# 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.

# SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): May 29, 2015
- B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Louisville District, Grannan Grove, LRL-2015-392-sam; Adjacent Wetland A

# C. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State: Indiana County/parish/borough: Hamilton City: Carmel Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 39.9907 °N, Long. 86.2253 °W Universal Transverse Mercator: 22T

Name of nearest waterbody: Little Eagle Creek

Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: East Fork White River Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): 05120201

- 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

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

- ✓ Office (Desk) Determination. Date: May 29, 2015
- Field Determination. Date(s): May 19, 2015, 22T

# SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

# A. RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION 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: 22T

# 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): <sup>1</sup>
- TNWs, including territorial seas
- Wetlands adjacent to TNWs
- Relatively permanent waters<sup>2</sup> (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: 22T linear feet: 22T width (ft) and/or acres. Wetlands: 0.94 acres.
  - c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: 27T

Elevation of established OHWM (if known): 22T

- 2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):<sup>3</sup>
- Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional. Explain:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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). <sup>3</sup> Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

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# 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: 27T Summarize rationale supporting determination: 22T
- 2. Wetland adjacent to TNW Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is "adjacent": 22T

# 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 waterbody<sup>4</sup> 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: 35,141,120 acres Huc 14 Drainage area: 14 acres

Average annual rainfall: 43 inches Average annual snowfall: 25 inches

#### (ii) Physical Characteristics:

- (a) <u>Relationship with TNW:</u>
  - Tributary flows directly into TNW.
  - Tributary flows through 5 tributaries before entering TNW.

Project waters are 30 (or more) river miles from TNW. Project waters are 1-2 river miles from RPW. Project waters are 25-30 aerial (straight) miles from TNW. Project waters are 1 (or less) aerial (straight) miles from RPW. Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: 22T

Identify flow route to TNW<sup>5</sup>: UNT to Little Eagle Creek to, Little Eagle Creek to Eagle Creek, to White River, to East Fork White River

Tributary stream order, if known: 22T

(b) <u>General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply):</u>

Tributary is: 🔲 Natural

- Artificial (man-made). Explain: 22T
- Manipulated (man-altered). Explain: 22T

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West. <sup>5</sup> 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.

	Avera Avera	properties with re ge width: 22T fee ge depth: 22T fee ge side slopes: 22	t t	f bank (est	imate)	:				
	Primary tributary substrate composition (c							Concrete		
	C	Cobbles	Grave	1		ſ		Muck		
	Б	edrock	Veget	ation. Typ	e/% c	over: 22T				
	Other. Explain: 22T									
	Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: 22T Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: 22T Tributary geometry: 22T Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): 22T%							n: 22T		
(c)	Estimate av Descri	<u>Flow:</u> Tributary provides for: 22T Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: 22T Describe flow regime: 22T Other information on duration and volume: 22T								
	Surface flow is: 22T Characteristics: 22T									
	Subsurface flow: 22T Explain findings: 22T									
		as (check all that red and banks HWM <sup>6</sup> (check al clear, natural li changes in the shelving vegetation matt leaf litter distur sediment depos water staining other (list): 227	l indicators the ne impressed character of s ed down, ber bed or washe ition	on the ban bil t, or absen d away		destruction the presence sediment so scour multiple ob	of te e of y orting			
		her than the OHV ligh Tide Line ind oil or scum line fine shell or de physical markin tidal gauges	licated by: along shore bris deposits (	Diffects foreshore)	] М []	ean High Wa survey to av physical ma	ater N vaila arkin			
		other (list): 227	[							

# (iii) Chemical Characteristics:

Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.). Explain: 22T

Identify specific pollutants, if known: 22T

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>A 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. <sup>7</sup>Ibid.

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## (iv) Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):

- Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width): 22T
- Wetland fringe. Characteristics: 22T
- Habitat for:
  - Federally Listed species. Explain findings: 22T
  - Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: 22T
  - Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: 22T
  - Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: 22T

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

## (i) Physical Characteristics:

- (a) General Wetland Characteristics:
  - Properties:
    - Wetland size: 0.94 acres

Wetland type. Explain: Has emergent and forested components

Wetland quality. Explain: Emergent portion of the wetland is low quality in an agricultural field, forested wetland is higher quality providing forging habitat for aquatic organisms, mammal, reptiles and birds.

- Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: 22T
  - (b) <u>General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW</u>: Flow is: Intermittent Flow Explain: Flow drains from wetland to Non-TNW wetland
    - Surface flow is: Discrete and Confined

Characteristics: Flows during rain events through a surface channel to unnamed tributary to Little Eagle Creek

Subsurface flow: Unknown Explain findings: 22T

Dye (or other) test performed: 22T

- (c) <u>Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:</u>
  - Directly abutting
  - Not directly abutting

Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain: Wetland connect to an unnamed tributary to Little Eagle Creek through a drainage channel that is just offsite from the project area

- Ecological connection. Explain: 22T
- Separated by berm/barrier. Explain: 22T
- (d) Proximity (Relationship) to TNW

Project wetlands are 30 (or more) river miles from TNW. Project waters are 30 (or more) aerial (straight) miles from TNW. Flow is from: Wetland to Navigable Waters Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the 500-year or greater 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: Watershed is mixed use with large residential, commercial and agricultural areas. Surface water would be typical of agricultural runoff from adjacent farm field including sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus

Identify specific pollutants, if known: Unknown

# (iii) Biological Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply):

Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width): 22T

- Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain: 22T
- Habitat for:
  - Federally Listed species. Explain findings: 22T
  - Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: 22T
  - Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: 22T
  - Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: Habitat for small aquatic organisms, small mammals and avian species.

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

All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: 1

Approximately (0.94) 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)
No	0.94	22T	22T
22T	22T	22T	22T
22T	22T	22T	22T
22T	22T	22T	22T

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed: Wetland provides habitat for wildlife, serves as a filter for agricultural runoff, and holds water during flood events

# 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: 22T
- 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: There is direct hydrologic connection where water flows from the wetlands, through surface water drainage to an unnamed tributary to Little Eagle Creek, which eventually drains into the East Fork of the White River. The wetlands provide storm water detention, provide filtration for for agricultural runoff, filtration, and are capable of transporting flood waters and nutriends to the downstream foodwebs and the East Fork of the White River.
- 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: 22T

# 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: 22T linear feet 22T width (ft), Or, 22T acres.
  - Wetlands adjacent to TNWs: 22T 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: 22T.
- 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: 22T.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: 27T linear feet 27T width (ft).
- Other non-wetland waters: 27T acres. Identify type(s) of waters: 27T

# 3. Non-RPWs<sup>8</sup> 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: 27T linear feet 27T width (ft).
- Other non-wetland waters: 27T acres.
  - Identify type(s) of waters: 27T

# 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, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: 22T
  - 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: **27T**

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: 27T 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: 22T acres.

- 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, 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: 0.94 acres.

#### 7. Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.<sup>9</sup>

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. ISOLATED [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):<sup>10</sup>

- which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes.
- [1] 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: 22T
- Other factors. Explain: 22T

#### Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination: 22T

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: 27T linear feet 27T width (ft).
- Other non-wetland waters: 27T acres.

Identify type(s) of waters: 27T

Wetlands: 27T acres.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>See Footnote # 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 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.* 

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

	If potential wetlands	were assessed with	hin the review area,	, these areas did	not meet the c	riteria in the 1	987 Corps of	of Engineers
P	Wetland Delineation	Manual and/or ap	propriate 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 <u>solely</u> on the *"Migratory Bird Rule"* (MBR).
  - Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: 27T
- Other: (explain, if not covered above): 27T

Provide acreage 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 agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): 27T linear feet 27T width (ft).
- Lakes/ponds: 27T acres.
- Other non-wetland waters: 27T acres. List type of aquatic resource: 27T.
- Wetlands: acres.

Provide acreage 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): 27T linear feet 27T width (ft).
- Lakes/ponds: 27T acres.
- Other non-wetland waters: 27T acres. List type of aquatic resource: 27T.
- Wetlands: 27T acres.

# SECTION IV: DATA SOURCES.

- A. SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):
  - Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant: Waters Report
  - 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: 22T
  - Corps navigable waters' study: 22T
  - U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas: 22T
    - USGS NHD data.
    - USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
  - U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: 1:24K, Carmel Quad
  - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation: 22T
  - ▼ National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: Carmel Quad
  - State/Local wetland inventory map(s): 22T
  - FEMA/FIRM maps: 22T

- [100-year Floodplain Elevation is: 22T (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929)
- Photographs: 🔽 Aerial (Name & Date): Provided in Report 2015
  - or 🔽 Other (Name & Date): Photos in report 2015
- Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: 22T
- Applicable/supporting case law: 22T
- Applicable/supporting scientific literature: 22T
- Cher information (please specify): 22T

#### B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD: The unnamed tributary to Eagle Creek is offsite and out of the project area.

June 15, 2015 Date

Scott A. Matthews Regulatory Specialist