

Appendix A: Project Areas to be Mitigated (Photographs)



































Table 1 Project Locations, Appendix B

805 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
852 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
833 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
888 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	MOBILE HOM
817 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	POLE BARN
220 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
876 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
862 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
839 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
191 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
841 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
166 FOSTER RD	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
192 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
187 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
183 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
157 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
169 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
308 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
788 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	
773 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
713 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	
120 VALLEY SPUR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
372 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
716 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	MOBILE HOM
157 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
160 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
404 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
129 VALLEY SPUR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
700 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	MOBILE HOM
383 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
122 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
700 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	MOBILE HOM
137 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
135 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
133 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
403 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
581 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
384 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
382 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
507 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
510 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
567 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
121 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
686 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
428 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
141 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
233 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	MOBILE HOM
687 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
223 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
223 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	MOBILE HOM
225 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
401 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
527 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
551 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	MOBILE HOM
405 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
820 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
260 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
264 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	MOBILE HOM
801 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
240 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
864 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
876 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE

Table 1 Project Locations, Appendix B, continued

228 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
483 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
302 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
482 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
302 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
353 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
106 PINE VALLEY CV	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
359 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
810 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
783 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
317 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
209 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
201 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
200 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
313 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
210 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	MOBILE HOM
159 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
128 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
228 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
191 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
285 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
311 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
427 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
318 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
209 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
198 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
215 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
341 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
753 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
772 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
225 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
143 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
564 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
562 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	
132 PINE VALLEY CV	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
500 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
109 PINE VALLEY CV	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
134 PINE VALLEY CV	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
387 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
377 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
580 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
117 PINE VALLEY CV	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
135 PINE VALLEY CV	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
358 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
459 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
432 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
629 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
661 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
614 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
479 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
646 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
476 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
621 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
398 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
537 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
663 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
453 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
635 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
515 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
563 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
521 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
553 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE

Table 1 Project Locations, Appendix B, continued

566 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
571 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE BAR
533 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
519 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
543 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
491 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
603 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
604 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
499 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
490 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
229 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
227 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
730 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
332 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
129 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
158 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
743 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
174 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
355 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
226 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
110 VALLEY SPUR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
332 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
365 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
220 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
230 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	MOBILE HOM
119 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
130 LAKE VIEW DR	BASTROP TX 78957	STORAGE B
716 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
105 FOSTER RD	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
112 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
101 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
133 FOSTER RD	BASTROP TX 78957	MOBILE HOM
129 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	
154 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
133 FOSTER RD	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
133 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
500 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
589 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
507 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
582 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
460 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
325 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
268 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
460 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	CABIN SHEL
445 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
646 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
450 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
648 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	MOBILE HOM
648 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	MOBILE HOM
453 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
204 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
649 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
168 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
180 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
632 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
469 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
286 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
172 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
190 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
459 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
337 PINE CANYON DR	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE
633 PINE VALLEY LOOP	BASTROP TX 78957	HOUSE

APPENDIX C

8-STEP PROCESS – FLOODPLAIN & WETLAND

Step 1 Determine if the proposed action is in the 100-year floodplain and/or wetland.

Portions of the proposed action may be located within the 100-Year Floodplain per the Flood Insurance Rate map as detailed below:

ROAD NAME	APPROXIMATE MID LAT/LONG OF FLOODPLAIN OCCURRENCE	FEMA FIRM INFORMATION
Foster Road	29.953937, -97.302645	FEMA FIRMette 48021C0500E, Panel 500 of 625, effective 1/19/06. A portion of the project activities may occur within Zone A of the 100-Year Floodplain.
Lakeview Drive	29.953298, -97.311577	FEMA FIRMette 48021C0500E, Panel 500 of 625, effective 1/19/06. A portion of the project activities may occur within Zone A of the 100-Year Floodplain.
Pine Canyon Drive	29.955220, -97.319790	FEMA FIRMette 48021C0500E, Panel 500 of 625, effective 1/19/06. A portion of the project activities may occur within Zone A of the 100-Year Floodplain.
Pine Valley Cove	---	It does not appear that any portion of the Pine Valley Cove activities will be in the floodplain.
Pine Valley Loop	29.959947, -97.316141 29.961431, -97.311564 29.959226, -97.307047 29.954978, -97.305434 29.953921, -97.303487 29.949230, -97.308911 29.950722, -97.317682	FEMA FIRMette 48021C0500E, Panel 500 of 625, effective 1/19/06. A portion of the project activities may occur within Zone A of the 100-Year Floodplain.
Pine Valley Spur	---	It does not appear that any portion of the Pine Valley Spur activities will be in the floodplain.

Portions of the project may be in wetlands per the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Map as detailed below.

ROAD NAME	APPROXIMATE MID LAT/LONG OF WETLAND OCCURRENCE AT THE ROAD	NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY MAP INFORMATION
-----------	--	---

Foster Road	---	There are no wetlands identified on the USFWS NWI map.
Lakeview Drive	---	There are no wetlands identified on the USFWS NWI map.
Pine Canyon Drive	29.971209, -97.333817 29.968877, -97.332920 29.967296, -97.324964 29.965484, -97.321723 29.955687, -97.319550	A Riverine Wetland crosses Pine Canyon Drive in at least five locations, per the NWI Map.
Pine Valley Cove	---	There are no wetlands identified on the USFWS NWI map.
Pine Valley Loop	29.958382, -97.322840 29.952707, -97.321943 29.950556, -97.316948 29.948871, -97.310188 29.953951, -97.303368 29.955376, -97.305462 29.959989, -97.315871	A Riverine Wetland crosses Pine Valley Loop in at least seven locations, per the NWI Map.
Pine Valley Spur	---	There are no wetlands identified on the USFWS NWI map.

Step 2 Early public notice

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 9.8(b)(2), the publication of this draft Environmental Assessment will fulfill the early public notice requirement. A public notice concerning the proposed hazardous fuels reduction project and on the availability of the draft Environmental Assessment will be published in the *Bastrop Advertiser*, the local paper, and on FEMA's website (<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/region/6>).

Public comment on the proposed project and draft Environmental Assessment will be open for 30 calendar days. The notice will include the name, proposed locations and description of the activities, and an indication that portions of the action are in the floodplain and/or wetland.

Step 3 Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to working in floodplains and wetlands.

Avoiding work in the floodplain and/or wetland would mean that portions of the project area will not undergo hazardous fuels reduction. To achieve the purpose and need of the project, the continuity of the fuel reduction footprint must not be broken. Eliminating the portions of the project areas that are in the floodplain and/or wetland from treatment, thereby taking the project out of the floodplain and wetland, would leave a gap in the fire barrier. Avoiding work in the floodplain and wetland is not a practicable alternative as it may cause the entire project to fail and would not meet the purpose and need for the mitigation activity.

Step 4: Identify Potential Direct and Indirect Impacts Associated with Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The proposed action would not significantly affect the functions and values of floodplains and wetlands in the project areas. Although the proposed action would reduce the risk to structures in the project areas, the proposed project would not promote development within floodplains and wetlands. Some vegetation will be removed, but soils and hydrology will remain unaltered. Soil disturbances in and near wetlands would be avoided by conducting the work by hand within wetlands and within 200 feet of wetlands. No significant soil disturbance would occur within the

floodplain. The proposed action would not place any structures or fill within the floodplain that would impede or redirect flood flows, nor would it result in any excavation. No debris or mulch would be staged or stored in the floodplain.

The functions of floodplains and wetlands to filter nutrients and impurities from runoff; to provide floodwater storage; to reduce flood velocities; to reduce flood peaks; to reduce sedimentation; and to promote infiltration and aquifer recharge will remain intact after the implementation of this project because vegetation would be thinned but not removed completely. Floodplains and wetlands also provide services in the form of providing fish and wildlife habitat, breeding, and feeding grounds. These values will not be adversely impacted because of the proposed action and the overall integrity of the ecosystem will not be impacted. The proposed action would have no impacts to native species and their habitats and population levels of native species would not be affected. The potential for adverse impacts to migratory bird species would be avoided either by conducting the work during the fall and winter seasons when migratory species are not breeding or by deploying a biological monitor. The proposed action will not adversely affect the societal and recreational benefits provided by floodplains and wetlands. Open space and recreational uses in Bastrop County will not be affected by the proposed action.

The hazardous fuels reduction activities will reduce the potential for the negative effects of a major wildfire on soils if a wildfire occurs. A wildfire could alter the cycling of nutrients; the physical and chemical properties of soils; and the temperature, moisture, and biotic characteristics of the existing soils. These primary impacts from a wildfire could also result in decreased infiltration and increased runoff, which often causes increased erosion. These potential negative effects of a major wildfire on the natural wetland functions would be reduced through implementation of the proposed action.

Step 5 Minimize adverse impacts to floodplains and wetlands; restore and preserve the natural and beneficial floodplain values; preserve the natural and beneficial wetland values.

The hazardous fuels reduction activities will not have significant adverse effects on the natural values provided by floodplains and wetlands. The controlled vegetation removal will protect the natural environment from spreading wildfire and reduce the impact of destruction to property and possible loss of life. The proposed project would not result in the destruction, loss, or degradation of floodplains or wetlands.

Impacts to migratory bird species will be minimized by seasonal restrictions and or biological monitoring. Bastrop County must coordinate with the local floodplain administrator, obtain any required permits prior to initiating work, and comply with any conditions of the permit to ensure any harm to the floodplain is minimized.

To protect potential wetlands identified for hazardous fuels reduction activities, the County will implement best management practices (BMPs) within 200-feet of wetlands. Hazardous fuels reduction activities within 200-feet of a wetland would be restricted to hand-thinning and no motorized vehicles would be used. No root balls would be removed, and stumps would be cut down to ground level, which would minimize impact to soils and the potential for erosion. No debris or mulch would be placed in a wetland or within the 200-foot buffer to prevent any potential impacts to the wetland. Vegetation removed within wetlands and within 200-feet of wetlands would not be mulched on site and would be hand-hauled outside of the 200-foot buffer. Silt fencing would be installed around wetlands to prevent mulch and sediment from flowing into the wetland during rain events.

Step 6 Determine if proposed action is practicable and re-evaluate alternatives.

FEMA maintains that the proposed action alternative is the only practicable alternative to meet the purpose and need of the project.

Step 7 Findings and public explanation (Final Notification)

For actions located in the floodplain and/or wetland, Bastrop County must issue a final public notice per 44 CFR Part 9.12(e) at least 15 days prior to the start of work. The final notice shall include the following: (1) A statement of why the proposed action must be located in an area affecting or affected by a floodplain or a wetland; (2) A description of all significant facts considered in making this determination; (3) A list of the alternatives considered; (4) A statement indicating whether the action conforms to applicable state and local floodplain and wetland protection standards; (5) A statement indicating how the action affects or is affected by the floodplain and/or wetland, and how mitigation is to be achieved; (6) Identification of the responsible official or organization for implementation and monitoring of the proposed action, and from whom further information can be obtained; and (7) A map of the area or a statement that such map is available for public inspection, including the location at which such map may be inspected and a telephone number to call for information

Step 8 Implement the action

Step 8 is the review of the implementation and post-implementation phases of the proposed action to ensure that the requirements stated in 44 CFR Part 9.11 are fully implemented. The proposed hazardous fuels reduction project will be conducted in accordance with applicable floodplain and wetland development requirements and any applicable permit conditions.

Bastrop County will adhere to the grant conditions outlined in the Finding of No Significant Impact issued for the EA for the proposed action.



From: Info_Tech@thc.state.tx.us
To: [Suellen Jordan](#)
Subject: Project Review Submission
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 4:48:08 PM

Thank you for submitting project: DR 5288 Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project Bastrop County

Tracking Number: 202015917

Due Date: 8/22/2020 9:12:08 AM

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



REVIEW REQUEST CONFIRMATION

Your request for consultation has been successfully submitted to the Texas Historical Commission.

Project Name

DR 5288 Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project Bastrop County

Track Number

202015917

Date Received

7/23/2020 4:47:36 PM

Thank you!

☒ **This project involves state or local public property.****Type of State or Local Agency***

Select Agency ▾

State or Local Contact Person

Cari Croft

Notes

Cari Croft title - Lost Pine Habitat Conservation Administrator

Owner

Bastrop County

State or Local Contact Email

cari.croft@co.bastrop.tx.us

☐ **Neither of the above is true; this is for private due diligence only and the response will not suffice for regulatory review.*****Attachments:***Please attach relevant project documentation. The file size limit is **40MB**. Accepted File Types: doc,docx,pdf,png,txt,rtf,jpg,xlsx,zip

Browse...

No files selected.

x 5288 Draft-Scope of Work - SJ.pdf

x FM5288 Project Pine Valley Estates.pdf

x Google Map aerial view.pdf

x THC Map.pdf

x Photos from Lake View-Pine Canyon-Pine Valley.pdf

submit

BASTROP COUNTY Fuel Reduction Project

SCOPE OF WORK 5288 Fuels Reduction Project

Bastrop County has experienced three major wildfires in the last 10 years: the Wilderness Ridge Fire, the Bastrop County Complex Fire, and the Hidden Pines Fire. In total, these fires have claimed over 1,800 homes and businesses and caused over \$450 million dollars in damages. The Bastrop County Complex Fire is still considered the most destructive wildfire in Texas history. All of these fires were located in an area known as the Lost Pines. This is an ecosystem that is dominated by loblolly pines with an intermix of oak, yaupon, and eastern red cedar. Areas that were not directly burned by these major wildfires are impacted by a century of un-treated understory. The density of the vegetation in these areas has created large amounts of fuel for wildfire. The layering effect creates a pathway for flames to reach the higher foliage of large trees and increases the risk of crown fires, which is what Bastrop County experienced in 2011. As this area has populated in the last three decades, there has become a clear proliferation of houses, businesses, barns, and outbuildings, known as the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). A WUI is the zone where structures and other human development meet or mix with wildland or vegetative fuels.

Unmanaged forests within the Wildland-Urban Interface, along with the long-term drought conditions that killed many trees, have left the pine forest vulnerable. During periods of drought, the residents of the Lost Pines and surrounding areas face risk of property damage, injury, and loss of life from wildfires. Wildland fire in heavy fuel laden composites is especially destructive unless a rapid initial attack is possible by suppression forces, such as local fire departments. However, no matter how well equipped a fire department might be, the ecosystem of the Lost Pines is defined by a radical topography and inaccessibility. Therefore, the essential risk to be mitigated is the area of spread of a fire event, as much as the destructive force of the fire itself. The proposed project would reduce wildfire hazards by reducing the rate at which wildfires can spread and helping prevent devastating crown fires. The removal of dense vegetation in this area will reduce the risk of damage by wildfire to property owners within the project boundary, as well as adjacent neighborhoods. Local fire departments and existing critical infrastructure will benefit as well. The overall goal is to save lives, save property, and help reduce the risk of another catastrophic fire, like those in 2011 and 2015.

Bastrop County, in conjunction with the Texas A&M Forest Service and the Fire Citizen Advisory Panel, prepared a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) (FireCAP2008). The CWPP, developed in accordance with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003, assessed wildfire risk throughout the County and prioritized actions that would mitigate wildfire risk. The CWPP identifies more than 70 communities as being at high risk of wildfire, including the proposed project site. In addition, Bastrop County has used the Texas A&M Risk Assessment Portal to identify Community Protection Zones (CPZ). These are areas where mitigation is needed most due to a high population density in close proximity to large fuel loads.

Bastrop County has worked diligently the last several years to identify those neighborhoods with the greatest risk. Through grant funding and the creation of the Wildfire Fuel Reduction Program, the County has completed several understory thinning projects, predominately on private property within developed rural subdivisions. The proposed project is located within a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and seeks to continue this type of work.

The Pine Valley Subdivision Project is located in South Central Bastrop County and is one of the communities identified in the CWPP. The majority of the project site has a continuous overstory of loblolly pine and oak. The understory consists of dense thickets of yaupon and eastern red cedar. There is a single point of entrance and exit off of Hwy 304 into the subdivision. In the event of a major fire, this would be the only means of escape, which emphasizes the need to slow the spread of any potential fires. Over 60% of this project is located in a Community Protection Zone (CPZ). Community Protection Zones represent those areas considered highest priority for mitigation planning activities and are based on an analysis of where people live, housing density data, and surrounding fire behavior potential.

Bastrop County proposes to implement a hazardous fuel reduction project within the Pine Valley Subdivision. The 1,200 acre project site consists of 210 lots (location point at the intersection of Pine Canyon Drive and Pine Valley Cove 29.959538, -97.318206) with low to modest homes. It is estimated that 250-300 acres will be treated. The average lot size is 5.75 acres with some larger tracts to the South of the subdivision. These larger tracts are agricultural properties and would not require any fuel reduction activities. The majority of the homes in this subdivision are located deep within their lots and have varying degrees of fire resistibility and defensible space. The proposed action is intended to minimize the spread of and damage from fires and to assist firefighters in combating wildfires. The goal of the vegetation modification is twofold: (1) in areas of heavy fuel concentrations that are more than 30 feet from a structure, the area will be treated mechanically to reduce fuel concentration; and (2) in larger areas of continuous fuels adjacent to structures, fuel breaks will be established. Shaded fuel breaks are natural or manmade changes in fuel characteristics that affect fire behavior. Fires burning into them can be more easily controlled. In both cases, the goal will be to lower the occurrence of heavy under-and mid-story fuels, thereby reducing the intensity of surface fires and lowering the probability of fires transitioning into the crowns of the stand. The guiding objective is to lower the area's wildfire risk.

In pine dominated sites, which tend to be areas of heavy fuel concentration, the treatment would include the removal of encroaching brush species such as yaupon holly and eastern red cedar. In these areas, dead vegetative material such as branches, standing loblolly pines, and debris would be removed. Trees targeted for retention would be pine and hardwood species; however, some trees of these species would be selectively removed only when necessary to achieve the desired canopy cover. The lower limbs of larger and taller trees, including hardwoods and pines, would be removed up to 8 feet above the ground. The same techniques would be used to establish shaded fuel breaks. Shaded fuel breaks would be anchored on both ends to a less combustible fuel type or a natural or manmade barrier. This treatment prescription would result in a mosaic pattern consisting of areas of reduced fuels and areas of untreated or vacant lots throughout the community. This approach would reinforce the effectiveness of properties that have created defensible spaces around homes (within 30 feet of structures), as well as separate the built community from the large adjacent blocks of wildland fuels.

The main focus of this project will be on private property, but some areas of Right of Way may undergo hazardous fuel reduction, when needed. These roads would include Pine Valley Cove (center point 29.959503,-97.318176), Pine Canyon Drive (center point 29.967409,-97.324870), Pine Valley Spur (center point 29.959290,-97.307243) , Pine Valley Loop (center point 29.949569,-97.315620) , Lakeview Drive (center Point 29.952886,-97.311802), and Foster Road (center point 29.955265,-97.300443). Any areas of ROW that did receive hazardous fuel reduction would be treated 15 feet from the edge of the roadway on both sides of the road or to the property line, whichever distance they reach first.

Bastrop County will use a mechanical thinning process that uses skid steers with attached mulching heads. These low impact machines will grind up the undesirable vegetation, leaving mulch on the ground. All stumps will be left at ground level and will not be excavated or otherwise mechanically removed. The County will hire full-time, temporary personnel and will use county-owned equipment to complete this project. Due to the age of the county-owned equipment, leased equipment may be used if necessary. There will be no fuel reduction activities performed within 30 feet of a structure, in the

100-year floodplain, in areas where practical mitigation methods will not prevent harm to significant natural or cultural resources, or on private property without valid consent and right-of-entry from the property owner. Cut, trimmed, dead, and downed vegetation would be mulched daily. Mulched material left on the ground would be no more than two inches deep. Appropriate measures (e.g. adequate setbacks or silt fencing) would be taken to prevent mulch from washing into surface waters. During project implementation, additional equipment that will be used will include forestry-type mowers, chainsaws, chippers, trucks and trailers. Each landowner would be responsible for maintenance of treated parcels, in accordance with a variety of objectives they may have for their property. The County would provide guidance on maintenance activities and best management practices (BMPs) to landowners. The County will monitor treatment sites for 3 years after hazardous fuels reduction work is completed. The project is estimated to take 12-18 months to complete.

Alternative 2 -No Action

If no action is taken to reduce wildfire hazards in this area, resident and homes in South Central Bastrop County would remain at an elevated risk for the spread of a catastrophic wildfire. The probability of loss of human life and property in a wildfire would continue to be unacceptably high. A major wildfire could have severe temporary impacts on environmental resources (i.e. air quality, water quality, and emergency services). Fighting a major wildfire would also require large quantities of water at a time when water resources in the area may be strained by drought.

Alternative 3- No Action

There is no other alternative option to this type of work. Prescribed burning would not be an option based on the heavy fuel loads and proximity to homes and business. The only options would be mechanical understory thinning or no action.

From: noreply@thc.state.tx.us
To: [Suellen Jordan](mailto:Suellen.Jordan@thc.state.tx.us); reviews@thc.state.tx.us
Subject: Section 106 Submission
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020 6:25:09 PM

Re: Project Review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and/or the Antiquities Code of Texas

THC Tracking #202015917

DR 5288 Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project Bastrop County
Pine Valley Estates
Smithville, TX 78957

Dear Suellen Jordan:

Thank you for your submittal regarding the above-referenced project. This response represents the comments of the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), pursuant to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of Texas.

The review staff, led by Taylor Bowden and Justin Kockritz, has completed its review and has made the following determinations based on the information submitted for review:

Above-Ground Resources

- No historic properties are present or affected by the project as proposed. However, if historic properties are discovered or unanticipated effects on historic properties are found, work should cease in the immediate area; work can continue where no historic properties are present. Please contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512-463-5853 to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect historic properties.

Archeology Comments

- No identified historic properties, archeological sites, or other cultural resources are present or affected. However, if cultural materials are encountered during project activities, work should cease in the immediate area; work can continue where no cultural materials are present. Please contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512-463-6096 to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect the cultural remains.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If the project changes, or if new historic properties are found, please contact the review staff. If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please email the

following reviewers: taylor.bowden@thc.texas.gov, justin.kockritz@thc.texas.gov.

This response has been sent through the electronic THC review and compliance system (eTRAC). Submitting your project via eTRAC eliminates mailing delays and allows you to check the status of the review, receive an electronic response, and generate reports on your submissions. For more information, visit <http://thc.texas.gov/etrac-system>.

Sincerely,

for Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission

Please do not respond to this email.



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 6
800 N. Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209
FEMA

September 27, 2021

RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, HMGP FM-5288-TX Project #3,
Pine Valley Estates Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Bastrop County, Texas
(29.959503, -97.318176)

To: Representatives of Federally recognized Tribes with Interest in this Project Area

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the major Disaster Declaration for FEMA-FM-5288-TX Copper Breaks Fire, dated August 18, 2019. FEMA is initiating Section 106 review for the above referenced project based on your Tribe's ancestral interest in the project area.

Through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Fire Management Assistance Grant Program, FEMA proposes to fund the Bastrop County (Applicant) to implement a hazardous fuels reduction project within the Pine Valley Subdivision (Undertaking).

Fuels reduction activity will occur on approximately 300 acres of rural residential lots and along road rights of way within the Pine Valley Subdivision of Bastrop County. The Applicant will mechanically thin heavy fuels and establish shaded fire breaks using hand tools such as chainsaws, and a skidsteer with attached mulching head; mulch will be left in place up to a depth of 2 in. Additional treatment includes removal of encroaching brush and limbing trees to a height of 8 ft. Removed trees will be stumped and ground to surface level; no root balls will be removed. The Applicant will use hand tools such to minimize ground disturbance.

Small portions of the mitigation work will take place in undisturbed ground.

FEMA has determined that the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed Undertaking shall include the footprint of the project based on the scale and nature of the undertaking, as well as the area reasonably required to stage materials.

We are writing to request your comments on historic properties of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe that may be affected by the proposed Undertaking. Any comments you may have on FEMA's findings and recommendations should also be provided.

On September 21, 2021, FEMA Historic Preservation Specialist Angela McComb performed a cultural records search using the Texas Historical Commission Archaeological Sites Atlas database and associated site files, photographs, and maps to identify historic properties within the APE. The records search revealed no historic properties or previously recorded archaeological sites within the APE.

Bastrop County initiated Section 106 review on August 22, 2020. In a response letter for this project dated August 20, 2020, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) found that there would be no historic properties affected by the Pine Valley Estates Fuel Reduction project.

Based on the available information gathered to date through this review process, there are no previously recorded archeological sites within the project area, and it is unlikely that the Undertaking would impact any intact archeological deposits, if present. FEMA has determined that there will be **No Historic Properties Affected** as a result of the Undertaking.

Please provide your comments within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Any comments provided after 30 days may be taken into consideration. If you concur with FEMA's determination, please sign below. If you notify us that your review identifies cultural properties within the APE, or project work discloses the presence of archeological deposits, FEMA will contact your Tribe to continue consultation.

An aerial view, a topographic map, and photos showing the project location and APE are attached. Your prompt review of this project is greatly appreciated. Should you need additional information please contact Robert Scoggin, EHP Tribal Liaison at Robert.w.scoggin@fema.dhs.gov (202) 716-4139.

Sincerely,

DWC for Kevin Jaynes
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 6

Concurrence by:

Date:

Tribe

NEPAssist

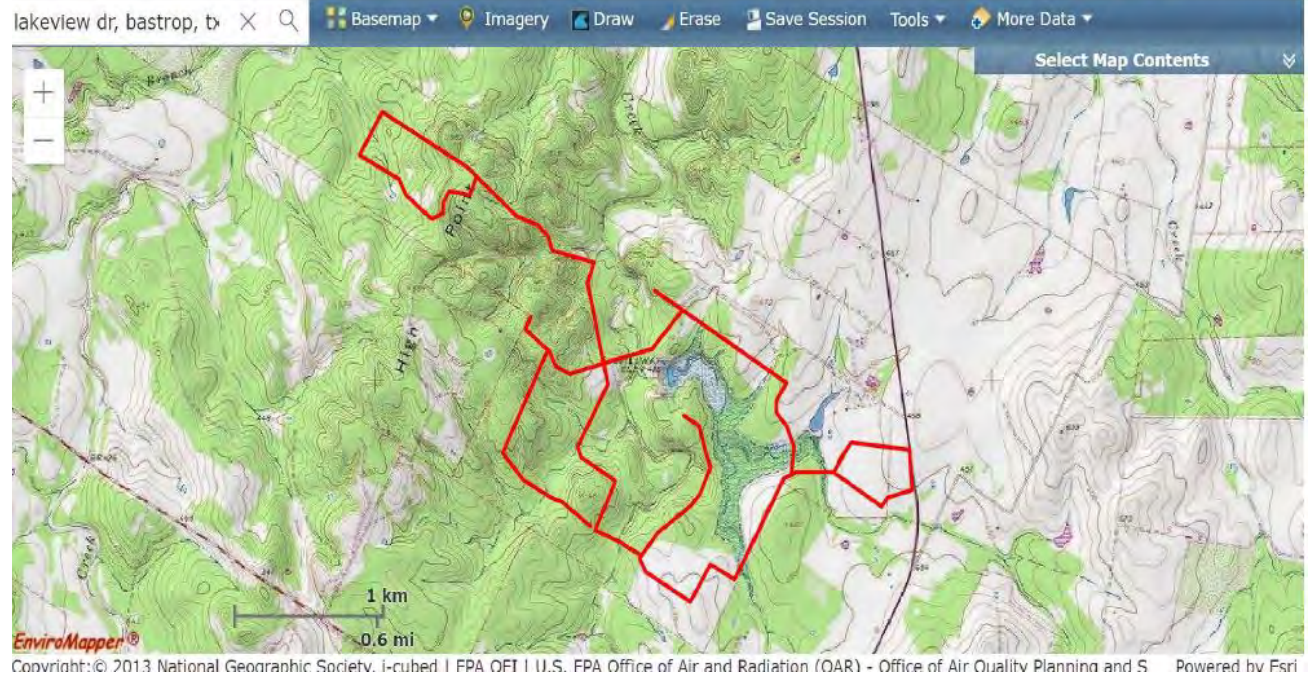


Figure 1: Topographic map of project work area (red). Image via Applicant, 2021.

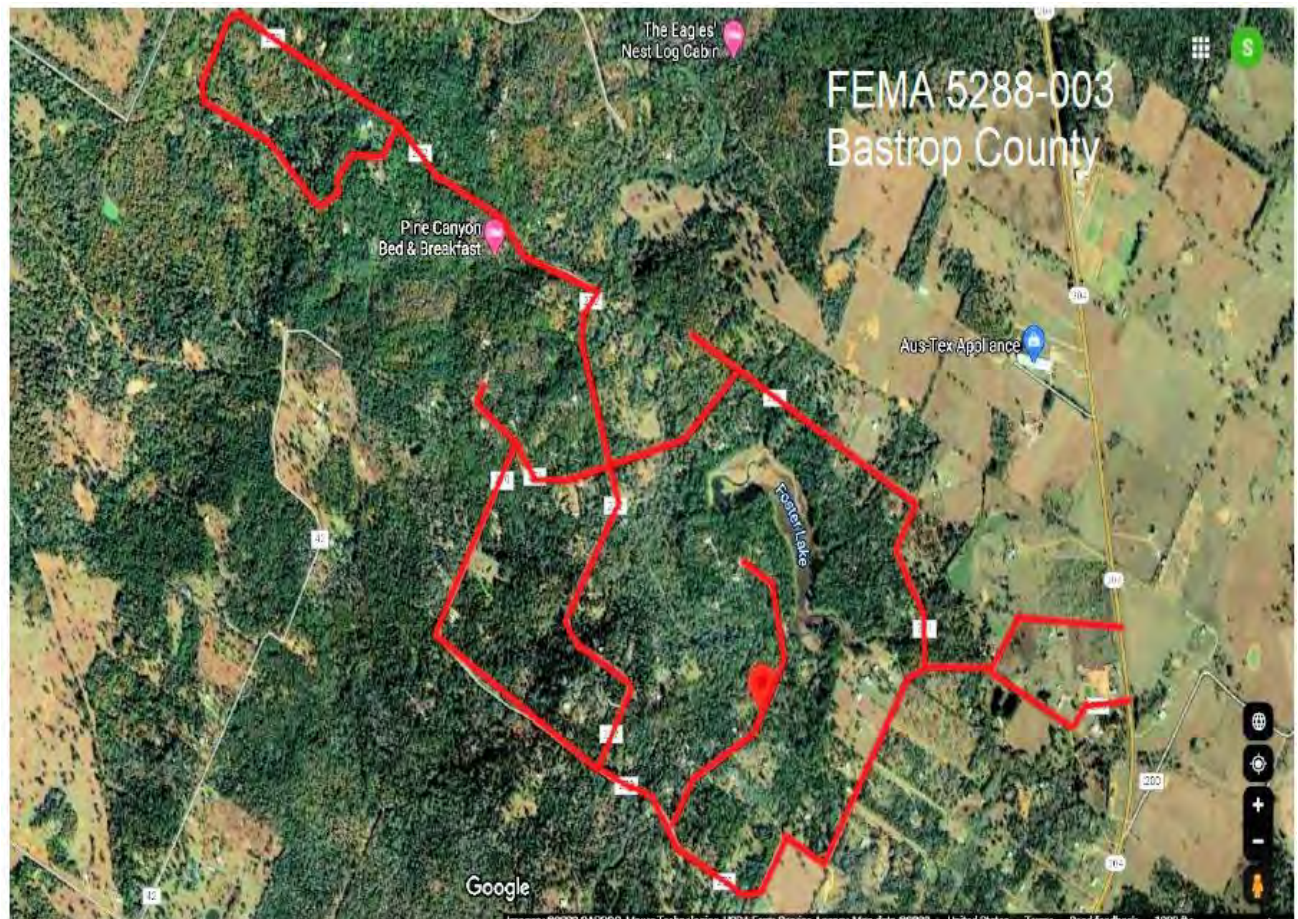


Figure 2: Aerial image of project work area (red). Image via Applicant, 2021.



Figure 4: Photograph showing typical fuel loads throughout project area. Image via Applicant, 2021.



Figure 5: Photograph showing typical fuel loads throughout project area. Image via Applicant, 2021.

COMANCHE NATION



U.S. Department of Homeland Security – FEMA Region 6
Attn: Mr. Robert W. Scoggin
11000 North Interstate Hwy 35
Texas 78753

October 15, 2021

Re: Section 106 Review Consultation, HMGP FM-5288-TX Project #3
Pine Valley Estates Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Bastrop County, Texas

Dear Mr. Scoggin:

In response to your request, the above reference project has been reviewed by staff of this office to identify areas that may potentially contain prehistoric or historic archeological materials. The location of your project has been cross referenced with the Comanche Nation site files, where an indication of “*No Properties*” have been identified. (IAW 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)).

Please contact this office at (580) 595-9960/9618) if you require additional information on this project.

This review is performed in order to identify and preserve the Comanche Nation and State cultural heritage, in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Regards

Comanche Nation Historic Preservation Office
Theodore E. Villicana , Technician
#6 SW “D” Avenue, Suite C
Lawton, OK. 73502

Consult Response delayed due to Covid-19 work conditions.