



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

West Virginia Field Office
694 Beverly Pike
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

December 11, 2014

Mr. Jason Workman
Federal Highway Administration
700 Washington Street, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Re: West Virginia Division of Highways, Camp Creek Truss Replacement and Demolition Project,
Clay County, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Workman:

This letter acknowledges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) receipt of your November 17, 2014, package providing information needed to initiate formal section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) for the proposed replacement and demolition of the Camp Creek Truss Bridge over the Elk River in Clay County, West Virginia. Formal consultation was requested for four federally endangered species, the pink mucket mussel (*Lampsilis abrupta*), the clubshell mussel (*Pleurobema clava*), the rayed bean mussel (*Villosa fabalis*), and the snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*). Additionally, informal consultation was requested for the diamond darter (*Crystallaria cincotta*).

Formal consultation is initiated on the date that the Service receives a federal agency's initiation request and all relevant data has been provided to the action agency pursuant to section 7 of the ESA. Section 7 allows the Service up to 90 days to conclude formal consultation with your agency and an additional 45 days to prepare our Biological Opinion (BO), unless we mutually agree to an extension. While additional coordination may be required to address specific project details, the Service has received all the information required to initiate consultation. Therefore, based on an initiation date of November 17, 2014, we expect to provide you with our BO on or before April 1, 2015.

The Service will continue to coordinate with your office throughout the formal consultation process, and appreciates the cooperative efforts that you and your staff have provided to address these issues. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Liz Stout of my staff at (304) 636-6586, Ext. 15, or at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,

John E. Schmidt
Field Supervisor



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

West Virginia Division

November 17, 2014

Geary Plaza, Suite 200
700 Washington Street, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25301
Phone (304) 347-5928
Fax (304) 347-5103

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Federal Project BR-0144(003)D
State Project S308-4/5-2.95 00
Camp Creek Truss Bridge
Replacement
Clay County
Section 7 – Formal Consultation

John Schmidt
Acting Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
West Virginia Field Office
694 Beverly Pike
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

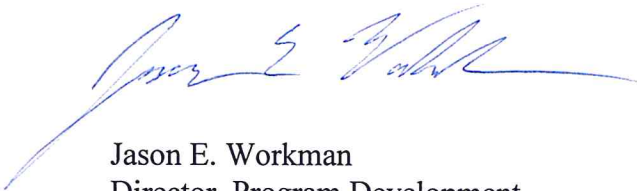
With this letter, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is requesting the initiation of formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the potential effects from the replacement and demolition of the Camp Creek Truss Bridge on five species of endangered freshwater mussels, including the pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*), northern riffleshell (*Epioblasma t. rangiana*), clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*) and rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), and one endangered fish species, the diamond darter (*Crystallaria cincotta*).

Please find enclosed a copy of the Final Biological Assessment and West Virginia Coordination Document dated November 13, 2014. The information and data in the report has been prepared to address the requirement of your regulations (50 CFR 402.1499(c)).

The initiation package provides a detailed description of the action proposed by WVDOH in conjunction with FHWA, a description of the area potentially affected by the action, a description of listed species and/or critical habitat and an analysis of direct, indirect and cumulative effects.

In accordance with USFWS guidance, the FHWA is requesting an acknowledgement letter and/or email within 30 working days of receipt of the initiation package to indicate the actual initiation date for formal consultation. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Alison Rogers at (304) 347-5436 or via email at alison.rogers@dot.gov.

Sincerely yours,



Jason E. Workman
Director, Program Development

Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

West Virginia Field Office
694 Beverly Pike
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

May 19, 2014

Mr. Raymond Scites
WV Dept. of Transportation
Division of Highways
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Building Five, Room A-317
Charleston West Virginia 25305-0430

Re: Preferred Alternative Analysis, Camp Creek Truss Bridge Replacement Project, Clay County, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Scites:

This letter is in response to your March 26, 2014, presentation on the Camp Creek Truss Bridge project in Clay County, West Virginia. The West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) proposes to replace the Camp Creek Truss Bridge. These comments are submitted in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provided comments on the alternatives in a letter dated December 19, 2007. At the time the alternatives were presented, the preferred alternative was Alternative 2, which appeared to be based on cost alone. The Service could not concur with selection of a preferred alternative until a comparison was made between the impacts of the alternatives on mussel habitat in the vicinity of the project that provides habitat to the federally listed endangered pink mucket mussel (*Lampsilis abrupta*).

The WVDOH provided an analysis of impacts mussel habitat in a presentation on March 26, 2014. This analysis addressed effects from both construction of the new bridge and demolition of the existing bridge. In their presentation, the WVDOH demonstrated that a new alternative, 2C, would impact the least amount of "highly suitable" and "suitable" mussel habitat in the vicinity of the project. The presentation incorporated the Service's previous comments to include Clean Water Act section 404 regulations requiring avoidance and minimization of impacts to Waters of the United States, and responsibilities under the ESA to conserve, protect, and minimize impacts to federally listed species.

Mr. Raymond Scites
May 19, 2014

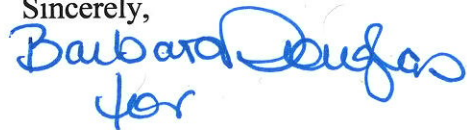
2

The Service has reviewed the information provided in the presentation, and has considered the relative impacts of the alternatives evaluated to all fish and wildlife resources. All alternatives would involve some level of adverse effects to federally listed mussel species, and impacts to these species cannot be avoided. The new preferred alternative 2C has no impact to "high" and "very high" quality mussel habitat, will have the smallest impact to suitable mussel habitats, and the fewest mussel takes when compared to the other alternatives. The selection of this alternative would minimize impacts to mussel habitat. Therefore, the Service does not object to the selection of Alternative 2C as the preferred alternative out of the currently evaluated alternatives.

Formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA will be required if the WVDOH wishes to proceed with construction of the preferred alternative as described. The opportunity for successful completion of formal consultation will be greatly enhanced by mutual development of project-specific minimization and conservation measures for federally listed mussels and the Elk River. The WVDOH and FHWA have agreed to work with the Service and other resource trustees to develop appropriate conservation and minimization measures that will be incorporated into the selected alternative.

We appreciate your commitment to working with the Service to address endangered species issues, and we look forward to continuing our cooperative efforts on this project. If you have further questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Liz Stout of my staff at (304) 636-6586, or at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,



John E. Schmidt
Field Supervisor



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East • Building Five • Room 110
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430 • (304) 558-3505

April 11, 2014

Mr. John Schmidt- Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
694 Beverly Pike
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

Dear Mr. Schmidt,

State Project S208-4/5-2.95
Federal Project BR-0045(038)E
Camp Creek Truss Bridge Replacement
Clay County

Thank you for your office's representation at the meeting held on March 26, 2014 in Elkins, WV to discuss replacement of the deteriorating PFC Abraham G. Sams Memorial Bridge, also known as the Camp Creek Truss Bridge. This bridge crosses the Elk River in Clay County, WV. As you are aware, the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) has been coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) relative to federally listed species for this project since 2001. Over that time, three mussel surveys have been conducted in the project area (in 2001, 2006, and 2011). Results of these surveys determined the presence of suitable mussel habitat and found the federally-listed endangered pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*) in the project area (see attached mussel survey results map).

Last week's meeting afforded our agencies the opportunity to review the current status of the project's alternatives analysis. As discussed at the meeting and in the attached copy of the presentation, WVDOH has incorporated measures to avoid and reduce impacts to the known mussel habitat in the project area. However, all impacts to mussels cannot be avoided with the project, which includes removing the old bridge. Therefore, WVDOH concludes that the project will affect at least one endangered species and plans to present your office with a Biological Assessment (BA).

WVDOH is prepared to move forward with more detailed design and assessment of Alternative 2C as the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 2C, as detailed in the attached presentation, will have the least effect on the mussels.

At this time, we are seeking your concurrence with our approach to proceeding with consultation relative to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. We have concluded that a "will affect" determination is appropriate, and that the BA should focus on Alternative 2C and on the pink mucket as well as on the clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), the snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*) and rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), which are mussel species that also may be established in this region of the Elk River.

Mr. John Schmidt
April 11, 2014

We would appreciate your concurrence with this approach in writing or via e-mail referencing this letter. Should you require additional information, please contact Traci Cummings, of our Environmental Section at (304) 558-9678.

Very truly yours,



**Ben L. Hark
Environmental Section Head
Engineering Division**

Attachments:

Project Area showing mussel habitat

Copy of slideshow presented at March 26, 2014 resource agency meeting.



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East • Building Five • Room 110
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430 • 304/558-3505

Joe Manchin III
Governor

September 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: DD

FROM: DDC *DFB*

SUBJECT: State Project S208-4/5-2.95
Federal Project BR-0045(036)D
Camp Creek Truss Bridge Replacement Study
Clay County

The Design Study Unit of the Initial Design Section (DDC) has completed a review of the Draft Study Report by Planning and Research Division (RP) for the Camp Creek Truss Bridge Replacement dated June 2001, and data obtained from a field visit. A copy of the 2001 Draft Study Report and DDC's evaluation documents are attached for your reference. Please provide comments regarding our evaluation of alternatives and recommendation to this office. A response from each addressee is requested by September 25, 2009, even if you have no comments. You may send your comments via e-mail to Feras.Tolaymat@wv.gov. If you have any questions, please contact Feras Tolaymat (304-558-9713) leader of the Design Study Unit.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to review the attached information and providing your comments. Your participation and comments will help to reduce potential problems, design fees, and time delays during project development.

FT:fml

Attachments

cc: DDC(~~FT~~), DDM(BD), DDR(Road, Util), DDI(Br, Geo), DDT(Perm), DDE, CP(GTI, GA), DT-Design, DT-Operations, DR-Est., D4-E/M, D4-R/W, D4-Bridge, CH(CR)

Camp Creek Truss Bridge Replacement Recommendation

Project Info. State Project S208-4/5-2.95
Federal Project BR-0045(036)D
Clay County

BY: DDC
August 2009

Observed Existing Field Conditions

The bridge is located on Clay County Route (CR) 4/5 over the Elk River, approximately 0.01 miles south of its intersection with West Virginia State Route (WV) 4. The bridge is structurally deficient and has a 13-ton weight limitation. The Camp Creek Truss Bridge was built in 1925 as a simple span steel through truss (SSTT) and two simple steel pony truss spans (SSPT) supported by reinforced concrete full height abutments and solid concrete piers. The center span is 150 feet long with side spans of approximately 75 feet each.

The existing abutments are parallel to the Elk River. The total length of the bridge is 306 feet 8.5 inches and a clear width of 15 feet 9 inches with no sidewalk on the bridge. The bridge is being used as a one-lane structure. It has a sufficiency rating of 40.1. The deck and substructure are in fair condition and superstructure is in poor condition.

The 2009 average daily traffic is 250 vehicles per day (vpd) and is projected to be 350 vpd by 2029. The speed limit is posted at 30 mph south of the existing bridge.

Design Concerns

- A mussel survey was completed in 2007 which found mussel to be located just downstream of the existing bridge with an impact zone stretching from 170 feet upstream to 330 feet downstream from the existing bridge.
- Bridge demolition plans should be part of the construction plans, such plans need to be coordinated with Fish and Wildlife Division.

Our Evaluation and Recommendation

The initial Design Section evaluated all alternatives included in the 2001 RP study:

1. Alternative 1 proposes replacing the proposed bridge at the same location while utilizing a temporary roadway and bridge to maintain traffic during construction. This alternative was dismissed due to the high cost of the detour bridge.
2. Alternative 2 proposes constructing the new bridge downstream of its current location. The existing bridge and roadway will be used to maintain traffic during construction. This alternative was defined in the RP report as the preferred alternative.

3. Alternative 3 proposes constructing the new bridge upstream of its current location. The existing bridge and roadway will be used to maintain traffic during construction. This alternative was dismissed because it results in a compound curve just south of the proposed bridge in addition to a removal of an existing residential structure.
4. No-Build Alternative proposes a permanent closure of the existing bridge. Motorists would have to use CR 4/5, CR 1 and WV 4 for a total detour length of approximately 14.7 miles. Due to the length of the detour and the mountainous terrain the No-Build alternative would not be a prudent alternative.
5. Alternative 4, offered by US Fish and Wildlife Division, proposes constructing the new bridge 600 feet upstream of its current location. The existing bridge and roadway will be used to maintain traffic during construction. This alternative will utilize CR 4/6 to connect back with CR 4/5. The southern approach will have a sharp 90 degree curve with a radius of 75 feet.

The existing approaches consist of a 14-foot paved roadway with minimal shoulders. The Initial Design section recommends two (2) 9-foot lanes with, 2-foot shoulders for the proposed bridge. The new southern approach will be transitioned to meet the existing roadway typical.

The Initial Design Section reevaluated Alternatives 1 and 4. The following are our findings:

Alternative 2

This alternative would replace the bridge approximately 70 feet (Centerline to Centerline) downstream from the current location while using the existing bridge to maintain traffic during construction. The new bridge will be almost parallel to the existing bridge. The total length of construction will be about 650 feet including a 300-foot bridge. The new bridge will have three spans with stub abutments founded on piling. The proposed bridge will affect the populated mussel areas and will have to be relocated. After the construction of the proposed bridge, the existing bridge superstructure would have to be removed. The removal of the substructure will be decided after a complete hydraulic study is performed; their removal would require coordination with Fish and Wildlife Division. WV 4 runs parallel to Elk River and due to the lack of staging areas, a stream access is inevitable. Right-of-way and utility costs will be moderate.

Roadway	\$ 471,900.00
300-foot Bridge	\$2,355,500.00
Engineering & Contingencies (19%)	<u>\$ 537,200.00</u>
Total Estimated Cost	\$3,364,600.00
Future Value	\$3,731,000.00
Preliminary Engineering	\$ 420,000.00
ROW/Utilities	<u>\$ 80,000.00</u>
Total	<u>\$4,231,000.00</u>

Alternative 4

This alternative would replace the bridge approximately 550 feet (Centerline to Centerline) upstream from the current location while using the existing bridge to maintain traffic during construction. The new bridge will be parallel to the existing bridge. The total length of construction will be about 1,100 feet including a 300-foot bridge. The new bridge will have three spans with stub abutments founded on piling. The new location might require the acquisition of a portion of adjoining residential and church properties. After the construction of the proposed bridge, the existing bridge superstructure would have to be removed. The removal of the substructure will be decided after a complete hydraulic study is performed; their removal would require coordination with Fish and Wildlife Division. West Virginia 4 runs parallel to Elk River and due to the lack of staging areas, a stream access is inevitable. Right-of-way and utility costs will be moderate.

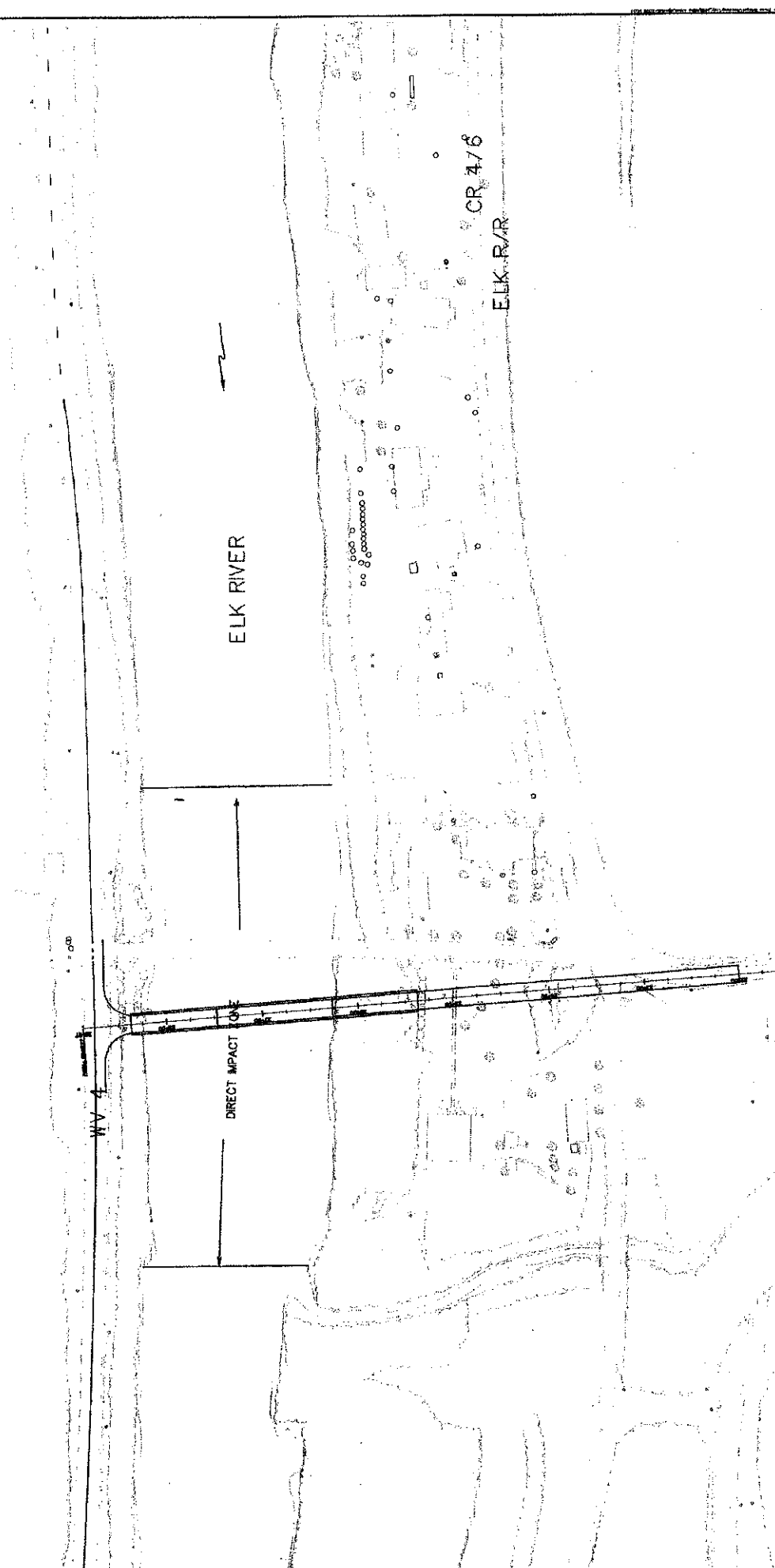
Roadway	\$ 688,800.00
300-foot Bridge	\$2,334,700.00
Engineering & Contingencies (19%)	<u>\$ 574,500.00</u>
Total Estimated Cost	\$3,598,000.00
Future Value	\$3,989,000.00
Preliminary Engineering	\$ 420,000.00
ROW/Utilities	<u>\$ 280,000.00</u>
Total	<u>\$4,689,000.00</u>

Recommendation

Alternatives 2 and 4 have comparative construction costs. Selecting the preferred alternative would depend on pier locations, construction method, and bridge demolition techniques. A further detailed study is needed to determine the most suitable alternative. Alternative 2 would have the best geometrical alignment but Alternative 4 has the least impact on the mussel population.

Note: Future value of construction cost using compound interest $\{FV=PV(1+i)^n\}$ has been calculated from the estimate date of August 2009 to construction period midpoint, winter of 2013, using inflation rate of 4%.

Project No.	Sheet No.	Project Name	County	Scale
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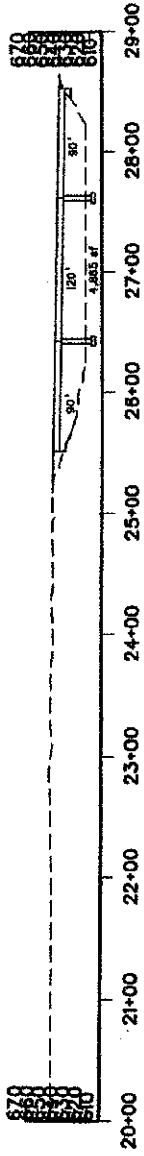


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THE WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
ALTERNATIVE • 2

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W. V.			300	

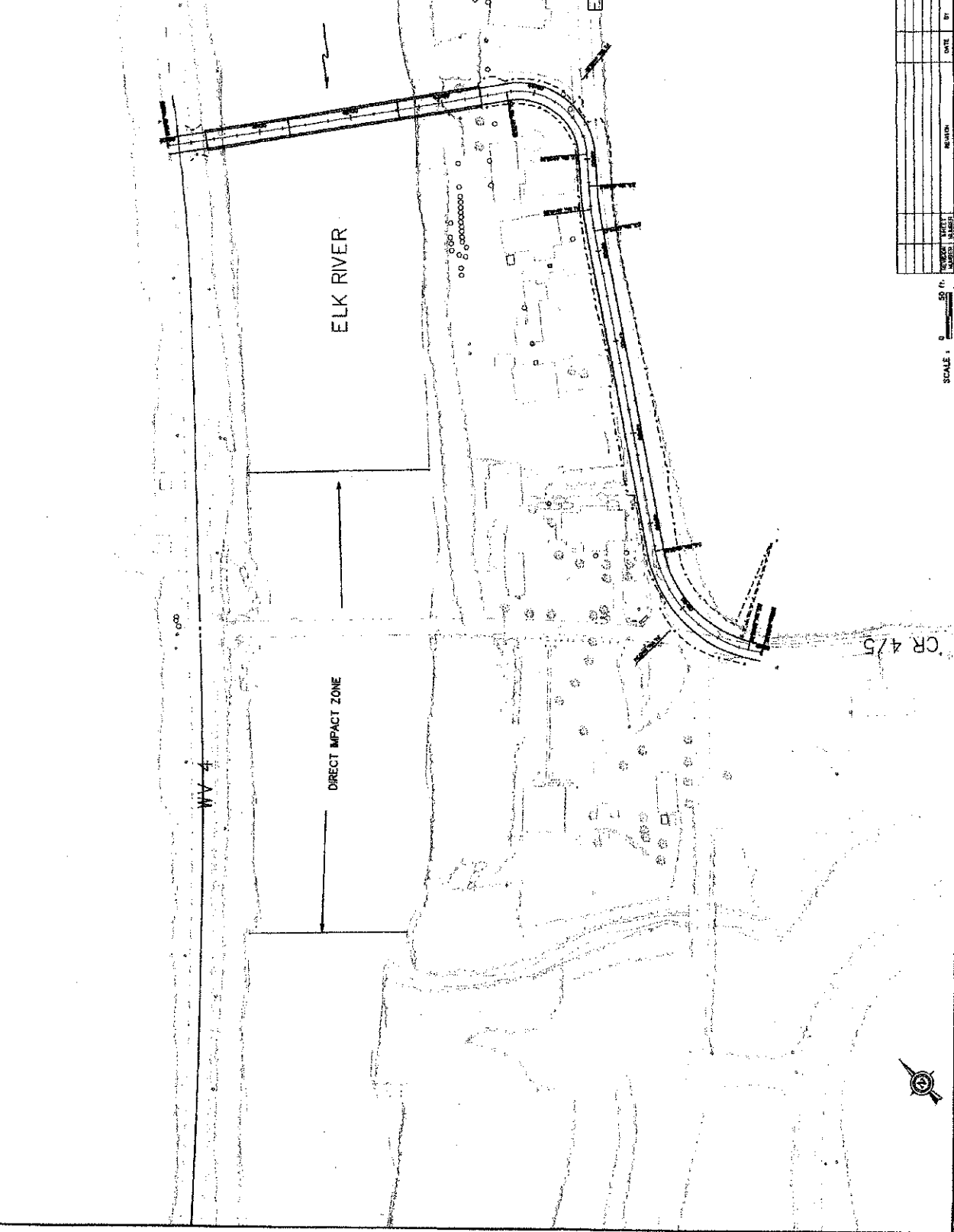


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ALTERNATIVE • 2

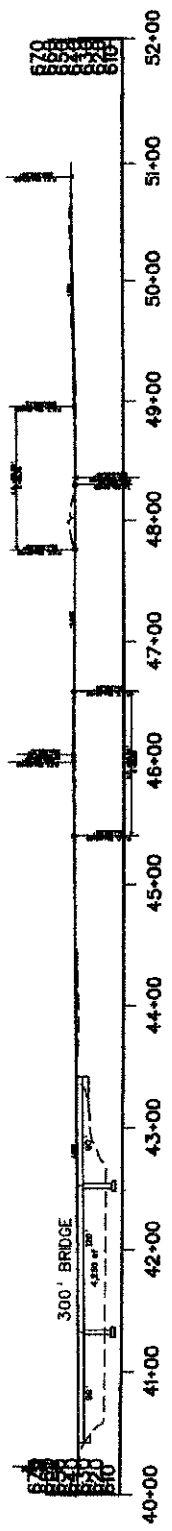
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THE WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
ALTERNATIVE 4

Public Works Dist. No.	Dist. No.	Project No.	Fiscal Year	County	Sheet No.
W. V.			2000		



THE WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
ALTERNATIVE • 4

SECTION	DATE	BY

SCALE: 1" = 50'





WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East • Building Five • Room 110
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430 • 304/558-3505

Joe Manchin III
Governor

March 18, 2008

Mr. Tom Chapman, Field Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
694 Beverly Pike
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

RECEIVED
MAR 20 2008
WVFO

Dear Mr. Chapman:

State Project S208-4/5-2.95
Federal Project BR-0045(038)E
Camp Creek Truss
Clay County

Thank you for your comments, dated January 7, 2008, regarding the proposed replacement of the Camp Creek Truss Bridge and its potential impacts to endangered mussels. As you are aware, the proposed build alternatives are very preliminary and no construction methods have been evaluated. We are re-evaluating our build alternatives and giving consideration to design and construction methods that hopefully reflect your concerns. Once these plans are completed, we will submit them for your review and comment.

Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Tina McClung, of the Environmental Section at (304) 558-9672.

Very truly yours,

Gregory L. Bailey, P.E.
Director
Engineering Division

By: *Ben L. Hark*

Ben L. Hark
Environmental Section Head

GLB:Hh

cc: Ms. Janet Clayton, WVDNR



HD-DD
jes 1/9/08

United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

West Virginia Field Office
694 Beverly Pike
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

January 7, 2008

RECEIVED

JAN 10 2008

ENGINEERING DIVISION
WV DOH

Mr. James E. Sothen, P.E., Director
Engineering Division
WV Dept. of Transportation,
Division of Highways
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 5, Room 110
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430

RECEIVED

JAN 10 2008

Environmental Section
Engineering Division
WV DOT/DOH

RECEIVED

JAN 09 2008

Deputy State Hwy. Eng.
Development

Re: Camp Creek Truss Bridge; Clay County, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Sothen:

This responds to your letter dated February 6, 2007 providing the results of your initial engineering study for the Camp Creek Truss Bridge project, near Prociuous, Clay County, West Virginia and the May 3, 2007 letter providing the results of a mussel survey conducted in the Elk River in the vicinity of the proposed project. The West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) proposes to replace the existing bridge and then remove portions of the old structure. These comments are provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). These comments are based on the information that has been provided to date. Further more detailed analysis will be required before the Service can officially concur with any determination of potential effects to listed species.

A mussel survey was conducted in the vicinity of the proposed project on August 9-11, 2006. A total of 752 mussels representing 17 species were found during that effort. Two individuals of the federally-endangered pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*) were found downstream of the existing bridge, with one each being found on the right and left descending bank. A similar survey was conducted in 2001 by Ecological Specialists, Inc. That survey documented a total of 17 species within the impact area, including one live *L. abrupta*. Both reports found areas of high mussel concentrations downstream of the existing bridge. The Service previously mapped Elk River habitats in the vicinity of the project area and documented that there is a shoal immediately downstream of the existing bridge, while the habitat upstream of the bridge consists of a long, deep, pool.

Please note that the delineation of mussel beds in the reports should not be considered definitive. For example, in 2006 one live *L. abrupta* was found along the LDB in an area that was not defined

as a bed in the 2006 report, but was delineated as a bed in the 2001 report. We also note that timed searches of the left descending bank (LDB) during the 2001 effort resulted in 56 mussels/hour while the 2006 effort revealed 40-70 mussels/hour in the same vicinity. Although these results are comparable, the different surveyors made different determinations regarding the delineation of the beds. Therefore, project evaluation should address impacts to suitable endangered species/native freshwater mussel habitat rather than strictly in regard to impacts to "mussel beds" as defined in the reports.

The WVDOH has developed five project alternatives, including ones that would replace the bridge upstream, downstream, or within the existing alignment, and has conducted an extremely brief and preliminary analysis of costs and impacts associated with each alternative. Two alternatives, Alternatives 4 and 5, were developed that could potentially avoid impacts to federally listed species. However, Alternative 2 was identified as the WVDOH's preferred alternative based on preliminary evaluation of engineering and cost. This alternative would replace the bridge 25 feet downstream of the existing bridge and would have one pier in the river. Alternative 2 would not avoid impacts to federally listed species and would require formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA. Alternative 2 could result in the permanent loss of suitable and occupied endangered species habitat (through the placement of a pier in the water) and could also affect the hydraulics of the system, increasing erosion and scour in suitable habitat downstream, causing chronic loss of additional habitat. Of the alternatives delineated, it appears that Alternative 2 would actually maximize the potential adverse effects to listed species.

Selection of the preliminary preferred alternative should not be based primarily on cost. Other factors to consider include Clean Water Act section 404 regulations requiring avoidance and minimization of impacts to Waters of the United States such as the Elk River, and your responsibilities under the ESA to conserve and protect, as well as minimize impacts to, federally listed species.

Alternative 5 would construct the bridge 25 feet upstream of the existing bridge and would not have any piers in the river. Alternative 5 could avoid and minimize impacts to fish and wildlife resources, including endangered species, native freshwater mussels, Waters of the United States, and the Elk River.

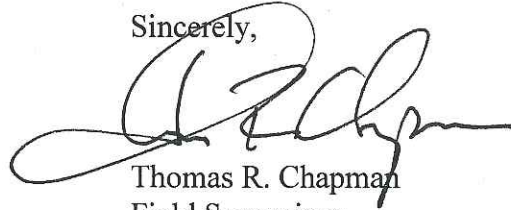
Alternative 4 would construct the bridge 600 feet upstream of the existing structure and have one pier in the river. The proposed construction would occur in area of the river that provides lower diversity, pool habitat and low mussel populations. It appears that this alternative could be designed to avoid impacts to listed species, and would minimize impacts to high quality aquatic resources of the Elk River. As currently defined, this alternative would involve take of residential properties, although it does not appear that structures would be taken. The WVDOH should consider the possibility that slight modifications to the proposed design and alignment could be made that would eliminate or minimize the impacts to residential properties.

Mr. James E. Sothen, P.E., Director
January 7, 2008

3

The Service strongly encourages the WVD OH to pursue Alternative 4 or 5 as the preliminary preferred alternative, and to develop additional environmental analysis in that regard. The Service will continue to work with your agency to address these issues. We appreciate your continued cooperation in fulfilling our mutual responsibilities for protecting threatened and endangered species. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Barbara Douglas of my staff, at (304) 636-6586, or at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Chapman', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Thomas R. Chapman
Field Supervisor



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East • Building Five • Room 110
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430 • 304/558-3505

Joe Manchin III
Governor

May 3, 2007

RECEIVED

MAY 07 2007

WVFO

Mr. Tom Chapman, Field Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
694 Beverly Pike
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

Dear Mr. Chapman:

State Project S208-4/5-2.95
Federal Project BR-0045(038)E
Camp Creek Truss
Clay County

Per your request, please find enclosed a revised Mussel Survey Report for the subject project. The revised report should address your concerns regarding the freshwater mussel survey performed in the Elk River near Procious.

Again, we request your comments regarding the proposed project and its possible impacts to sensitive natural resources. Should you have any questions, please contact Tina McClung, of the Environmental Section at (304) 558-9672.

Very truly yours,

Gregory L. Bailey, P.E.
Director
Engineering Division

By: *Ben L. Hark*

Ben L. Hark
Environmental Section Head

GLB:Hh

Attachments

cc: Ms. Janet Clayton, WVDNR



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

**1900 Kanawha Boulevard East • Building Five • Room 110
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430 • 304/558-3505**

**Joe Manchin III
Governor**

December 7, 2005

DEC 16 2005
WVFO

**Mr. Tom Chapman
US Fish and Wildlife Services
694 Beverly Pike
Post Office Box 1278
Elkins, West Virginia 26241**

Dear Mr. Chapman:

**State Project S208-4/5-2.95
Federal Project BR-0045(038)E
Camp Creek Truss Bridge
Design Report Field Review
Clay County**

Attached is a draft design report for Camp Creek Truss Bridge, a 307' long structure over Elk River located on Clay County Rte. 4/5. This report analyzes three alternatives for replacement of the bridge, with a recommendation that Alternative #2 (bridge on a new alignment approximately 20 feet downstream from the existing structure) be constructed.

Since the completion of this report in June 2001 an environmental analysis of the project area has been undertaken. This analysis has revealed the presence of endangered mussels in an area encompassing the existing bridge over Elk River and the three alternatives delineated in the design report. Due to the presence of these mussels, it will be necessary to study additional alternatives for the realignment of CR 4/5 and the proposed bridge outside of the environmentally sensitive area.

A design report field review has been scheduled for December 22, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., with the participants meeting at the project site. The principle goals for this meeting will be to identify additional alignment alternatives and to gather the associated data necessary to generate construction cost estimates, right-of-way/utility cost estimates, and design report plan sheets.



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

**1900 Kanawha Boulevard East • Building Five • Room 110
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430 • 304/558-3505**

**Joe Manchin III
Governor**

**Camp Creek Truss Bridge
Page 2
December 7, 2005**

If you do not feel personal representation at this meeting is necessary, please forward any comments or requests for additional information to Mr. Mike Lilly, Project Manager at 558-9699 or email mlilly@dot.state.wv.us.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John G. Morrison".

**John G Morrison
Consultant Review Section
Engineering Division**

JGM:Ld

Enclosure



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East • Building Five • Room 110
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430 • 304/558-3505

Bob Wise
Governor

Fred VanKirk, P.E.
Secretary/Commissioner

Jack White
Assistant Commissioner

July 27, 2001

Mr. Jeffrey K. Towner, Field Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
694 Beverly Pike
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

RECEIVED
JUL 31 2001
WVFO

Dear Mr. Towner:

State Project S208-4/5-2.95
Camp Creek Truss Bridge
Clay County

The Division of Highways is developing the subject project at the location shown on the attached vicinity maps. The project consists of replacing the existing bridge with a new bridge 20 feet downstream. The existing bridge will be used to maintain traffic until the new bridge is complete.

Your comments on possible effects on Federally-listed threatened and endangered species are requested so that they may be included in our environmental studies. Should you have any questions, please contact Wendy Winslow of our Environmental Section at (304) 558-2885.

Very truly yours,

Ben L. Harb

1 James E. Sothen, P.E., Director
Engineering Division

JES:Hs

Attachments

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT STUDY

CAMP CREEK TRUSS BRIDGE

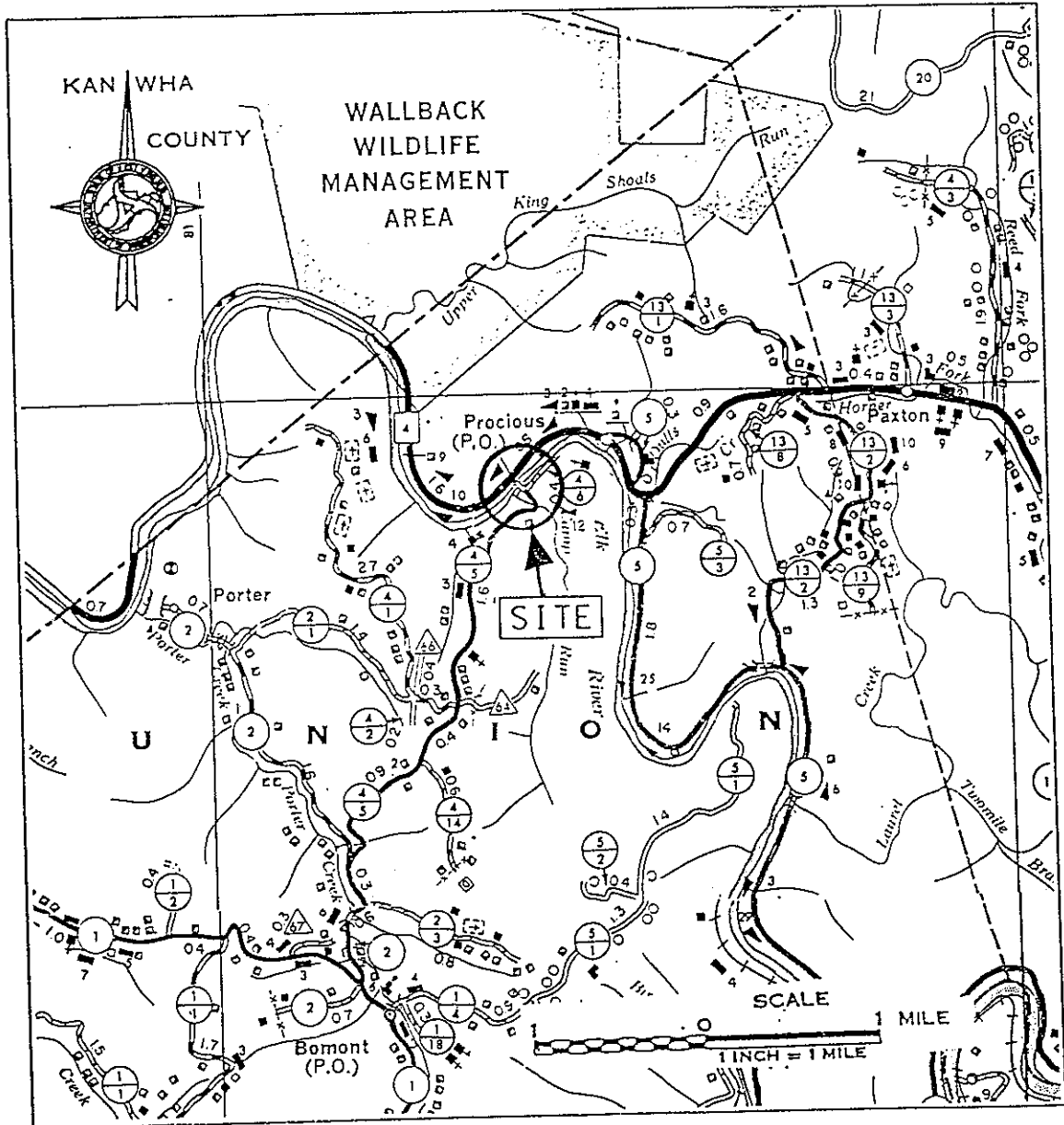
STATE PROJECT S208 - 4/5 - 2.95

FEDERAL PROJECT BR-0045(038)E

CLAY COUNTY

DRAFT

DRAFT

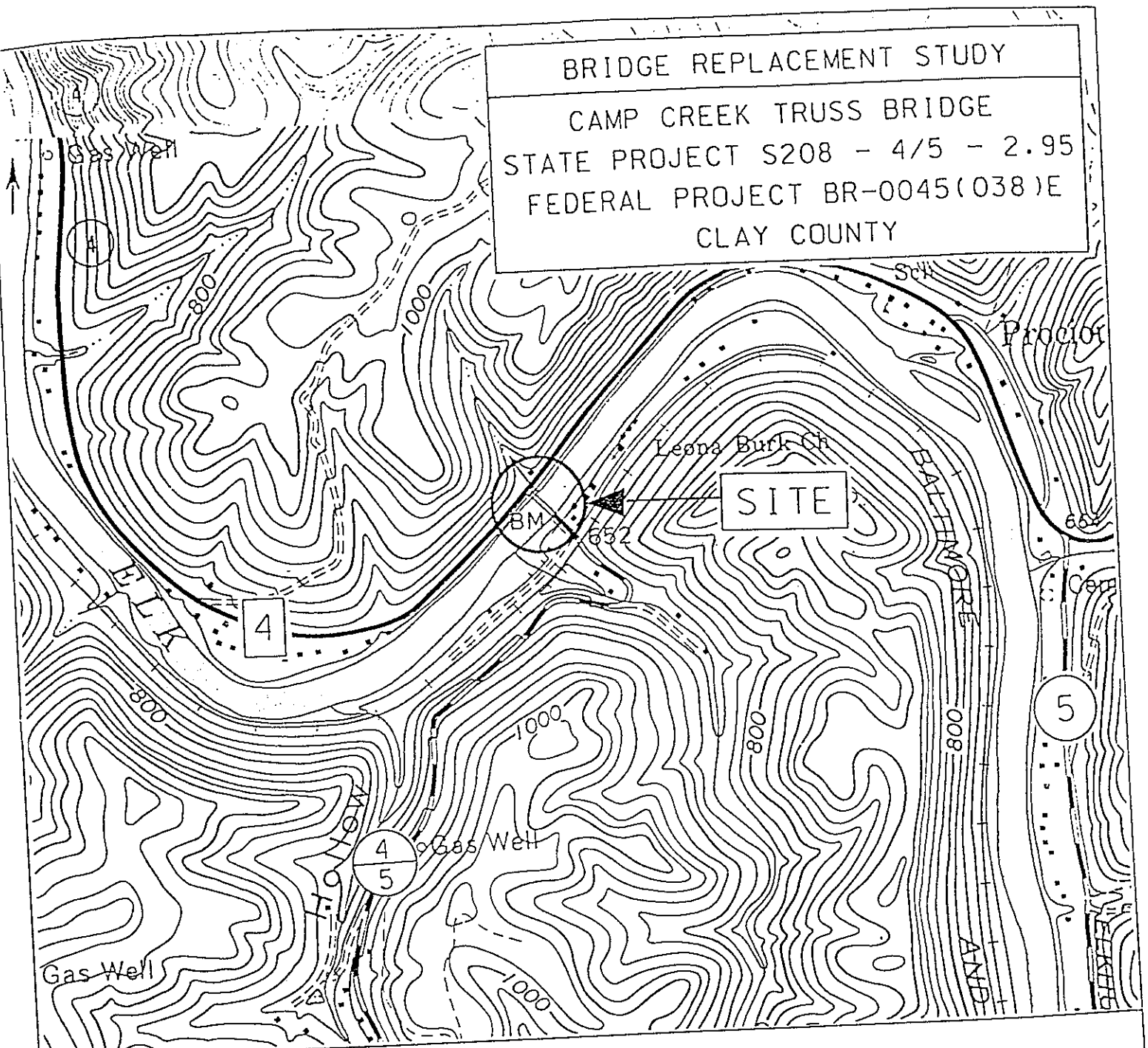


JUNE 2001

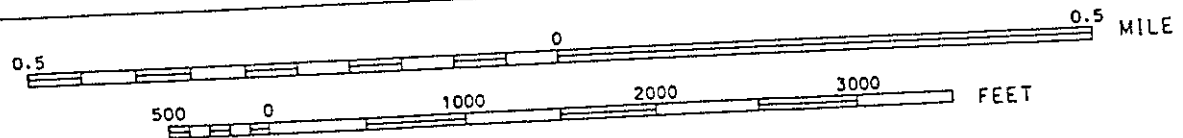
WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
PLANNING AND RESEARCH DIVISION

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT STUDY

CAMP CREEK TRUSS BRIDGE
STATE PROJECT S208 - 4/5 - 2.95
FEDERAL PROJECT BR-0045(038)E
CLAY COUNTY



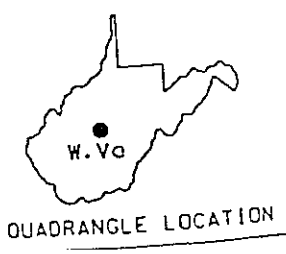
SITE PLAN



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty
- Medium-duty
- Light-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- Interstate Route
- U.S. Route
- State Route





DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Wildlife Resources Section
Operations Center
P.O. Box 67
Elkins, West Virginia 26241-3235
Telephone (304) 637-0245
Fax (304) 637-0250

RECEIVED
APR 24 2007
WVFO

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Frank Jezioro
Director

April 23, 2007

Gregory L. Bailey, P.E.
Director Engineering Division
WV Division of Highways
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East
Building 5, Room 110
Charleston, WV 25305-0430

Subject: State Project S208-4/5-2.95, Federal Project BR-0045(038)E, Camp Creek
Truss Bridge, Clay County

Dear Mr. Bailey:

After reviewing the mussel report for the above project I have concerns with the preferred alternative selected. Impacts to the mussel resources in the Elk River may occur. I suggest that a meeting be organized to discuss this further.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above address or phone number.

Sincerely,


Janet L. Clayton
Wildlife Diversity Biologist

cc: Craig Stihler, Roger Anderson, Barbara Douglas