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| **Streamlined Biological Assessment Form for Project-Level Consultation under the Streamlined Consultation Framework for the Big Creek Crayfish, St. Francis River, Crayfish, and the Species’ Critical Habitat** |

****This form functions as a biological assessment for Federal agencies and designated non-Federal representatives for actions included in Streamlined Consultation Framework (SCF) for the Big Creek Crayfish, St. Francis River Crayfish, and the species’ designated critical habitat (DCH). Please review instructions for completing the form, available at <https://www.fws.gov/office/missouri-ecological-services/library>.

*Note that: 1) providing this information does not address section 7(a)(2) compliance for other listed species and DCH, and 2) completing the form is not necessary if an action will have no effect on the crayfishes and DCH or if the Service has already provided written concurrence with an agency's determination.*

# Project Information

**Project Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Lead Federal Agency:** Click or tap here to enter text.

Note: For projects that may adversely affect one or both crayfishes or their DCH, a representative from the Federal agency must submit the request to initiate formal consultation.

Point of Contact Information**:** (Name, Email, Phone Number): Click or tap here to enter text.

Point of Contact Affiliation**:** Click or tap here to enter text.

Project County(ies**):** Click or tap here to enter text.

Project Location (lat/long or UTM coordinates**):** Click or tap here to enter text.

**IPaC Code:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Project Description (**provide narrative below or attach additional information; identifying all actions included in the proposed project and the estimated duration of each action**)**:

|  |
| --- |
| [Enter text here] |

# Project Location relative to the stream channel

Indicate whether any portion of project activities will occur within the stream channel or if stream conditions may be affected. If project activities will occur entirely outside of the stream channel AND will not affect stream conditions, a “No Effect” determination is appropriate and no further consultation is required (*the remaining portion of the form need not be completed*).

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| [ ]  Project activities will occur entirely outside the stream channel AND will have NO effect on stream conditions (such as turbidity, water temperature, or water quality).  |
| [ ]  Some portion of project activities will occur within the stream channel OR project activities may affect stream conditions (such as turbidity, water temperature, or water quality).  |

# Conservation Measures

Indicate which measures will be implemented to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the crayfish(es) and/or DCH. If implementation of a conservation measure is not certain (e.g., it will only be implemented if possible), select “NO”. Additional conservation measures not listed may be described under “Other Conservation Measures”.

### Conservation Measures Required in All Areas

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | NO | NA |  |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | The footprint of instream activities will be minimized.  |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | The wetted portion of stream channels will not be used as travel ways for mechanized equipment. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Stream crossings will allow passage of bedload and floating debris, maintain stable channel configurations, and allow passage of aquatic organisms. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Culvert sizes will be large enough to prevent water impoundment and will allow aquatic organism passage. When permanent structures are constructed, culverts will be installed below to preserve the natural stream bed and prevent barriers to aquatic organism passage. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Temporary roadways will have a low gradient with sufficient roadbed and storm water runoff drains and outlets that do not restrict or interrupt natural stream flow. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Sand and gravel will not be removed from the stream for construction purposes (does not apply to removal of sand and gravel as maintenance around structures). |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | All material used to construct temporary stream crossings or work pads will be removed from the stream following completion of project activities.  |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | All relevant erosion and sediment control measures to reduce the amount of sediment entering streams will be implemented, and the controls will be installed and operational before beginning ground-disturbing activities or work within the stream channel. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Hazardous chemicals, fuels, and other such substances will be staged at least 100 feet from streambanks. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Only clean and washed riprap will be used.  |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Equipment will not be washed in or adjacent to streams. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Concrete washings, grout and bonding material will not be deposited into streams or a location where they can be washed into streams. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Materials consisting of fine sediment (e.g. <1” gravel or sand) that may enter the stream channel and impair water quality will not be used for stream crossings. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Broadcast application of pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers will be avoided within the riparian corridor. Spot application of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides will be used according to label instructions. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Clearing of vegetation, including both standing and downed timber, will be limited to that which is absolutely necessary for construction purposes.  |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Disturbed areas will be revegetated as soon as possible after construction to minimize soil erosion, and aggressive exotic perennials, such as Crown Vetch and *Sericea lespedeza*, will not be used. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Heavy equipment use will be minimized within the riparian corridor to reduce vegetation destruction and compaction of soils. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | For construction of private river accesses, permit applicants will be provided information on the impacts of nonnative crayfish species and refraining from releasing unused crayfish bait.  |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Required conservation measures will be posted at construction sites or the measures will be included in contracts.  |

Conservation Measures Required in High Priority Crayfish Areas

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | NO | NA |  |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Instream activities will not occur between March 15 to June 30 to avoid the period when crayfish are most sensitive to disturbance OR impacts will be offset through actions or funds to aid recovery of the crayfishes. Actions and funding amounts will be approved by the Service’s Missouri Ecological Services Field Office. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Directional boring or aerial spanning will be used for pipelines.  |

### Additional Recommended Conservation Measures

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | NO | NA |  |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Stream crossings will be conducted during periods of low streamflow.  |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | New stream crossings will be constructed perpendicular to the flow of water, with minimal disturbance to the stream banks and streambed.  |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Directional boring will be used for stream crossings where possible (e.g., pipelines and utility lines). |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Streambed gradient and streambank contours that promote stream stability will be maintained. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Riprap stabilization designs will include appropriate bank slope and rock size to protect the streambank from wave and current action and to prolong the life of the embankment. Final slope ratio of at least 1:2 will be implemented.  |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Any other activities that may impact stream dynamics and result in streambed scour will be avoided. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Ground-disturbing activities will be designed to avoid or minimize soil dislocation and compaction.  |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Nonnative vegetation will be replaced with native vegetation. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Riparian buffer widths will be increased to at least 100 feet.  |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Before utilizing within streams boats and machinery that have operated in water, water will be drained from motor cavities, live-well, bilge and transom wells, tracks, buckets, and any other water reservoirs. |
| [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | Any mud, soil, trash, plants (or plant material) or animals from equipment will be removed before leaving any water body or work area. |

### Other Conservation Measures

|  |
| --- |
| [Enter text here] |

# action area

Describe the action area, defined at 50 CFR §402.02 as “all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action”. Then provide the longitudinal stream distance of the instream portion of the action area.

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| [Enter text here] |

# Presence of the Species and Critical Habitat

Indicate whether each species and its DCH physical or biological features (PBFs) may be present within the action area.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Big Creek Crayfish  |  [ ]  The species has been documented in the project area or is assumed present based on the suitability of habitat.  |
|  [ ]  The species is assumed absent based on survey results or the absence of suitable habitat. |
|  [ ]  The action area does not occur within the species’ range.  |
| St. Francis River Crayfish |  [ ]  The species has been documented in the project area or is assumed present based on the suitability of habitat. |
|  [ ]  The species is assumed absent based on survey results or the absence of suitable habitat. |
|  ☐ The action area does not occur within the species’ range.  |
| Big Creek Crayfish DCH |  [ ]  One or more PBFs are present within the action area.  |
|  [ ]  No PBFs are present within the action area.  |
|  [ ]  The action area does not occur within the species’ DCH.  |
| St. Francis River Crayfish DCH |  [ ]  One or more PBFs are present within the action area.  |
|  [ ]  No PBFs are present within the action area.  |
|  [ ]  The action area does not occur within the species’ DCH.  |

# effects to the species and critical habitat

Select the appropriate determination for each species and their DCH. If adverse effects are expected, provide additional information under Part VII.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Big Creek Crayfish  |  [ ]  No effect  |
|  [ ]  May affect, but not likely to adversely affect |
|  [ ]  May affect, and likely to adversely affect |
| St. Francis River Crayfish |  [ ]  No effect |
|  [ ]  May affect, but not likely to adversely affect  |
|  [ ]  May affect, and likely to adversely affect  |
| Big Creek Crayfish DCH |  [ ]  No effect |
|  [ ]  May affect, but not likely to adversely affect |
|  [ ]  May affect, and likely to adversely affect |
| St. Francis River Crayfish DCH  |  [ ]  No effect |
|  [ ]  May affect, but not likely to adversely affect |
|  [ ]  May affect, and likely to adversely affect |

# Additional Information Required for Formal Consultation

If project activities may adversely affect one or both of the crayfishes or their DCH, provide the information below to aid the Service in developing the biological opinion.

## Other Activities Caused by the Action

Within a biological opinion, all consequences to species or DCH caused by the proposed Federal action are evaluated, including the consequences of other activities caused by the proposed action, that are reasonably certain to occur (see definition of “effects of the action” at 50 CFR §402.02).

Describe below any additional activities likely to be caused by actions and activities included in the SCF that are not already included in the description of the actions. If none are anticipated, note “none”.

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| [Enter text here] |

## Environmental Baseline within the Action Area

Using shapefiles located at <https://www.fws.gov/office/missouri-ecological-services/library>, select the appropriate responses. If the project includes multiple action areas, please attach additional pages for the environmental baseline within the other action areas.

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| [ ]  The action area overlaps with one or more High Priority Crayfish Areas. |
| [ ]  There is evidence of the Woodland Crayfish within or near the action area |
| [ ]  At least half of the action area is within areas of presumed heavy metal contamination.  |
| [ ]  Habitat within at least half of the action area is affected by sedimentation. |

## Extent of Effects of the Action

For each action, provide the estimated stream distance in which adverse effects will occur. If critical habitat will be adversely affected, specify whether adverse effects will be temporary or long-term. If needed, add rows for additional actions. If adverse effects may occur within the period of March 15 to June 30 in a High Priority Crayfish Area (HPCA), describe compensatory mitigation efforts further below.

| **Action** | **Type of Adverse Effect to the Species** | **Distance of Adverse Effects (m)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Injury or mortality |  |
| Temporarily reduced habitat suitability |  |
| Long-term habitat loss or degradation |  |
| Temporarily reduced connectivity |  |
|  | Injury or mortality |  |
| Temporarily reduced habitat suitability |  |
| Long-term habitat loss or degradation |  |
| Temporarily reduced connectivity |  |

| **Action** | **PBF Adversely Affected** | **Critical Habitat Function Affected** | **Distance of Adverse Effects (m)** | **Duration of Adverse Effect** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Water temperature | Supporting occupancy and reproduction |  |  |
| Stream embeddedness/ Prey base | Supporting occupancy and reproduction |  |  |
| Connectivity | Supporting movement among occupied areas |  |  |
|  | Water temperature | Supporting occupancy and reproduction |  |  |
| Stream embeddedness/ Prey base | Supporting occupancy and reproduction |  |  |
| Connectivity | Supporting movement among occupied areas |  |  |

Compensatory Mitigation Efforts (if applicable):

|  |
| --- |
| [Enter text here] |

## Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects are those effects of future State or private activities, not involving Federal activities, that are reasonably certain to occur within the action area of the Federal action subject to consultation (50 CFR §402.02).

Describe any anticipated cumulative effects within the action area. If none are anticipated, note “none”.

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| [Enter text here] |

# Form Submission

By signing this form, the action agency is: 1) confirming project activities are within the scope of the Service’s 2024 Standing Analysis supporting the SCF, 2) confirming anticipated effects are consistent with the those in the Standing Analysis, and 3) conveying your determination of effects to the Big Creek Crayfish, St. Francis River Crayfish, and the species’ DCH.

If the Service does not respond within 30 days from submittal of this form, the action agency may presume that “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” determinations are informed by the best available information and that responsibilities under 7(a)(2) with respect to the two crayfishes and their DCH have been fulfilled. The action agency will update this determination annually for multi-year activities. The action agency understands that the Service presumes that all activities are implemented as described herein and will promptly report any departures from the described activities to the Missouri Ecological Services Field Office.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_