannah River Below Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study**, and appreciates the opportunity to provide comment upon this project.

The Nation maintains databases and records of cultural, historic, and pre-historic resources in this area. Our Historic Preservation Office reviewed this project, cross referenced the project's legal description against our information, and found no instances where this project intersects or adjoins such resources. Thus, the Nation does not foresee this project imparting impacts to Cherokee cultural resources at this time.

However, the Nation requests that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) halt all project activities immediately and re-contact our Offices for further consultation if items of cultural significance are discovered during the course of this project.

Additionally, the Nation requests that USACE conduct appropriate inquiries with other pertinent Tribal and Historic Preservation Offices regarding historic and prehistoric resources not included in the Nation's databases or records.

If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact me at your convenience. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Wado,

Elizabeth Toombs, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Cherokee Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org

918.453.5389

B3: Draft U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report Evaluation

*



United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

RG Stephens, Jr. Federal Building 355 East Hancock Avenue, Room 320 Athens, Georgia 30601

West Georgia Sub Office P.O. Box 52560 Ft. Benning, Georgia 31995-2560



Coastal Sub Office 4980 Wildlife Drive Townsend, Georgia 31331

November 8, 2019

Colonel Daniel Hibner
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Savannah District - Planning Division
100 West Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640
Attention: Ms. Robin Armetta

Re: USFWS File Number 2019-0707

Dear Colonel Hibner:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has completed a preliminary evaluation of the proposed alternative plans and impact assessment for the Savannah River Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study, near the Georgia and South Carolina state boundary in the Savannah River at Augusta, Georgia. Information and planning assistance are provided in accordance with provisions of, and under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended; (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Project Background

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) began construction of a training dike/wall in the Savannah River near Augusta, between the 13th Street Bridge and the Palmetto Parkway Bridge in 1901. The purpose of training dike was to constrict the river's width and control the flow of the current, using it to remove a shoal without causing significant bank erosion or interference with river flow at flood stage.

The dike was approximately 6 feet wide and constructed of small pilings that were filled with bundles of brush and rock and held together with cross-ties. The structure was built between one to two feet above mean low water and extended out from the riverbank diagonally downstream to a point near the top of the shoal, then continued downstream parallel to the opposite shore to a point below the bar. It was constructed to help generate and maintain a river depth of five feet for steamboat navigation. With the subsequent construction of the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam, the feature was inundated and has not served its original purpose since that time. Also, hidden below the water's surface at normal river levels, the wall poses a noted safety risk to recreational boaters.

Fish and Wildlife Resources of Concern in the Study Area

The robust redhorse (Moxostoma robustum) is known to occur nearby in the Savannah River. The 2003 Robust Redhorse Conservation Strategy indicates that southeastern rivers that have been extensively sampled for other species have later had the redhorse discovered in them. Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) heritage database and South Carolina Natural Heritage database show element occurrences (EOs) approximately 2 miles upstream of the project. The GADNR database indicates that the robust redhorse is primarily known from habitats in main-stem rivers and has been collected in riffles, runs, and pools. Adults have usually been found in association with (tree) snags, in moderate to swift current, often in deeper water near shore. Spawning occurs during April, May, and June in rivers over coarse gravel bed sediments, with water velocities ranging from .26 cm/sec to at least .67 cm/sec. Shallow water spawning has been visually observed, but there are indications of spawning activity at greater depths as well. Species like the robust redhorse which depend upon clean gravel bed sediments for spawning and early development of young are especially vulnerable to siltation, and any activities that contribute excessive amounts of sediment to the river are major threats. The status of recent recruitment in the Savannah is unknown due to lack of sampling but previous observed size distribution suggests it is ongoing. In the Savannah River, radio-tracked robust redhorses were consistently found in association with woody debris and gravel streambed sediments along the outer edge of river bends (Grabowski and Isely 2006). Adults are capable of long distance movements, and studies on populations in the lower Savannah and Ocmulgee rivers have documented movements in excess of 100km.

The GADNR heritage database indicates EOs for the Atlantic Pigtoe (*Fusconaia masoni*), ESA proposed threatened and Georgia endangered in the project area and downstream. The mussel occurs in coarse sand and gravel at the downstream edge of riffles; fast flowing and well oxygenated water.

The Service's Information for Planning for Consultation (IPaC) website does not indicate any ESA listed or proposed aquatic species in the area of influence of the project. IPaC shows no critical habitat (CH) located in the project area or immediately downstream of it.

IPaC does list some terrestrial species in the vicinity of the project and downstream of it. The Service does not expect any of these to be impacted by the proposed project. They include the ESA endangered plant relict trillium (*Trillium reliquum*) which is also listed on South Carolina's Natural Heritage Species Screening Report for a two mile radius area of interest from the project.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has sole responsibility for the Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*) and shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*). These two species of sturgeon are found below the NSBL&D which is approximately 10.5 river miles downstream from the training wall. Atlantic sturgeon CH extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the NSBL&D, this is approximately 10.5 river miles downstream from the training wall. Shortnose sturgeon have no CH designated. Access for sturgeon species to the Savannah River above the NSBL&D is currently extremely restricted by the dam and closed lock. Ms. Mary Richards,

USACE biologist reports that the lock was last opened in April 2014 (personal communication, October 29, 2019).

Immediately below the NSBL&D is a gravel bar that serves as breeding habitat for sturgeon and robust redhorse. This is only one of the two known gravel bars below the NSBL&D and the project area.

Also below the NSBL&D are mussel species that have designated levels of concern either federally, in South Carolina, and/or in Georgia. These are the Savannah Lilliput (*Toxolasma pullus*), Altamaha arcmussel (*Alasmidonta arcula*), and Atlantic Pigtoe (also found within the project area).

Project Description

The USACE has initiated the Savannah River Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study and preliminarily determined that the training wall should be deauthorized and undergo disposal. The remaining focus of the study will be to determine the most economically and environmentally appropriate disposal plan for the feature(s), if feasible. The USACE requests this evaluation from the Service as part of the study.

The study considers two features; the wall and the sediments that have built up in the river because of it. The wall was constructed in the early 1900's with timbers, rocks, and brush. The sediments have accumulated on one side of the wall over time since it's construction due to the river's flow. Possibly contaminants are also mixed with the sediments.

Project Alternatives

The USACE is considering two alternatives; the no action alternative and the full removal alternative (aka Alternative 1).

The no action alternative (NAA) is the same as the future without the project condition. The training wall, pile dikes, and accumulated sediment remain in place. The New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam (NSBL&D) will have been removed and a fish passage constructed in its place. At the fish passage weir, the pool is expected to be 2.0 feet higher than the weir crest for low average river flows of 5,000 cubic feet per second. Therefore, the pool elevation at the weir would fluctuate between elevation 110.2 and 111.2 feet NAVD 88 during normal river flows. The pool at 5th St. Bridge (near where the training wall is located) would be around elevation 112.4 feet NAVD 88, or 1.9 feet lower than existing level during normal flow conditions.

Alternative 1 is the only alternative for the project other than the NAA. The full scope of this alternative is still being formulated by the USACE but includes full removal of the training wall structure and associated pile dikes. The sediment that has accumulated behind the wall is currently being evaluated. Until that investigation can be completed, 100% of the sediment will be considered contaminated, the most conservative conclusion, and will be completely removed with proper placement into a suitable disposal facility/landfill. If it is determined that the sediment is not contaminated, alternative disposal options will be considered. These options may include allowing the river currents to move the sediments over time. This alterative

assumes that the lock and dam will be removed and the in-channel fish passage will be constructed in its place as described under the NAA.

Impacts

The NAA should not result in any impacts to the area. The area may be impacted by the scheduled removal of the NSBL&D and installation of the full river fishway and weir approximately ten miles downstream from the training wall. The pool at 5th St. Bridge (near where the training wall is located) is projected to be 1.9 feet lower than the existing level during normal flow conditions. This pool elevation may be subject to change due to modifications to the fishway project. These modifications could include maintaining the pool at its existing elevation.

Alternative 1 is removal of the training wall. This may cause sediment and contaminants to flow downstream during the training wall/dike structure removal work and afterwards. Or the sediments or a portion of them could be removed along with the wall. The USACE is currently testing the sediments for contaminants. Depending on the results of these tests, sediment removal and handling procedures will be proposed.

Project Impacts on Fish and Wildlife Resources

River bottom sediments and any contaminants placed by currents interacting with the training wall since it's creation may be mobilized by the removal of the wall and/or by being subject to a change in the river currents after the wall is removed. Similarly some of the sediments and any contaminants may be mobilized into the river currents by the action of attempting to remove them. These mobilized sediments and any contaminants may impact whatever they interact with downstream of the project. This could include any life stage of the species mentioned above or their habitats.

Service Position and Recommendations

Based on our evaluation and what is known about the project at this time the Service is not opposed to the Savannah River Augusta Training Wall Disposition Study project. Because the NSBL&D serves as a blockage to aquatic species movement upstream into the project area and the paucity of species occurrences in the area we do not have major concerns for species impacts. We do have the following recommendations for the proposed project:

Additional information would be helpful to assess impacts on aquatic species: a characterization of current habitat conditions downstream of the training wall that could potentially be affected by the sediment plume and surveys for any species of concern in any appropriate habitat found.

As it is yet to be determined the fate of the sediments behind the training wall. Once we understanding their composition, quantity, and proposed disposition will be able to provide additional comments.

It will be important to have access to the hydrologic modeling results to understand what impacts the sediments may have over how large an area (length, width, and thickness), how far

downstream, and for what period of time, time of year and/or under what conditions the sediments would be expected to move.

If significant quantities (to be determined) of sediments are expected to reach the NSBL&D, their impact at that location should be considered.

A known sensitive area is the gravel bar used by species of concern immediately below the NSBL&D. This is approximately 10.5 river miles downstream and on the other side of the lock and dam from the training wall project. Impacts to this breeding habit should be avoided.

If the NSBL&D fishway begins passing fish before the training wall is removed, timing restrictions on construction activities may be appropriate to avoid conflicts with spawning migrations.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments during the early phase of this project. If you have any questions, please contact our Coastal Georgia Sub Office staff biologist, Bill Wikoff, at 912-832-8739 extension 5.

Sincerely,

Donald W. Imm, PhD. Field Supervisor, GA ES

cc: Cynthia Cooksey, NMFS, Charleston, South Carolina Stacie Crowe, SCDNR, Charleston, South Carolina Paula Marcinek, GADNR, Social Circle, Georgia Thomas McCoy, USFWS, Charleston, South Carolina

Cited Literature

Grabowski, T. B., and J. J. Isely. 2006. Seasonal and diel movement and habitat use of robust redhorse in the lower Savannah River, South Carolina and Georgia. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 135:1145-1155.