



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
VIRGINIA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE
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Consultation Tracking Number: 05E2VA00-2013-SLI-2476

August 28, 2013

Project Name: Tactical Vehicle Course Upgrades JEB Fort Story

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

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, and proposed species, designated critical habitat, and candidate species that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having

similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Tactical Vehicle Course Upgrades JEB Fort Story

Official Species List

Provided by:

VIRGINIA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

6669 SHORT LANE

GLOUCESTER, VA 23061

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<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/>

Consultation Tracking Number: 05E2VA00-2013-SLI-2476

Project Type: Development

Project Description: The proposed project would upgrade the existing tactical trail network to allow SOF to train for real world scenarios in concert with the existing SATEC facilities. The existing tactical vehicle course consists of trails that are considered unimproved and are degraded during training. The proposed project would improve the course utilizing the existing trails to establish improved roadways similar to those experienced in real world situations.



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Project Location Map:



Project Coordinates: MULTIPOLYGON (((-76.0244947 36.925171, -76.0244947 36.9245192, -76.025186 36.9248801, -76.0281686 36.9242111, -76.0282759 36.9247085, -76.0299485 36.9243963, -76.0304002 36.9245198, -76.0305923 36.9249624, -76.0319666 36.9244341, -76.0323089 36.9254427, -76.0329097 36.9258029, -76.0329097 36.9261975, -76.0285538 36.9281366, -76.0255497 36.9288571, -76.0244947 36.925171)))

Project Counties: Virginia Beach, VA



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Endangered Species Act Species List

Species lists are not entirely based upon the current range of a species but may also take into consideration actions that affect a species that exists in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii dougallii*)

Population: northeast U.S. nesting pop.

Listing Status: Endangered