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.

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SEC	TIONI: BACKGROUNDINFORMATION
A.]	REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): 8/25/2022
	DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Fort Worth District, SWF-2022-00314
	PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
	State: Texas County: Ellis City: Ennis
1.	Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. N 32.332884, Long96.609086 W.
	Universal Transverse Mercator:
	Name of nearest waterbody: Cottonwood Creek
	Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the a quatic resource flows: Trinity River
	Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC):
	Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are a vailable upon request.
ļ	Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc.) are a ssociated with this action and are recorded
	on a different JD form.
D	DEVIEW DEDEODMED FOR CITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT ADDI V).
	REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): Office (Desk) Determination. Date:
	✓ Office (Desk) Determination. Date. ✓ Field Determination. Date(s): 8/11/2022
ļ	A Field Determination. Date(s): 8/11/2022
SEC	TION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
	RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.
	e Are No "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part
	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. C	WA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.
Ther	e Are and are not "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
	☐ 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: 1,792 linear feet (Cottonwood Creek) and 0 acres total open water ponds Wetlands: 0.135 acres (Wotland C)
	Wetlands: 0.135 acres (Wetland C).
	c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: 1987 Delineation Manual and OHWM indicators.

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: Stock tank (0.95 acres) constructed in upland and/or is isolated due to lack out outlet

Elevation of established OHWM (if known): Unknown.

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.

to Cottonwood Creek. Two areas identified by consultant as wetlands (2.12 acres) confirmed to not be wetlands (fail the hydrophytic vegetation test and hydrology).

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)	General Area Conditions:
	Watershed size: 1500 acres
	Drainage area: acres
	Avera ge a nnual ra in fall: 39.7 inches
	Average annual snowfall: 1.1 inches
(ii)	Physical Characteristics:
	(a) Relationship with TNW:
	☑ Tributary flows directly into TNW.
	☐ Tributary flows through 1 tributary before entering TNW.
	Project waters are Pick Listriver miles from TNW.
	Project waters are Pick List river miles from RPW.
	Project waters are 9.5 a erial (straight) miles from TNW.
	Project waters are 0 aerial (straight) miles from RPW. Cottonwood Creek is an RPW
	Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. No Explain:
	Identify flow route to TNW ⁵ : Cottonwood Creek to Village Creek to Trinity River.
	Tributary stream order, if known: 2 nd order.
	1110 www.j 5120win 61442, in 1110 Win 2
	(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: 10 feet
	Average depth: 10 feet
	Average side slopes: 2:1.
	Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply):
	Silts
	ZI Sands

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: Stable with places of erosion
Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain:
Tributary geometry: Meandering
Tributary gradient (approximate a verage slope): 1-2 %
(c) Flow:
Tributary provides for: Seasonal
Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: 2-5
Describe flow regime: Aerials show constant flow in almost all years over a variety of months
Other information on duration and volume:
Surface flow is: Pick List Characteristics:.
Subsurface flow: Unknown. Explain findings: .
☐ 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 ☐ 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.
☐ tidalgauges
other(list):
(iii) Chemical Characteristics:
Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed
characteristics, etc.). Explain: Clear day of site visit.
Identify specific pollutants, if known: Non-point from development sources upstream in town of Ennis and
roads.
(iv) Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):
Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, a verage width): Forested to top edge of banks averaging 100+
feet. Slopes mixed shrub & forest.
Wetland fringe. Characteristics:
☐ Habitat for:
☐ Federally Listed species. Explain findings: ☐ Fish/spawn a reas. Explain findings:
☐ Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: Provides wildlife corridor from site all the
way to TNW.
Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: Stream provides habitat to fish and other aquatic
dependent species.
2 Characteristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

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.

⁷Ibid.

	(i)		ysical Characteristics:
		(a)	General Wetland Characteristics: Properties:
			Wetlandsize: acres
			Wetlandtype. Explain:
			Wetland quality. Explain:
			Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain:
		(b)	General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW:
			Flow is: Pick List Explain:
			Surface flow is: Pick List Characteristics:
			Subsurface flow: Pick List 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:
			Separated by berm/barrier. Explain: There is an earthen berm east of the wetland.
		(4)	Proximity (Palationship) to TNW
		(u)	Proximity (Relationship) to TNW Project wetlands are Pick List river miles from TNW.
			Project waters are Pick List aerial (straight) miles from TNW.
			Flow is from: Pick List
			Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the Pick List floodplain.
	(ii)		Chemical Characteristics:
	()	Ch	aracterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general
			tershed characteristics; etc.). Explain:
		Ide	entify specific pollutants, if known:.
	(iii		ological Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply):
			Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, a verage width):
			Vegetationtype/percent cover. Explain:. Habitat for:
		ш	Federally Listed species. Explain findings:
			☐ Fish/spawn a reas. Explain findings:
			Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings:
			Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: .
3.	Cha		cteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)
			wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: Pick List
			proximately () acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis. reach wetland, specify the following:
		1 01	Directly abuts? (Y/N) Size (in acres) Directly abuts? (Y/N) Size (in acres)
			Y 0.135

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed: From 12/2/2008 Joint EPA Corps Guidance: "In considering how to apply the significant nexus standard, the a gencies have focused on the integral relationship between the ecological characteristics of tributaries and those of their a djacent wetlands, which determines in part their contribution to restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's traditional navigable waters. The ecological relationship between tributaries and their adjacent wetlands is well documented in the scientific literature and reflects their physical proximity as well as shared hydrological and biological characteristics. As described above, the agencies will assert CWA jurisdiction over the following waters without the legal obligation to make a significant nexus determination: traditional navigable waters and wetlands adjacent thereto, nonna vigable tributaries that are relatively permanent waters, and wetlands with a continuous surface connection with such tributaries. The agencies will also decide CWA jurisdiction over other non-navigable tributaries."

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 (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: Review of all aerial photography available shows flow in all photos except for 1. Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply): □ Tributary waters: 1,792 linear feet 10 width (ft). □ Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters:
	3. 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.

⁸See Footnote #3.

	Identify type(s) of waters:
4.	 Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. ☑ Wetlands directly abutt 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, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: Site visit confirmed wetland touched the stream at the OHWM. ☑ 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: acres.
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 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.9 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).
DE AP	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:
Pro	entify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination: ovide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft).

F. NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

E.

Other non-wetland waters: acres.

Identify type(s) of waters:

☐ Wetlands:

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 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): Possibly a preamble stock tank totaling 0.95 acres. Area below the stock tank is a ponded non-vegetated area that appears to be a back water area of Cottonwood Creek. Cannot with confidence state that there was not an ephemeral stream where the pond was constructed. It does not have an outlet except occasional rare spill to the north through wetland C but there is no continuous connection and no OHWM.

 $^{^{9}}$ 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.

	ISOLATED - Provide a creage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the <u>sole</u> potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated a griculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply): Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet width (ft). Lakes/ponds: 0.95 acres. See description above for "Other" relative to status of feature. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of a quatic resource: Wetlands: acres.
	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 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.
SE	CTIONIV: DATASOURCES.
Α.	SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply-checked items shall be included in case file and,
	where checked and requested, a ppropriately reference sources below):
	Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant:
	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. Two wetland areas identified did not meet
	hydrophytic vegetation criteria and failed hydrology indicators in the field.
	Data sheets prepared by the Corps:
	Corps na vigable waters' study: .
	U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas:
	☐ USGS NHD data. M USGS 8 and 12 digit HUG mans
	 ✓ 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:
	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 Historicaerials.com Imagery.
	or \(\times \) Other (Name & Date): Consultant report photos.
	Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter:
	Applicable/supporting case law:
	Applicable/supporting scientific literature:
	Other information (please specify):
D	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUDDODT ID.

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD: