

Appendix I – Environmental

Whitney Lake Reallocation Study Bosque and Hill Counties, Texas DRAFT

Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment

July 2025



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®
FortWorth District**

Environmental Appendix

- Endangered Species Act
- Habitat Spreadsheets and Maps
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- Cooperating Agency Correspondence
- Clean Water Act Correspondence

Endangered Species Act

- Official IPaC List, dated June 10, 2025
- Endangered Species Act Consultation
 - Pending



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Arlington Ecological Services Field Office
17629 El Camino Real, Suite 211
Houston, TX 77058-3051
Phone: (817) 277-1100 Fax: (817) 277-1129
Email Address: arles@fws.gov

In Reply Refer To:

06/10/2025 14:44:23 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0104330

Project Name: Lake Whitney Reallocation Study

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

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, which may occur within the boundary of 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.).

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 section 7(a)(1) of the Act, Federal agencies are directed to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species. Under and 7(a)(2) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to determine whether their actions may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat. A Federal action is an activity or program authorized, funded, or carried out, in whole or in part, by a Federal agency (50 CFR 402.02).

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 Federal actions 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.

After evaluating the potential effects of a proposed action on federally listed species, one of the following determinations should be made by the Federal agency:

1. *No effect* - the appropriate determination when a project, as proposed, is anticipated to have no effects to listed species or critical habitat. A "no effect" determination does not require section 7 consultation and no coordination or contact with the Service is necessary. However, the action agency should maintain a complete record of their evaluation, including the steps leading to the determination of affect, the qualified personnel conducting the evaluation, habitat conditions, site photographs, and any other related information.
2. *May affect, but is not likely to adversely affect* - the appropriate determination when a proposed action's anticipated effects to listed species or critical habitat are insignificant, discountable, or completely beneficial. Insignificant effects relate to the size of the impact and should never reach the scale where "take" of a listed species occurs. Discountable effects are those extremely unlikely to occur. Based on best judgment, a person would not be able to meaningfully measure, detect, or evaluate insignificant effects, or expect discountable effects to occur. This determination requires written concurrence from the Service. A biological evaluation or other supporting information justifying this determination should be submitted with a request for written concurrence.
3. *May affect, is likely to adversely affect* - the appropriate determination if any adverse effect to listed species or critical habitat may occur as a consequence of the proposed action, and

the effect is not discountable or insignificant. This determination requires formal section 7 consultation.

The Service has performed up-front analysis for certain project types and species in your project area. These analyses have been compiled into *determination keys*, which allows an action agency, or its designated non-federal representative, to initiate a streamlined process for determining a proposed project's potential effects on federally listed species. The determination keys can be accessed through IPaC.

The Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species, and proposed critical habitat be addressed should consultation be necessary. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/service/section-7-consultations>

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 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 IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

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 (<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management>). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<https://www.fws.gov/media/land-based-wind-energy-guidelines>) 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: <https://www.fws.gov/media/recommended-best-practices-communication-tower-design-siting-construction-operation>. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released specifications for and made mandatory flashing L-810 lights on new towers 150-350 feet AGL, and the elimination of L-810 steady-burning side lights on towers above 350 feet AGL. While the FAA made these changes to reduce the number of migratory bird collisions (by as much as 70%), extinguishing steady-burning side lights also reduces maintenance costs to tower owners. For additional information concerning migratory birds and eagle conservation plans, please contact the Service's Migratory Bird Office at 505-248-7882.

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(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

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

This species list is provided by:

Arlington Ecological Services Field Office

17629 El Camino Real, Suite 211

Houston, TX 77058-3051

(817) 277-1100

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0104330

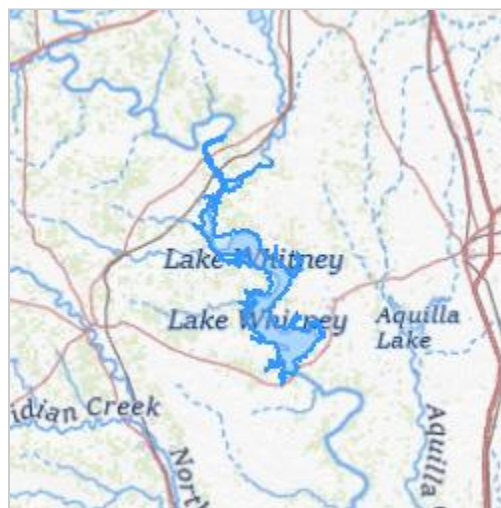
Project Name: Lake Whitney Reallocation Study

Project Type: Dam - Operations

Project Description: The purpose of the study is to assess possible scenarios of reallocation at Whitney Lake for providing additional municipal and industrial water supply storage that could be used to assist in meeting the immediate and future needs for water supply in the Brazos River Basin. Because of increasing populations, industrial infrastructure growth, and lack of additional, readily available, water supply storage for M&I uses, water supply shortages are projected for the Brazos River basin in the coming decades.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@32.00107585,-97.42627560765844,14z>



Counties: Bosque and Hill counties, Texas

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 7 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 2 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

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

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

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Golden-cheeked Warbler <i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/33	Endangered
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wind Energy Projects Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened
Rufa Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wind Energy Projects Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Endangered

CLAMS

NAME	STATUS
Texas Fawnsfoot <i>Truncilla macrodon</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8965	Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

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

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For

assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

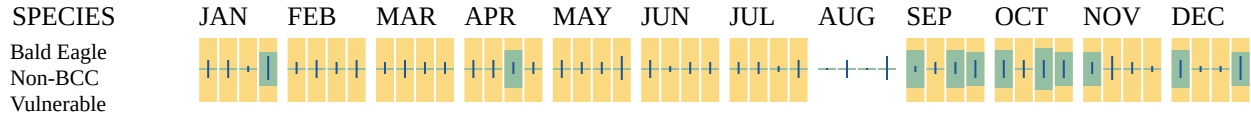
Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

■ probability of presence ■ breeding season | survey effort — no data



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The incidental take of migratory birds is the injury or death of birds that results from, but is not the purpose, of an activity. The Service interprets the MBTA to prohibit incidental take.

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

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Golden-plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10561	Breeds elsewhere

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<p>Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i></p> <p>This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</p>	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31
<p>Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406</p>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
<p>Least Tern <i>Sternula antillarum antillarum</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11919</p>	Breeds Apr 25 to Sep 5
<p>Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Little Blue Heron <i>Egretta caerulea</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9477</p>	Breeds Mar 10 to Oct 15
<p>Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Prairie Loggerhead Shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8833</p>	Breeds Feb 1 to Jul 31
<p>Prothonotary Warbler <i>Protonotaria citrea</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9439</p>	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
<p>Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398</p>	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
<p>Sprague's Pipit <i>Anthus spragueii</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8964</p>	Breeds elsewhere

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#), specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

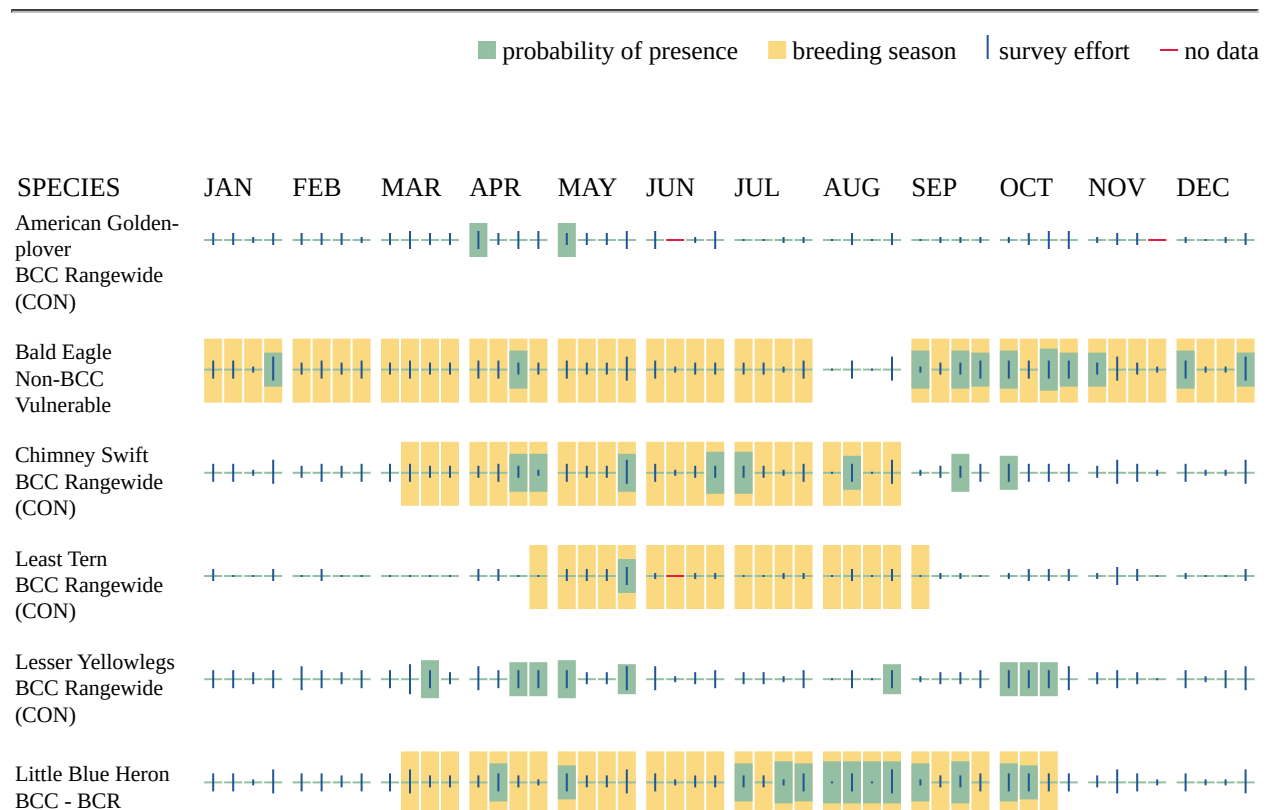
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

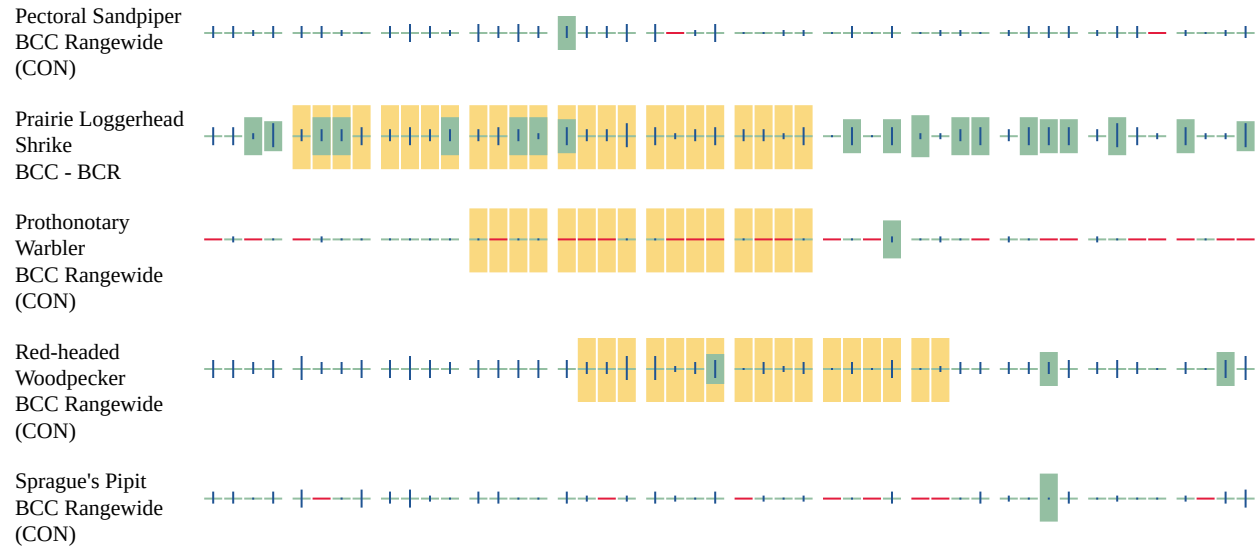
Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

WETLANDS

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

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

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

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PSS1Ch
- PSS1Ah
- PSS1/EM1Ah
- PFO1/EM1Ah
- PFO1/SS1A

- PFO1Ch
- PSS1/EM1Ch
- PFO5Fh
- PFO1Ah
- PFO1/SS1Ch
- PFO1A
- PFO1/SS1Ah

LAKE

- L2EM2Fh
- L1UBHh
- L2USCh
- L2USAh

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1A
- PEM1Ch
- PEM1Ah
- PEM1Fh

RIVERINE

- R2USC
- R4SBA
- R4SBC
- R2UBH
- R5UBH

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers

Name: Alexander Herrejon

Address: 819 Taylor Street

City: Fort Worth

State: TX

Zip: 76102

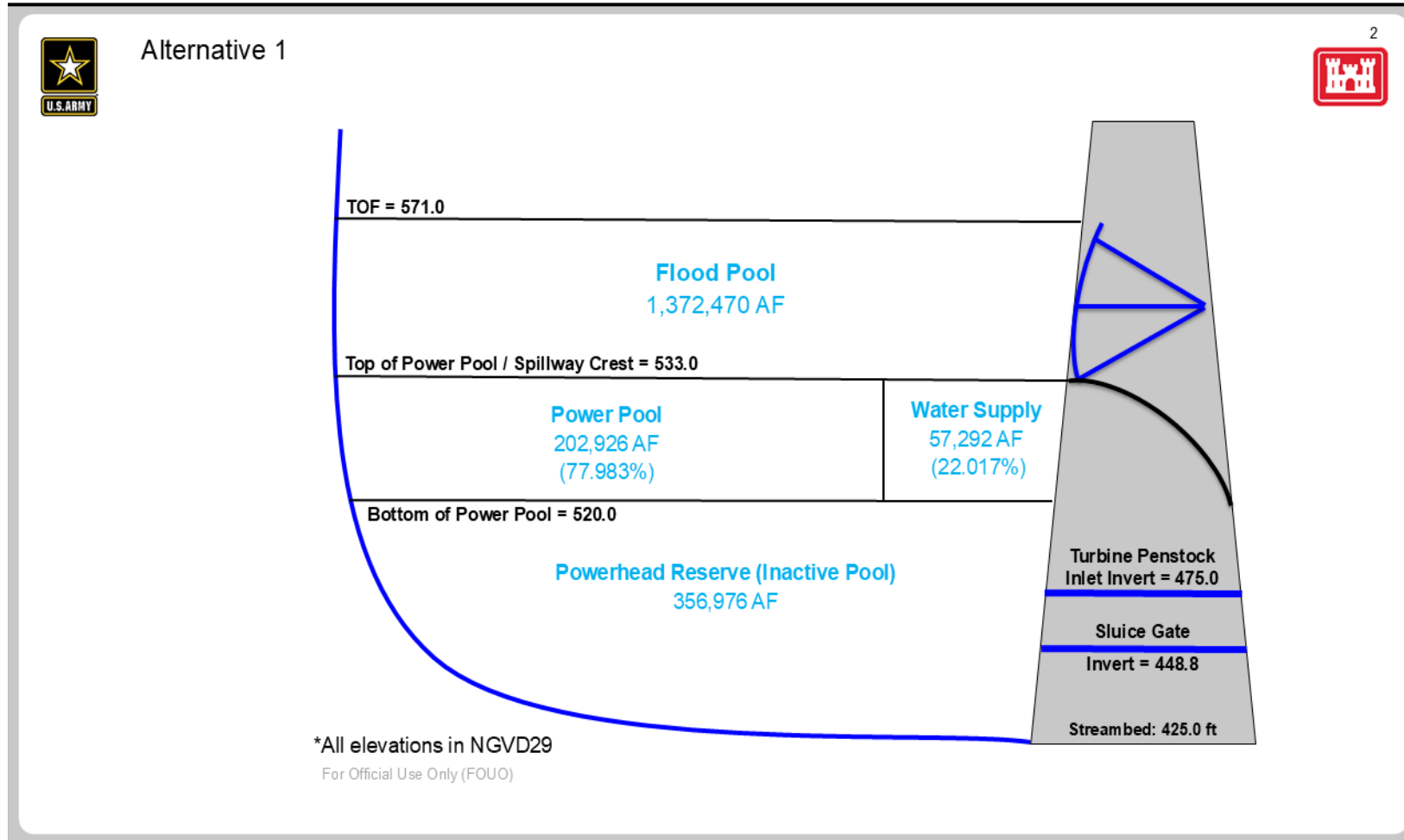
Email: alexander.c.herrejon@usace.army.mil

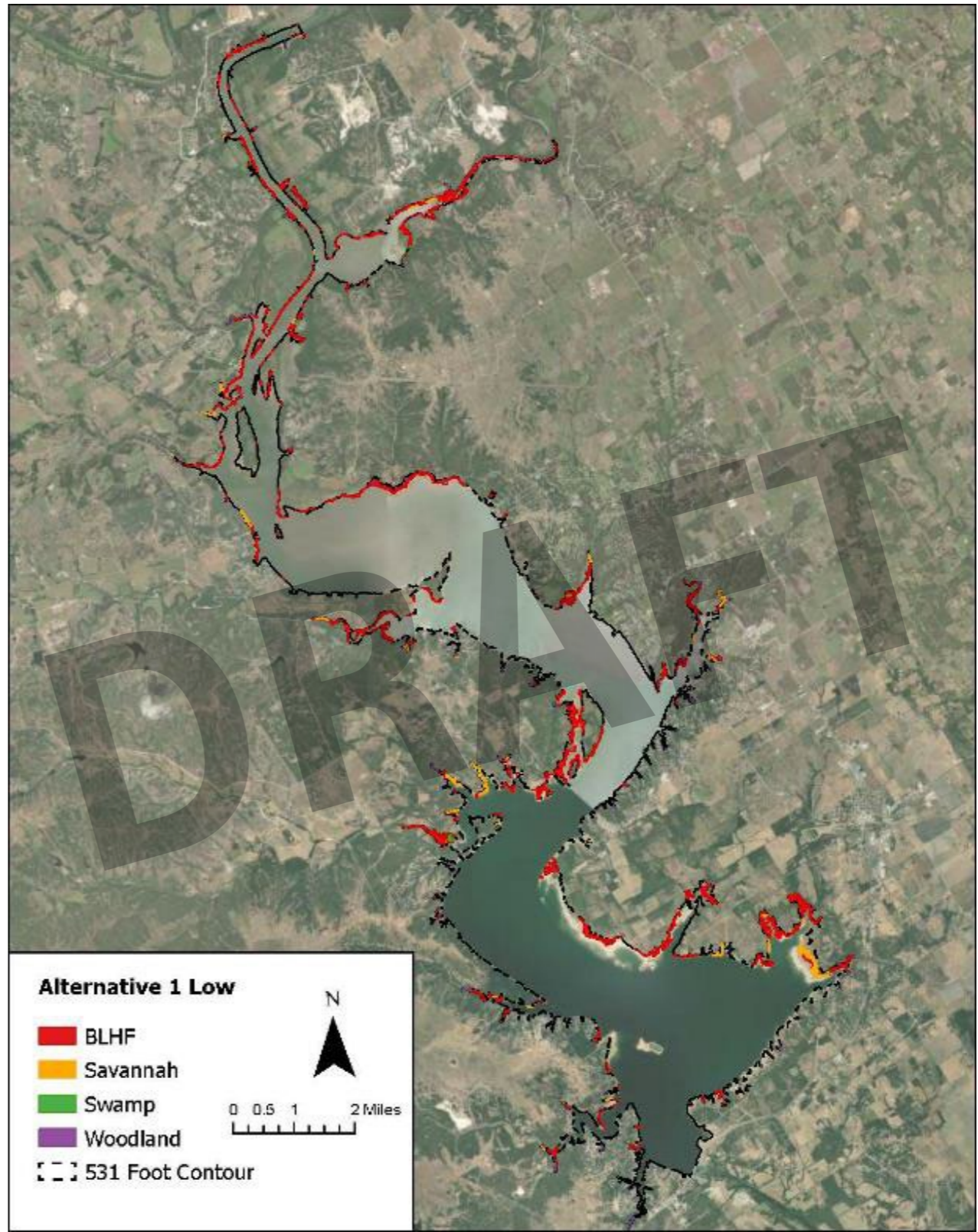
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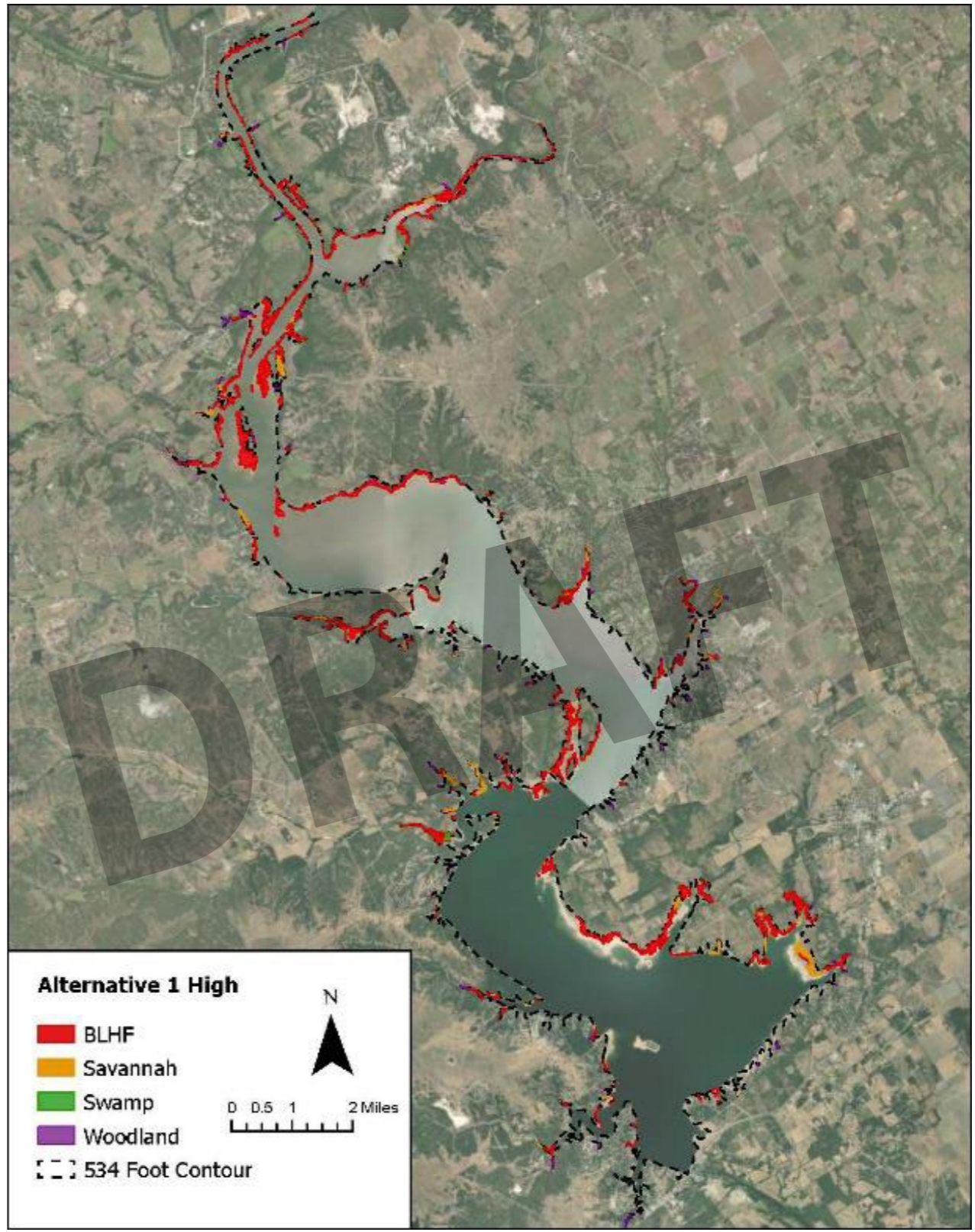
Habitat Spreadsheets and Maps

Alternative 1 (No Action Alternative)

Habitat Type	Low Elevation (531 ft)		High Elevation (534 ft)	
	Acreage 531 ft	Net Change From No-Action	Acreage 534 ft	Net Change From No-Action
Savannah	75 Acres	NA	95 Acres	NA
Bottomland Hardwood Forest	582 Acres	NA	918 Acres	NA
Woodland	18 Acres	NA	26 Acres	NA
Swamp	3 Acres	NA	3 Acres	NA

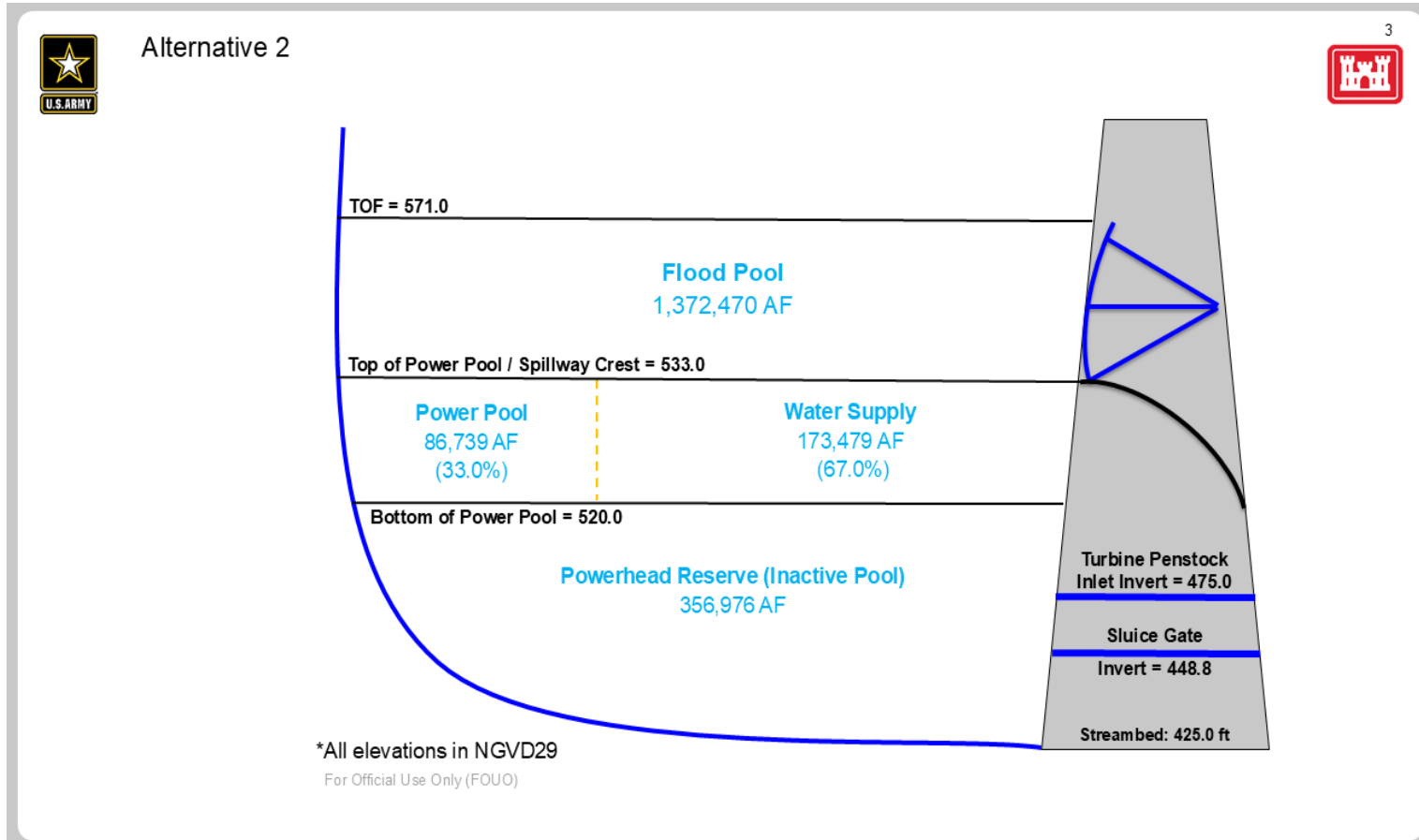






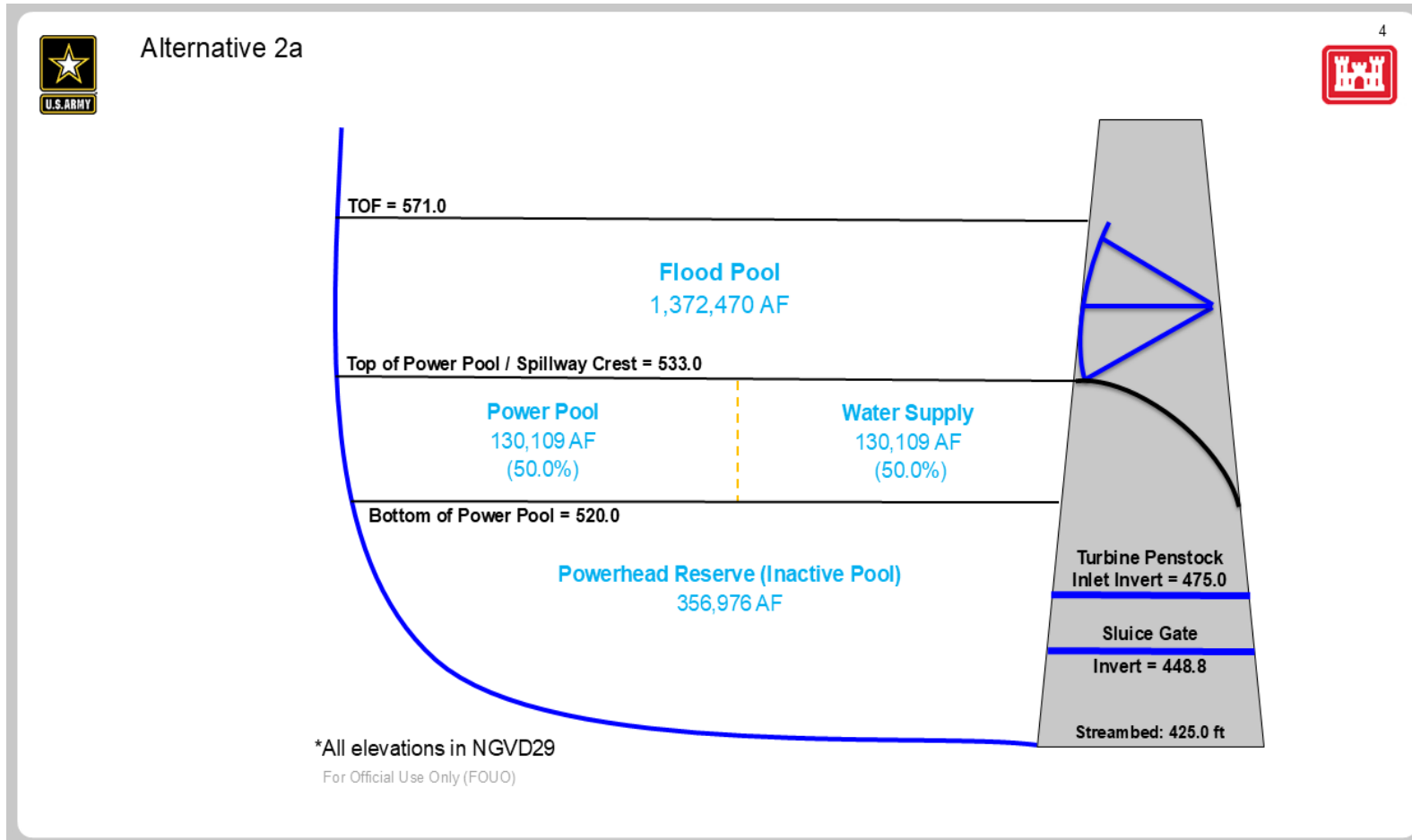
Alternative 2

Habitat Type	Low Elevation (531 ft)		High Elevation (534 ft)	
	Acreage 531 ft	Net Change From No-Action (Approximate Impacts)	Acreage 534 ft	Net Change From No-Action (Approximate Impacts)
Savannah	75 Acres	± 0 Acres	95 Acres	± 0 Acres
Bottomland Hardwood Forest	582 Acres	± 0 Acres	918 Acres	± 0 Acres
Woodland	18 Acres	± 0 Acres	26 Acres	± 0 Acres
Swamp	3 Acres	± 0 Acres	3 Acres	± 0 Acres



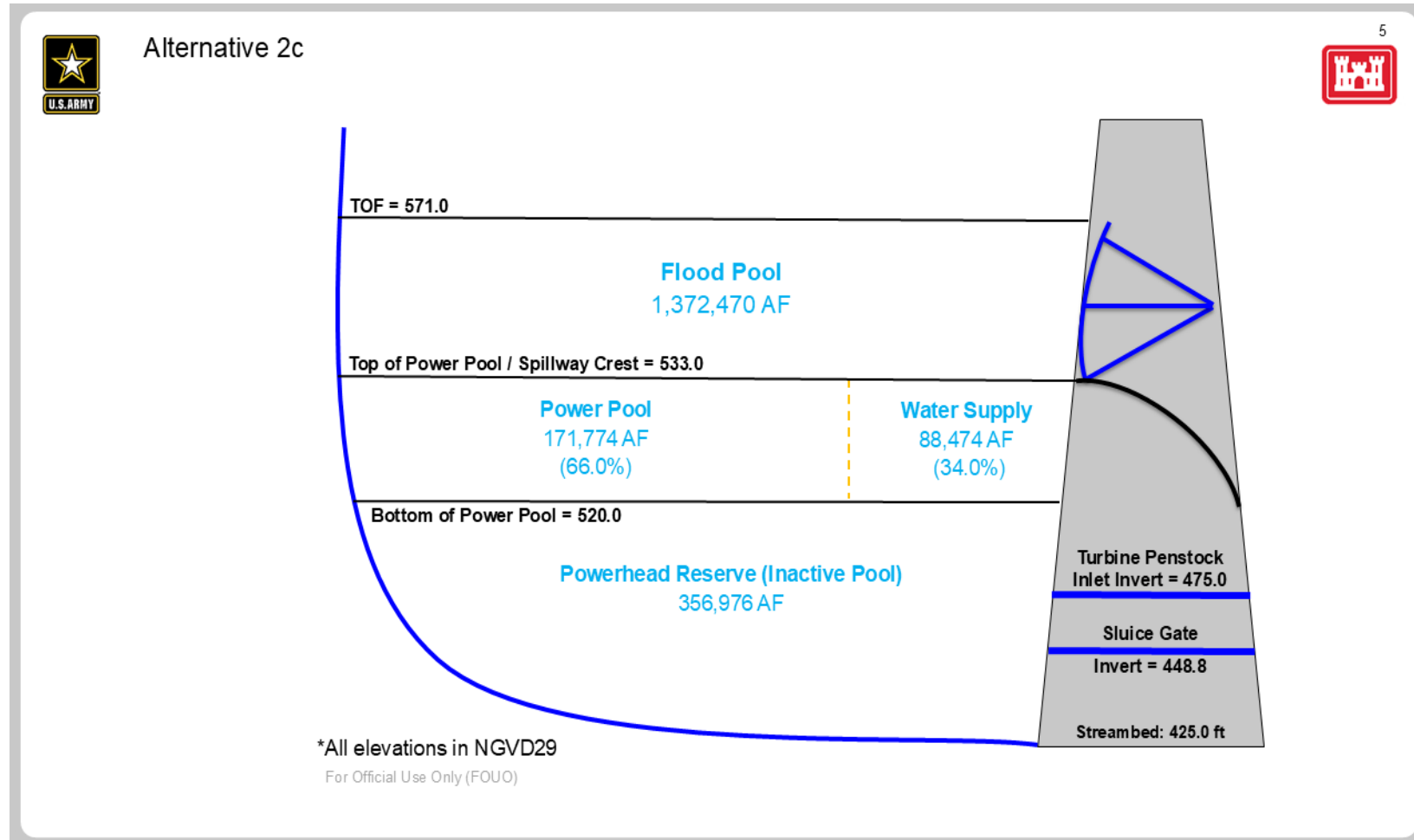
Alternative 2A

Habitat Type	Low Elevation (531 ft)		High Elevation (534 ft)	
	Acreage 531 ft	Net Change From No-Action (Approximate Impacts)	Acreage 534 ft	Net Change From No-Action (Approximate Impacts)
Savannah	75 Acres	± 0 Acres	95 Acres	± 0 Acres
Bottomland Hardwood Forest	582 Acres	± 0 Acres	918 Acres	± 0 Acres
Woodland	18 Acres	± 0 Acres	26 Acres	± 0 Acres
Swamp	3 Acres	± 0 Acres	3 Acres	± 0 Acres



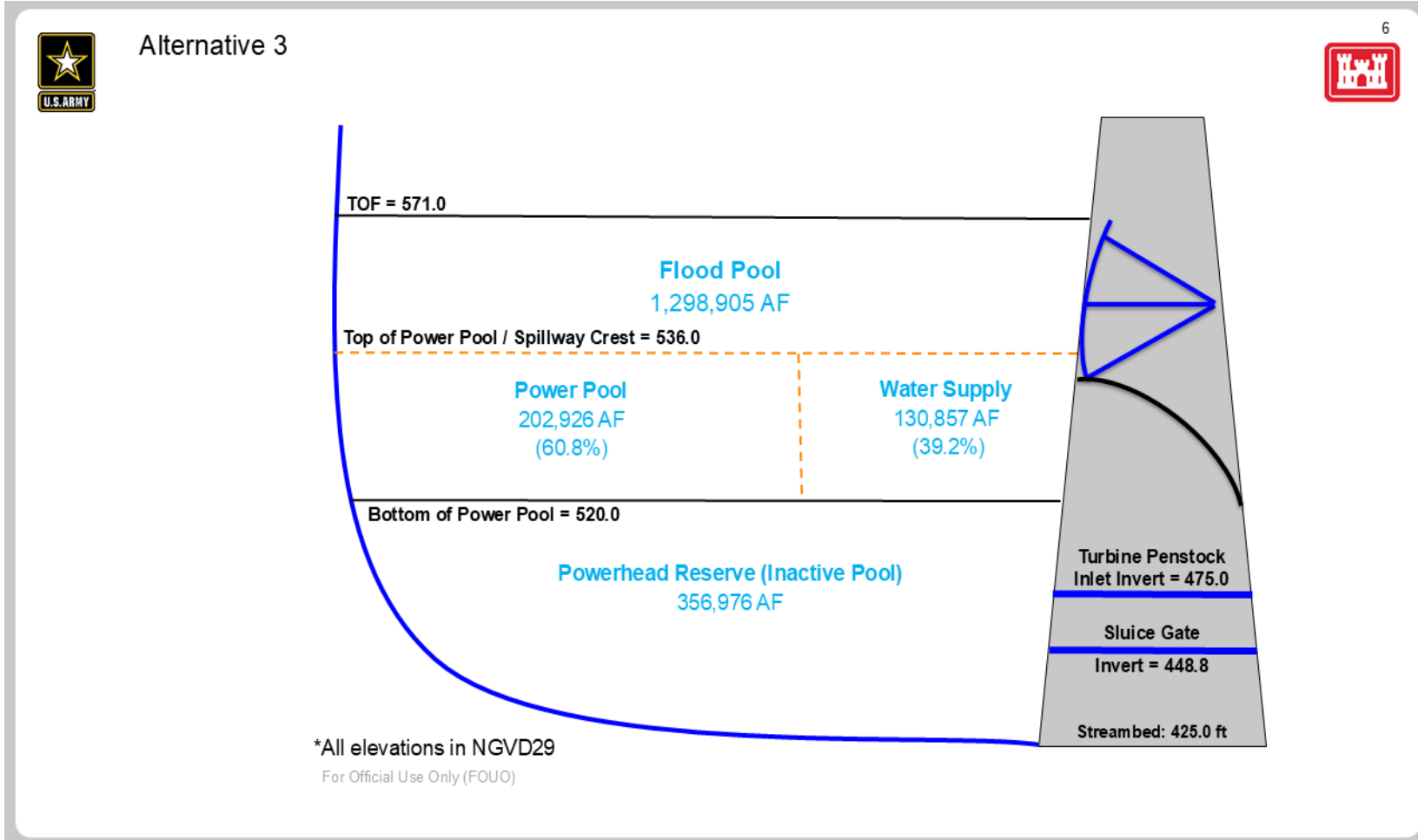
Alternative 2C

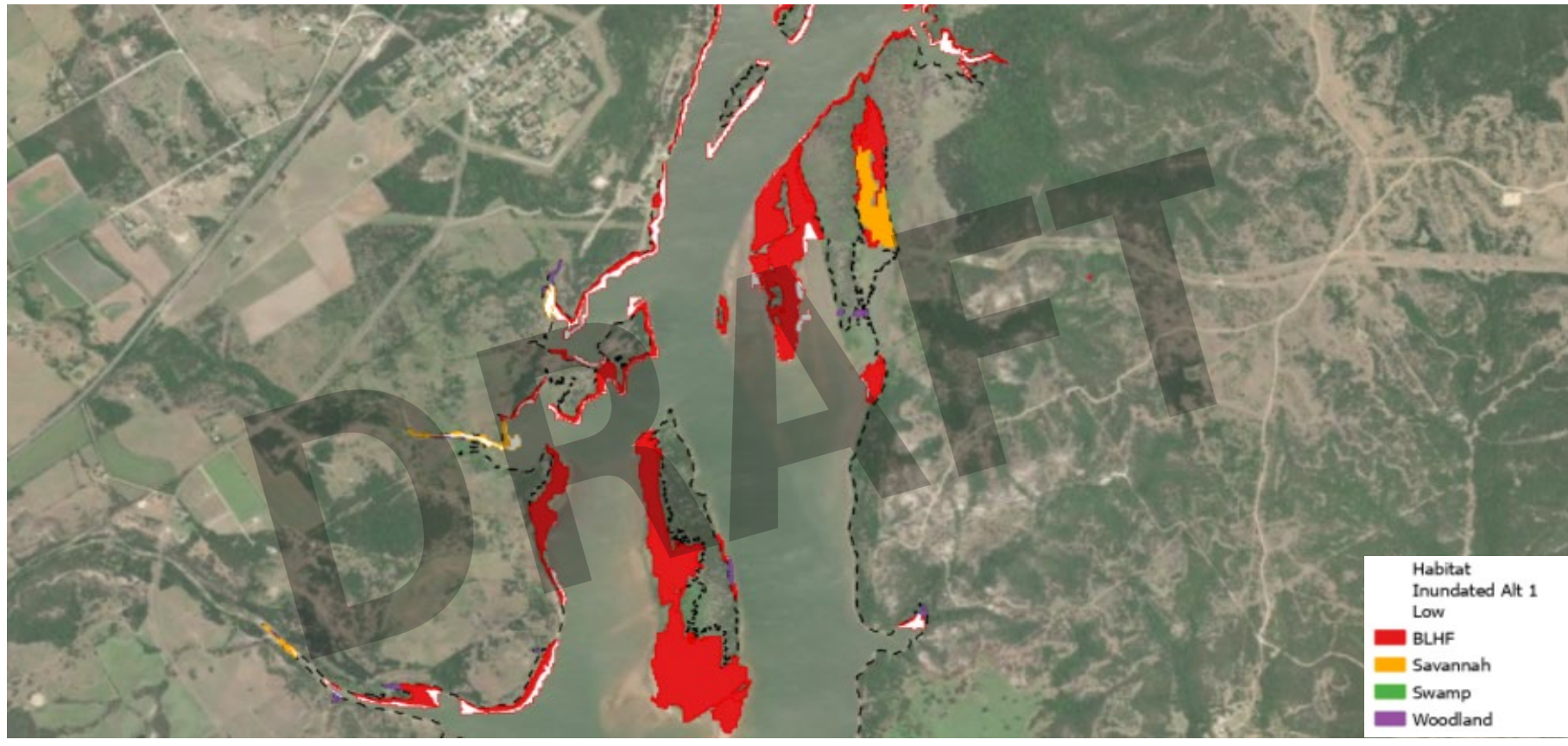
Habitat Type	Low Elevation (531 ft)		High Elevation (534 ft)	
	Acreage 531 ft	Net Change From No-Action (Approximate Impacts)	Acreage 534 ft	Net Change From No-Action (Approximate Impacts)
Savannah	75 Acres	± 0 Acres	95 Acres	± 0 Acres
Bottomland Hardwood Forest	582 Acres	± 0 Acres	918 Acres	± 0 Acres
Woodland	18 Acres	± 0 Acres	26 Acres	± 0 Acres
Swamp	3 Acres	± 0 Acres	3 Acres	± 0 Acres

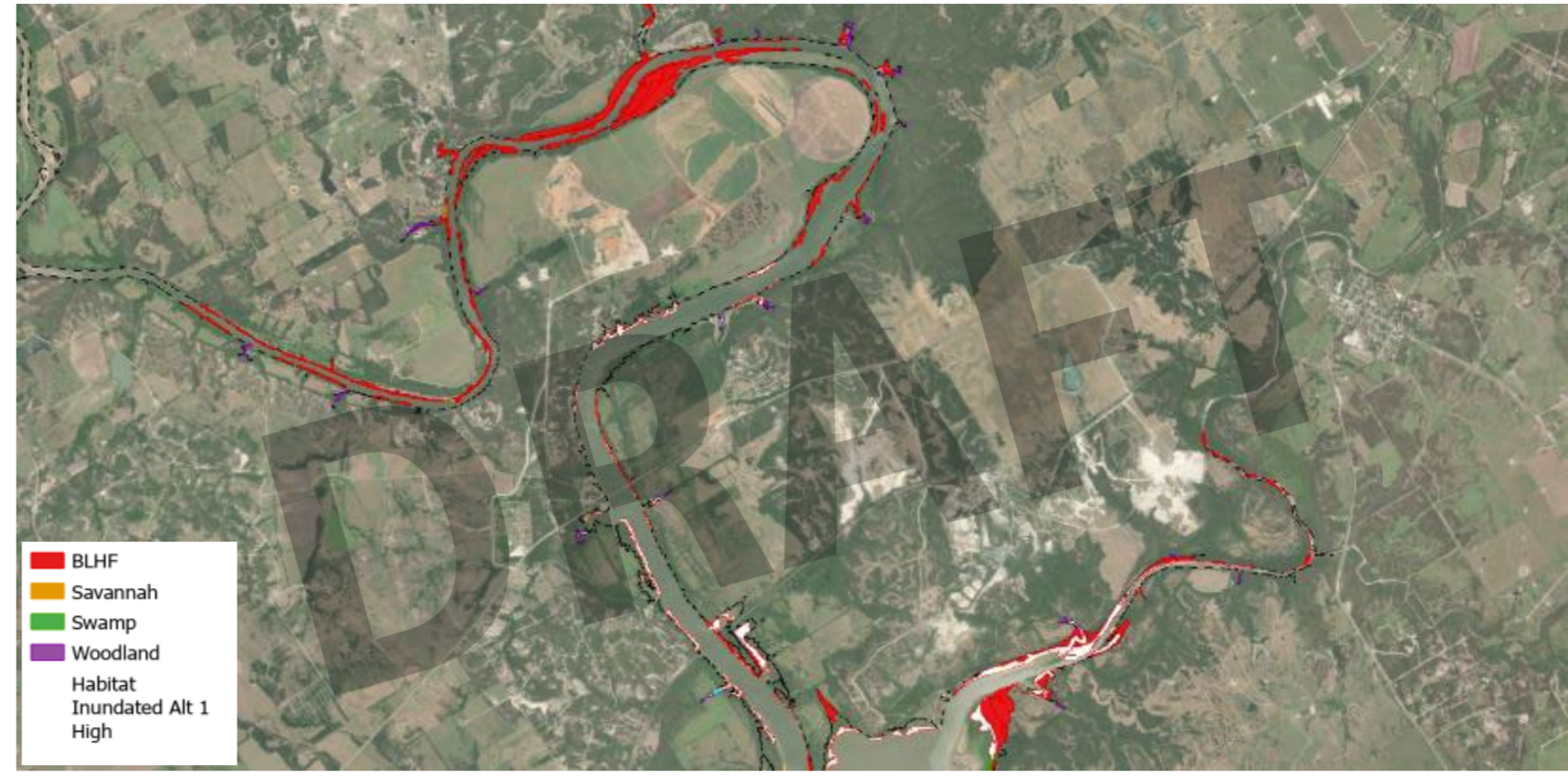
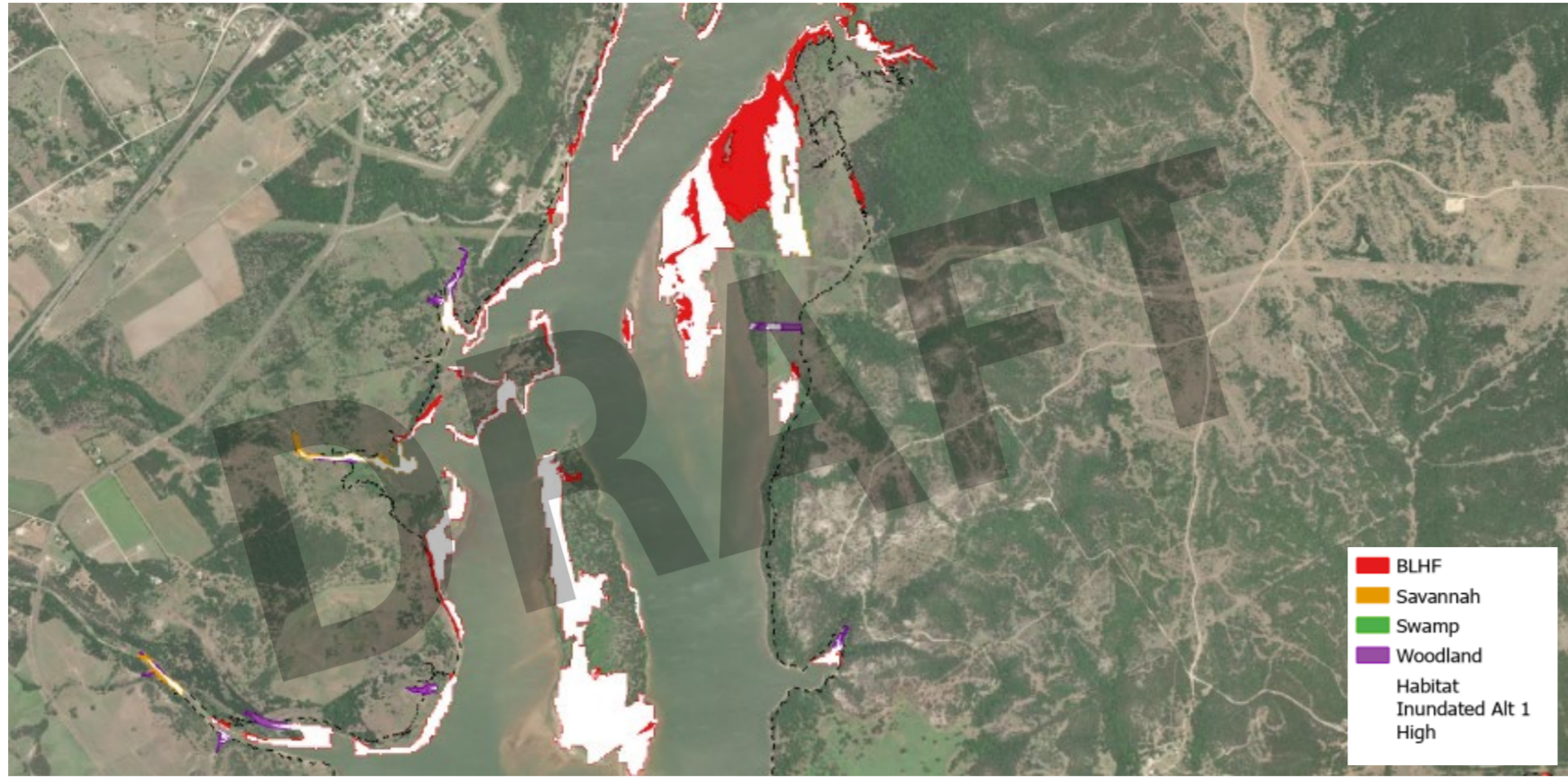


Alternative 3

Habitat Type	Low Elevation (534 ft)		High Elevation (537 ft)	
	Acreage 534 ft	Net Change From No-Action (Approximate Impacts)	Acreage 537 ft	Net Change From No-Action (Approximate Impacts)
Savannah	95 Acres	+ 20 Acres	104 Acres	+ 9 Acres
Bottomland Hardwood Forest	918 Acres	+ 336 Acres	1415 Acres	+ 497 Acres
Woodland	26 Acres	+ 9 Acres	71 Acres	+ 45 Acres
Swamp	3 Acres	± 0 Acres	12 Acres	+ 8 Acres

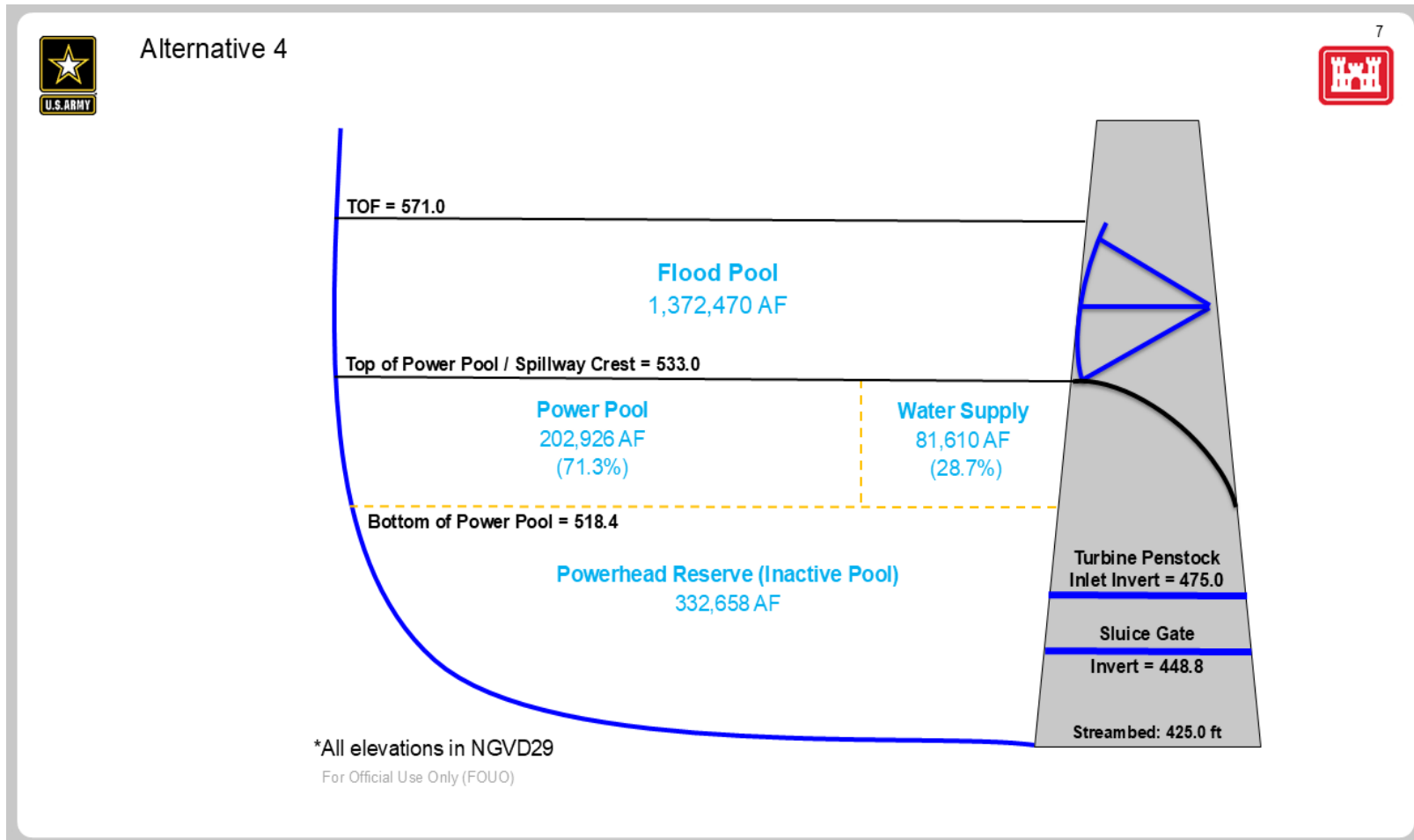






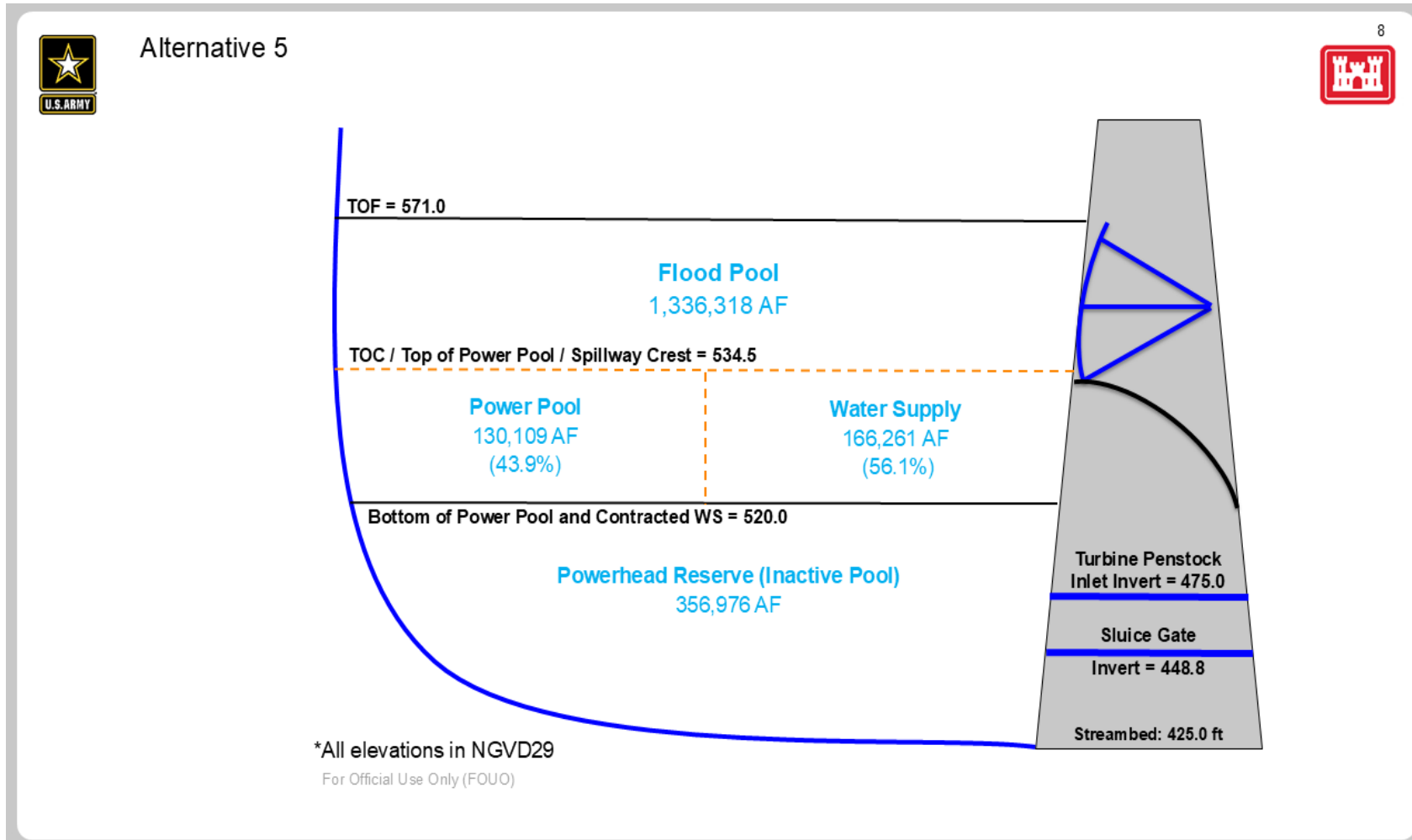
Alternative 4

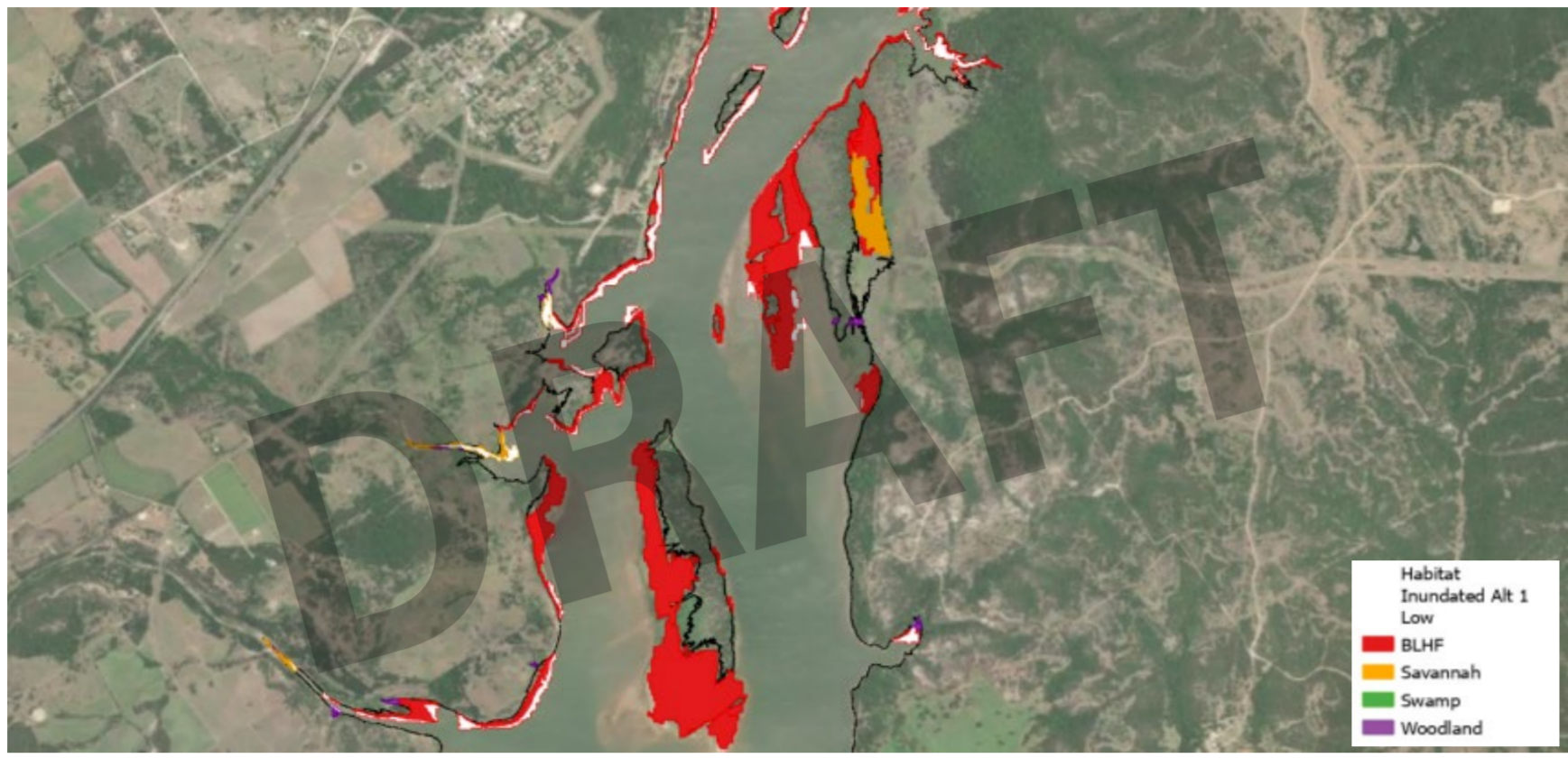
Habitat Type	Low Elevation (531 ft)		High Elevation (534 ft)	
	Acreage 531 ft	Net Change From No-Action (Approximate Impacts)	Acreage 534 ft	Net Change From No-Action (Approximate Impacts)
Savannah	75 Acres	± 0 Acres	95 Acres	± 0 Acres
Bottomland Hardwood Forest	582 Acres	± 0 Acres	918 Acres	± 0 Acres
Woodland	18 Acres	± 0 Acres	26 Acres	± 0 Acres
Swamp	3 Acres	± 0 Acres	3 Acres	± 0 Acres

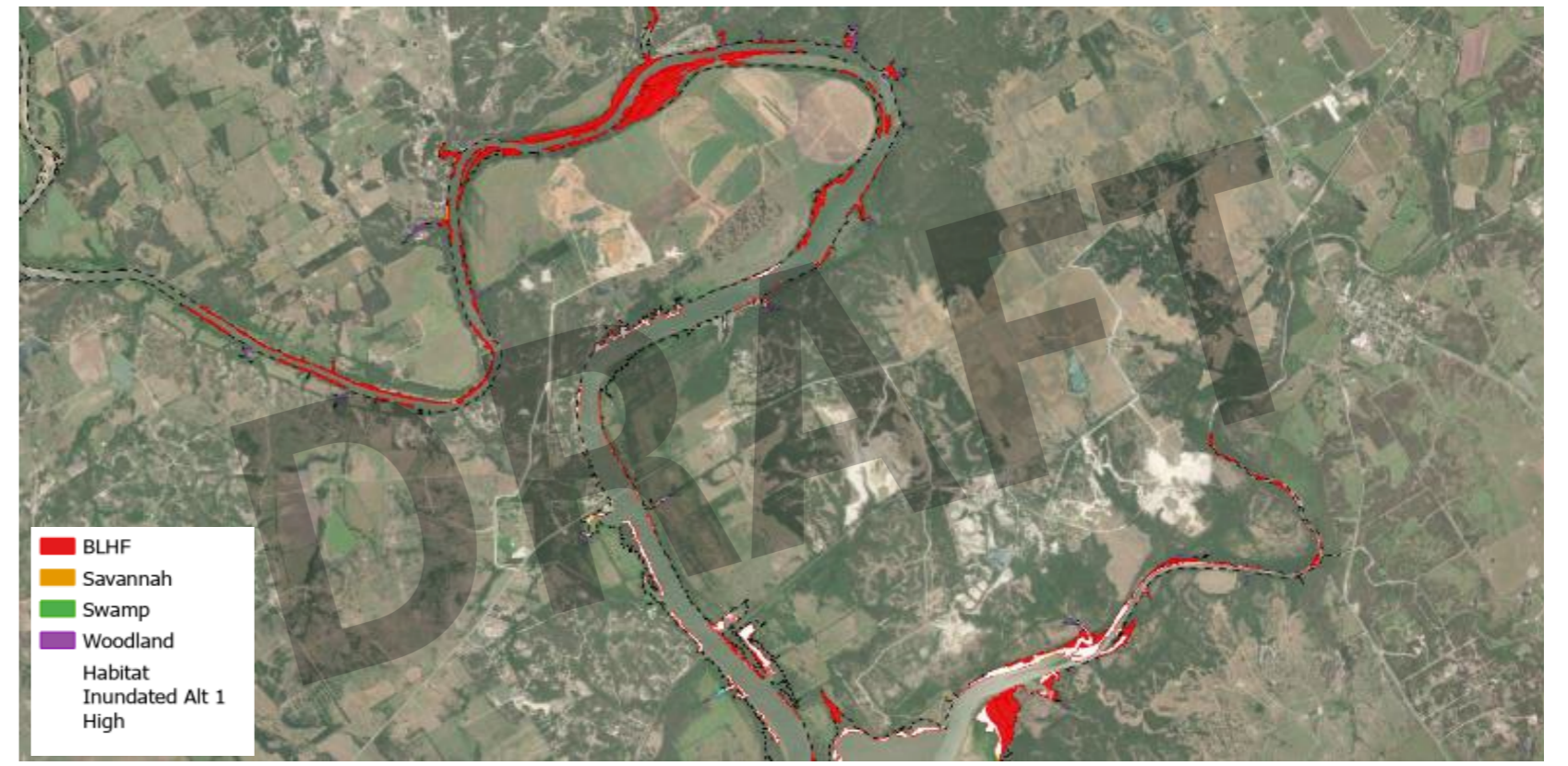
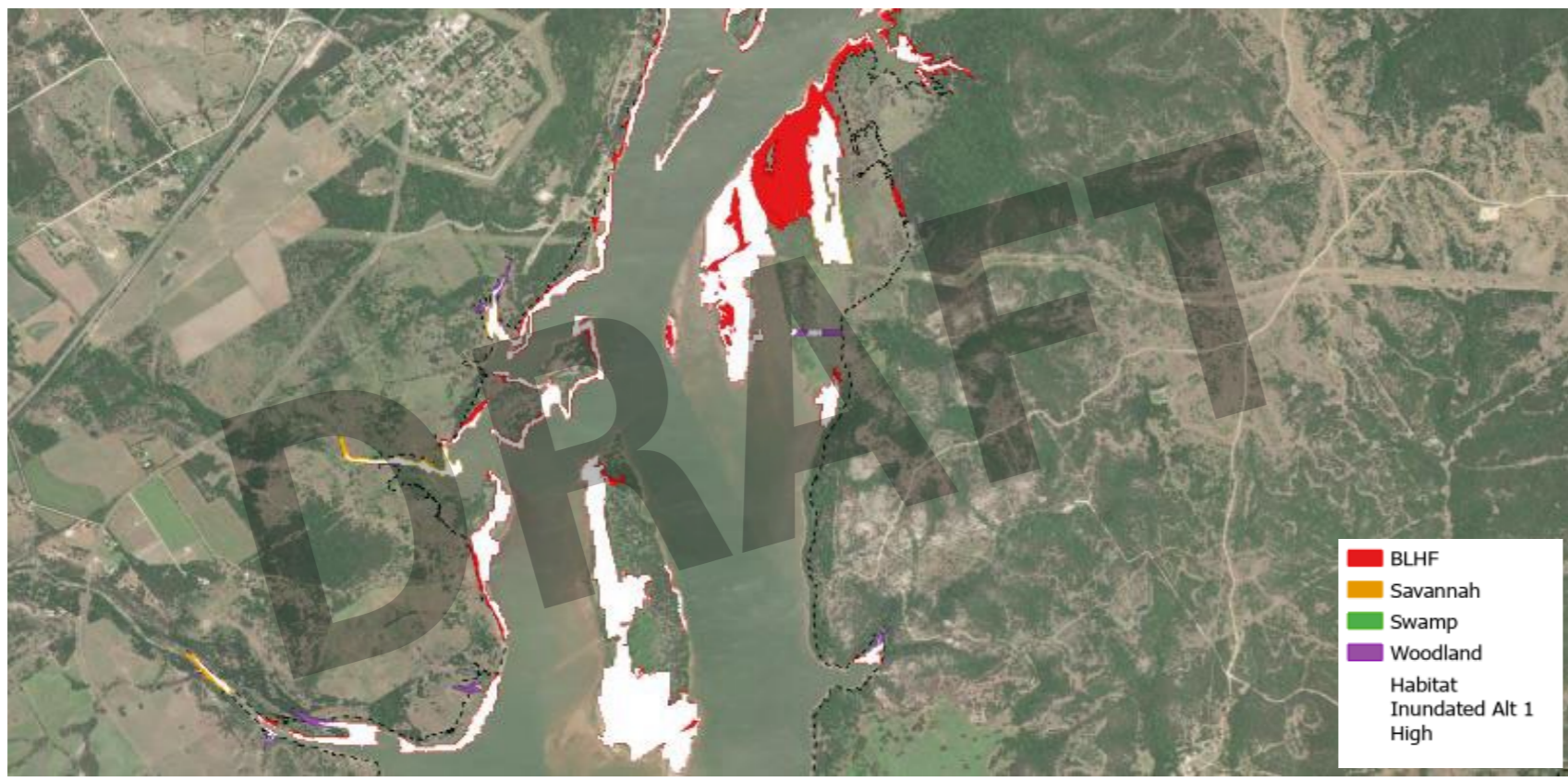


Alternative 5

Habitat Type	Low Elevation (532 ft)		High Elevation (535 ft)	
	Acreage 532 ft	Net Change From No-Action (Approximate Impacts)	Acreage 535 ft	Net Change From No-Action (Approximate Impacts)
Savannah	94 Acres	+ 19 Acres	103 Acres	+ 8 Acres
Bottomland Hardwood Forest	908 Acres	+ 326 Acres	1398 Acres	+ 480 Acres
Woodland	24 Acres	+ 7 Acres	66 Acres	+ 40 Acres
Swamp	3 Acres	± 0 Acres	11 Acres	+ 7 Acres

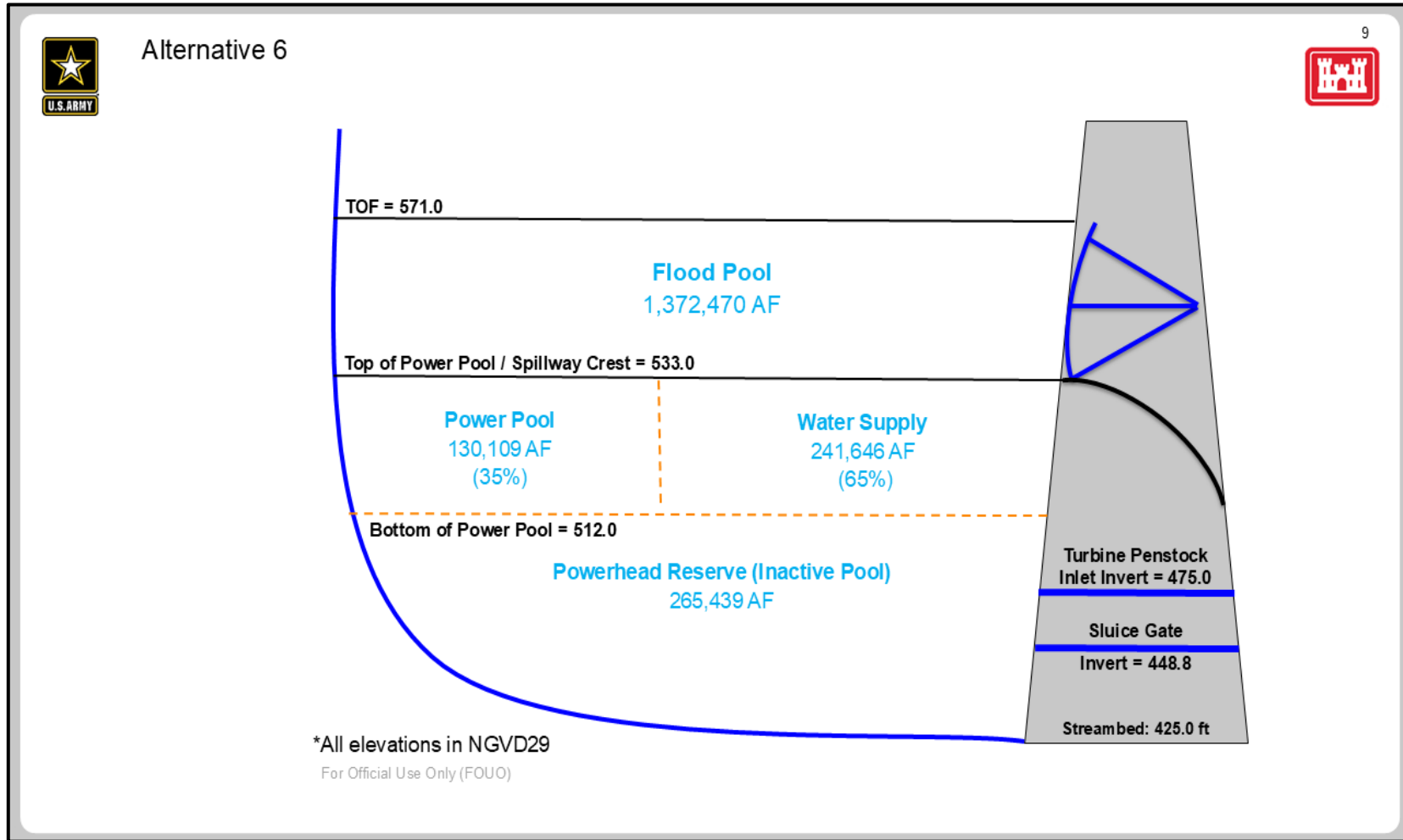






Alternative 6

Habitat Type	Low Elevation (530 ft)		High Elevation (533 ft)	
	Acreage 530 ft	Net Change From No-Action (Approximate Impacts)	Acreage 533 ft	Net Change From No-Action (Approximate Impacts)
Savannah	75 Acres	± 0 Acres	95 Acres	± 0 Acres
Bottomland Hardwood Forest	578 Acres	- 4 Acres	913 Acres	- 5 Acres
Woodland	17 Acres	± 0 Acres	25 Acres	- 1 Acre
Swamp	3 Acres	± 0 Acres	3 Acres	± 0 Acres



Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Request Letter
- Draft Coordination Act Report (pending)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
819 TAYLOR ST FORT WORTH, TX 76102

August 4, 2023

Regional Planning and Environmental Center

SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act for the Whitney Lake Water Reallocation Study

Erik Orsak
Arlington Ecological Services Field Office
501 West Felix Street Suite 1105
Fort Worth, TX 76115

Dear Mr. Orsak:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, requests to initiate coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) to aid us in formulating alternatives while considering and reducing potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources in the Whitney Lake Water Reallocation Study. The Whitney Lake Reallocation Study purpose is to investigate existing and future conditions at the Whitney Lake Reservoir Project, TX and develop alternatives to efficiently meet the present and future water storage demands of our partners for maximum benefit to the Nation. Some of the potential measures could affect the function of the Brazos River including Lake Whitney and could impact state and federally managed fish and wildlife resources.

Please respond by August 31, 2023, with a primary point of contact to negotiate the FWCA scope of work. If you opt to not to consult under the FWCA, please provide in writing the rationale and how Subsection 2(b) of the FWCA can be fulfilled for our records. There will be other methods of participation such as Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation in the reallocation study that do not include FWCA processes.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Hannah Hadley, Biologist, Regional Planning and Environment Center, Environmental Branch, at Hannah.F.Hadley@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Melinda E Fisher

Melinda E. Fisher
Interim Chief, NEPA & Natural Resources Section
Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Cooperating Agency Correspondence

- Request Letters
- Response Letters



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
819 TAYLOR STREET
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

JUNE 20, 2023

Robert Houston
EPA
Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500 Dallas, TX 75270

Dear Mr. Houston:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 1501.8, Section 2045 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Section 2045) and Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Section 1005), I am formally requesting your agency to become a cooperating agency for an Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation study. These laws require that any federal agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise will be a cooperating agency. I believe your agency will be a cooperating agency because of federal authority. Designation as a cooperating agency does not imply that the Environmental Protection Agency supports the proposed project.

The primary objective of this reallocation study is to investigate the reallocation of storage capacity within Lake Whitney. Lake Whitney is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) reservoir located just southwest of the City of Hillsboro in Hill and Bosque Counties. Water users currently receiving water from Whitney Lake will not be able to completely satisfy their projected future water requirements. As a result, the Corps was requested to conduct this reallocation study to evaluate reallocation of storage from the flood pool to the conservation pool, which would result in an increased firm yield available for municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply.

The Corps will be conducting an interagency meeting by 11 September 2023 as required by Section 1001 of WRRDA 2014. Discussions at the meeting will include the project's purpose and need, a plan for the coordinated review, permitting timeline of the review, agency roles and responsibilities, information needed for the permit or authorization, etc. An important outcome of the meeting, and future meetings, is a coordinated environmental review for the project, meeting the agreed upon permitting timeline and resolving issues in a timely manner.

Due to the strict time limits required in 40 CFR Part 1501.10, please designate a point of contact and an alternate to participate in the coordinated review process of the reallocation study. Your agency must accept the invitation to participate as a cooperating agency, in accordance with Section 2045, unless your agency (A)(i)(I) has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project; (II) has no expertise or information relevant to the project; or (III) does not have adequate funds to participate in the project; and (ii) does not intend to submit comments on the

project; or (B) does not intend to submit comments on the project. If we do not receive a response from you to our invitation as a cooperating agency, we will assume you are a cooperating agency.

Please respond to this invitation within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Hadley, Biologist, Regional Planning and Environment Center, Environmental Branch, at Hannah.F.Hadley@usace.army.mil. If you would like a copy of the Implementation Guidance for Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014), Project Acceleration is available at <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utils/getfile/collection/p16021coll5/id/1375>. Thank you.

Brandon Wadlington

Brandon Wadlington
Interim Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
819 TAYLOR STREET
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

JUNE 20, 2023

Sana Drissi
FAA
Southwest Region
10101 Hillwood Parkway Fort Worth, TX 76177

Dear Ms. Drissi:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 1501.8, Section 2045 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Section 2045) and Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Section 1005), I am formally requesting your agency to become a cooperating agency for an Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation study. These laws require that any federal agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise will be a cooperating agency. I believe your agency will be a cooperating agency because of federal authority. Designation as a cooperating agency does not imply that the Federal Aviation Administration supports the proposed project.

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Brandon Wadlington

Brandon Wadlington
Interim Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
819 TAYLOR STREET
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

JUNE 20, 2023

Dorothy Cook
FEMA
Region 6
800 N Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209

Dear Ms. Cook:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 1501.8, Section 2045 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Section 2045) and Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Section 1005), I am formally requesting your agency to become a cooperating agency for an Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation study. These laws require that any federal agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise will be a cooperating agency. I believe your agency will be a cooperating agency because of federal authority. Designation as a cooperating agency does not imply that the Federal Emergency Management Agency supports the proposed project.

The primary objective of this reallocation study is to investigate the reallocation of storage capacity within Lake Whitney. Lake Whitney is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) reservoir located just southwest of the City of Hillsboro in Hill and Bosque Counties. Water users currently receiving water from Whitney Lake will not be able to completely satisfy their projected future water requirements. As a result, the Corps was requested to conduct this reallocation study to evaluate reallocation of storage from the flood pool to the conservation pool, which would result in an increased firm yield available for municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply.

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Brandon Wadlington

Brandon Wadlington
Interim Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
819 TAYLOR STREET
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

JUNE 20, 2023

Kristy Oates
NRCS
Texas State Office
101 S Main St, Temple, TX 76501

Dear Ms. Oates:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 1501.8, Section 2045 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Section 2045) and Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Section 1005), I am formally requesting your agency to become a cooperating agency for an Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation study. These laws require that any federal agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise will be a cooperating agency. I believe your agency will be a cooperating agency because of federal authority. Designation as a cooperating agency does not imply that the Natural Resources Conservation Service supports the proposed project.

The primary objective of this reallocation study is to investigate the reallocation of storage capacity within Lake Whitney. Lake Whitney is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) reservoir located just southwest of the City of Hillsboro in Hill and Bosque Counties. Water users currently receiving water from Whitney Lake will not be able to completely satisfy their projected future water requirements. As a result, the Corps was requested to conduct this reallocation study to evaluate reallocation of storage from the flood pool to the conservation pool, which would result in an increased firm yield available for municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply.

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Brandon Wadlington

Brandon Wadlington
Interim Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
819 TAYLOR STREET
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

JUNE 20, 2023

Fritha Ohlson
Department of Energy
Southwestern Power Administration
1 W 3rd St, Suite 1600, Tulsa, OK 74103

Dear Ms. Ohlson:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 1501.8, Section 2045 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Section 2045) and Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Section 1005), I am formally requesting your agency to become a cooperating agency for an Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation study. These laws require that any federal agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise will be a cooperating agency. I believe your agency will be a cooperating agency because of federal authority. Designation as a cooperating agency does not imply that the Department of Energy supports the proposed project.

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Brandon Wadlington

Brandon Wadlington
Interim Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
819 TAYLOR STREET
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

JUNE 20, 2023

Debra Bills
USFWS
Arlington Ecological Services Field Office
501 West Felix Street Suite 1105 Fort Worth, TX 76115

Dear Ms. Bills:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 1501.8, Section 2045 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Section 2045) and Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Section 1005), I am formally requesting your agency to become a cooperating agency for an Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation study. These laws require that any federal agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise will be a cooperating agency. I believe your agency will be a cooperating agency because of federal authority. Designation as a cooperating agency does not imply that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supports the proposed project.

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Brandon Wadlington

Brandon Wadlington
Interim Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
819 TAYLOR STREET
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

JUNE 20, 2023

Peter Schaefer
TCEQ
Water Quality Division
12100 Park 35 Cir, Austin, TX 78753

Dear Mr. Schaefer:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 1501.8, Section 2045 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Section 2045) and Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Section 1005), I am formally requesting your agency to become a participating agency for an Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation Study. These laws require that any state agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise will be a participating agency. I believe your agency will be a participating agency because state authority. Designation as a participating agency does not imply that Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Department supports the proposed project.

The primary objective of this reallocation study is to investigate the reallocation of storage capacity within Lake Whitney. Lake Whitney is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) reservoir located just southwest of the City of Hillsboro in Hill and Bosque Counties. Water users currently receiving water from Whitney Lake will not be able to completely satisfy their projected future water requirements. As a result, the Corps was requested to conduct this reallocation study to evaluate reallocation of storage from the flood pool to the conservation pool, which would result in an increased firm yield available for municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be conducting an interagency meeting by 11 September 2023 as required by Section 1001 of WRRDA 2014. Discussions at the meeting will include the project's purpose and need, a plan for the coordinated review, permitting timeline of the review, agency roles and responsibilities, information needed for the permit or authorization, etc. An important outcome of the meeting, and future meetings, is a coordinated environmental review for the project, meeting the agreed upon permitting timeline and resolving issues in a timely manner.

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Brandon Wadlington

Brandon Wadlington
Interim Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
819 TAYLOR STREET
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

JUNE 20, 2023

Laura Zebehazy
TPWD
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
4200 Smith School Rd, Austin, TX 78744

Dear Ms. Zebehazy:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 1501.8, Section 2045 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Section 2045) and Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Section 1005), I am formally requesting your agency to become a participating agency for an Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation Study. These laws require that any state agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise will be a participating agency. I believe your agency will be a participating agency because state authority. Designation as a participating agency does not imply that Texas Parks and Wildlife Department supports the proposed project.

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Brandon Wadlington

Brandon Wadlington
Interim Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
819 TAYLOR STREET
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

JUNE 20, 2023

Mindy Conyers
TWDB
River Science & Hydrosurvey
12100 Park 35 Cir, Austin, TX 78753

Dear Dr. Conyers:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 1501.8, Section 2045 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Section 2045) and Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Section 1005), I am formally requesting your agency to become a participating agency for an Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation Study. These laws require that any state agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise will be a participating agency. I believe your agency will be a participating agency because state authority. Designation as a participating agency does not imply that Texas Water Development Board supports the proposed project.

The primary objective of this reallocation study is to investigate the reallocation of storage capacity within Lake Whitney. Lake Whitney is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) reservoir located just southwest of the City of Hillsboro in Hill and Bosque Counties. Water users currently receiving water from Whitney Lake will not be able to completely satisfy their projected future water requirements. As a result, the Corps was requested to conduct this reallocation study to evaluate reallocation of storage from the flood pool to the conservation pool, which would result in an increased firm yield available for municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be conducting an interagency meeting by 11 September 2023 as required by Section 1001 of WRRDA 2014. Discussions at the meeting will include the project's purpose and need, a plan for the coordinated review, permitting timeline of the review, agency roles and responsibilities, information needed for the permit or authorization, etc. An important outcome of the meeting, and future meetings, is a coordinated environmental review for the project, meeting the agreed upon permitting timeline and resolving issues in a timely manner.

Due to the strict time limits required in 40 CFR Part 1501.10, please designate a point of contact and an alternate to participate in the coordinated review process of the reallocation study. Your agency must accept the invitation to participate as a participating agency, in accordance with Section 2045, unless your agency (A)(i)(I) has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project; (II) has no expertise or information relevant to the project; or (III) does not have

adequate funds to participate in the project; and (ii) does not intend to submit comments on the project; or (B) does not intend to submit comments on the project. If we do not receive a response from you to our invitation as a participating agency, we will assume you are a participating agency.

Please respond to this invitation within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Hadley, Biologist, Regional Planning and Environment Center, Environmental Branch, at Hannah.F.Hadley@usace.army.mil. If you would like a copy of the Implementation Guidance for Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014), Project Acceleration is available at <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utils/getfile/collection/p16021coll5/id/1375>. Thank you.

Brandon Wadlington

Brandon Wadlington
Interim Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
819 TAYLOR STREET
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

JUNE 21, 2023

Clover Clamons
TxDOT
Natural Resource Management Section
7901 N. I-35, Austin, TX 78753

Dear Ms. Bechtel:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 1501.8, Section 2045 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Section 2045) and Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Section 1005), I am formally requesting your agency to become a participating agency for an Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation Study. These laws require that any state agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise will be a participating agency. I believe your agency will be a participating agency because state authority. Designation as a participating agency does not imply that Texas Department of Transportation supports the proposed project.

The primary objective of this reallocation study is to investigate the reallocation of storage capacity within Lake Whitney. Lake Whitney is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) reservoir located just southwest of the City of Hillsboro in Hill and Bosque Counties. Water users currently receiving water from Whitney Lake will not be able to completely satisfy their projected future water requirements. As a result, the Corps was requested to conduct this reallocation study to evaluate reallocation of storage from the flood pool to the conservation pool, which would result in an increased firm yield available for municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be conducting an interagency meeting by 11 September 2023 as required by Section 1001 of WRRDA 2014. Discussions at the meeting will include the project's purpose and need, a plan for the coordinated review, permitting timeline of the review, agency roles and responsibilities, information needed for the permit or authorization, etc. An important outcome of the meeting, and future meetings, is a coordinated environmental review for the project, meeting the agreed upon permitting timeline and resolving issues in a timely manner.

Due to the strict time limits required in 40 CFR Part 1501.10, please designate a point of contact and an alternate to participate in the coordinated review process of the reallocation study. Your agency must accept the invitation to participate as a participating agency, in accordance with Section 2045, unless your agency (A)(i)(I) has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project; (II) has no expertise or information relevant to the project; or (III) does not have

adequate funds to participate in the project; and (ii) does not intend to submit comments on the project; or (B) does not intend to submit comments on the project. If we do not receive a response from you to our invitation as a participating agency, we will assume you are a participating agency.

Please respond to this invitation within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Hadley, Biologist, Regional Planning and Environment Center, Environmental Branch, at Hannah.F.Hadley@usace.army.mil. If you would like a copy of the Implementation Guidance for Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014), Project Acceleration is available at <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utils/getfile/collection/p16021coll5/id/1375>. Thank you.

Brandon Wadlington

Brandon Wadlington
Interim Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270-2102

July 13, 2023

Hannah Hadley
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regional Planning and Environmental Center
Compliance Section
819 Taylor Street, Room 3A12
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Re: Lake Whitney Reallocation Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment Hill and Bosque Counties, Texas

Dear Ms. Hadley:

This letter is in response to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) letter dated June 20, 2023, requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 (EPA) participate as a Cooperating Agency for the planning and development of the Lake Whitney Reallocation Study Environmental Assessment (EA). The proposed project will evaluate the reallocation of storage capacity within Lake Whitney. Lake Whitney is a USACE reservoir located just southwest of the City of Hillsboro in Hill and Bosque Counties. Water users currently receiving water from Whitney Lake will not be able to completely satisfy their projected future water requirements. The USACE was requested by Brazos River Authority to conduct this reallocation study to evaluate reallocation of storage for municipal and industrial water supply.

Since the EA will analyze the impacts of the proposed project to the human and natural environment, EPA accepts your invitation and agrees to participate as a cooperating agency. As a cooperating agency, EPA will:

- provide expertise on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and other subject matter such as wetlands, water quality, air quality, and environmental justice, during the EA planning and development;
- provide timely technical reviews and comments on preliminary documents, reports, analyses, and sections of the EA;
- participate in meetings and provide information as requested by USACE, as resources allow;
- provide sources for information or support in the analysis of such information, when known, during preparation of the EA in areas in which EPA has expertise; and
- review and comment on the EA pursuant to our regulatory responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA anticipates that a cooperative team approach will streamline the environmental process and result in a high quality EA. If you have any further questions, please contact Gabe Gruta, the project review lead, at 214-665-2174 or gruta.gabriel@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert Houston
Staff Director
Office of Communities, Tribes and
Environmental Assessment



FEMA

July 19, 2023

Brandon Wadlington
Interim Chief
Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District
819 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

RE: USACE Cooperating Agency Invitation for the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation Study

Dear Mr. Wadlington:

This letter responds to your June 20, 2023, request for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 6 to participate as a Cooperating Agency as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations, part 1501.8, Section 2045 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Section 2045) and Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Section 1005), for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-led Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation study.

The FEMA Region 6 thanks you for your request but we must respectfully decline. FEMA, per Section 2045 (A)(i)(I), has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project and (B) our agency does not intend to submit comments on the project.

Should you have any questions, please contact our Unified Federal Review (UFR) Coordinator, Sarah Carrino at sarah.carrino@fema.dhs.gov or at 202-733-7908. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Cook
Acting Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 6

Enclosures: USACE Whitney Cooperating Agency Invitation Letter

Dear Mr. Wadlington,
July 19, 2023
Page 2

Cc: Portia Ross, Environmental Officer, Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, FEMA Headquarters
Roosevelt Grant, Mitigation Division Director, FEMA Region 6



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
819 TAYLOR STREET
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

JUNE 20, 2023

Dorothy Cook
FEMA
Region 6
800 N Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209

Dear Ms. Cook:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 1501.8, Section 2045 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Section 2045) and Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Section 1005), I am formally requesting your agency to become a cooperating agency for an Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation study. These laws require that any federal agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise will be a cooperating agency. I believe your agency will be a cooperating agency because of federal authority. Designation as a cooperating agency does not imply that the Federal Emergency Management Agency supports the proposed project.

The primary objective of this reallocation study is to investigate the reallocation of storage capacity within Lake Whitney. Lake Whitney is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) reservoir located just southwest of the City of Hillsboro in Hill and Bosque Counties. Water users currently receiving water from Whitney Lake will not be able to completely satisfy their projected future water requirements. As a result, the Corps was requested to conduct this reallocation study to evaluate reallocation of storage from the flood pool to the conservation pool, which would result in an increased firm yield available for municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply.

The Corps will be conducting an interagency meeting by 11 September 2023 as required by Section 1001 of WRRDA 2014. Discussions at the meeting will include the project's purpose and need, a plan for the coordinated review, permitting timeline of the review, agency roles and responsibilities, information needed for the permit or authorization, etc. An important outcome of the meeting, and future meetings, is a coordinated environmental review for the project, meeting the agreed upon permitting timeline and resolving issues in a timely manner.

Due to the strict time limits required in 40 CFR Part 1501.10, please designate a point of contact and an alternate to participate in the coordinated review process of the reallocation study. Your agency must accept the invitation to participate as a cooperating agency, in accordance with Section 2045, unless your agency (A)(i)(I) has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project; (II) has no expertise or information relevant to the project; or (III) does not have adequate funds to participate in the project; and (ii) does not intend to submit comments on the

project; or (B) does not intend to submit comments on the project. If we do not receive a response from you to our invitation as a cooperating agency, we will assume you are a cooperating agency.

Please respond to this invitation within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Hadley, Biologist, Regional Planning and Environment Center, Environmental Branch, at Hannah.F.Hadley@usace.army.mil. If you would like a copy of the Implementation Guidance for Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014), Project Acceleration is available at <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utils/getfile/collection/p16021coll5/id/1375>. Thank you.

Brandon Wadlington

Brandon Wadlington
Interim Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Federal Aviation Administration
Southwest Region, Airports Division
Texas Airports District Office

FAA-ASW-650
10101 Hillwood Parkway
Fort Worth, Texas 76177

June 26, 2023

Ms. Hannah Hadley
Environmental Regional Technical Specialist
Regional Planning & Environmental Center (RPEC)
Environmental Branch
NEPA and Natural Resource Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Subject: Lake Whitney Reallocation Study- Interagency Coordination Letter- FAA Southwest Region Response

Dear Ms. Hadley

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has received a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) letter, dated June 20, 2023, inviting FAA to be a cooperating agency for an Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation Study.

The FAA has no jurisdictional authority with respect to the subject project since there are no Air Carrier Airports within 5 miles of the project site. However, if you still need an aviation contact for General Aviation Airports within the project area, please contact TxDOT.

If you have questions, please contact Sana Drissi at sana.drissi@faa.gov.

Sincerely,

Sana Drissi

Sana Drissi
Environmental Protection Specialist
Texas Airports District Office
Federal Aviation Administration



125 EAST 11TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 | 512.463.8588 | WWW.TXDOT.GOV

July 7, 2023

Mr. Brandon Wadlington
Interim Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District
819 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102


Re: Participating Agency – Lake Whitney Reallocation Study

Dear Mr. Wadlington:

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is receipt of your invitation to become a participating agency for an Environmental Assessment on the Lake Whitney Reallocation Study. Because Lake Whitney is located within TxDOT's Waco District and Hillsboro Area Office, which is responsible for constructing and maintaining transportation infrastructure near Lake Whitney, Waco District staff are in the best position to provide review and input on the proposed pro.

The Waco District has designated Anel Rivera Rosado, P.E., Hillsboro Assistant Area Engineer as the primary point of contact and Clay Rotter, Environmental Specialist, as the alternate contact for the Lake Whitney Reallocation Study. They may be reached at Anel.RiveraRosado@txdot.gov or (254) 582-5432 and Clay.Rotter@txdot.gov or (254) 867-2731.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

B9925B7743B44A8...

C. Clover Clamons, P.G.
Section Director, Natural Resources Management
Environmental Affairs Division

cc: Anel Rivera Rosado, TxDOT WAC
Clay Rotter, TxDOT WAC
Hannah Hadley, USACE SWF



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Arlington, Texas, Ecological Services Field Office
501 West Felix Street, Suite 1105
Fort Worth, Texas 76115

In Reply Refer To:
2023-0095816

July 3, 2023

Brandon Wadlington
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District
819 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Dear Mr. Wadlington:

Thank you for your June 20, 2023 letter regarding the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Lake Whitney Reallocation study. The study would investigate the reallocation of storage capacity within Lake Whitney, a Corps managed reservoir, located in Hill and Bosque Counties, Texas. Your agency has invited the Service to participate as a Cooperating Agency in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Water Resources Development Act of 2007, and Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 during preparation of the EA.

The Service has coordinated on various projects related to Lake Whitney and surrounding Corps' lands in the past. In fact, our office previously accepted funding from the Corps to initiate surveys and habitat assessments for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*) in 2008, 2009, 2011, and 2015. The results of these Corps' funded surveys were documented in comprehensive reports which contributed to almost 2,500 acres of Corps' lands being designated as Environmentally Sensitive Areas.

The current project seeks to evaluate the impacts of reallocating water storage from the flood pool to the conservation pool for the purpose of increasing firm yield to meet future municipal and industrial water needs. We recognize the need to address environmental impacts of a proposed reallocation and are glad to see the Corps undertaking a thorough investigation. We also appreciate the Corps requesting Cooperating Agency participation in the NEPA process from our office. Unfortunately, at this time, our office does not have the funding capacity to participate as a Cooperating Agency. Therefore, we must respectfully decline your invitation to be a Cooperating Agency for the Lake Whitney Reallocation Study.

Although we are unable to participate as a Cooperating Agency, this would not preclude our input in the draft EA review process under NEPA or any other federal law. Additionally,

should the need for consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act be necessary, our office will be available to conduct that process.

Despite the aforementioned limitations, we would appreciate receiving updates on the project status and look forward to reviewing the draft ES when it becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact Omar Bocanegra at 682-348-7393, and thank you for your continued support in conserving America's fish and wildlife resources.

Sincerely,



Erik Orsak
Acting Field Supervisor

cc: Assistant Regional Director – ES (Attn: Paige Navjar), FWS, Albuquerque, NM (e-copy)

S:\Correspondence\FY 2023\Project Files\2023-0095816 Lake Whitney Storage Raise\2023-0095816 Lake_Whitney Reallocation Study_signed.docx



Department of Energy
Southwestern Power Administration
One West Third Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103-3502

July 17, 2023

Mr. Brandon Wadlington
Regional Planning and Environmental Center
Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
819 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Dear Mr. Wadlington:

This is in response to your letter to Fritha Ohlson dated June 20, 2023, regarding the development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Lake Whitney Storage Reallocation Study (Study). Ms. Ohlson asked me to respond to your letter. Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) is pleased to accept the invitation to participate as a cooperating agency. Southwestern is a Federal agency, within the U.S. Department of Energy, with statutory responsibility for marketing the hydroelectric power and energy from 24 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers multipurpose projects in the region, including the Whitney project.

Due to the potential for serious negative impacts to the Federal hydropower purpose at Whitney resulting from a reallocation of storage, Southwestern will fully participate in the EA and Study process, attending all meetings, reviewing all pertinent documents, and providing comments as necessary. Southwestern's main point of contact will be myself, Ms. Ashley Corker, ashley.corker@swpa.gov, 918-595-6682, and the alternate will be Mr. Michael Denny, michael.denny@swpa.gov, 918-595-6683.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a cooperating agency in the development of the EA and the Study. We look forward to working with you. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Ashley Corker
Director
Division of Resources and Rates



Department of Energy
Southwestern Power Administration
6655 S Lewis Ave
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136

Hannah Hadley
Regional Planning & Environmental Center (RPEC)
Fort Worth District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
819 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Ms. Hadley,

This letter is in response to the email dated June 3, 2025, regarding the Cooperating Agency review of the preliminary draft Integrated Feasibility Report / Environment Assessment for the Whitney Lake Reallocation Study (Report). Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) is pleased to offer comments on the draft Report. Southwestern is a Federal agency, within the U.S. Department of Energy, with statutory responsibility for marketing the hydroelectric power and energy from 24 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) multipurpose projects in the region, including Whitney. By law, Southwestern's rates must recover all the costs associated with the hydropower projects, which include the initial cost of building the dams and powerhouses, plus interest, reinvestment costs plus interest, as well as the yearly operation and maintenance costs, not only for the hydropower features but also for a portion of the joint-use project costs.

Southwestern appreciates collaboration with the Corps' technical team (a subset of the project development team, PDT) throughout the duration of the Whitney Lake Reallocation Study (Study). Although unintentional, Southwestern was disappointed to be left out of key discussions with and updates from the PDT, and has been striving to get up to speed since regular meetings with the broader PDT began in late April 2025. Since that time, during meetings between the Federal partners (the Corps and Southwestern) as well as the pre-Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) and TSP meetings, Southwestern has repeatedly raised serious concerns about key issues with little resolution:

- Uncertainty regarding the ability of the hydropower units to generate down to elevation 512.0 feet as assumed in the TSP. The Corps' Hydroelectric Design Center (HDC) performed an analysis to determine that the units are capable of generating down to elevation 512.0 feet, which is 8.0 feet below the current bottom of conservation pool (520.0 feet) for which the units are designed. The HDC analysis is not adequate for the purposes of this draft Report and the permanent action of the proposed TSP. The HDC analysis is far from a guarantee that turbines will be able to operate at such depths below design, due to multiple risk factors and significant uncertainty that is explained in the HDC analysis itself. Furthermore, Southwestern has actually experienced negative impacts at hydroelectric projects due to incorrect HDC analysis:
 - a. Dardanelle (SWL) – Turbines installed in the late 1990s/early 2000s were designed to be uprated from 35 megawatts (MW) to 40 MW. However, an error in analysis of the tailwater data resulted in a design that required a forebay and tailwater elevation combination that almost never occurs, effectively limiting the units to their original nameplate capacity of 35 MW

- b. Whitney (SWF) – After installation of the new turbines in 2014 and 2015, the Corps provided Southwestern a chart of anticipated unit output based on head and tailwater elevation. Over half of the data points in the chart were physically impossible due to the tailwater elevation being too low to be achievable with the required water discharge.
- c. Denison (SWT) – The design for turbines installed in 2020 and 2021 assumed that head loss would be 1.0 feet. Actual head loss at the plant is closer to 7.0 feet, which has resulted in actual output from the units 4 to 6 MW lower across normal operating elevations than the modeled data indicated.

The draft Report should clearly state the path forward to mitigate the significant negative impact to hydropower if it is determined after TSP implementation that the units are incapable of generating down to 512.0 feet, thereby further reducing an already reduced hydropower capability.

- Complete loss of hydropower capacity for periods of time in the TSP. Southwestern is concerned about the complete loss of capacity for a portion of time under the TSP. Southwestern has marketed capacity at most of the hydropower projects within its jurisdiction to ensure that the marketed capacity is available at all times, including during the drought of record. Although Whitney is unique in that Southwestern does not guarantee the marketed capacity is available at all times, Southwestern did not contemplate losing all capacity at any point in time when making the current marketable capacity determination. Period-of-record model results of the TSP indicate that the amount of proposed storage to be taken from the hydropower purpose is very near the tipping point for marketability of the project. Southwestern believes that the hydropower storage must remain at a level such that hydropower capacity does not go to 0 MW at any time during the period of record.
- The Corps' incorrect definition of the conservation pool. Throughout the draft Report, including appendices, the conservation pool is incorrectly defined as including powerhead reserve, which is actually part of the inactive pool. The conservation pool is water storage for consumptive uses during periods of dry weather. The inactive pool is not considered usable except perhaps in a drought emergency. Since powerhead reserve is not considered usable, it is part of the inactive pool. The incorrect information and presentation of the conservation and inactive pools at Whitney in the draft Report runs contrary to the correct information clearly stated and presented in the Corps' Whitney Dam and Lake Water Control Manual dated December 2016. Including the powerhead reserve as part of the conservation pool obscures proposed alternatives, including the TSP, that involve the unprecedented reallocation from the inactive pool. All uses of the term conservation pool and inactive pool in the draft Report should be revised to reflect the correct definitions, elevations, and storage amounts, and to provide transparency as to the nature of the proposed alternatives and TSP.

On January 20, 2025, the president issued Executive Order (EO) 14156 – Declaring a National Energy Emergency, stating “our Nation's inadequate energy supply and infrastructure causes and makes worse the high energy prices that devastate Americans” and ordering “the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works” to “identify planned or potential actions to facilitate the Nation's energy supply that may be subject to emergency treatment pursuant to the regulations and nationwide permits promulgated by the Corps...” Also on January 20, 2025, the president issued EO 14154 – Unleashing American Energy which states “It is the policy of the United States...to encourage energy exploration and production on Federal lands and waters...” and “to protect the United States's economic and national security and military preparedness by ensuring that an abundant supply of reliable energy is readily accessible in every State and territory of the Nation.” Significantly reducing the hydropower storage at Whitney, to the point where a complete loss of generating capacity is expected during critical droughts, is in direct opposition to EOs 14156 and 14154.

Additionally, on April 14, 2025, the president issued EO 14262 stating “In order to ensure adequate and reliable electric generation in America, to meet growing electricity demand, and to address the national emergency declared pursuant to Executive Order 14156 of January 20, 2025 (Declaring a National Energy Emergency), our electric grid must utilize all available power generation resources, particularly those secure, redundant fuel supplies that are capable of extended operations.” Reducing the hydropower storage at Whitney in particular jeopardizes the availability of the critical ancillary reserve service that the project provides to help maintain the reliability and resilience of the Texas electric grid.

Southwestern plans to request a meeting with Corps leadership to review these serious concerns as soon as possible.

Southwestern’s specific comments on the draft Report are contained in the attached Excel file, as requested. Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Report. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Ashley Corker at (918) 595-6682 or ashley.corker@swpa.gov.

Sincerely,

Fritha Ohlson
Senior Vice President/COO

Enclosure

CC:

Col Calvin A. Kroeger, Commander, Fort Worth District
Lt Col Joshua M. Haynes, Deputy Commander, Fort Worth District
Susan Henshaw, WRCP, Planner, Southwestern RPEC
Michael Kingston, Program Manager, Water Business Line Manager

Clean Water Act Correspondence

From: [Peter Schaefer](#)
To: [Hadley, Hannah F CIV USARMY CESWF \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Whitney Lake Reallocation Study - cooperating agency review, due date June 18, 2025
Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 12:40:09 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hannay, since a 404 permit with associated 401 water quality certification is not required for these activities, I have no comments on these documents.

Thank you,

Peter

Peter Schaefer, Team Leader

Standards Implementation Team (MC 150)

Water Quality Assessment Section

Water Quality Division, TCEQ

email: peter.schaefer@tceq.texas.gov

phone: 512-239-4372

fax: 512-239-4420

How is our customer service? Fill out our online customer satisfaction survey at www.tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey

From: Hadley, Hannah F CIV USARMY CESWF (USA) <Hannah.F.Hadley@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 2:52 PM
To: Corker, Ashley <Ashley.Corker@swpa.gov>; Peter Schaefer <peter.schaefer@tceq.texas.gov>; Nelun Fernando <Nelun.Fernando@twdb.texas.gov>
Cc: Henshaw, Susan H CIV USARMY CESWF (USA) <Susan.Henshaw@usace.army.mil>; Kingston, Michael J CIV USARMY CESWF (USA) <Michael.J.Kingston@usace.army.mil>; Herrejon, Alexander C CIV (USA) <Alexander.C.Herrejon@usace.army.mil>
Subject: Whitney Lake Reallocation Study - cooperating agency review, due date June 18, 2025

Good afternoon,

Cooperating agency review of the preliminary draft Integrated Feasibility Report / Environment Assessment (IFR/EA) begins today (June 3rd) and end June 18th for the Whitney Lake Reallocation Study. Please use the attached comment spreadsheet to enter your comments. We request one spreadsheet per agency and that the 4-part comment structure is used:

1. Clear statement of the review concern
2. Basis for the concern
 - *The basis of your concern should be regulation or policy, or based on established practice within the discipline*
3. The significance of the concern (importance w/ regard to potential impact on project)

4. Include action(s) recommended to resolve the concern

The following are attached:

- Preliminary draft IFR/EA
- Appendix B Hydraulics Modeling
- Appendix C – Riverware Modeling
- Appendix D – Hydropower Analysis

These appendices will be sent in a separate email:

- Appendix E – Inland Hydrology Assessment
- Appendix G – Public Involvement

Participating in this preliminary review will not preclude your ability to submit comments during the 30-day public comment period scheduled for mid-July 2025. We appreciate your early feedback. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Thank you,
Hannah

Hannah Hadley
Environmental Regional Technical Specialist
Regional Planning & Environmental Center (RPEC)
Environmental Branch
NEPA and Natural Resource Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 
Cell #: 817) 948-2317