

APPENDIX 4



Oklahoma Historical Society

Founded May 27, 1893

State Historic Preservation Office • 2704 Villa Prom • Shepherd Mall • Oklahoma City, OK 73107-2441
Telephone 405/521-6249 • Fax 405/947-2918

November 7, 2005

Mr. Stephen Nolen
Chief, Environmental Analysis & Compliance Branch
Dept. of the Army COE
1645 South 101st East Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74128-4609

RE: File #0115-06; Big Lake Club Wildlife Habitat Preservation
Project

Dear Mr. Nolen:

We have received and reviewed the documentation concerning the referenced project in Rogers County. Additionally, we have examined the information contained in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (OLI) files and other materials on historic resources available in our office. We find that there are no historic properties affected by the referenced project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. We look forward to working with you in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact Charles Wallis, RPA,
Historical Archaeologist, at 405/521-6381.

Should further correspondence pertaining to this project be necessary, the above underlined file number must be referenced. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melvina Heisch

Melvina Heisch
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

MH:bh



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TULSA DISTRICT
1645 SOUTH 101ST EAST AVENUE
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74128-4609

October 12, 2005

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division
Environmental Analysis and Compliance Branch

Dr. Bob Blackburn
State Historic Preservation Officer
Oklahoma Historical Society
2704 Villa Prom, Shepherd Mall
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

Dear Dr. Blackburn:

This letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for an undertaking sponsored by the Big Lake Club, Verdigris, Oklahoma and to be federally funded in part by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District. The proposed project consists of wildlife habitat preservation and bottomland hardwood forest restoration under the authority of Section 1135(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended.

Big Lake is a natural oxbow lake located on the north side of the Verdigris River in Rogers County, immediately southeast of the Port of Catoosa (map enclosed). Surrounding Big Lake is one of the last remaining stands of bottomland hardwood forest along the Verdigris, which is on land owned and managed by Big Lake Club. Prior to the construction of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, this area was naturally seasonally flooded by the river. Today, Big Lake Club manages the Big Lake area by a system of low-relief dikes and channels, seasonally pumping water from the Verdigris into a series of wetland "cells." Forest and undergrowth around Big Lake are thick and rich with habitat.

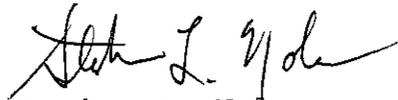
In addition to planting new bottomland hardwood trees, structural elements of the proposed project include the installation of new pumps and modifications to the dike and channel system. Specifically, two new 300-foot long ditches (2-3 feet deep) are planned in order to connect existing drainages, and one 24-inch flow pipe will be placed below normal lake level on the lake's east end (see enclosed map).

The Big Lake system of dikes, channels, and pipes has resulted in significant disturbance within these narrow, localized corridors. While surrounding bottomland hardwood forest has remained protected, the construction of these elements has resulted in significant movement of the top several feet of soil. In fact, both new 300-foot long ditches will be placed immediately adjacent to an existing low-relief dike, so that adjacent hardwood forest is not impacted. Additionally, the 24-inch pipe planned for placement on the east end of Big Lake will be located in a portion of the lake that has been

extensively modified in the past with a flow/gate structure, culverts, and a power line right-of-way.

In short, all structural elements will be placed in areas where significant earth movement was involved in constructing other elements of the water flow and retention system. Therefore, we believe the proposed project will not adversely affect historic properties. Accordingly, we request your comment on our opinion of "no historic properties affected" for this project. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Shingleton at 918-669-7661.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen L. Nolen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Stephen L. Nolen
Chief, Environmental Analysis
and Compliance Branch

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TULSA DISTRICT
1645 SOUTH 101ST EAST AVENUE
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74128-4609

October 12, 2005

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division
Environmental Analysis and Compliance Branch

Dr. Robert Brooks
Oklahoma Archeological Survey
111 E. Chesapeake
Norman, OK 73019-5111

Dear Dr. Brooks:

This letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for an undertaking sponsored by the Big Lake Club, Verdigris, Oklahoma and to be federally funded in part by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District. The proposed project consists of wildlife habitat preservation and bottomland hardwood forest restoration under the authority of Section 1135(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended.

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In short, all structural elements will be placed in areas where significant earth movement was involved in constructing other elements of the water flow and retention system. Therefore, we believe the proposed project will not adversely affect historic properties. Accordingly, we request your comment on our opinion of "no historic properties affected" for this project. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Shingleton at 918-669-7661.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen L. Nolen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Stephen L. Nolen
Chief, Environmental Analysis
and Compliance Branch

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TULSA DISTRICT
1645 SOUTH 101ST EAST AVENUE
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74128-4609

July 19, 2005

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division
Environmental Analysis and Compliance Branch

Mr. Cord Colwell
District Conservationist
Natural Resource Conservation Service
1900 W. Will Rogers Circle
Claremore, OK 74017-1315

Dear Mr. Colwell:

The Tulsa District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has entered into an agreement with the Big Lake Club to study the feasibility of an ecosystem restoration project of the Big Lake area at Verdigris, Rogers County, Oklahoma. The study is being conducted under authority of Section 1135(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended.

The proposed restoration site would affect the natural oxbow lake and 1005 acres of bottomland hardwoods surrounding the lake. The study involves finding the best alternative that would increase the capacity of the current water conveyance system to ensure an adequate supply of water to efficiently manage the riparian ecosystem for waterfowl and other important wildlife species. A map depicting the study area is enclosed for your reference.

We are beginning the process of preparing an Environmental Assessment addressing the affect of various alternatives in restoring the ecosystem in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Tulsa District encourages other agencies and organizations to be an active partner in its evaluation. Please provide any comments or questions you have to Ms. Sandra Stiles of my staff at 918-669-7662.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen L. Nolen", is written over a horizontal line.

Stephen L. Nolen
Chief, Environmental Analysis
and Compliance Branch

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TULSA DISTRICT
1645 SOUTH 101ST EAST AVENUE
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74128-4609

July 19, 2005

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division
Environmental Analysis and Compliance Branch

Mr. Greg Duffy
Oklahoma Department of
Wildlife Conservation
1801 N. Lincoln
Oklahoma City, OK 73152

Dear Mr. Duffy:

The Tulsa District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has entered into an agreement with the Big Lake Club to study the feasibility of an ecosystem restoration project of the Big Lake area at Verdigris, Rogers County, Oklahoma. The study is being conducted under authority of Section 1135(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended.

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We are beginning the process of preparing an Environmental Assessment addressing the affect of various alternatives in restoring the ecosystem in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Tulsa District encourages other agencies and organizations to be an active partner in its evaluation. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Sandra Stiles at 918-669-7662.

Sincerely,

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Stephen L. Nolen
Chief, Environmental Analysis
and Compliance Branch

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TULSA DISTRICT
1645 SOUTH 101ST EAST AVENUE
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74128-4609

July 19, 2005

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division
Environmental Analysis and Compliance Branch

Mr. Jerry Brabander
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
222 S. Houston, Suite 4
Tulsa, OK 74127

Dear Mr. Brabander:

The Tulsa District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has entered into an agreement with the Big Lake Club to study the feasibility of an ecosystem restoration project of the Big Lake area at Verdigris, Rogers County, Oklahoma. The study is being conducted under authority of Section 1135(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended.

The proposed restoration site would affect the natural oxbow lake and 1005 acres of bottomland hardwoods surrounding the lake. The study involves finding the best alternative that would increase the capacity of the current water conveyance system to ensure an adequate supply of water to efficiently manage the riparian ecosystem for waterfowl and other important wildlife species. A map depicting the study area is enclosed for your reference.

We are beginning the process of preparing an Environmental Assessment addressing the affect of various alternatives in restoring the ecosystem in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Tulsa District encourages other agencies and organizations to be an active partner in its evaluation. Your comments are requested in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Sandra Stiles at 918-669-7662.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen L. Nolen".

Stephen L. Nolen
Chief, Environmental Analysis
and Compliance Branch

Enclosure

Distribution List for Public Comment Period on Draft Report

Honorable Brad Henry

Governor of Oklahoma
State Capitol Building
2300 North Lincoln Boulevard, Room 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Honorable James M. Inhofe

United States Senator
1924 South Utica Avenue, Suite 530
Tulsa, OK 74104

Honorable Tom Coburn

United States Senator
401 South Boston, Suite 3310
Tulsa, OK 74103

Honorable Dan Boren

Representative in Congress
309 West 1st Street
Claremore, OK 74017

Honorable John Sullivan

House of Representatives
5727 South Lewis Avenue, Suite 520
Tulsa, OK 74105-7146

Honorable Stratton Taylor

State Senator
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Rm 522
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Mr. Mike Helm

Rogers County Commissioner, District 2
219 S. Missouri Rm #1-109
Claremore, OK 74017

Mr. Steve Thompson

Executive Director
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677

Mr. Richard E. Greene

Federal Region VI Administrator
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1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202

Dr. Robert L. Brooks

University of Oklahoma
Oklahoma Archeological Survey
111 E. Chesapeake
Norman, OK 73019-0575

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Executive Director
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2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 160
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Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
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Binger, OK 73009

Mr. Gary McAdams
President
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes
P.O. Box 729
Anadarko, OK 74005

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Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Oklahoma
P.O. Box 580
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3800 North Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Mr. Cord Colwell
District Conservationist
Natural Resource Conservation Service
1900 W. Will Rogers Circle
Claremore, OK 74017-1315

Mr. Greg Duffy
Director
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
1801 N. Lincoln
Oklahoma City, OK 73152

Mr. Jerry Brabander
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
222 S. Houston, Suite 4
Tulsa, OK 74127

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District Chief
U.S. Geological Survey
202 NW 66th
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

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State Conservationist
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Stillwater, OK 74074-2655

Mr. Rick McMahon
President, Big Lake Club
6218 S. Lewis ste. 104
Tulsa, OK 74136

Mr. Sonny Wilcox
Member, Big Lake Club
3126 E. 67th St.
Tulsa, OK 74136

Mr. Robert Portiss,
Port Director
5350 Cimarron Road
Catoosa, OK 74015-3027

Bob Blackburn
State Historic Preservation Officer
Oklahoma Historical Society
2704 Villa Prom, shepherd Mall
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

Curtis Conley
Mayor of Catoosa
214 S. Cherokee
Catoosa, OK 74015