

REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

INSTRUCTIONS: Section I to be completed by Proponent; Sections II and III to be completed by Environmental Planning Function.
Continue on separate sheets as necessary and reference appropriate item number(s).

SECTION I - PROPONENT INFORMATION

1. TO (Environmental Planning Function) HQ AFRC/A4CA	2. FROM (Proponent organization and functional address symbol) 908 FTW (908 OSS/CC)	2a. TELEPHONE NO. 334-953-7326
3. TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION Establish Helicopter Landing Zone (HLZ) BELL In Support of 908FTW MH-139 Operational Training		
4. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION (Identify decision to be made and need date) This action partially addresses an AFRC (Air Force Reserve Command) requirement to establish approximately twenty (20) total HLZs in support of the 908th Flying Training Wing's (FTW) MH-139 (Military Helicopter) training requirements. The Secretary of the Air Force, on June 27, 2022, approved the basing action directing the MH-139 Formal Training Unit be assigned to Maxwell AFB and AFRC's 908 FTW. The mission phase of MH-139 training, which is designed to support AFGSC's (Air Force Global Strike) nuclear surety mission, requires varied landing zones with continuous, assured access. Currently, the 908th has no HLZs that meet this standard. Access is required by FY26 to support the basing and operational plans.		
5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES (DOPAA) (Provide sufficient details for evaluation of the total action) Establish HLZ BELL as indicated on attachment. HLZ Real Property will be acquired through a voluntary lease with a private party. HLZs for the purposes of MH-139 training would consist of an area large enough to allow a helicopter to land on the surface of the ground. The landing area utilized will depend on surrounding vegetation and the slope of the terrain. Helicopters would only be authorized to land within the boundaries defined for the landing zone, as illustrated on the attachment. Anticipated use is 2-3 operational sorties per week, weather permitting, for landing and hover training. Operational use will consist of up to 3 landings/hoverings per week and potentially up to 2 MH-139 aircraft. No materials or equipment will be stored on site. Preferred Alternative - The complete proposal as listed above. No Action Alternative - Attempt to schedule sister service landing zones. This alternative will not viably support the throughput required of this training unit. Limited access to suitable HLZs will prevent the unit from providing realistic, adequate training opportunities while preparing new MH-139 aircrew members.		
6. PROPONENT APPROVAL (Name and Grade) JEFFREY S. LEHMKUHL, Lt Col, USAF Commander	6a. SIGNATURE LEHMKUHL.JEFFREY.S.11366 37149 Digitally signed by LEHMKUHL.JEFFREY.S.1136637149 Date: 2025.02.11 17:55:29 -06'00'	6b. DATE 11 Feb 2025

SECTION II - PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY (Check appropriate box and describe potential environmental effects including cumulative effects) (+=positive effect; 0=no effect; -= adverse effect; U=unknown effect)	+	0	-	U
7. AIR INSTALLATION COMPATIBLE USE ZONE/LAND USE (Noise, accident potential, encroachment, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. AIR QUALITY (Emissions, attainment status, state implementation plan, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. WATER RESOURCES (Quality, quantity, source, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (Asbestos/radiation/chemical exposure, explosives safety quantity distance, bird/wildlife aircraft hazard, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE (Use/storage/generation, solid waste, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (Wetlands/floodplains, threatened or endangered species, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. CULTURAL RESOURCES (Native American burial sites, archaeological, historical, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14. GEOLOGY AND SOILS (Topography, minerals, geothermal, Installation Restoration Program, seismicity, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. SOCIOECONOMIC (Employment/population projections, school and local fiscal impacts, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. OTHER (Potential impacts not addressed above.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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SECTION III - ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS DETERMINATION

17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROPOSED ACTION QUALIFIES FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CATEX) # <u>USAF A2.3.33; ARMY 11(f)(1) ; OR</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> PROPOSED ACTION DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR A CATEX; FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS IS REQUIRED.

18. REMARKS
A2.3.33. Flying activities that comply with the Federal aviation regulations, that are dispersed over a wide area and that do not frequently (more than once a day) pass near the same ground points. This CATEX does not cover regular activity on established routes or within special use airspace
11. (f)(1) Grants or acquisitions of leases, licenses, easements, and permits for use of real property or facilities in which there is no significant change in land or facility use. Examples include, but are not limited to, Army controlled property and Army leases of civilian property to include leases of training, administrative, general use, special purpose, or warehouse space

19. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING FUNCTION CERTIFICATION (Name and Grade) AARON G. ORLUCK, GS-13, DAF Environmental Manager HQ AFRC A4/A4CA	19a. SIGNATURE ORLUCK.AARON .G.1179666010 <small>Digitally signed by ORLUCK.AARON.G.1179666010 Date: 2025.04.17 10:21:00 -04'00'</small>	19b. DATE 17 Apr 25
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AF IMT 813, SEP 99, CONTINUATION SHEET

The Maxwell AFB Natural Resources Manager and NEPA/EIAP Program Lead conducted a field survey of this site on 7 March 2025. The field survey was performed to verify site observations made during desktop reviews. Each of the Maxwell AFB environmental disciplines reviewed aerial and topographic maps, natural and cultural databases, and photos taken of this site during the field survey to make impact potential determination of the proposed action to establish a remote HLZ at this location to support the training mission of the 908th FTW. All assessments below are based upon the analysis described in this paragraph.

Coordination with the USFWS regarding threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat was completed in Mar 25. No significant impacts upon these concern areas is anticipated.

This site is characterized by open, upland, pasture grasses surrounded by wooded buffers. Sougahatchee Creek borders the site to the east. No wetlands or other aquatic resources occur within the boundary of the proposed HLZ. The following summaries are site and proposed action evaluations by various environmental disciplines.

AICUZ/LAND USE
No sensitive noise receptors were noted during the analysis of this site. Additionally, extrapolating from the MH139 noise analysis performed by AFCEC while investigating lowering the LATN from 300AGL to 50AGL in 2024, no significant noise impacts are anticipated due to the use of this private property for training purposes.

No materials or equipment will be stored on site. The storage of HAZMAT is unauthorized without the written authorization of the HMMP approvals team and from 42 CE/CEIE – Base Environmental.

Sarah Blackmon-Environmental Specialist: HAZMAT
sarah.blackmon.ctr@us.af.mil/ 334-953-3822

CULTURAL RESOURCES
No previously recorded archaeological sites present in polygon. No surveys conducted.
Multiple archaeological sites are present within 1-mile radius of proposed HLZ along Sougahatchee Creek. If any archaeological resources are encountered or suspected within the proposed HLZ, do not remove and contact the Maxwell Air Force Base Cultural Resource Manager promptly.
Probability unknown archaeological site: medium
No historic properties present.

Cultural Resource Manager
Cheyenne Davis
cheyenne.davis.ctr@us.af.mil
(334) 953-7155

WATER AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES/GEOLOGY AND SOILS

No negative natural resource impacts anticipated.

Site Description: One of three field plots separated by a forked tree line. It is next to Sougahatchee creek. HLZ area is approximately 3.72 acres using the google earth measuring tool.

Davis Todd - Natural Resources Manager

davis.todd.ctr@us.af.mil

(334) 953-3840

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE

There are no concerns for HAZWASTE/Solid Waste under normal operations.

In the event of an accidental release of hazardous materials originating from the MH-139 (including but not limited to: fuel, coolant, oils, and battery acids) remedial actions must take place to remove contaminated materials from the environment. 42 CES/CEIE - Base Environmental must be notified of any potential release of hazardous materials. The accumulation and storage of HAZWASTE and Solid Waste is unauthorized without written approval from 42 CE/CEIE - Base Environmental.

Joshua Bullard - HAZWASTE Program Manager

joshua.bullard.ctr@us.af.mil

334-953-3822

Per the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) in support of Line 14, no identified issues related to ERP were identified for this environmental impact analysis. Topography was not evaluated. In the event contaminated soil or groundwater is encountered during AF activities, report to the BCE Environmental at 334/953-3954 or Bob Barnwell ERP Manager at james.barnwell.1@us.af.mil for guidance of proper management of all contaminated media.

AIR QUALITY/WATER RESOURCES

The proposed action would have no adverse effects to aquatic resources or air quality. Proposed HLZ activities should avoid encroaching any adjacent aquatic resources. Any changes to operation of the HLZ that would require land disturbance and/or construction of rock-based or concrete landing pads must be evaluated by Maxwell AFB Environmental prior to construction.

Bo Sawyer, Maxwell AFB Environmental Chief, 334-953-3954, jon.sawyer.ctr@us.af.mil

Bell





Photograph No. 1: Northern Aerial View of the BELL HLZ.



Photograph No.2: Western Aerial View of the BELL HLZ



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office
1208 B Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526-4419
Phone: (251) 441-5181 Fax: (251) 441-6222
Email Address: alabama@fws.gov

In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2025-0071136
Project Name: HLZ - Bell

03/19/2025 15:28:38 UTC

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Project consultation requests may be submitted by mail or email (Alabama@fws.gov). **Ensure that the Project Code in the header of this letter is clearly referenced in any request for consultation or correspondence submitted to our office.**

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered

species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. **Ensure that the Project Code in the header of this letter is clearly referenced with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.**

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Alabama Ecological Services Field Office

1208 B Main Street

Daphne, AL 36526-4419

(251) 441-5181

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0071136

Project Name: HLZ - Bell

Project Type: Military Operations

Project Description: Prospective helicopter landing zone - Bell

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@32.60500985,-85.71346499104243,14z>



Counties: Tallapoosa County, Alabama

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Experimental Population, Non- Essential

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Alligator Snapping Turtle <i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658	Proposed Threatened

CLAMS

NAME	STATUS
Ovate Clubshell <i>Pleurobema perovatum</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5430	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Georgia Rockcress <i>Arabis georgiana</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4535	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Department of Defense
Name: Davis Todd
Address: 400 Cannon St
Address Line 2: Bldg 1060
City: Maxwell AFB
State: AL
Zip: 36112
Email: davis.todd.ctr@us.af.mil
Phone: 3349533840