APPRO VED 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.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): February 24, 2020 Α.

DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Fort Worth District, TxDO TU.S. 377 Relief Route, SWF-2020-00107 R.

PROJECT LO CATION AND BACKGRO UND INFORMATION: С.

State: Texas County/parish/borough: Hood and Johnson Counties City: Cresson Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 32.535263°N, Long. -97.627030°W. Universal Transverse Mercator: 628628.433941, 3598706.237889

Name of nearest waterbody: Fall Creek

Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: Brazos River Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): Fall Creek, HUC 12: 120602011301

Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available 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.

REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): D.

 \boxtimes Office (Desk) Determination. Date: February 21, 2020

 \boxtimes Field Determination. Date(s): February 13, 2020

SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS A. RHA SECTION 10 DEIERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There Are no "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in 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.

There Are "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]

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 adjacent to TNWs
 - Relatively permanent waters² (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 adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
 - Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
 - 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: Non-wetland waters: linear feet: 1,707 width (ft) and/or acres. Wetlands: 1.57 acres.
- c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: 1987 Delineation Manual Elevation of established OHWM (if known):
- 2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):³

Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not 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 WEILANDS 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 WEILANDS (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 nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.

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

- (i) General Area Conditions:
 - Watershed size: 32,917 **acres** Drainage area: 104.53 **acres** Average annual rainfall: 36 inches Average annual snowfall: 0 inches

(ii) Physical Characteristics:

(a) <u>Relationship with TNW:</u>
 ☑ Tributary flows directly into TNW.
 ☑ Tributary flows through 2 tributaries before entering TNW.

Project waters are 10-15 river miles from TNW.
Project waters are 1-2 river miles from RPW.
Project waters are 5-10 aerial (straight) miles from TNW.
Project waters are 1-2 aerial (straight) miles from RPW.
Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: N/A.

Identify flow route to TNW^5 : Tributaries and wetlands found on site drain to Fall Creek, which empties into the Brazos River, a Section 10 TNW.

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 stream order, if known:

.

(b)	General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply): Tributary is: Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Characteristics (check all that apply): Image: Check all that apply): Image: Check all that apply (check all that apply): Image: Check all that apply (check all that apply): Image: Check all that apply (check all that apply): Image: Check all that apply (check al			
	Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate): Average width: 4-10 feet Average depth: 1-3 feet Average side slopes: 3:1.			
	Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply): Silts Sands Concrete Cobbles Gravel Muck Bedrock Vegetation. Type/% cover: Other. Explain:			
intermittent, a	Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: All tributaries on site are considered as all are influenced by groundwater. Banks are stable and well vegetated. Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: Tributary geometry: Meandering Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): 2-5 %			
	 (c) <u>Flow:</u> Tributary provides for: Intermittent but not seasonal flow Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: 11-20 Describe flow regime: Intermittent. Other information on duration and volume: There are 73.3 rainy days annually in Cresson, which is about average mpared to other places in Texas. 			
	Surface flow is: Confined Characteristics:			
	Subsurface flow: Yes Explain findings: .			
	Tributary has (check all that apply): Image: Second Se			
	If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply): High Tide Line indicated by: oil or scum line along shore objects fine shell or debris deposits (foreshore) physical markings/characteristics tidal gauges other (list): 			
	emical Characteristics: racterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.). Explain: Water is clear, and while influenced by groundwater and overland sheet flow, is confined once it has drained into the tributary.			
I	dentify specific pollutants, if known:			

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. ⁷Ibid.

(iv) **<u>Biological Characteristics</u>**. Channel supports (check all that apply):

Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width):

Wetland fringe. Characteristics: S-2 has an emergent wetland fringe, identified as W-2, that occurs outside of the OHWM within the toe of the slope.

- Habitat for:
 - ☐ Federally Listed species. Explain findings:
 - ☐ Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings:
 - Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings:
 - Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings:

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

(i) Physical Characteristics:

- (a) <u>General Wetland Characteristics:</u>
 - Properties:

Wetland size: Three emergent wetlands totaling 1.57 acres Wetland type. Explain: Palustrine Emergent wetlands. Wetland quality. Explain: Low quality. Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: No.

- (b) General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW:
 - Flow is: Intermittent flow Explain:

Surface flow is: Confined

Characteristics: Wetlands are located just outside of the OHWM of the tributaries and exist due to short banks and ock.

shallow bedrock.

Subsurface flow: Yes Explain findings: Groundwater infiltration occurs throughout the project area. Dye (or other) test performed:

(c) <u>Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:</u>

- Directly abutting
- □ Not directly abutting
 - Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain:
 - Ecological connection. Explain:
 - Separated by berm/barrier. Explain:

(d) Proximity (Relationship) to TNW

Project wetlands are **10-15** river miles from TNW. Project waters are **5-10** aerial (straight) miles from TNW. Flow is from: **Wetland to navigable waters** Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the **500-year or greatef**loodplain.

(ii) Chemical Characteristics:

Characterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain: Water is clear, algae is present.

Identify specific pollutants, if known: N/A.

$(iii) \underline{Biological \ Characteristics.} \ Wetland \ supports \ (check \ all \ that \ apply):$

- Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width):
- Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain: Wetland vegetation.
- Habitat for:
 - Federally Listed species. Explain findings:
 - ☐ Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings:
 - Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings:
 - Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings:

$\label{eq:characteristics} \textbf{3.} \quad \textbf{Characteristics of all we tlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)}$

All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: **3** Approximately (1.57) acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:

Directly abuts? (Y/N)	Size (in acres)	Directly abuts? (Y/N)	Size (in acres)
Y	0.02		
Y	0.09		
Y	1.17		
1	1.17		

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed: All three wetlands occur just outside the OHWM of their respective streams, where water overtops the banks and becomes ponded within the shallow floodplains. These aquatic features provide biological functions as habitat for amphibians and invertebrates, as well as mammals. The vegetation detritus provides the basis of a food web that supports the wildlife community downstream. The aquatic features provide for the nutrient and chemical uptake of the waters that percolate into soils. This nutrient and chemical uptake provides for a reduced nutrient/chemical loading in the downstream waters.

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 notlimited 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 Guide book. 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 we tlands, 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/WEILANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands. Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area:
 TNWs: linear feet width (ft), Or, acres.
 Wetlands adjacent 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):

acres.

- Tributary waters: 1,707 linear feet width (ft).
- Other non-wetland waters:
 - Identify type(s) of waters:
- Non-RPWs⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. 3.
 - 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):

acres.

- Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft).
- Other non-wetland waters:
 - Identify type(s) of waters:
- 4. We tlands 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, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: The wetlands were observed as connecting to the tributaries directly, with noland area between the wetlands and streams.

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, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: 1.57 acres.

5. 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 acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.

- Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. 6.
 - 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, have 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.

- Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.⁹ 7.
 - 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).

ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WEILANDS, THE USE, F. DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECKALL THAT APPLY):¹⁰

⁸See Footnote # 3.

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.

	from which fish or shellfish are	nterstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes. or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce. ndustrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce. ain:
	Identify water body and summar	ize rationale supporting determination:
	Tributary waters: linear f	waters in the review area (check all that apply): eet width (ft). acres.
F.	 If potential wetlands were asses Wetland Delineation Manual an Review area included isolated v Prior to the Jan 2001 Supr "Migratory Bird Rule" (M 	icant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain:
		urisdictional waters in the review area, where the <u>sole</u> potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional s, streams): linear feet width (ft). acres. List type of aquatic resource: .
	 Provide acreage estimates for non-jua finding is required for jurisdiction Non-wetland waters (i.e., riversidates) Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: Wetlands: acres. 	
<u>SEC</u>	ECTION IV: DATA SOURCES.	
A.	 and requested, appropriately referent Maps, plans, plots or plat subm Data sheets prepared/submitted Office concurs with data sh Office does not concur with Data sheets prepared by the Co Corps navigable waters' study: U.S. Geological Survey Hydrol USGS NHD data. USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC for U.S. Geological Survey map(s) USDA Natural Resources Construction 	a data sheets/delineation report. rps: logic Atlas: maps.). Cite scale & quad name: . servation Service Soil Survey. Citation:
	 National wetlands inventory m State/Local wetland inventory FEMA/FIRM maps: 100-year Floodplain Elevation Photographs: Aerial (Name or Other (Name Previous determination(s). File Applicable/supporting case law 	map(s): is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929) & Date): & Date): e no. and date of response letter:
	Applicable/supporting scientifi	c literature:

Other information (please specify):

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD:





















