APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This form should be completed by following the instructions provided in Section IV of the JD Form Instructional Guidebook.

SEC	CTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): 10/6/2022
B.	DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Fort Worth District, SWF-2022-00176
	PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
	State: Texas County: Caldwell City: Near Uhland
1.	Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 29.899185 N, Long97.763018 W. Universal Transverse Mercator:
	Name of nearest waterbody: Clear Fork Plum Creek
	Name of nearest Traditional Na vigable Water (TNW) into which the a quatic resource flows: Guadalupe River
	Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): 121002030407
	☐ Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are a vailable upon request.
	Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc.) are associated with this action and are recorded
	on a different JD form.
D.	REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):
	Office (Desk) Determination. Date:
	Field Determination. Date(s): 6/21/2022
SEC	CTIONII: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
A.	RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.
	ere Are No "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part
329	<u>) in</u> the review area. [Required]
	Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.
	Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign
	commerce. Explain: .
B.	CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.
The	ere Are "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area.
	1. Waters of the U.S.
	a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply): 1
	TNWs, including territorial seas
	Wetlands a djacent to TNWs
	Relatively permanent waters ² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands a djacent to but not directly a butting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands a djacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Impoundments of jurisdictional waters
	Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
	Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
	Wetlands a djacent to but not directly a butting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands a djacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
	Wetlands adjacent to non-RP ws that flow directly or indirectly into 1 N ws Impoundments of jurisdictional waters
	 Impoundments of jurisdictional waters Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands
	b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area (See attached tables):
	Non-wetland waters: 8270 linear feet and 0 acres total for open water ponds
	Wetlands: 27.0 acres.
	c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: 1987 Delineation Manual and OHWM indicators.
	Elevation of established OHWM (if known): Unknown.
	2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable): ³
	Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to not be
	jurisdictional. Explain:

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a **tributary** that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

³ Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

TNW
 Identify TNW:
 Summarize rationale supporting determination:

 Wetland adjacent to TNW

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is "adjacent":

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

This section summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps determine whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under *Rapanos* have been met. The agencies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are "relatively permanent waters" (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, skip to Section III.D.4. A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and EPA regions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a significant nexus between a relatively permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even though a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law. If the waterbody⁴ is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the waterbody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant n

1. Characteristics of <u>non-TNWs tributaries</u> that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

General Area Conditions: Watershed size: 6371 acres Drainage area: acres Average annual rainfall: 35 inches
Avera ge annual snowfall: 0 inches
Physical Characteristics: (a) Relationship with TNW: ☐ Tributary flows directly into TNW. ☑ Tributary flows through 1 tributaries before entering TNW. Project waters are Pick Listriver miles from TNW. Project waters are Pick Listriver miles from RPW. Project waters are 21 a erial (straight) miles from TNW. Project waters are 0 a erial (straight) miles from RPW. Clear Fork Plum Ck is an RPW. Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. No Explain: Identify flow route to TNW ⁵ : Clear Fork Plum Creek to Plum Creek to Guadalupe River Tributary stream order, if known: Second. (b) General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply): Tributary is: Natural. Explain: The feature is in its natural state. ☐ Artificial (man-made). Explain: ☐ Manipulated (man-altered). Explain:
Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate): Average width: 10-20 feet Average depth: 1 to 3 feet Average side slopes: Pick List 2:1 Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply): Silts Sands Concrete Cobbles Gravel Muck Bedrock Vegetation. Type/% cover: Other. Explain:

⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

⁵ Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: Stable
Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: None.
Tributary geometry: Mix of straight and meandering
Tributary gradient (approximate a verage slope): 1 %
The world gradient (approximate a vollege step e), 1 / v
(c) <u>Flow:</u>
Tributary provides for: Mix of straight and meandering reaches
Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: 1 for perennial reach and 1-5 for
intermittent reach.
Describe flow regime: Perennial (lower reach) and intermittent (upper reach)
Other information on duration and volume:
Surface flow is: Discrete and confined. Characteristics:.
Subsurface flow: Unknown. Explain findings:
Dye (or other) test performed: Tributory bes (sheek all that a make)
Tributary has (check all that apply):
Bed and banks
☑ OHWM ⁶ (check all indicators that apply):
clear, natural line impressed on the bank the presence of litter and debris
changes in the character of soil destruction of terrestrial vegetation
shelving the presence of wrack line
vegetation matted down, bent, or absent sediment sorting
☐ leaf litter disturbed or washed away Scour
sediment deposition multiple observed or predicted flow events
☐ water staining ☐ a brupt change in plant community
\Box other(list):
☐ Discontinuous OHWM. ⁷ Explain: .
If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that
apply):
High Tide Line indicated by: Mean High Water Mark indicated by:
oil or scum line a long shore objects survey to a vailable datum;
fine shell/debris deposits (foreshore) physical markings;
physical markings/characteristics vegetation lines/changes in vegetation types.
☐ tidal gauges
□ other(list):
(iii) Chemical Characteristics:
Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed
characteristics, etc.). Explain: Slow moving reaches are cloudy and contain algae. Aerials show clear
conditions occur as well.
Identify specific pollutants, if known: E. coli from adjacent cattle utilization.
(iv) Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):
Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, a verage width): Varies from 0 to 600 feet.
■ Wetland fringe. Characteristics: Herbaceous and woody vegetation exist. Slow moving reached have
floating but rooted vascular plants.
☐ Habitat for:
☐ Federally Listed species. Explain findings:
☐ Fish/spawn a reas. Explain findings: .
☑ Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: The CF Plum Creek corridor provides
habitat for neo-tropical migrants, game (deer) and non-game (skunk, racoon, possum, etc.) wildlife.
Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: Limited streams and water sources exist in watershed
and the majority appear to be ephmeral in nature. Creek provides long term open water areas for fish
and other aquatic species.

2. Characteristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

⁶A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break.

Tibid.

(i) Physical Characteristics:

(a) General Wetland Characteristics:

Properties: Emergent, scrub-shrub and forested wetlands exist that abut the CF Plum Ck as well as to a lesser extent also exist within the first bench of the floodplain of the creek.

Wetland size: 25 acres

Wetland type. Explain: Includes all abutting and adjacent wetlands to Clear Fork Plum Creek Wetland quality. Explain: Although no TXRAM assessment was formally completed, scored are expected to be average to high. Higher quality resources are based on forested and scrub-shrub plant communities which score higher in TXRAM and are relatively undisturbed other than cattle grazing occurring.

Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: NO.

(b) General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW:

Flow is: Wetlands do not normally have flow but are inundated by creek flows and are saturated. Explain: Flow occurs from the creek to the abutting wetlands at low to high flows as well as flows coming from the site and upland areas into the wetlands and into the creek. The few adjacent, non-abutting smaller linear and depressional wetlands are located within the first bench of the floodplain of the creek.

Surface flow is: From the creek to the wetlands and sheet flow from uplands to & through wetlands to the stream.

	Subsurface flow: Unknown. Explain findings: Dye (or other) test performed:
(c)	Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:
	☐ Directly abutting
	☑ Not directly abutting
	☐ Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain:
	☑ Ecological connection. Explain: See floodplain connectivity literature as well as functions and
	importance of floodplains to stream ecology.
	☐ Separated by berm/barrier. Explain:.

(d) Proximity (Relationship) to TNW

Characteristics:

Project wetlands are Pick Listriver miles from TNW.

Project waters are 21 aerial (straight) miles from TNW. Same as the creek identified above.

Flow is from: As described above, primarily from the adjacent non-contiguous, non-abutting wetlands to the creek to the TNW. However, Clear Fork Plum Creek provides flows to the wetlands which is returned as well as some retained in depressional areas.

Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the 1-10 year floodplain.

(ii) Chemical Characteristics:

Characterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain: Turbid and clear in the stream which provides sediment and nutirents to adjacent wetlands where filtration and trapping occurs. Primary productivity in wetlands also occurs and is provided to the stream which contributes to the TNW.

Identify specific pollutants, if known:.

(iii) Biological Characteristic	. Wetland supports (check all that apply)):
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\boxtimes	Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, a verage width): 0 to 600 feet wide and varies from forested to
scr	rub-shrub.
\boxtimes	Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain: Forested and scrub-shrub.
\boxtimes	Habitat for:
	☐ Federally Listed species. Explain findings: .
	☐ Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: .
	☑ Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: .
	Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: .

3. Characteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)

All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: Pick List

Approximately () acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:

	Directly abuts? (Y/N)	Size (in acres)
B-1	N	0.1
B-2	Y	14.83
C1	Y	0.28
C2	Y	7.96
C3	Y	0.04
D1	Y	2.51
E3	N	1.0
E4	Y	0.02
E5	N	0.06
E6	N	0.01
E7	N	0.01
E10	Y	0.04
E11	N	0.05
E12	N	0.05
E13	N	0.08

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed: These wetlands provide natural moderation of floods (regulate water volume, release during lower flow conditions, etc.), reduction in flow velocity and cause deposition of sediments which improves water quality. They also support nutrient cycling, increase productivity and improve fish habitat due to contributions of nutrients and carbon to receiving waters. They assist with water quality maintenance and groundwater recharge. Living resource values relative to vegetation are also provided in addition to wildlife habitat. The Clear Fork Plum Creek and its associated wetland areas provide refugia and travel corridors in a watershed that has been heavily modified for agricultural practices and cattle use. There is a significant nexus associated with those wetland polygons that do not abut the Clear Fork Plum Creek as supported above as well as when considered in conjunction with the limited amount of wetland that exists (less than 10%) of the area within the floodplain of the Clear Fork.

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the Rapanos Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (ifany), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (ifany), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNN? Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (ifany), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

- 1. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D:
- 2. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D: These wetlands provide natural moderation of floods (regulate water volume, release during lower flow conditions, etc.), reduction in flow velocity and cause deposition of sediments which improves water quality. They also support nutrient cycling, increase productivity and improve fish habitat due to contributions of nutrients and carbon to receiving waters. They assist with water quality maintenance and groundwater recharge. Living resource values relative to vegetation are also provided in addition to wildlife habitat. The Clear Fork Plum Creek and its associated wetland areas provide refugia and travel corridors in a watershed that has been heavily modified for agricultural practices and cattle use. There is a significant nexus associated with those wetland polygons that do not abut the Clear

Fork Plum Creek as supported above as well as when considered in conjunction with the limited amount of wetland that exists (less than 10%) of the area within the floodplain of the Clear Fork.

3. Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D: These wetlands provide natural moderation of floods (regulate water volume, release during lower flow conditions, etc.), reduction in flow velocity and cause deposition of sediments which improves water quality. They also support nutrient cycling, increase productivity and improve fish habitat due to contributions of nutrients and carbon to receiving waters. They assist with water quality maintenance and groundwater recharge. Living resource values relative to vegetation are also provided in addition to wildlife habitat. The Clear Fork Plum Creek and its associated wetland areas provide refugia and travel corridors in a watershed that has been heavily modified for agricultural practices and cattle use. There is a significant nexus associated with those wetland polygons that do not abut the Clear Fork Plum Creek as supported above as well as when considered in conjunction with the limited amount of wetland that exists (less than 10%) of the area within the floodplain of the Clear Fork.

D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

(C	IECK ALL I HAI AFFLI);
1.	TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands. Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area: ☐ TNWs: linear feet width (ft), Or, acres. ☐ Wetlands a djacent to TNWs: acres.
2.	RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. ☐ Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial: Lower part of Clear Fork Plum Creek on the tract has water in all aerial photographs reviewed except 1 year during extreme drought. ☐ Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow "seasonally" (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally: Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply): ☐ Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft). ☐ Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters:
	3. Non-RPWs ⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. ☑ Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C. Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply): ☑ Tributary waters: 2390 linear feet-width (ft). ☐ Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters: .
4.	 Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. ☑ Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands. ☑ Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, a bove. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: See the delineation map. ☑ Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow "seasonally." Provide data indicating that tributary is sea sonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, a bove. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly a butting an RPW: Provide a creage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: See table for acreage.

5. Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

Wetlands that do not directly a but an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are a djacent and with similarly situated a djacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisidictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide a creage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: See table for acreage.

⁸See Footnote #3.

	6.	Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands adjacent to such waters and have, when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C. Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: 2.51 acres.
	7.	Impoundments of jurisdictional waters. As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional. □ Demonstrate that impoundment was created from "waters of the U.S.," or □ Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or □ Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below).
Е.	API	DLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR STRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT PLY): 10 which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes. from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce. which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce. Interstate isolated waters. Explain: Other factors. Explain:
	Prov	ntify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination: vide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft). Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters: Wetlands: acres.
F.		ON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): If potential wetlands were assessed within the review a rea, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or a ppropriate Regional Supplements. Review a rea included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce. □ Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review a rea would have been regulated based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR). Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: Other: (explain, if not covered above):
	jur a gr	DLATED - Provide a creage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the <u>sole</u> potential basis of isdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated riculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply): Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet width (ft). Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of a quatic resource: . Wetlands: acres.
		ILS SIGNIFICANTNEXUS - Provide a creage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not set the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply): Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, width (ft). Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of a quatic resource: Wetlands: acres.

SECTIONIV: DATA SOURCES.

⁹ To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

¹⁰ Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

4.	SUP	PORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and
	whe	ere checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):
	\boxtimes	Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant:
	\boxtimes	Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
	_	☑ Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.
		Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
		Data sheets prepared by the Corps: .
	H	Corps na vigable waters' study:
	H	
		U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas:
		☐ USGS NHD data.
	_	☐ USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
	\bowtie	U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name:
	\boxtimes	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation:
	\boxtimes	National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: .
		State/Local wetland inventory map(s):
	\boxtimes	FEMA/FIRM maps: Online viewer.
		100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929)
	\boxtimes	Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date): All Google Earth imagery.
		or \(\subseteq \text{Other (Name & Date): Fin Google Earth Imagery.} \)
		Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: .
		•
	H	Applicable/supporting case law:
		Applicable/supporting scientific literature:
		Other information (please specify):

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD:

APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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	CTIONI: BACKGROUNDINFORMATION
A.	REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD):
В.	DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Fort Worth District, SWF-2022-00176
C.	PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
	State: Texas County: Caldwell City: Near Uhland
1.	
	Universal Transverse Mercator:
	Name of nearest waterbody: Clear Fork Plum Creek
	Name of nearest Traditional Na vigable Water (TNW) into which the a quatic resource flows: Guadalupe River
	Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): 121002030407
	Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are a vailable upon request.
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	Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.
	Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign
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	commerce. Explain.
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	Wetlands a djacent to TNWs
	Relatively permanent waters ² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
	Relatively permanent waters ² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
	☐ Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
	Wetlands a djacent to but not directly a butting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
	Wetlands a djacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
	Impoundments of jurisdictional waters
	Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands
	1solated (interstate of intrastate) waters, including isolated wettailes
	b. Identify (action ata) size of western of the ILC in the nextern area (Con attached to black
	b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area (See attached tables):
	Non-wetland waters: linear feet and acres total for open water ponds
	Wetlands: acres.
	c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: 1987 Delineation Manual and OHWM indicators.
	Elevation of established OHWM (if known): Unknown.
	2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable): ³

Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to not be jurisdictional. Explain: Site contains 5 isolated or preamble water features including Wetland D2 – upland

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a <u>tributary</u> that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

³ Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

stock tank silted in to form wetland and Wetlands E1, E2, E8 and E9 which are all isolated depressional features.

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

1. TNW

Identify TNW:

Summarize rationale supporting determination:

2. Wetland adjacent to TNW

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is "adjacent":

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

This section summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps determine whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under *Rapanos* have been met. The agencies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are "relatively permanent waters" (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, skip to Section III.D.4. A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and EPA regions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a significant nexus between a relatively permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even though a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law. If the waterbody⁴ is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the waterbody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant n

1. Characteristics of non-TNWs tributaries that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

(i)		neral Area Conditions:		
	Wa	tershed size: acres		
Drainage area: acres				
	Avera ge a nnual ra in fall: inches			
	Average annual snowfall: inches			
(ii)		Physical Characteristics:		
()	(a)	Relationship with TNW:		
	()	☐ Tributary flows directly into TNW.		
		☐ Tributary flows through tributaries before entering TNW.		
		Project waters are Pick List river miles from TNW.		
		Project waters are Pick List river miles from RPW.		
		Project waters are a erial (straight) miles from TNW.		
		Project waters are a erial (straight) miles from RPW.		
		Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. No Explain:		
		Identify flow route to TNW ⁵ :.		
		Tributary stream order, if known:.		
		Thoutary sticaliforder, if known		
		(b) <u>General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply):</u>		
		Tributary is: Natural. Explain:		
		Artificial (man-made). Explain:		
		Manipulated (man-altered). Explain:		
		Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate):		
		Average width: feet		
		Average depth: feet		
		Average side slopes: Pick List		
		Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply):		
		☐ Silts ☐ Sands ☐ Concrete		
		Li Salius Li Collette		

⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

⁵ Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

☐ Cobbles ☐ Gravel ☐ Muck ☐ Bedrock ☐ Vegetation. Type/% cover:
Other. Explain:
Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain:
Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain:
Tributary geometry: Pick List Tributary gradient (approximate a verage slope): %
Thoutary gradient (approximate a velage slope) 70
(c) <u>Flow:</u>
Tributary provides for: Pick List
Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: Pick List Describe flow regime:
Other information on duration and volume:
Surface flow is: Pick List Characteristics:.
Subsurface flow: Unknown. Explain findings: .
\square Dye (or other) test performed:
Tributary has (check all that apply):
☐ Bed and banks ☐ OHWM ⁶ (check all indicators that apply):
clear, natural line impressed on the bank the presence of litter and debris
changes in the character of soil destruction of terrestrial vegetation
shelving the presence of wrack line
vegetation matted down, bent, or absent sediment sorting
☐ leaf litter disturbed or washed away ☐ scour ☐ sediment deposition ☐ multiple observed or predicted flow events
□ water staining □ abrupt change in plant community
other (list):
☐ Discontinuous OHWM. ⁷ Explain: .
If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that
apply): High Tide Line indicated by: Mean High Water Mark indicated by:
oil or scum line a long shore objects survey to a vailable datum;
fine shell/debris deposits (foreshore) physical markings;
☐ physical markings/characteristics ☐ vegetation lines/changes in vegetation types.
☐ tidal gauges
other(list): (iii) Chemical Characteristics:
Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed
characteristics, etc.). Explain:
Identify specific pollutants, if known:.
 (iv) Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply): □ Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, a verage width):
Wetland fringe. Characteristics:
Habitat for:
Federally Listed species. Explain findings:
☐ Fish/spawn a reas. Explain findings:
☐ Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: ☐ Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings:
Aquatic/whithite diversity. Explain findings.
Characteristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW
(i) Physical Characteristics:
(a) General Wetland Characteristics: Properties:
Wetland size: acres

⁶A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break.

Tibid.

		Wetlandtype. Explain:				
		Wetland quality. Explain:				
		Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain:				
	(b)	(b) General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW:				
		Flow is: Pick List Explain:				
		Surface flow is: Pick List Characteristics:				
		Subsurface flow: Pick List Explain findings: .				
		\square Dye (or other) test performed:				
	()	() W. (1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1				
	(c)	(c) Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW: ☐ Directly a butting				
		☐ Not directly a butting				
		Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain:				
		Ecological connection. Explain:				
		☐ Separated by berm/barrier. Explain: .				
	(d)	(d) Proximity (Relationship) to TNW				
	(-)	Project wetlands are Pick List river miles from TNW.				
		Project waters are Pick List a erial (straight) miles from TNW.				
		Flow is from: Pick List	11			
		Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the Pick List floor	ıpıaın.			
(ii)		Chemical Characteristics:				
		Characterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on s	urface; w	vater quality; general		
		watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain:.				
	Tue	Identify specific pollutants, if known:.				
(iii)Biological Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply):						
		Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, a verage width):				
	H	☐ Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain:. ☐ Habitat for:				
	ш	☐ Federally Listed species. Explain findings: .				
		Fish/spawnareas. Explain findings:				
		☐ Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: .				
		☐ Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: .				
Chi	ırac	racteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)				
All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: Pick List						
		Approximately () a cres in total are being considered in the cumulative ana	lysis.			
	For	For each wetland, specify the following:	XZ/NT	G: (: ·)		
		<u>Directly abuts? (Y/N)</u> <u>Size (in acres)</u> <u>Directly abuts? (</u>	<u>Y/N)</u>	Size (in acres)		

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed:.

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

3.

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the *Rapanos* Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

• Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

- 1. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D:
- 2. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:
- 3. Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:.

D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

1.	TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands. Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area: ☐ TNWs: linear feet width (ft), Or, acres. ☐ Wetlands a djacent to TNWs: acres.
2.	RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. ☐ Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial: ☐ Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow "seasonally" (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally: Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply): ☐ Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft). ☐ Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters:
	 Non-RPWs⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C. Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft). Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters: .
4.	Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. □ Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as a djacent wetlands. □ Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, a bove. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly a butting an RPW: □ Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow "seasonally." Provide data indicating that tributary is seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, a bove. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly a butting an RPW: Provide a creage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review a rea: acres.

⁸See Footnote #3.

	Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisidictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C. Provide a creage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: a cres.
	6. Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands adjacent to such waters and have, when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C. Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.
	7. Impoundments of jurisdictional waters. As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional. Demonstrate that impoundment was created from "waters of the U.S.," or Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below).
E.	SOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): 10 which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes. from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce. which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce. Interstate isolated waters. Explain: Other factors. Explain:
	dentify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination: Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft). Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters: Wetlands: acres.
F.	NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): ☐ If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements. ☐ Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce. ☐ Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR). ☐ Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: ☐ Other: (explain, if not covered above): An upland stock tank was excavated prior to 1957 on the tract which tota 0.32 acres.
	SOLATED - Provide a creage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the <u>sole</u> potential basis of urisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigate agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply): Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet width (ft). Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of a quatic resource: Wetlands: 0.17 acres associated with 4 small depressional wetlands removed from any drainage feature.
	FAILS SIGNIFICANTNEXUS - Provide a creage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that a pply): Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, width (ft). Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of a quatic resource:

⁹ To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

¹⁰ Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

<u>ONIV: DATA SOURCES</u> .
PORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and re checked and requested, a ppropriately reference sources below): Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the a pplicant/consultant: Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the a pplicant/consultant. Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report. Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report. Data sheets prepared by the Corps: Corps na vigable waters' study: U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas: USGS NHD data. USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps. U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation: Caldwell County. National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: State/Local wetland inventory map(s): FEMA/FIRM maps: Online viewer. 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929) Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date): All Google Earth and Historic Aerials.com imagery. or Other (Name & Date): Consultant's delineation report photos. Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: Applicable/supporting case law: Applicable/supporting scientific literature: Other information (please specify):

☐ Wetlands: acres.

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD: