

# Environmental Survey Report for the ETTP: Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) Haul Road Corridor, Oak Ridge, Tennessee

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**ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY REPORT FOR THE ETPP:  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY  
(EMWMF) HAUL ROAD CORRIDOR  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY REPORT FOR THE ETTP:  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY (EMWMF)  
HAUL ROAD CORRIDOR, OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report summarizes the results of environmental surveys conducted within the corridor of a temporary haul road (“Haul Road”) to be constructed from East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) to the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) located just west of the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12). Environmental surveys were conducted by natural resource experts at Oak Ridge National Laboratory who routinely assess the significance of various project activities on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). ORNL assistance to the Haul Road Project included environmental assessments necessary to determine the best route for minimizing impacts to sensitive resources such as wetlands or rare plants. Once the final route was chosen, environmental surveys were conducted within the corridor to evaluate the impacts to sensitive resources that could not be avoided.

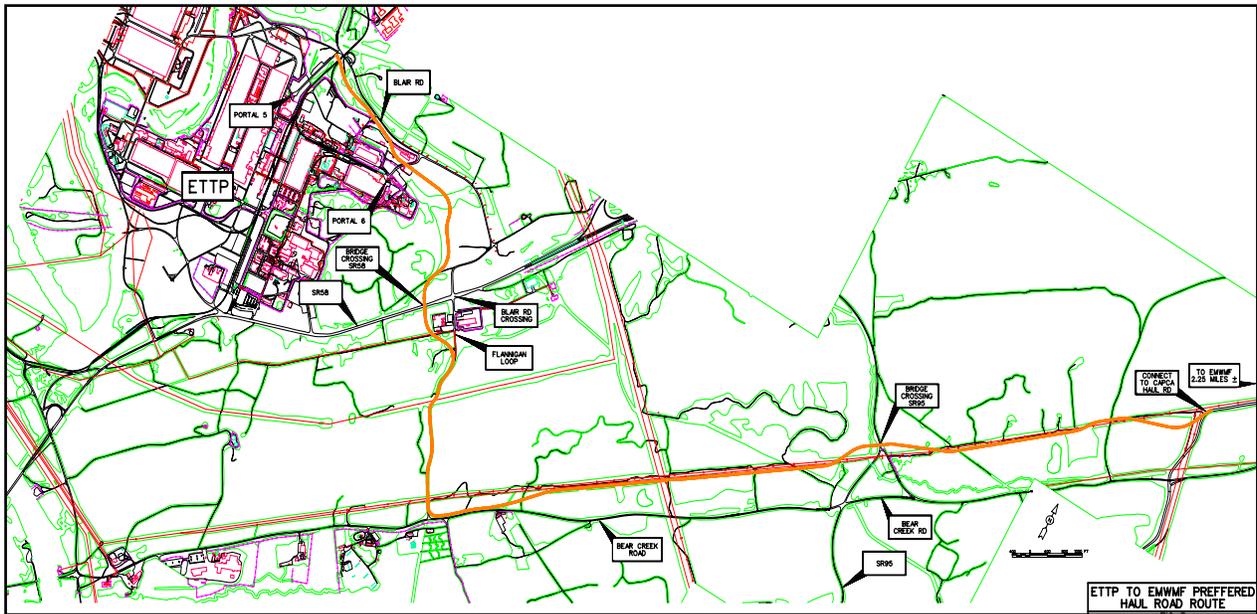
The final Haul Road route follows established roads and a power-line corridor to the extent possible (Fig. 1). Detailed explanation regarding the purpose of the Haul Road and the regulatory context associated with its construction is provided in at least two major documents and consequently is not presented here: (1) *Explanation of Significant Differences for the Record of Decision for the Disposal of Oak Ridge Reservation Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 Waste, Oak Ridge, Tennessee* (January 2005, DOE/OR/01-2194&D2), and (2) *Environmental Monitoring Plan for The ETTP to EMWMF Haul Road for the Disposal of Oak Ridge Reservation Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 Waste, Oak Ridge, Tennessee* (April 2005, BJC/OR-2152). The focus of this report is a description of the sensitive resources to be impacted by Haul Road construction. Following a short description of the methods used for the environmental surveys, results and observations are presented in the following subsections:

- General description of the affected environment
- Rare plants and vegetation assemblages
- Rare wildlife and their habitat
- Rare aquatic species
- Wetlands/Floodplains

A summary of project actions taken or planned in order to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the environmental impacts associated with this project are summarized in the conclusion section of this report.

## **METHODS**

The first sensitive resource surveys for the Haul Road Project were conducted along preliminary routes in July 2004. Additional walk-downs were conducted in the fall and winter of that year, but surveys of the final route were not performed until January 2005 for the ETTP to Flannigan Loop section, and March-April 2005 for the Flannigan Loop to CAPCA Haul Road section. In general, walk-down surveys were qualitative in nature, with past survey data from the area obtained for the ORR’s National Environmental Research Park (NERP) studies and staff knowledge serving as a basis for survey evaluation.



**Fig. 1. Map showing the ETPP to EMWMF Haul Road route.**  
Route highlighted in light orange color. Map provided by Jacobs Engineering.

Of particular interest on these surveys were the presence (or evidence) of any state or federally listed species (both terrestrial and aquatic), as well as any significant or unique habitat that could potentially be impacted by construction activities.

Wetlands are considered of high ecological value; consequently, destruction or loss of wetlands, as well as major disturbance such as dredging or filling of wetlands, is regulated by both federal and state agencies. Wetlands within the Haul Road corridor were determined and delineated per Army Corps of Engineers' wetland delineation protocols (ACOE 1987). To be considered a jurisdictional wetland, a site must meet the necessary hydrology, soils, and wetland-vegetation criteria. For each wetland plant community type, the dominant plant species and their abundance were noted, and bore holes were dug to evaluate and characterize the soils and hydrology of the site. Wetland locations were mapped with a GARMIN 76S Mapping handheld GPS unit and accompanying software.

The wetland vegetation criterion is met if more than 50% of the dominant species within each stratum (trees, shrubs, woody vines, herbs) are hydrophytic. To make this determination, species are assigned an indicator status based on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1997) National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands: 1988 National Summary. The indicator species status codes are: obligate wetland (OBL), facultative wetland (FACW), facultative (FAC), facultative upland (FACU), and upland (UPL). A plus (+) or minus (-) sign following the indicator code denotes a tendency towards the wetter (+) or drier (-) end of the scale. For classifying an area as hydrophytic, the dominant plant species in each stratum must have the following vegetation species codes: OBL, FACW+, FACW, FACW-, FAC+, or FAC. Indicator definitions, as defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are:

Obligate Wetland (OBL). Occur almost always (estimated probability >99%) under natural conditions in wetlands.

Facultative Wetland (FACW). Usually occur in wetlands (estimated probability 67%-99%), but occasionally found in non-wetlands.

Facultative (FAC). Equally likely to occur in wetlands or non-wetlands (estimated probability 34%-66%).

Facultative Upland (FACU). Usually occur in non-wetlands (estimated probability 67%-99%), but occasionally found in wetlands (estimated probability 1%-33%).

Obligate Upland (UPL). Occur in wetlands in another region, but occur almost always (estimated probability >99%) under natural conditions in non-wetlands.

Soil samples were extracted at multiple locations using a post-hole shovel to characterize the wetland sites and to assist in determining appropriate wetland boundaries. Soil samples were extracted to a depth of 24-36 inches if possible, which was deep enough to evaluate the A and much of the B horizons. In most cases, a shallower hole was dug because the soil was too hard to penetrate or surface water was present. The soil sample was examined for soil color and texture and reported per Munsell Company (1994) designations. The presence of mottles, manganese concretions, high organic content, and other indicators of hydric soil status was also examined.

The sites were examined for primary and secondary indicators of wetland hydrology. The presence and depth of surface water, as well as the soil saturation and depth to free water in the soil-boring hole was evaluated. The presence of watermarks, drift lines, oxidized root channels, water-stained leaves, and other indicators of wetland hydrology were also noted.

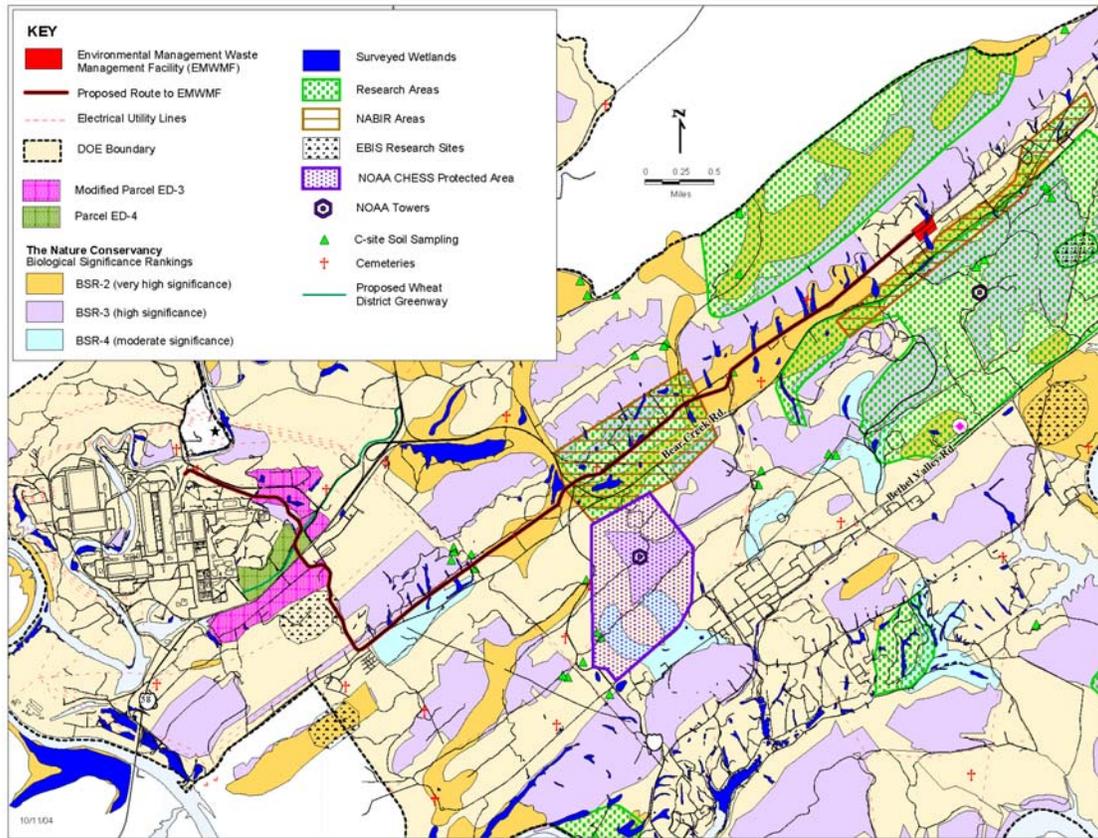
## **RESULTS**

### **General Description of Affected Environment**

The Haul Road route traverses a wide variety of habitats, including areas previously designated as sensitive by The Nature Conservancy and other researchers (Fig. 2). However, a large percentage of the area to be impacted by the Haul Road is composed of common, non-sensitive habitats. The approximate acreage of land and habitat types impacted by the Haul Road is provided in Table 1.

Over three quarters of the area impacted by the Haul Road consists of disturbed or common habitat types. Over half of those non-sensitive areas are comprised of highly developed areas like roads, mowed grasses, and power-line areas that are routinely roller-chopped or mowed to prevent growth of woody trees and shrubs. The other non-sensitive habitat types are in various early successional stages, and include habitats such as old fields, woody thickets, forest edge communities, and planted loblolly pine areas (including those impacted by pine beetle infestations). Although these land and habitat types are common in east Tennessee, they do provide benefits to common wildlife species that utilize grassland and edge forest habitats (see more information in the following wildlife section).

More regionally sensitive habitats found within the Haul Road route include a variety of forest types, including approximately 6.4 acres of bottomland forest and 4 acres of mixed or mixed-pine deciduous forest. The loss of forest habitat is a concern for wildlife populations in the area, specifically neotropical migratory songbirds. Consequently, Haul Road redesigns were conducted to minimize this



**Fig. 2. Map showing previously-designated Oak Ridge Reservation sensitive resources in the vicinity of the Haul Road route. Base map by Sherri Cotter.**

impact to the maximum extent possible. In particular, modifications were made in the haul road corridor route to avoid clearing through the middle of large contiguous areas of forest, which could have resulted in significant forest fragmentation.

Wetlands provide important ecological functions and, as a result, are considered highly valuable habitat by natural resource managers. Both forested and marsh wetlands were delineated for this assessment, comprising 1.35 acres of jurisdictional wetland habitat. Forested wetlands closely bordered the streams and headwater areas near springs and seeps. Two thirds of the total forested wetlands were found adjacent to Bear Creek. Approximately a half acre of wetlands, divided into multiple small areas near headwater streams, were marsh wetlands below power-lines.

The western road approach and bridge crossing of Bear Creek is undoubtedly the most sensitive area to be impacted by the Haul Road. This floodplain area, consisting of large continuous forested wetlands and bottomland woods, is adjacent to the Rein Orchid Swamp, a registered State Natural Area. The forested wetlands associated with the Bear Creek bottoms are of high natural quality, with extensive seepage flow and relatively large areas of bulbous-based trees growing in standing water. The eastern side of Bear Creek within the Haul Road route included a large cane break, which is a vegetation community type designated by The Nature Conservancy as globally rare. Bear Creek itself contains the rare Tennessee dace and other pollution-intolerant fish species. As a result of the presence of this rare species and

**Table 1. Description of general land and habitat types impacted by the Haul Road and the approximate area impacted (by acreage and percentage of total)**

General Land or Habitat Type	Approximate Acreage Impacted	Approximate Percentage of Total Area Impacted
<i>Regionally Common</i>		
Developed Area (e.g., roads and closely-mowed areas)	10.1	19.0
Power-line Corridor (annual or periodic chopping to control woody growth)	10.5	19.7
Old Field	6.7	12.6
Edge Habitat	.6	1.1
Wooded Thicket	3.6	6.7
Dead Pine Area (from Pine Beetle infestation)	7.2	13.5
Forest – Loblolly Pine	3.0	5.6
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>41.7</i>	<i>78.2</i>
<i>More Regionally Sensitive</i>		
Forest – Mixed Deciduous	2.1	3.9
Forest – Mixed Pine/Deciduous	1.9	3.5
Forest – Bottomland	6.4	12.0
Wetland – Marsh	0.5	0.9
Wetland – Forested	0.8	1.5
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>21.8</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	53.4 acres	100%

concerns regarding potential negative impacts of the original bridge designs, a bridge was designed to span Bear Creek in place of a planned culvert. This redesign specifically addressed concerns regarding stream sediment disturbance and potential impacts on Tennessee dace migration. In addition, the road approach to the crossing of Bear Creek was relocated in order to take advantage of the presence of slightly higher ground. As a result, disturbance of more extensive areas of wetlands to both the north and south was avoided.

### **Rare Plants and Vegetation Assemblages**

The natural vegetation of the ORR is the most significant area of preserved natural vegetation in the Ridge and Valley Physiographic Province in Tennessee (Mann et al 1995). The Haul Road route passes through some of this natural vegetation. Much of the Haul Road route is in a mowed power-line right-of-way. Although mowed areas often are not considered to be natural vegetation, some areas of the mowed right-of-way within the Haul Road route function much like natural prairie vegetation. This prairie-like plant community has a high diversity of native plant species. This is due to its annual rather than more frequent mowing and lack of dominating exotic plant species. A few of the uncommon wildflowers found on the right-of-way are sessile blazing star, lesser basal-leaved rosin-weed and purple fringeless orchid. Canada lily, a state protected species, is present within the right-of-way to the east of the Haul Road route (Fig. 3).



**Fig. 3. Rare or uncommon plants found near the Haul Road route.** Rare plant species encountered were avoided by making adjustments to the road alignment. Clockwise from top-left: Tubercled rein-orchid (*Plantanthera flava* var. *herbiola*), Canada lily (*Lilium canadense*), purple fringeless orchid (*Platanthera peramoena*) and Wild Sweet William (*Phlox maculata*).

The mixed and mixed-pine deciduous forests within the Haul Road route are dominated by various species of oaks, red maple, tulip poplar and sweetgum. Although individual species within these communities are not rare in Tennessee, the value of these communities is in its lack of fragmentation relative to the agricultural land and urban development that surrounds the ORR. The relatively rare Ridge and Valley Beech-Mountain Laurel Community occurs nearby but was avoided by the final road alignment.

The forested wetlands and bottomland adjacent to Bear Creek was supported by extensive seepage flow that has resulted in swamp-like conditions in many areas. This plant community type is of high natural quality and is relatively rare in the region, with the Bear Creek community being an unusually large example. A noteworthy plant assemblage within the riparian area of Bear Creek is a large cane break, a community type considered globally rare by the Nature Conservancy.

Although approximately 12 acres within the Haul Road route could be considered to be in a natural state, no state or federally listed plant species have been previously identified within the boundaries of the final road alignment, and none were found during the present surveys. Twenty two species of plants found on the Oak Ridge Reservation are listed for protection by the state of Tennessee (Table 2). Based on the known locations of these species on the ORR, only two of these 22 listed species could reasonably be expected within the Haul Road route. One of these two, Canada lily (*Lilium canadense*), was not found near the route though it does occur in the same power-line right-of-way to the east. Tubercled rein-orchid (*Plantanthera flava* var. *herbiola*), which has state threatened status, is found at five locations near the Haul Road route. Two of these locations were newly discovered during the Haul Road botanical surveys, but all were avoided by the present alignment. Tubercled rein-orchid is a northern species at the very southern edge of its entire range on the ORR. It is found on the ORR mostly in forested wetlands.

### **Rare Wildlife and Their Habitat**

Wildlife resource surveys were conducted along the corridor between July 2004 and March 2005. A detailed description of habitats surrounding each survey marker is provided in Appendix A. The majority of the proposed haul road corridor traverses developed, mowed, old field, and edge habitat where common wildlife species are found. The majority of the bird species recorded along the corridor were typical edge and old field species. These included Carolina wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), eastern towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), field sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) and indigo bunting (*Passerina cyanea*).

The fragmentation of interior forest was a major initial concern with the project. Initial generation of options included an alignment through forested areas that could have potentially impacted forest interior neotropical migrant birds. Neotropical migrant bird species of note during early haul road route surveys included yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), acadian flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*) and red-eyed vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*). A major concern for ORR land management is that repeated road cuts over a period of time will slice forested areas into such small blocks that they become no longer viable for such species. An additional concern regarding road cuts is that they provide routes for predators that impact these forest interior birds. Although route alignments through forested areas were efficient from an engineering standpoint, modifications were made to protect this important habitat.

The Haul Road corridor crosses a variety of wetlands habitat. Potential impacts to amphibian species were a concern in these areas. Many of the areas to be traversed contain habitat for spring breeding frog populations. Southeastern chorus frogs (*Pseudacris feriarum*) were prevalent in these areas. The Haul Road alignment was adjusted to avoid the most sensitive areas of wetlands habitat.

**Table 2. Vascular plant species listed by state or federal agencies that are currently known or previously reported from the ORR**

Species	Common Name	Habitat on ORR	Status Code <sup>a</sup>
<i>Aureolaria patula</i>	Spreading false-foxglove	River bluff	C2, T
<i>Carex gravida</i>	Heavy sedge	Varied	S
<i>Carex oxylepis</i> var. <i>pubescens</i> <sup>b</sup>	Hairy sharp-scaled sedge	Shaded wetlands	S
<i>Cimicifuga rubifolia</i>	Appalachian bugbane	River slope	C2, T
<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>	Pink lady's-slipper	Dry to rich woods	E, CE
<i>Delphinium exaltatum</i>	Tall larkspur	Barrens and woods	C2, E
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Northern bush-honeysuckle	River bluff	T
<i>Draba ramosissima</i>	Branching whitlow-grass	Limestone cliff	S
<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>	Nuttall waterweed	Pond, embayment	S
<i>Fothergilla major</i>	Mountain witch-alder	Woods	T
<i>Hydrastis canadensis</i>	Golden seal	Rich woods	S, CE
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Butternut	Slope near stream	C2, T
<i>Juncus brachycephalus</i>	Small-head rush	Open wetland	S
<i>Lilium canadense</i>	Canada lily	Moist woods	T
<i>Lilium michiganense</i> <sup>c</sup>	Michigan lily	Moist woods	T
<i>Liparis loeselii</i>	Fen orchid	Forested wetland	E
<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	Ginseng	Rich woods	S, CE
<i>Platanthera flava</i> var. <i>herbiola</i>	Tuberculed rein-orchid	Forested wetland	T
<i>Populus grandidentata</i> <sup>d</sup>	Large-tooth aspen	Dry, woodlands	S
<i>Ruellia purshiana</i>	Pursh's wild-petunia	Dry, open woods	S
<i>Scirpus fluviatilis</i>	River bulrush	Wetland	S
<i>Spiranthes lucida</i>	Shining ladies-tresses	Boggy wetland	T
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Northern white cedar	Rocky river bluffs	S
<i>Viola tripartita</i> var. <i>tripartita</i>	Three-parted violet	Rocky woods	S

<sup>a</sup>Status codes:

C2 = Special concern, under review for federal listing; listed under the formerly used C2 candidate designation. More information needed to determine status.

E = Endangered in Tennessee.

T = Threatened in Tennessee.

S = Special concern in Tennessee.

CE = Status due to commercial exploitation.

<sup>b</sup>*Carex oxylepis* var. *pubescens* has not been observed during recent surveys.

<sup>c</sup>*Lilium michiganense* is believed to have been extirpated from the ORR by the impoundment at Melton Hill.

<sup>d</sup>*Populus grandidentata* was reported in two ORR locations in 2003. One of the reports was confirmed, but the tree died during the year. In 2004 additional trees were found in the vicinity of the dead tree.

Historical surveys of the area in the vicinity of the Haul Road corridor recorded no threatened or endangered animal species, or potential high quality habitat for these species. Threatened, endangered, and special concern species previously documented on the ORR are listed in Table 3.

There is a general concern on the Oak Ridge Reservation for the potential presence of the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). (Note: The only record of the Indiana bat on the Oak Ridge Reservation is from a single specimen in the 1950s. No maternity roosts have ever been located on the Oak Ridge Reservation.) Indiana bats will use larger trees with exfoliating bark as roost sites starting around mid-May. The bats remain at these roosts until early August or mid September (Harvey et al. 1999). The majority of roosts used by this bat species are under the exfoliating bark of dead or dying trees (Callahan et al. 1997, Gardner et al. 1991, Kurta et al. 1996, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1999). Recent studies de-emphasize the importance of tree species or habitat type, while emphasizing the importance of structural characteristics of roost trees. One recent study documents the common use of conifers by Indiana bat maternity colonies (Britzke et al. 2003). Potential habitat along the proposed haul road corridor is characterized mainly by dead pines resulting from a recent pine beetle infestation.

In order to avoid disturbance of potentially roosting Indiana bats, this project followed the guideline established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by removing all potential roost trees along the road corridor by March 31 (Letter from Lee A. Barclay to James Elmore – October 13, 2004). Spot clearing of small parcels outside the Haul Road corridor, however, may be required as construction progresses. For example, trees may need to be cleared from construction lay down areas and wetland mitigation sites. Areas to be cleared will be assessed for Indiana bat habitat potential and managed appropriately (e.g., use of mist netting). Also, dead trees at the immediate periphery of the cleared area that pose a safety hazard will need to be removed.

A complete list of wildlife species identified during the present surveys by sight, song call and/or sign along the Haul Road route is presented in Table 4. Two species of birds were encountered that could be considered regionally sensitive. The yellow-bellied sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) is listed by the state of Tennessee as a species in need of management, and is a fairly common winter visitor to the ORR. The field sparrow is listed by Partners in Flight as a species in need of conservation in the southern ridge and valley, and is a common nester on the ORR.

### **Rare Aquatic Species**

The Haul Road route crosses numerous streams, the largest being Bear Creek, which is a moderately sized (2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> order) stream over the majority of its length. Smaller streams that are crossed by the route, but that contain significant populations of fish, include Mitchell Branch (near ETP), a western tributary of Bear Creek, and NT-13 (North Tributary), NT-14, and NT-15. The Haul Road follows the southern side of Pine Ridge where it crosses a number of other springs, seeps, and very small tributary streams that flow to either Bear Creek or Grassy Creek.

The fish communities of Mitchell Branch, Grassy Creek, and Bear Creek have been monitored by ORNL's Biological Monitoring and Abatement Program (BMAP). The Mitchell Branch and Grassy Creek watersheds contain fish assemblages that are typical of streams with moderate impact, probably from industrial or urban discharges or poor habitat. The biological communities in the Bear Creek watershed are also impacted by prior waste disposal practices in its headwaters and current land uses (Southworth et al. 1992; Hinzman 1996). The Bear Creek watershed, however, does support one rare fish species, the Tennessee dace (*Phoxinus tennesseensis*). The Tennessee dace is a species deemed in need of

**Table 3. Animal species of concern reported from the Oak Ridge Reservation.<sup>a</sup>**  
 Some species (e.g., anhinga) have been seen only once or a few times; others (e.g., sharp-shinned hawk, southeastern shrew) are comparatively common and widespread on the reservation.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status <sup>b</sup>		
		Federal	State	PIF <sup>c</sup>
<b>FISH</b>				
<i>Phoxinus tennesseensis</i>	Tennessee dace		NM	
<b>AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES</b>				
<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	four-toed salamander		NM	
<b>BIRDS</b>				
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	sharp-shinned hawk		NM	
<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	anhinga		NM	
<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i>	chuck-will's-widow			C
<i>Ardea alba</i>	great egret		NM	
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	northern harrier		NM	
<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	olive-sided flycatcher		NM	
<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	black-throated blue warbler			C
<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	cerulean warbler		NM	C
<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	prairie warbler			C
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	little blue heron		NM	
<i>Egretta thula</i>	snowy egret		NM	
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	peregrine falcon	<sup>d</sup>	E	
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	bald eagle	T <sup>e</sup>	NM	
<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>	worm-eating warbler			C
<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	wood thrush			C
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	loggerhead shrike		NM	
<i>Oporornis formosus</i>	Kentucky warbler			C
<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	vesper sparrow		NM	
<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	prothonotary warbler			C
<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	Louisiana waterthrush			C
<i>Sitta pusilla</i>	brown-headed nuthatch			C
<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	yellow-bellied sapsucker		NM	
<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	field sparrow			C
<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	golden-winged warbler		NM	C
<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	blue-winged warbler			C
<b>MAMMALS</b>				
<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	gray bat	E	E	
<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Indiana bat <sup>f</sup>	E	E	
<i>Sorex longirostris</i>	southeastern shrew		NM	

<sup>a</sup>Land and surface waters of the ORR exclusive of the Clinch River, which borders the ORR

<sup>b</sup>E = endangered, T = threatened, NM = in need of management, C = birds of concern

<sup>c</sup>Partners in Flight

<sup>d</sup>The peregrine falcon was federally delisted on August 25, 1999

<sup>e</sup>The bald eagle was proposed for federal delisting on July 6, 1999

<sup>f</sup>Reported collected on the ORR in the 1950s

**Table 4. Wildlife species recorded along the proposed Haul Road corridor.**  
Species were identified by sight, song, call and/or sign.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status <sup>a</sup>		
		Federal	State	PIF <sup>b</sup>
<b>AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES</b>				
<i>Pseudacris feriarum</i>	southeastern chorus frog			
<b>BIRDS</b>				
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	turkey vulture			
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	red-shouldered hawk			
<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	wild turkey			
<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	northern bobwhite			
<i>Scolopax minor</i>	American woodcock			
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning dove			
<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	yellow-billed cuckoo			
<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	yellow-bellied sapsucker		NM	
<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	downy woodpecker			
<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	pileated woodpecker			
<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	acadian flycatcher			
<i>Vireo griseus</i>	white-eyed vireo			
<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	red-eyed vireo			
<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	blue jay			
<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>	Carolina chickadee			
<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Carolina wren			
<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	blue-gray gnatcatcher			
<i>Sialia sialis</i>	eastern bluebird			
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American robin			
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	common yellowthroat			
<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	eastern towhee			
<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	field sparrow			C
<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	white-throated sparrow			
<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	dark-eyed junco			
<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	northern cardinal			
<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	indigo bunting			
<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	American goldfinch			
<b>MAMMALS</b>				
<i>Marmota monax</i>	woodchuck			
<i>Procyon lotor</i>	raccoon			
<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	eastern cottontail			
<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	white-tailed deer			

<sup>a</sup>NM = in need of management, C = species in need of conservation

<sup>b</sup>Partners in Flight

management by the State (Fig. 4) and is afforded a level of protection that requires that its habitat be protected and not knowingly destroyed. This dace is found in the Ridge and Valley province of Tennessee with limited populations; the population in the Bear Creek watershed has been indicated as one of the primary strongholds for the species in Tennessee (Etnier and Starnes 1993).



**Fig. 4. Male Tennessee dace from Pinhook Branch, Oak Ridge Reservation, in spawning colors.**  
Photo copyrighted by R. Bryant.

The reproductive biology of the Tennessee dace represents the most critical aspect of its life cycle that could be impacted by the ETTP Haul Road (see Appendix B for a detailed description of the species' reproductive biology). Several conditions are necessary for successful spawning of the Tennessee dace to occur. First, flow must be continuous throughout the spawning season (spring to early summer). Second, dace move into small streams during spawning and access for migration must be maintained throughout the watershed to allow for formation of aggregations. Long and dark culverts, or culverts that create a waterfall barrier, can be a barrier to fish movement. Thirdly, excess sedimentation to streams must be limited during the spawning season. Males of host species will continue to maintain a nest when sedimentation occurs, but if it is excessive, they will abandon nests. Extended periods of sedimentation can result in a total spawning failure for the year. Because Tennessee dace are short-lived, consecutive poor spawning seasons could have a detrimental effect on the overall population viability in a watershed.

As with most road construction, the ETTP Haul Road could impact streams primarily by reducing the amount of riparian cover and canopy, increasing the degree of sedimentation, and introducing barriers to fish movement. These issues are particularly important relative to the Tennessee dace in the Bear Creek watershed. Therefore, a number of road design features were incorporated into the Haul Road construction plan to avoid any impact to this species. Design features include bridging of Bear Creek and large tributaries where the species is present, and extra large culverts and design features that allow partial sediment filling and light infiltration into the culverts. Erosion control features will be implemented and

closely monitored during construction. The dace acts as a sentinel species and design choices aimed at limiting impacts to the dace will also serve to limit impacts on the entire aquatic resource.

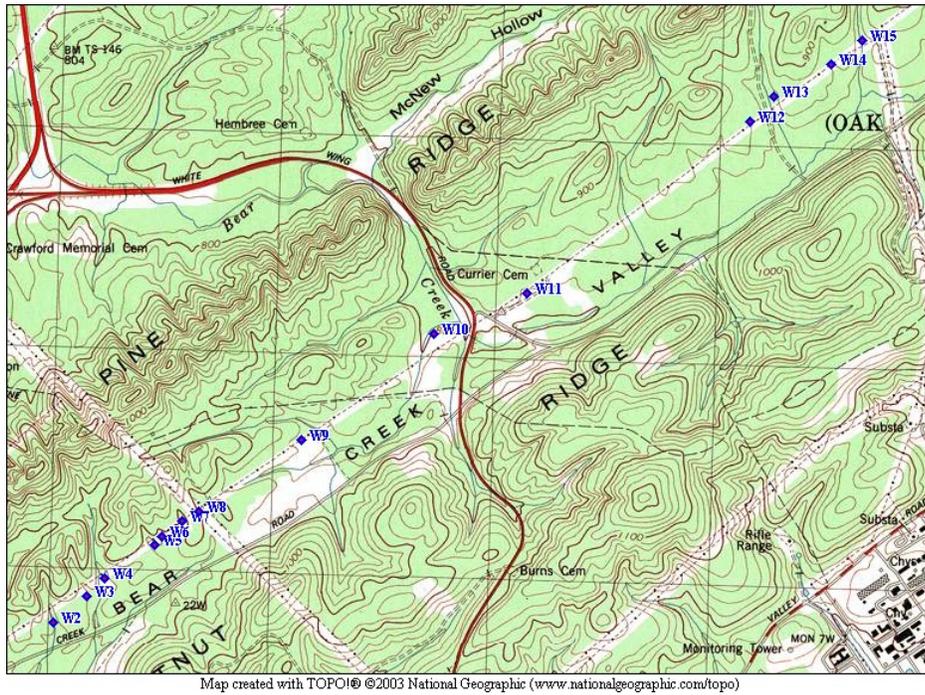
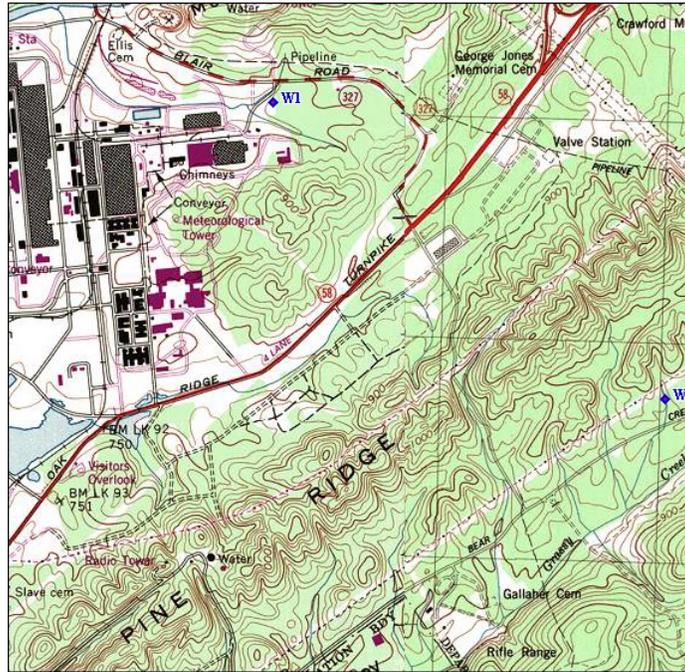
### Wetlands/Floodplains

Floodplain or bottomland forest impacted by the Haul Road comprised 6.4 acres or approximately 12% of the total habitat (Table 1). The final road alignment avoided some of the higher quality and mature bottomland stands near Bear Creek Road, Gum Branch, and near the CAPCA Haul Road. Most of the forested floodplains within the Haul Road corridor contained a natural assemblage of wet-adapted trees and shrubs, but most trees were of young age (~15-30 years) due to past forestry practices in the area. Some bottomlands were on the wetter end of the scale due to past road construction and/or earth moving associated with the power-line along Pine Ridge. The largest and highest quality bottomland forest impacted by the Haul Road was found along Bear Creek, where large Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) were found. Bottomland forest is increasingly rare regionally, and some of the floodplain areas along Bear Creek Valley are some of the best examples of this community type.

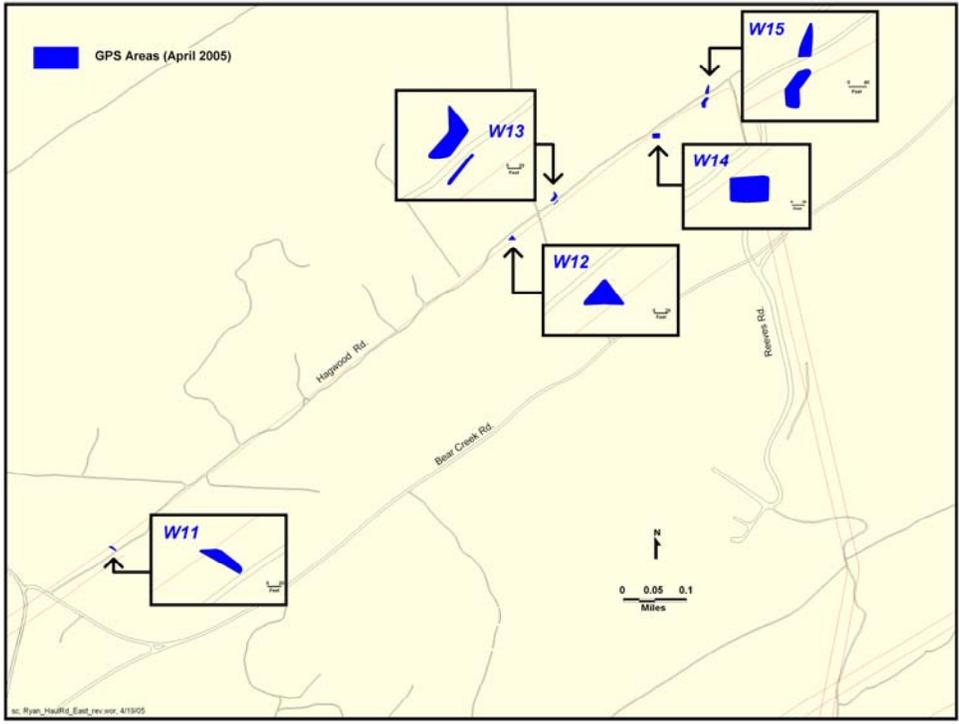
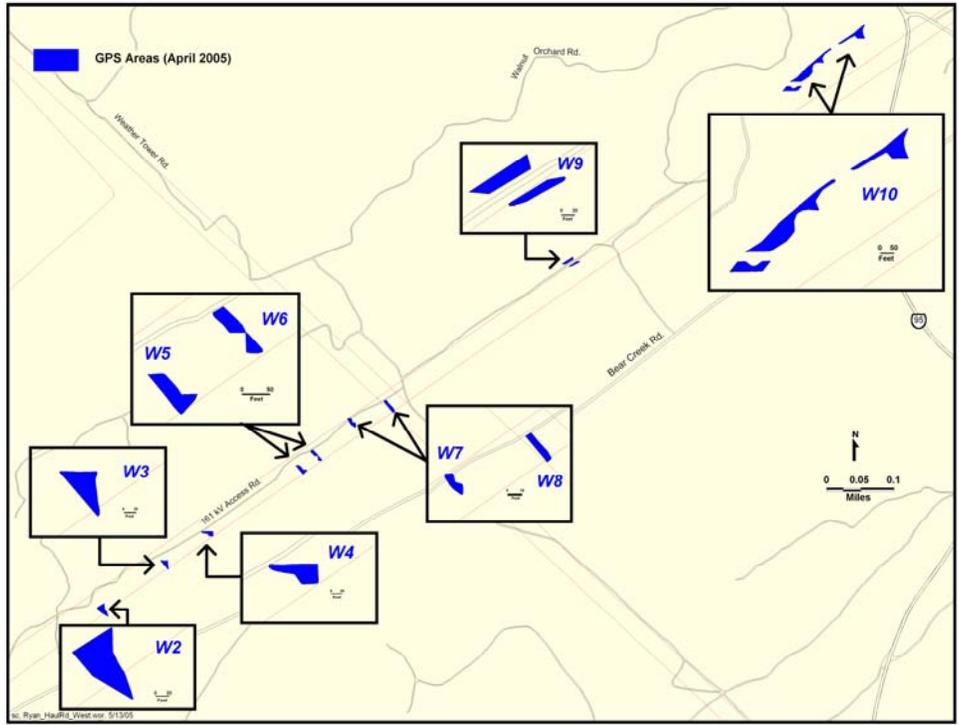
The Haul Road corridor crosses 15 wetlands, comprising a total of 1.35 acres that contain the necessary soils, hydrology and plants to be considered jurisdictional wetlands (Figs. 5 and 6). Jurisdictional wetlands impacted by the Haul Road were typically found in flat areas adjacent to streams, within valleys or hollows, and supported in part by smaller streams, springs and seeps. Most of the wetlands were associated with streams that drain Pine Ridge into Bear Creek and Grassy Creek, with the largest wetland tracts found adjacent to Bear Creek, Gum Branch, and NT-13 (Table 5; Fig. 7). Only six of the 15 sites were forested, but forested wetlands comprised 67% of the total wetland acreage delineated. The nine marsh-like wetlands comprising 0.51 acres were found below power-lines and were kept herbaceous by occasional mowing.

**Table 5. Wetland size and type within the Haul Road corridor.**  
Sites are listed in order encountered from near ETPP to the CAPCA Haul Road.

Site	Acreage	Wetland Type	Description
W1	0.002	Forested wetland	Narrow wooded wetland adjacent to Mitchell Branch
W2	0.093	Forested wetland	Flooded wetland adjacent to tributary stream
W3	0.050	Forested wetland	Wooded wetland along flat shelf
W4	0.050	Marsh	Herbaceous vegetation under power-line
W5	0.055	Marsh	Herbaceous vegetation under power-line
W6	0.048	Marsh	Herbaceous vegetation under power-line
W7	0.052	Marsh	Herbaceous vegetation under power-line
W8	0.063	Marsh	Herbaceous vegetation under power-line
W9	0.060	Marsh	Herbaceous vegetation under power-line
W10	0.566	Forested wetland	Swamp-like wetlands of high natural quality associated with small streams and seepage flow adjacent to Bear Creek
W11	0.020	Forested wetland	Adjacent to Bear Creek tributary stream
W12	0.030	Marsh	Herbaceous vegetation under power-line
W13	0.111	Forested wetland	Two areas connected hydrologically, one forested seep wetland and one marsh; high quality wetlands in area adjacent to Gum Branch (NT-14)
W14	0.056	Marsh	Under power-line
W15	0.095	Marsh	Under power-line; two areas divided by road; near CAPCA Haul Road.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.351</b>		



**Fig. 5. Topographic map showing location of 15 wetlands (W1-W15) delineated within the ETTP Haul Road corridor.**



**Fig. 6. General size and shape of delineated wetlands along Pine Ridge.** Top map shows the Flannigan Loop to Route 95 section; bottom map shows the Route 95 to CAPCA Haul Road section. Map by Sherri Cotter.

A formal wetland determination was conducted for select sites and a representative determination report is provided in Table 6. For forested sites, plant identifications were possible for many trees and shrubs using bark characteristics or other traits associated with branches or buds. Trees adapted to sustained wet conditions that were found within the Haul Road corridor include black willow, blue beech, hackberry, sugarberry, sycamore, red maple, and green ash. Wetland shrubs included spicebush and alder. A few early-season wetland herbs were encountered within the Haul Road corridor and are presented in Appendix C. Some herbaceous wetland plants remain green and present throughout the winter, most notably soft rush (*Juncus effusus*). However, *Juncus* is extremely hardy and will take advantage of areas with limited water, and so can be a poor indicator of the presence of jurisdictional wetlands. Many wet areas were crossed by the Haul Road but, upon evaluation of site soils, were not considered jurisdictional. Typically these areas were on sloping ground that was disturbed due to previous earth moving and exhibited little or no wetland soil development.

Wetland delineation surveys in winter, when herbaceous vegetation can be scarce, must often focus on hydrologic and soil indicators. Soil cores provided clear differentiation between wetland and non-wetland sites, and were used extensively to determine wetland boundaries impacted by the Haul Road, particularly for marsh sites. Wetland soils exhibited characteristics such as low chroma colors, gleying, and mottling. Wetland and nearby non-wetland soils are contrasted in Fig. 8.

Wetland hydrology for wetland sites within the Haul Road corridor is likely maintained by the flat terrain associated with terraced ridge-side slopes and valley bottoms, high water flooding from adjacent creeks, and spring and seep flow. At some sites wet conditions appear to be maintained by old power-line maintenance road construction that backs up stream and shallow groundwater flow.

## CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the Haul Road route traverses a wide variety of habitats, with three quarters of the impacted area consisting of disturbed or very common habitat types. Over half of those non-sensitive areas were comprised of highly developed areas like roads, mowed grasses, and power-line areas. The other non-sensitive habitat types were in various early successional stages, and include habitats such as old fields, woody thickets, forest edge communities, and planted loblolly pine areas. More regionally sensitive habitats found within the Haul Road route included a variety of forest types. These included approximately 6.4 acres of bottomland forest and 4 acres of mixed or mixed-pine deciduous forest. Forested and marsh wetlands within the Haul Road corridor comprised 1.35 acres of jurisdictional wetland habitat.

The most significant natural resource disturbance associated with the Haul Road's construction is undoubtedly the potential aquatic and wetland impacts near Bear Creek and its major tributaries [NT-13, NT-14 (Gum Branch), NT-15, and a western tributary]. Bear Creek and its major tributaries contain the rare Tennessee dace, and forested wetlands adjacent to these streams were generally found to be of high natural quality. Fragmentation of interior forest was also a concern as road construction was deemed a potential impact on forest-interior neotropical migrant birds. However, a thorough review of past records as well as the present surveys found no evidence of rare, threatened or endangered wildlife species or plants present within the Haul Road corridor.

**Table 6. Routine wetland determination data for forested wetland site near Bear Creek, within the proposed route of the ETTP-EMWMF Haul Road corridor, as determined on March 23, 2005.** Completion per Army Corps of Engineers wetland determination protocols.

Project/Site: ETTP to EMWMF Haul Road Route Applicant/Owner: Tom Conrad, BJC			Date: 4 April 2005 Location: Western section of site W10 near Bear Creek, Roane County State: TN		
Investigator: M. J. Peterson (ORNL)			Commun. ID: Forested wetland Monitoring Point: BEA-1		
Do normal circumstances exist on the site? Yes Is the site significantly disturbed (atypical situation): No Is the area a potential problem area? No					
VEGETATION					
Dominant Plant Species	Stratum	Indicator	Dominant Plant Species	Stratum	Indicator
<i>Salix nigra</i>	tree	OBL			
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	tree	FACW-			
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	tree	FAC			
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	tree	FAC			
<i>Acer negundo</i>	tree	FACW			
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	shrub	FACW			
<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	shrub	FACW			
Percent of dominant species that are OBL, FACW or FAC (excluding FAC-): 100%					
Remarks: Satisfies the 50/20 rule. Trees and shrubs adapted to wet conditions. Groundcover largely absent on survey date, with bare soil, surface water, or stained leaves predominant on ground.					
HYDROLOGY					
Recorded Data (describe in Remarks):			Wetland Hydrology Indicators:		
Stream, Lake, or Tide Gauge			Primary Indicators:		
Aerial Photographs			Inundated		
Other			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saturated in Upper 12"		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Recorded Data Available			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Marks		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns in Wetlands		
Field Observations:			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drift Lines		
Depth of Surface Water: <4 inches			Sediment Deposits		
Depth to Saturated Soil: surface					
Depth of Water in Soil Pit: 2 inches			Secondary Indicators:		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12"		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves		
			Local Soil Survey Data		
			FAC-Neutral Test		
			Other (explain in Remarks)		
Remarks: Large forested wetland with variable surface water depending on proximity to streams and seeps.					

**Table 6. Continued**

SOILS					
<p>Classification:            Fine, silty to clayey loam, mixed, thermic, Typic Endoaqualf. Such hydric soils are characteristic of Pine Ridge terraces and shallow sloped tributary areas (4-6% slope) of Bear Creek valley. Surrounding soils on the 25-60% slopes are Armuchee-Muskingum complex (Anderson County Soil Survey). Highly organic, fibrous root material in A horizon. All soils in this area of Pine Ridge underlain by multicolored shale, siltstone, and sandstone. Shallow soils in some areas, with little or no horizon development below the B horizon. Underlying rock at surface in some steeper areas (i.e., little or no soil).</p>					
Profile Description:					
Depth (in.)	Horizon	Matrix Color	Mottle Colors	Mottle Abundance/Contrast	Texture, Concretions, Structures
0-8"	A	10YR 4/2	none	none	Organic, fibrous roots
8-16"	B	Gley 1, 410Y	2.5YR 5/6	20% of matrix	Very fine granular, silty to sandy loam
Hydric Soil Indicators:					
Histosol			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concretions		
Histic Epipedon			High Organic Content in Surface Layer Sandy Soils		
Sulfidic Odor			Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aquic Moisture Regime			Listed on State Hydric Soils List		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reducing Conditions			Listed on National Hydric Soils List		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gleyed or Low-Chroma Colors			Other (explain in Remarks)		
Remarks: Soils show strong evidence of sustained wet conditions. Fragmented shale at 16".					
WETLAND DETERMINATION					
Hydrophytic vegetation present?			YES		
Wetland hydrology present?			YES		
Hydric soils present?			YES	Is this sampling point within a wetland?	YES
Remarks: This site has the necessary vegetation, soils, and hydrology to be classified a jurisdictional wetland.					



**Fig. 7. Photos of common wetland types (left-forested wetland; right-marsh) encountered along the Haul Road route.**



**Fig. 8. Contrast between commonly encountered non-wetland soil (left) and wetland soil (right) surveyed within the Haul Road route. The strong gleying (right) is characteristic of sustained wet conditions. The orange streaks are oxidized rhizomes.**

Oak Ridge National Laboratory natural resource staff worked closely with the design engineers on this project to avoid impacts to sensitive resources to the extent possible. Following is a list of major project actions undertaken or planned to avoid negative impacts to sensitive resources:

- Multiple road alignment changes were made to avoid impacts to rare plants, streams, wetlands, and mature forest tracts:
  - Forest fragmentation was minimized by following the existing power-line to the extent possible, avoiding large forest tracts within proposed routes north of Pine Ridge and near Bear Creek Road;
  - A large Mitchell Branch wetland was avoided and the alignment was shifted so that only one stream crossing was necessary instead of two;
  - Rare orchids just north of Bear Creek Road were avoided by moving the alignment to the north of the existing power-line;
  - Impacts to a mature bottomland forest near the CAPCA Haul Road were avoided by realignment to the north of the existing power-line;
  - The extent of Bear Creek and Gum Branch wetlands impacted was minimized by a realignment that took advantage of slightly higher ground; and,
  - Two stream crossings west of Bear Creek were changed to a single crossing with realignment.
- Trees along the Haul Road corridor were removed by March 31, 2005 to avoid potential negative impacts to Indiana bat habitat.
- Bridges (rather than culverts) will be used for the Bear Creek and Gum Branch crossings to avoid impacts to Tennessee dace. The Bear Creek bridge crossing, which includes State Route 95, was a significant design challenge and totally avoids disturbance to stream sediment and riparian areas.
- A bridge will be used to cross Mitchell Branch instead of a culvert, to minimize negative stream impacts.
- Special culvert designs will be used at some sites to enhance the fish's ability to traverse culverts.

In addition, various control measures will be taken during road construction to minimize impacts to streams and wet-weather conveyances, especially in the Bear Creek tributaries that contain Tennessee dace. Early actions, associated with tree clearing activities, included the extensive use of silt fencing and the grinding of trees to create mulch that was used to provide ground cover and soil stabilization benefits. Details of future control actions associated with road construction are provided in the project's Environmental Monitoring Plan and the project-specific Remedial Design Report (DOE/OR/01-2228) and are not repeated here. Major actions include following erosion control and sediment prevention techniques detailed in the appropriate SWPPP, TDEC BMP guidelines, and the Haul Road construction specifications.

Site-specific control measures to be taken that are of particular importance to protecting the Tennessee dace include using appropriately sized culverts and box bridges to prevent the impoundment of normal and base flows; using box bridges where appropriate to minimize impacts to existing streams with sensitive habitat; and designing specific oversized, partially submerged culverts with light infiltration to maintain and support fish movement. In addition to the design of crossings, the timing of Haul Road construction in mid to late summer should avoid critical periods when migration and reproductive activities of the Tennessee dace are at a peak.

To the extent possible, wetlands will be created at a 2:1 ratio during the Haul Road construction to compensate for wetland losses from the project. A Wetland Mitigation Plan, detailing the compensatory activities to be conducted, will be provided to regulatory authorities in the summer of 2005. Out-of-kind mitigation that enhances sensitive resources may be considered for this project.

Measures will be taken to prevent the spread of invasive species on the cleared areas adjacent to the gravel Haul Road. Species such as kudzu, Nepal grass, Russian olive, lespedeza, and privet are just some of the invasive plants that can become established immediately after soil disturbance. Use of native plants in re-vegetating side slopes is one possibility for preventing the spread of invasive plants. Alternatively, not all areas could be seeded/ re-vegetated. Application of straw (not hay) and use of silt fences could be adequate in many areas, and would allow native species to grow back to the road. Fire ants are a recent problem in construction zones and have been encountered along the Haul Road route, and may need to be controlled shortly after construction. ORNL natural resource staff will work together with project compliance personnel to prevent or minimize the spread of invasive species and conduct any control treatments if necessary.



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**APPENDIX A**  
**RARE PLANT AND WILDLIFE SURVEY**



## **APPENDIX A. RARE PLANT AND WILDLIFE SURVEY**

The existing plant communities and wildlife habitat was surveyed along the entire Haul Road route during multiple field visits from November 2004 through late March of 2005, with an emphasis on determining if rare species were present. The boundaries of the plant communities/habitat were identified by utilizing existing haul road survey markers. A summary of the surveys is provided below, starting with the Portal 5 area near ETPP and finishing near the CAPCA Haul Road.

### **SEGMENT ONE – ETPP to Bear Creek Road**

**Survey Marker 206+00 to 212+00** – This area is characterized by a mixture of old field, thicket, spread gravel and mowed fescue areas. Plant species recorded in this area included eastern red cedar, privet, American ash, loblolly pine, Japanese honeysuckle, red maple, blackberry, cottonwood, broom-sedge, Chinese lespedeza and Nepal grass. Wildlife sign in this area included eastern cottontail (scat) and white-tailed deer (scat and tracks).

**Survey Marker 212+00 to 217+00** – This is an area with heavy pine beetle damage with old field vegetation dominated by Japanese honeysuckle and blackberry. There are a number of standing snags with loose bark, along with significant areas with dead and down woody material. Trees with loose bark provide potential roosting habitat for the Indiana bat in the spring and summer.

**Survey Marker 217+00 to Portal 6** – This area was not surveyed in detail because this segment is characterized by mowed fescue and paved areas.

**Survey Marker 230+00 to 237+30** – This area is thicket. Plant species recorded in this area included eastern red cedar, smooth sumac, loblolly pine, American beech, sycamore, privet, Virginia pine, Chinese lespedeza and silver plumegrass. Wildlife and/or wildlife sign recorded in the area included blue-gray gnatcatcher (nest) and blue jay (call).

**Survey Marker 237+30 to 241+30** – This area is characterized by old field vegetation. Plant species recorded in this area included blackberry, goldenrod, Japanese honeysuckle, eastern red cedar, silver plumegrass, white pine, purpletop grass and thistle. Wildlife and/or wildlife sign recorded in the area included American robin (sighting).

**Survey Marker 241+30 to 244+50** – This is an area of bottomland forest with some areas of wetland. Plant species recorded in this area included white oak, privet, black cherry, tulip poplar, white pine, red maple, sweetgum, sycamore, box elder and hackberry. There are also patches of Nepal grass in the ground cover. Wildlife and/or wildlife sign included pileated woodpecker (rectangular holes in snag).

**Survey Marker 244+50 to 258+00** – This is a large old field area with patches of shrubs, young trees, eroded bare soil and seepage. Plant species recorded in this area included blackberry, smooth sumac, white pine, loblolly pine, goldenrod, privet, panic grass (two species), broom sedge, sweetgum, southern red oak, foxtail-grass, Japanese honeysuckle, soft rush and sycamore. Distinctive patches include a large area of broom sedge, and a large area of mixed white and loblolly pine. Wildlife and/or wildlife signs recorded included white-throated sparrow (sighting), eastern towhee (call), blue jay (call) and white-tailed deer (tracks).

**Survey Marker 258+00 to 261+00** – This area contains a narrow area of dense privet bordering an existing road of mowed grass (fescue). Other plant species recorded in this area included red maple and tulip poplar.

**Survey Marker 261+00 to 263+10** – This is a small area of young forest dominated by pines. There is only sparse understory and groundcover in this area. The area contains mainly Virginia and loblolly pines in the overstory. Other plant species recorded included red maple, southern red oak, eastern red cedar, pipsissewa and ground cedar.

**Survey Marker 263+10 to Route 58** – This area is characterized by old field vegetation. Plant species recorded in this area included eastern red cedar, loblolly pine, blackberry, wild carrot, asters, Chinese lespedeza and silver plumegrass.

**Route 58 to Survey Marker 270+40** – This area supports woods dominated mainly by white pine in the overstory. Other plant species recorded in this area included loblolly pine, eastern red cedar, sweetgum, pipsissewa and reindeer lichen. A band of young sweetgum is present on the southern edge of this area along what is apparently an old road.

**Survey 270+40 to 272+50** – This area supports a young forest of deciduous tree species. Plant species recorded in this area included white oak, southern red oak, black cherry, black walnut, ash, privet, eastern red cedar, box elder, Japanese honeysuckle, poison ivy and Nepal grass.

**Survey Marker 272+50 to 273+30** – This area supports a very narrow band of herbaceous vegetation that is mainly goldenrod and asters. The area is bordered immediately to the south by an unpaved road (273+00 to 273+30).

**Survey Marker 273+30 to 276+20** – This is an area of young forest that is dominated mainly by box elder. Other plant species recorded in this area included privet, loblolly pine, hackberry, sweetgum, eastern red cedar, asters and silver plumegrass. This area also contained pine beetle damaged trees that could be potential roosting habitat for Indiana bats.

**Survey Marker 276+20 to Flannigan Loop Road** – This is a young forest of dense loblolly pine.

**Flannigan Loop Road from North to South Gate** – Flannigan Loop Road was driven from the north gate to the south gate to evaluate any potential concerns. The main concern is the potential loss of large hardwood trees, resulting from the road widening. Tree species here include southern red oak, northern red oak, white oak, tulip poplar, beech and white pine. There are large trees in the vicinity of the roadway that could be impacted by the road widening. There were no large hardwood trees noted in the path of the widening with exfoliating (peeling) bark. Therefore, it is not expected that any potential roosting habitat for the Indiana bats will be impacted.

## **SEGMENT TWO–Flannigan Loop Road to Route 95 Segment**

**Survey Marker 313+00 to 319+40** – This is an area with heavy pine beetle damage, consisting of mainly dead pine with a mixture of other live plant species. Plant species recorded in this area included eastern red cedar, Japanese honeysuckle, mountain mint, flowering dogwood, thistle, Nepal grass, blackberry, slippery elm, panic grass, silver-plumegrass, sweetgum, southern red oak, privet, greenbrier and black cherry. Bird species noted in the area included Carolina wren and mourning dove. Trees with loose bark provide potential roosting habitat for the Indiana bat in the spring and summer.

**Survey Marker 319+40 to 321+30** – This is a wooded area with some larger dead pines. Plant species recorded in this area included privet, Nepal grass, Christmas fern, black cherry, tulip poplar, eastern red cedar, sweetgum, elephant foot and ebony spleenwort. There is also a small wet area by some very large downed trees that supports sedges, rushes and alternate-leaved seedbox. Bird species recorded in the area included red-shouldered hawk (flyover) and downy woodpecker. Trees with loose bark provide potential roosting habitat for the Indiana bat in the spring and summer.

**Survey Marker 321+30 to 321+50** – This is an area of mainly small loblolly pines bisected by a gravel road. Japanese honeysuckle is common here. Bird species noted in the area included Carolina chickadee.

**Survey Marker 321+50 to 326+80** - This is an area of mainly small loblolly pines. Other plant species recorded in this area included poverty grass, broomsedge grass, goldenrod, Japanese honeysuckle, reindeer lichen, red maple, boxelder and heart's-a-busting. Wildlife and/or wildlife sign recorded in the area included white-tailed deer trails.

**Survey Marker 326+80 to 329+70** – This area is an area of bottomland forest. Plant species recorded in this area included sycamore, southern red oak, eastern red cedar, American beech, putty root orchid, sweetgum, Japanese honeysuckle, grape fern, Nepal grass, black cherry, American holly, red maple and ironwood. Wildlife and/or wildlife sign recorded in the area included chorus frogs (singing), a groundhog burrow and crayfish burrows.

**Survey Marker 329+70 to 330+90** – This is an open area with heavy pine beetle damage, consisting of mainly dead pine with a mixture of other live plant species. Other plant species recorded in this area included black cherry, sweetgum and Japanese honeysuckle. Trees with loose bark provide potential roosting habitat for the Indiana bat in the spring and summer.

**Survey Marker 330+90 to 332+30** – This area is a mowed power-line corridor. There is a small wet area close to Bear Creek Road on that east side of the power-line corridor that includes some rushes and sedges. Chorus frogs were recorded singing in this wet area. Other wildlife and/or wildlife sign recorded included white-tailed deer (tracks) and eastern cottontail (scat).

**Survey Marker 332+30 to 335+00** – This is an area of scattered dead pines. Other plant species recorded in this area included live loblolly pine, Japanese honeysuckle, sweetgum and eastern red cedar.

**Survey Marker 335+00 to 338+50** – This is a small savannah-like area of mainly loblolly pine with sparse areas of broomsedge grass. Other plant species recorded included eastern red cedar, Chinese lespedeza, Japanese honeysuckle, goldenrod, reindeer lichen, poverty grass, panic grass, blackjack oak, sweetgum, Virginia pine, privet and Christmas fern.

**Survey Marker 338+50 to 339+00** – This area is a thicket containing mainly sweetgum and red maple. Other plant species recorded included flowering dogwood and Japanese honeysuckle.

**Survey Marker 339+00 to 340+80** – This area contains a bottomland forest. Plant species recorded in this area included white oak, southern red oak, eastern red cedar, red maple, sweetgum, tulip poplar, Christmas fern and ground cedar. Chorus frogs were recorded singing in this area.

**Survey Marker 340+80 to 345+50** – This area is part mowed power-line corridor and part edge habitat. Plant species noted in the edge habitat included loblolly pine, Virginia pine, broomsedge grass and Japanese honeysuckle. White-tailed deer tracks were noted in the power-line corridor.

**Survey Marker 345+50 to 347+30** – This area contains a bottomland forest. Plant species recorded in this area included sweetgum, red maple, sycamore, woolgrass bulrush, rush, Nepal grass, Agrimony and Japanese honeysuckle. Chorus frogs were recorded singing in this area.

**Survey Marker 347+30 to 347+40** – This is an area containing mainly rushes and sedges.

**Survey Marker 347+40 to 348+50** – This is an area of mowed power-line corridor.

**Survey Marker 348+50 to 349+70** – This area contains a bottomland forest. Plant species recorded in this area included sweetgum, red maple, sycamore, loblolly pine, white pine, eastern red cedar, greenbrier, Japanese honeysuckle, Christmas fern, blackberry, crane fly orchid, rushes and sedges.

**Survey Marker 349+70 to 350+70** – This area contains mainly rushes and sedges.

**Survey Marker 350+70 to 368+00** – This is an area of mainly mowed power-line corridor. The area also contains some wet areas that contained singing chorus frogs.

**Survey Marker 368+00 to 373+00** – This is an area of mowed power-line corridor. A pair of red-shouldered hawks were noted in the area going through courtship. Potential bottomland forest nesting sites for this species exist in the vicinity of the power-line corridor. (Note: No red-shouldered hawk nests or nesting activity were recorded in any nearby forested areas that would be impacted by the haul road).

**Survey Marker 373+00 to 379+00** – This area contains a gravel road, mowed power-line corridor and some old field. (There is one small wet area containing mostly common rush north of the gravel road.) Other plant species in this area include loblolly pine, sweetgum, smooth sumac, blackberry, Japanese honeysuckle, goldenrod, broomsedge grass and asters. A field sparrow and a northern cardinal were noted singing in the area.

**Survey Marker 379+00 to 381+20** – This area contains a loblolly pine plantation. (There is also one small area of cattails and common rush.) Plant species recorded in the area included loblolly pine, red maple, sweetgum, tulip poplar, eastern red cedar, Japanese honeysuckle, panic grass, common rush and cattail.

**Survey Marker 381+20 to 383+80** – The area contains mainly old field and a gravel road. Plant species recorded in this area included loblolly pine, Virginia pine, eastern red cedar, sweetgum, blackberry, Japanese honeysuckle, poverty grass, broomsedge grass, goldenrod and reindeer lichen.

**Survey Marker 383+80 to 386+00** – This area contains a mixture of old field and wetlands. Plant species recorded in this area included red maple, Japanese honeysuckle, blackberry, panic grass, alternate-leaved seedbox, woolgrass bulrush and sedges.

**Survey Marker 386+00 to 387+00** – This area contains old field and a gravel road. Plant species recorded in the area included loblolly pine, black cherry, flowering dogwood, blackberry, Japanese honeysuckle and broomsedge grass. Chorus frogs were noted singing in the vicinity. One turkey vulture was recorded as a flyover.

**Survey Marker 387+00 to 389+00** – This area contains a bottomland forest, an area of mowed grass and a gravel road. The area also contains a creek. Plant species recorded in the area included tulip poplar, red maple, blackjack oak, American beech, loblolly pine, Nepal grass and spring-cress. The area has a lot of

dead and downed woody material. One tree in the area had distinctive horizontally arranged drill holes from the activities of a yellow-bellied sapsucker.

**Survey Marker 389+00 to 403+00** – This area contains a loblolly pine plantation and mowed power-line corridor. There is also one small wet area containing common rush and alder. One northern cardinal was noted singing in the area.

**Survey Marker 403+00 to 404+00** – This area contains a wooded thicket and some bottomland forest. Plant species recorded included loblolly pine, blackjack oak, American beech, tulip poplar, red maple, sourwood, ebony spleenwort and crane fly orchid.

**Survey Marker 404+00 to 405+90** – This is an area with heavy pine beetle damage, consisting of mainly dead pine with a mixture of other live plant species. Plant species recorded in this area included American holly, flowering dogwood, tulip poplar, eastern red cedar, blackberry, Japanese honeysuckle, Christmas fern and Nepal grass. The area also contains a lot of dead and down woody material. Trees with loose bark provide potential roosting habitat for the Indiana bat in the spring and summer.

**Survey Marker 405+90 to Route 95** – This area contains bottomland forest. Plant species recorded in this area included tulip poplar, sycamore, alder, red maple, white oak, eastern red cedar, sweetgum, white pine, loblolly pine, blackberry, Japanese honeysuckle, crossvine, spring-cress, green ash and common rush. Bird species recorded in the area included Carolina Chickadee, field sparrow, eastern towhee, Carolina wren and dark-eyed junco. Chorus frogs were also noted singing in the area.

### **SEGMENT THREE - Route 95 to CAPCA Haul Road**

**Survey Marker 418+50 to 431+00** – This is an area with heavy pine beetle damage, consisting of mainly dead pine with a mixture of other live plant species. Plant species recorded in this area included loblolly pine, eastern red cedar, blackberry, Japanese honeysuckle and goldenrod. Chorus frogs were noted singing in the vicinity of survey marker 426+00. Trees with loose bark provide potential roosting habitat for the Indiana bat in the spring and summer.

**Survey Marker 431+00 to 431+60** – This is an area of forest/thicket. Plant species recorded in this area included tulip poplar, white oak, eastern red cedar, greenbrier and Japanese honeysuckle.

**Survey Marker 431+60 to 433+50** – This is a wooded area containing mainly loblolly pine, Virginia pine and eastern red cedar.

**Survey Marker 433+50 to 436+20** – This area contains a bottomland forest. Plant species recorded in the area included sycamore, sweetgum, southern red oak, white oak, American beech, nut-rush and flowering dogwood. Pileated woodpecker drillings were noted on one downed pine. There were large dead trees with peeling bark noted in the vicinity of survey marker 435+00 to 435+20. This was noted as potential Indiana bat roosting habitat.

**Survey Marker 436+20 to 437+30** – This area contains a wooded thicket. Plant species recorded in this area included tulip poplar, black cherry, sweetgum, red maple, flowering dogwood, Japanese honeysuckle, striped pipsissewa and rattlesnake plantain. Survey marker 437+30 to 438+00 contains a small utility line. The utility line contained mainly grasses, including panic grass.

**Survey Marker 438+00 to 445+00** – This is an area with heavy pine beetle damage, consisting of mainly dead pine (mainly loblolly pine) with a mixture of other live plant species. Part of the area is mowed power-line corridor. Plant species recorded in this area included loblolly pine, Virginia pine, tulip poplar, eastern red cedar, red maple, sweetgum, Japanese honeysuckle, ground cedar and Nepal grass. The area contained a lot of dead and down woody material. One eastern cottontail and one white-breasted nuthatch were noted in the area. Trees with loose bark provide potential roosting habitat for the Indiana bat in the spring and summer.

**Survey Marker 445+00 to 446+50** – This area contains a bottomland forest with a creek. Plant species recorded in this area included red maple, alder, buckeye, ironwood, sweetgum, river cane, flowering dogwood, eastern red cedar, Japanese honeysuckle, greenbrier, wood rush, agrimony and Christmas fern.

**Survey Marker 446+50 to 458+00** – This area is half mowed power-line and half wooded thicket. Plant species recorded in this area included loblolly pine, Virginia pine, red maple, white oak, hickory, ironwood, flowering dogwood, eastern red cedar, mockernut hickory and ground cedar.

**Survey Marker 458+00 to 461+00** – This area contains bottomland forest. Plant species recorded in this area included red maple, sourwood, white oak, and Christmas fern.

**Survey Marker 461+00 to 465+00** – This is an area of mixed pine and deciduous woods. Plant species recorded in the area included loblolly pine, Virginia pine, tulip poplar, American beech, southern red oak and eastern red cedar.

**Survey Marker 465+00 to 467+00** – This area contains mowed power-line corridor.

**Survey Marker 467+00 to 472+50 (Gum Branch Road)** – This area contains pines with mixed deciduous trees. Plant species recorded in this area included loblolly pine, sweetgum, red maple, eastern red cedar and Japanese honeysuckle. Chorus frogs were noted singing in one wet area. A dark-eyed junco was also sighted in this area.

**Survey Marker 472+50 to 474+25** – This area contains bottomland forest with a creek. Plant species recorded in this area included tulip poplar, ironwood, red maple, redbud, black cherry, hackberry, multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle and rush.

**Survey Marker 474+25 to 481+00** – This area is half deciduous woods and half mowed power-line. Plant species recorded in the area included red maple, American beech, white oak, eastern red cedar, broomsedge grass and common rush.

**Survey Marker 481+00 to 483+50** – This area contains mowed power-line corridor. A Carolina chickadee was noted calling north of the site.

**Survey Marker 483+50 to 485+00** – This area contains bottomland forest. Plant species recorded in this area included tulip poplar, white oak, eastern red cedar and loblolly pine. Chorus frogs were noted singing in the area.

**Survey Marker 485+00 to 486+00** – This area is partially mowed and partially small saplings. Plant species recorded in this area included red maple and white oak.

**Survey Marker 486+00 to CAPCA Haul Road** – This area contains mowed power-line corridor.

**APPENDIX B**

**THE REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF THE TENNESSEE DACE**



## APPENDIX B. THE REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF THE TENNESSEE DACE

The Tennessee dace (*Phoxinus tennesseensis*) generally prefers streams with pools and undercut bank structure, but must have access to riffle areas for spawning. The life span of Tennessee dace, as with most Phoxinus, is about three years, with spawning occurring in the second and third years. During most of the year, the dace are distributed throughout a stream watershed, at an average density of 1 fish per 10 m<sup>2</sup> of water surface. During spawning activity, however, the dace migrate to form large aggregations. These migrations may cover large distances, as the number of individuals can reach several hundred fish or more in an aggregation.

The Tennessee dace typically spawns using nests built by other cyprinid species. These minnow species can include creek chub (*Semotilus atromaculatus*), large-scale stoneroller (*Camptostoma oligolepis*), and striped shiner (*Luxilus chrysocephalus*), depending on stream size. Generally, males of these host species will create a nest area in the shallow sections where a pool transitions into a riffle or run. The host males fan the nest area or actively move small pebbles to create a zone free of fine sediments. With chubs, only a single male occupies each nest and defends it against other male creek chubs. With stonerollers and striped shiners, the males form a large aggregation and battle for prime spots within the nest area. In both cases, males use these areas to attract females of their species for mating. Tennessee dace are allowed to use these nests as well to form spawning aggregations; apparently the coloration of the male dace, a brilliant red with yellow and gold tints, does not trigger the defensive reaction of the host species. Female dace swim into the nest area, release their eggs which are then fertilized by one or more male dace. The eggs settle into the interstitial spaces between the gravel of the nest. Flowing water, free of silt, provides oxygen to the eggs. Hatching occurs within a few weeks depending on stream temperature.

The breeding season of Tennessee dace can be determined by several methods. Generally, spawning of Tennessee dace has been judged to be very similar to that of other southern Phoxinus species in terms of behavior, nest utilization, and season (Settles and Hoyt 1978). Several researchers have suggested that the spawning season spans the April to July time frame in Tennessee (Starnes and Jenkins 1988; Etnier and Starnes 1993). Unpublished observations by E. M. Schilling and M. G. Ryon indicate that spawning occurs on the ORR from late March (after March 15) through the end of May. Gonad size was examined in dace collected monthly (1989-1990) from Bear Creek and smaller tributaries. The size of the ovaries increased markedly in March and peaked in first week of May. The overall weight declined sharply in June, suggesting an end to spawning. These patterns were also seen in the size and maturity of individual eggs taken during these years, with maximum size occurring the first week of May. Observations of behavior in the field matched this time frame, with active aggregations of male Tennessee dace present in late March through the end of May. These aggregations were seen in Pinhook Branch, lower Bear Creek (just east of Hwy 95), and middle Bear Creek (downstream of NT-7). There is likely some variability in the spawning season depending on variations in flow, water temperature and host spawning activity, which could extend spawning through June if earlier conditions were unfavorable. Larval development proceeds for the two months following the spawn, with larval and juvenile fish occupying shallow, low water velocity areas adjacent to pools.



**APPENDIX C**

**LIST OF WETLAND PLANTS IDENTIFIED ON APRIL 1, 2005  
WITHIN THE HAUL ROAD ROUTE**



**APPENDIX C.**  
**LIST OF WETLAND PLANTS IDENTIFIED ON APRIL 1, 2005**  
**WITHIN THE HAUL ROAD ROUTE**

Species listed by nearest survey marker with common name and wetland classification.

**Survey Marker 359**

*Cardamine rhomboidea* (spring-cress) synonym *C. bulbosa* OBL  
*Typha latifolia* (common cat-tail) OBL  
*Impatiens* sp. (jewel-weed) FACW  
*Juncus effusus* (soft rush) FACW+  
*Carex lurida* (smaller hop sedge) OBL  
*Ludwigia alternifolia* (alternate-leaved seedbox) OBL  
*Galium tinctorium* (marsh bedstraw) FACW

**Survey Marker 360**

*Impatiens* sp. (jewel-weed) FACW  
*Juncus effusus* (soft rush) FACW+  
*Carex lurida* (smaller hop sedge) OBL  
*Selaginella apoda* (meadow spikemoss) FACW+  
*Alisma subcordatum* (water-plantain) OBL  
*Erianthus giganteus* (tall beardgrass) FACW  
*Helianthus angustifolia* (narrow-leaved sunflower) FAC+

**Survey Marker 364**

*Typha latifolia* (common cat-tail) OBL  
*Cardamine rhomboidea* (spring-cress) synonym *C. bulbosa* OBL  
*Agrimonia parviflora* (southern agrimony) FAC  
*Juncus effusus* (soft rush) FACW+  
*Selaginella apoda* (meadow spikemoss) FACW+

**Survey Marker 366+50**

*Juncus effusus* (soft rush) FACW+  
*Cardamine rhomboidea* (spring-cress) synonym *C. bulbosa* OBL  
*Alisma subcordatum* (water-plantain) OBL  
*Erianthus giganteus* (tall beardgrass) FACW  
*Scirpus cyperinus* (wool-grass) OBL

**Survey Marker 389**

*Ludwigia alternifolia* (alternate-leaved seedbox) OBL  
*Scirpus pendulus* (a bulrush) OBL  
*Scirpus cyperinus* (wool-grass) OBL  
*Acer rubrum* (red maple) FAC  
*Rubus argutus* (highbush blackberry) FACU+  
*Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle) FAC-

**Survey Marker 407-415+50**

*Sambucus canadensis* (American elderberry) FACW-

*Liquidambar styraciflua* (sweetgum) FAC+

*Agrimonia parviflora* (southern agrimony) FAC

*Salix nigra* (black willow) OBL

*Lindera benzoin* (spicebush) FACW

*Cardamine rhomboidea* (spring-cress) synonym *C. bulbosa* OBL

*Microstegium vimineum* (Nepal grass) FAC+

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