

Species Conclusions Table

Project Manager: Theresita Crockett-Augustine	Project Name: Minnieville Road Improvements
Date: March 24, 2016	Project Number: NAO-2014-00555

Project Description: Improvements of approximately 2.1 miles of Minnieville Road between its intersection within Dumfries Road (Route 234) and Spriggs Road, in Prince William County, Virginia. The project consists of the widening of Minnieville Road from an existing two-lane road to a four-lane divided road with a raised median from Spriggs Road to Dumfries Road (Route 234), a sidewalk on the south side of the road, a shared use path on the north side of the road, thru-lanes with curb and gutter, four stormwater management ponds and a culvert replacement at Powell's Creek.

Species Under the Jurisdiction of FWS:

Species/Resource Name	Conclusion	ESA Section 7 / Eagle Act Determination	Species Info / Habitat Description	Notes / Determination
Harperella (Ptilimnium nodosum)	No suitable habitat present	No effect	<p>Harperella "[o]ccurs in three habitat types: rocky/gravelly shoals or cracks in bedrock outcrops beneath the water surface in clear, swift-flowing streams (usually in microsites that are sheltered from rapidly moving water); edges of intermittent pineland ponds or low, wet savannah meadows on the Coastal Plain; and granite outcrop seeps. In all habitat-types, the species occurs in a narrow range of water depths; it is intolerant of deep water and of conditions that are too dry. However, the plants readily tolerate periodic, moderate flooding - something to which few potential competitors are adapted. P. nodosum seeds generally germinate during short-duration spring floods and the plants have completed their life cycle by late summer or fall, just as water levels are lowest and competing species are moving in."*</p> <p>(NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available http://explorer.natureserve.org. (Accessed: September 25, 2014).</p>	<p>With the exception of Powells Creek, streams within the project area are small, narrow, have intermittent/weak perennial flow, and lack the habitat characteristics required by harperella. While Powell's Creek is a larger perennial stream, the sections of the creek within the project alignment are in marginal to poor condition and do not meet habitat criteria for harperella.</p>

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Northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis)	Potential habitat present and no current survey conducted	May affect	<p>"Northern long-eared bats spend winter hibernating in caves and mines, called hibernacula. They typically use large caves or mines with large passages and entrances; constant temperatures; and high humidity with no air currents. Specific areas where they hibernate have very high humidity, so much so that droplets of water are often seen on their fur. Within hibernacula, surveyors find them in small crevices or cracks, often with only the nose and ears visible.</p> <p>During summer, northern long-eared bats roost singly or in colonies underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees. Males and non-reproductive females may also roost in cooler places, like caves and mines. This bat seems opportunistic in selecting roosts, using tree species based on suitability to retain bark or provide cavities or crevices. It has also been found, rarely, roosting in structures like barns and sheds."</p>	A forested habitat exist along the Minnieville Road corridor. Relying upon the findings of the 1/5/2016 Programmatic Biological Opinion for Final 4(d) Rule on the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Activities Exempted from Take Prohibitions to fulfill our project-specific Section 7 responsibilities.
Small whorled pogonia (Isotria medeoloides)	Suitable habitat present, species not present	Not likely to adversely affect	<p>"The small whorled pogonia is a herbaceous perennial orchid. It has a widely scattered distribution in the eastern United States along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Georgia with outlying occurrences in the midwest and Canada." "In Virginia, the small whorled pogonia is found in ordinary looking third-growth upland forests with an open understory and a closed canopy where the topography is typically moderately sloping or almost level. The plants are usually associated with decaying vegetative matter such as fallen trunks and limbs, leaf litter, bark, and tree roots. The pogonia is found in soils that are acidic sandy loams with low nutrient content."</p>	Forested areas exist within the project area. A field habitat assessment for small whorled pogonia was conducted and revealed that a small amount of potential habitat is present; however, no individuals or populations of small whorled pogonia were identified during the survey.

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Eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)				
Eagle Nests	Unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles	No Eagle Act permit required		
Eagle Concentration Areas	Does not intersect with bald eagle concentration area	No Eagle Act permit required		
Critical Habitat				
N/A				
Other (species not listed above)				

Species Under the Jurisdiction of NOAA/NMFS				
Essential Fish Habitat				
Anadromous Fish Use Area				
Subaquatic Vegetation				
HAPC Sandbar Shark				
Atlantic Sturgeon				

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