

**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): December 15, 2021**

**B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: SWT-2021-00392**

**C. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

State: Oklahoma County/parish/borough: Tulsa City: Broken Arrow  
Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 35.982865° N, Long. -95.844° W.  
Universal Transverse Mercator: 15

Name of nearest waterbody: Haikey Creek

Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: Arkansas River

Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): 111101010501

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: December 15, 2021

Field Determination. Date(s):

**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:

**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: linear feet: width (ft) and/or

Intermittent Stream (R4SB-1a, 410 linear feet, 8 feet wide)

Intermittent Stream (R4SB-1b, 124 linear feet, 12 feet wide)

Intermittent Stream (R4SB-1c, 271 linear feet, 6 feet wide)

Intermittent Stream (R4SB-Offsite portion, 4,195 linear feet, 6 feet wide)

Ephemeral Stream (EDF-1, 244 linear feet, 6 feet wide)

Ephemeral Stream (EDF-2, 353 linear feet, 6 feet wide)

Ephemeral Stream (EDF-3, 96 linear feet, 6 feet wide)

Intermittent Stream (Offsite tributary adjacent/south of PFO1-1, 18,000 linear feet, 12 feet wide)

Pond/Impoundment of R4SB (PUB-1, 3.182 acres)

acres.

Wetlands:

Emergent Wetland (PEM1-1, 1.245 acres)

Forested Wetland (PFO1-1, 0.093 acres)

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

<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).

Forested Wetland (PFO1-2, 0.703 acres)  
Forested Wetland (Offsite PFO1A, 4.2 acres - NWI)  
Forested Wetland (Offsite PFO1A, 4.65 acres - NWI)  
acres.

**c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction** based on: **Established by OHWM.**

Elevation of established OHWM (if known): .

**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: .

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<sup>3</sup> Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

### 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 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: 23,653 **acres**

Drainage area: R4SB: 175 acres; EDF-1: 15 acres; EDF-2: 20 acres; EDF-3: 5 acres; Offsite tributary adjacent/south of PFO1-1: 800 acres **acres**

Average annual rainfall: 41.91 inches

Average annual snowfall: 8.3 inches

(ii) **Physical Characteristics:**

(a) **Relationship with TNW:**

Tributary flows directly into TNW.

Tributary flows through **4** tributaries before entering TNW.

Project waters are **30 (or more)** river miles from TNW.

Project waters are **1 (or less)** river miles from RPW.

Project waters are **30 (or more)** 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: N/A.

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

Identify flow route to TNW<sup>5</sup>: The subject tributaries flow to Haikey Creek, which flows to the Arkansas River. The Arkansas River becomes a navigable water subject to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act near Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Tributary stream order, if known: .

(b) General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply):

**Tributary is:**  Natural  
 Artificial (man-made). Explain: .  
 Manipulated (man-altered). Explain: A portion of R4SB is impounded.

**Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate):**

Average width:

R4SB, 5,000 linear feet, 6 feet wide  
EDF-1, 244 linear feet, 6 feet wide  
EDF-2, 353 linear feet, 6 feet wide  
EDF-3, 96 linear feet, 6 feet wide  
Offsite tributary adjacent/south of PFO1-1, 18,000 linear feet, 12 feet wide  
feet

Average depth:

R4SB, 5,000 linear feet, 2 feet deep  
EDF-1, 244 linear feet, 1 foot deep  
EDF-2, 353 linear feet, 1 foot deep  
EDF-3, 96 linear feet, 1 foot deep  
Offsite tributary adjacent/south of PFO1-1, 18,000 linear feet, 4 feet deep  
feet

Average side slopes: **2:1**.

**Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply):**

Silts  Sands  Concrete  
 Cobbles  Gravel  Muck  
 Bedrock  Vegetation. Type/% cover:  
 Other. Explain: Clay.

Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: Relatively stable.

Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: Pooled water was observed within EDF-3 near the confluence with PFO1-2.

Tributary geometry: **Relatively straight**

Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): 2 %

(c) Flow:

Tributary provides for: **Pick List**

Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: **20 (or greater)**

Describe flow regime:

Intermittent Stream (R4SB, flow occurs seasonally and after rainfall events)  
Ephemeral Stream (EDF-1, flow occurs after rainfall events)  
Ephemeral Stream (EDF-2, flow occurs after rainfall events)  
Ephemeral Stream (EDF-3, flow occurs after rainfall events)  
Intermittent Stream (Offsite tributary adjacent/south of PFO1-1, flow occurs seasonally and after rainfall events).

Other information on duration and volume: .

Surface flow is: **Confined**. Characteristics: Flow generally occurs within the stream channel.

Subsurface flow: **Unknown**. Explain findings: .

Dye (or other) test performed: .

Tributary has (check all that apply):

Bed and banks  
 OHWM<sup>6</sup> (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

<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.

<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.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> leaf litter disturbed or washed away | <input type="checkbox"/> scour                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sediment deposition                             | <input type="checkbox"/> multiple observed or predicted flow events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> water staining                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> abrupt change in plant community           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (list):                                   |   |
- Discontinuous OHWM.<sup>7</sup> Explain: .

If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High Tide Line indicated by:   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mean High Water Mark indicated by:            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> oil or scum line along shore objects      | <input type="checkbox"/> survey to available datum;                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fine shell or debris deposits (foreshore) | <input type="checkbox"/> physical markings;                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> physical markings/characteristics         | <input type="checkbox"/> vegetation lines/changes in vegetation types. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tidal gauges                              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (list):                             |  |

**(iii) Chemical Characteristics:**

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

Explain: Sediment is likely present due to development activities within the watershed.

Identify specific pollutants, if known: Sediment.

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

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

- Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width): Forested riparian corridors of various widths are present.
- Wetland fringe. Characteristics: Forested and emergent wetlands are present, as specified on this form and the associated map.
- Habitat for:
- Federally Listed species. Explain findings: .
  - Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: .
  - Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: .
  - Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: The streams serve as wildlife habitat.

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:

Emergent Wetland (PEM1-1, 1.245 acres)

Forested Wetland (PFO1-1, 0.093 acres)

Forested Wetland (PFO1-2, 0.703 acres)

Forested Wetland (Offsite PFO1A, 4.2 acres - NWI)

Forested Wetland (Offsite PFO1A, 4.65 acres - NWI)

acres

Wetland type. Explain: See above.

Wetland quality. Explain: The wetland quality appears to be relatively high.

Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: N/A.

(b) General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW:

Flow is: **Intermittent flow**. Explain: Flow occurs seasonally and/or after rainfall events.

Surface flow is: **Overland sheetflow**

Characteristics: Sheetflow occurs seasonally and/or after rainfall events.

Subsurface flow: **Unknown**. Explain findings: .

Dye (or other) test performed: .

(c) Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:

Directly abutting

Not directly abutting

Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain: Sheetflow occurs seasonally and/or after rainfall events.

Ecological connection. Explain: PFO1-1 is located within close physical proximity to the Offsite tributary

adjacent/south of PFO1-1.

Separated by berm/barrier. Explain: .

(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 **100 - 500-year** 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: Relatively clear.

Identify specific pollutants, if known: Sediment and oil are likely present.

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

Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width): Forested riparian corridors of various widths are present.

Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain: The forested wetland includes tree species such as green ash, American elm, and sugarberry (70-75% forested cover).

Habitat for:

Federally Listed species. Explain findings: .

Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: .

Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: .

Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: The wetlands serve as wildlife habitat.

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

All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: **5**

Approximately ( 10.891, as allocated below ) acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:

<u>Directly abuts? (Y/N)</u>	<u>Size (in acres)</u>	<u>Directly abuts? (Y/N)</u>	<u>Size (in acres)</u>
PEM1-1 (R4SB) Y			1.245 acres
PFO1-2 (R4SB) Y			0.703 acres
PFO1-1 (Offsite tributary adjacent/south of PFO1-1) N			0.093 acres
Offsite PFO1A (Offsite tributary adjacent/south of PFO1-1) Y			4.20 acres (NWI)
Offsite PFO1A (Offsite tributary adjacent/south of PFO1-1 & Offsite R4SB) Y			4.65 acres (NWI)

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed: Each of these wetlands act as a small catchment area for sediments carried via storm water toward the adjacent or abutting tributary. Sediments and attached nutrients, pollutants, and/or other elements become deposited and captured within the wetland, as opposed to flowing directly to the tributary in question and ultimately to the Arkansas River. Because these wetlands are located in close physical proximity to roads and residential developments, the potential for storm water to carry urban pollutants is high. Wetlands have been documented as having the capability of providing a long-term sink for nutrients present within waste, pesticides and fertilizers, primarily through their biogeochemical cycling (Walbridge and Lockaby 1994, Axt and Walbridge 1999). Due to this function, wetlands have long been termed the "kidneys of the landscape", due to their capacity to assist with pollutant filtration (Mitsch and Gosselink 2000). Because of the wetland's fluctuating hydrologic conditions, they likely host a variety of organisms dependent upon this type of system. Given that the wetlands are located in an urban environment, they likely provide habitat for a variety of species also adapted to this type area. The wetlands have the capacity to physically affect the conditions of the adjacent or abutting tributary through their ability to store storm water in times of heavy rain events. Grass and leaf litter, and other organic materials also assist with slowing the flow of water and aiding with trapping sediments. By reducing the volume and velocity of storm water entering the adjacent or abutting tributary, the wetland minimizes the erosive forces of the storm water. By reducing the volume and velocity of flow, erosion potentials decrease and sediment transport downstream becomes minimized. This affects Haikey Creek, and subsequently the Arkansas River, by reducing sediment input and erosion within these waters.

Axt, J.R., and M.R. Walbridge. 1999. Phosphate removal capacity of palustrine forested wetlands and adjacent uplands in Virginia. *Soil Science Society of American Journal* 63:1019-1031.

Mitsch, W.J. and J.G. Gosselink. 2000. *Wetlands*. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. New York, New York.

Walbridge, M.R. and B.G. Lockaby. 1994. Effects of forest management on biogeochemical functions in southern forested wetlands. *Wetlands* 14:10-17..

### 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:

The subject ephemeral streams drain approximately 15 acres (EDF-1), 20 acres (EDF-2) and 5 acres (EDF-3) respectively and provide storage and filtration during precipitation events. It has been determined that these unnamed ephemeral non-Relatively Permanent Waters (non-RPWs) possess hydrologic connectivity to the Arkansas River (Traditional Navigable Water) into which they indirectly flow. Hydrologic connectivity refers to the flow that transports organic matter and nutrients, energy, and aquatic organisms throughout the system (Freeman et al. 2006). Evidence of this connection and, consequently, a significant nexus is supported by the observations and scientific literature in the following paragraphs.

The unnamed non-RPWs possess features of ephemeral tributaries with ordinary high water marks (OHWMs). Features which indicate the presence of an OHWM include a defined bed and bank, a natural line impressed on the bank, vegetation matted down or absent and disturbed leaf litter.

Solid organic matter (OM), such as leaves and other detrital material, is processed by a feeding group referred to as "shredders", which includes crayfish, larvae of crane flies, caddisflies, and nymphs of stoneflies. Shredders break down this coarse material, and allow the material to be utilized by a secondary group known as "collectors". Collectors further process the OM and produce dissolved OM and fine particulate matter, which flow downstream. Generally, as the solid OM is processed and translocated downstream, so are the microorganisms and invertebrates which utilize the material (Smith and Smith 2001). As such, headwater tributaries like these ephemeral streams represent the base of the food chain and, therefore, comprise one of the most important components of a watershed (Meyer et al. 2007). That is, the diversity of aquatic fauna in these headwater streams contribute to the biodiversity of Haikey Creek and the Arkansas River by fitting into the complex foodweb of the river basin.

Furthermore, the frequency of major rainfall events in the watershed results in pulsating hydrology, which sustains the local waterways, and subsequently, the Arkansas River system. This influences the chemistry of the Arkansas River basin via the transport of sediments and nutrients and geochemical cycling which occur during these pulses. Various pollutants are likely present since these streams are located in close proximity to roads and residential developments. Typical pollutants, such as oil, become suspended in storm water and, without adequate filtration, are transported downstream. After water is conveyed through the tributary, drying occurs in the headwater stream. This process of drying produces natural chemical and physical changes in the headwater stream. According to Izbicki (2007), even while headwater streams are drying, they remain an integral part of the overall stream because of this influence on the chemistry of the river downstream.

Finally, headwater streams, such as the subject tributaries, have been documented as providing necessary habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibian populations (Meyer 2007). The small catchment area of headwater streams results in some of the most diverse habitats within a lotic system. Since the channels are greatly affected by precipitation events, the physical and chemical state of the streams change rapidly and frequently which allows the habitat to be utilized by a large variety of species. Headwater streams are utilized not only by species which are unique to headwater streams, but also by animals which depend on such an environment for certain stages of their life cycles and those which migrate between headwater environments and larger waters.

These non-RPWs possess a hydrologic connection to Haikey Creek and, subsequently, to the Arkansas River through an open and defined channel. Due to this hydrologic connection, the unnamed tributary has the capacity to contribute hydrology, carry pollutants, provide habitat for aquatic life cycles, and provide food in the form of organic matter to waters downstream, all of which illustrates that the unnamed non-RPWs possess a significant nexus to Haikey Creek and the Arkansas River.

**LITERATURE CITED:**

Freeman, M. C., C. M. Pringle, and C. R. Jackson. 2007. Hydrologic Connectivity and the Contribution of Stream Headwaters to Ecological Integrity at Regional Scales. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association*. 43: 5-14.

Izbicki, J. A. 2007. Physical and Temporal Isolation of Mountain Headwater Streams in the Western Mojave Desert, Southern California. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association*. 43: 26-40.

Meyer, J. L., D. L. Strayer, J. B. Wallace, S. L. Eggert, G. S. Helfman, and N. E. Leonard. 2007. The Contribution of Headwater Streams to Biodiversity in River Networks. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association*. 43: 86-103.

Smith, R. L. and T. M. Smith. 2001. *Ecology and Field Biology*. Benjamin Cummings, New York. Pp. 644-650.

- 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 about 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:

The subject intermittent streams drain approximately 175 acres (R4SB) and 800 acres (Offsite tributary adjacent/south of PFO1-1) respectively and provide storage and filtration seasonally and during precipitation events. It has been determined that these unnamed intermittent seasonal Relatively Permanent Waters (seasonal-RPWs) possess hydrologic connectivity to the Arkansas River (Traditional Navigable Water) into which they indirectly flow. Hydrologic connectivity refers to the flow that transports organic matter and nutrients, energy, and aquatic organisms throughout the system (Freeman et al. 2006). Evidence of this connection and, consequently, a significant nexus is supported by the observations and scientific literature in the following paragraphs.

The unnamed seasonal-RPWs possess features of intermittent tributaries with ordinary high water marks (OHWMs). Features which indicate the presence of an OHWM include a defined bed and bank, a natural line impressed on the bank, vegetation matted down or absent and disturbed leaf litter.

Solid organic matter (OM), such as leaves and other detrital material, is processed by a feeding group referred to as "shredders", which includes crayfish, larvae of crane flies, caddisflies, and nymphs of stoneflies. Shredders break down this coarse material, and allow the material to be utilized by a secondary group known as "collectors". Collectors further process the OM and produce dissolved OM and fine particulate matter, which flow downstream. Generally, as the solid OM is processed and translocated downstream, so are the microorganisms and invertebrates which utilize the material (Smith and Smith 2001). As such, headwater tributaries like these intermittent streams represent the base of the food chain and, therefore, comprise one of the most important components of a watershed (Meyer et al. 2007). That is, the diversity of aquatic fauna in these headwater streams contribute to the biodiversity of Haikey Creek and the Arkansas River by fitting into the complex foodweb of the river basin.

Furthermore, the frequency of major rainfall events in the watershed results in pulsating hydrology, which sustains the local waterways, and subsequently, the Arkansas River system. This influences the chemistry of the Arkansas River basin via the transport of sediments and nutrients and geochemical cycling which occur during these pulses. Various pollutants are likely present since these streams are located in close proximity to roads and residential developments. Typical pollutants, such as oil, become suspended in storm water and, without adequate filtration, are transported downstream. After water is conveyed through the tributary, drying occurs in the headwater stream. This process of drying produces natural chemical and physical changes in the headwater stream. According to Izbicki (2007), even while headwater streams are drying, they remain an integral part of the overall stream because of this influence on the chemistry of the river downstream.

Finally, headwater streams, such as the subject tributaries, have been documented as providing necessary habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibian populations (Meyer 2007). The small catchment area of headwater streams results in some of the most diverse habitats within a lotic system. Since the channels are greatly affected by precipitation events, the physical and chemical state of the streams change rapidly and frequently which allows the habitat to be utilized by a large variety of species. Headwater streams are utilized not only by species which are unique to headwater streams, but also by animals which depend on such an environment for certain stages of their life cycles and those which migrate between headwater environments and larger waters.

Each of the associated wetlands (PEM1-1, PFO1-2, and a portion of Offsite PFO1A - associated with R4SB; and PFO1-1 and a portion of Offsite PFO1A - associated with Offsite tributary adjacent/south of PFO1-1) act as small catchment areas for sediment carried via storm water toward the adjacent or abutting tributary. Sediment and attached nutrients, pollutants, and/or other elements become deposited and captured within the wetland, as opposed to flowing directly to the tributary in question and ultimately to the Arkansas River. Because these wetlands are located in close physical proximity to roads and residential developments, the potential for storm water to carry urban pollutants is high. Wetlands have been documented as having the capability of providing a long-term sink for nutrients present within waste, pesticides and fertilizers, primarily through their biogeochemical cycling (Walbridge and Lockaby 1994, Axt and Walbridge 1999). Due to this function, wetlands have long been termed the "kidneys of the landscape", due to their capacity to assist with pollutant filtration (Mitsch and Gosselink 2000).

Because of the wetland's fluctuating hydrologic conditions, they likely host a variety of organisms dependent upon this type of system. Given that the wetlands are located in an urban environment, they likely provide habitat for a variety of species also adapted to this type area. The wetlands have the capacity to physically affect the conditions of the adjacent or abutting tributary through their ability to store storm water in times of heavy rain events. Grass and leaf litter, and other organic materials also assist with slowing the flow of water and aiding with trapping sediments. By reducing the volume and velocity of storm water entering the adjacent or abutting tributary, the wetland minimizes the erosive forces of the storm water. By reducing the volume and velocity of flow, erosion potentials decrease and sediment transport downstream becomes minimized. This affects Haikey Creek, and subsequently the Arkansas River, by reducing sediment input and erosion within these waters.

These seasonal-RPWs and their associated wetlands possess a hydrologic connection to Haikey Creek and, subsequently, to the Arkansas River through an open and defined channel. Due to this hydrologic connection, the unnamed tributary has the capacity to contribute hydrology, carry pollutants, provide habitat for aquatic life cycles, and provide food in the form of organic matter to waters downstream, all of which illustrates that the unnamed seasonal-RPWs and their associated wetlands possess a significant nexus to Haikey Creek and the Arkansas River.

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Smith, R. L. and T. M. Smith. 2001. *Ecology and Field Biology*. Benjamin Cummings, New York. Pp. 644-650.

Walbridge, M.R. and B.G. Lockaby. 1994. Effects of forest management on biogeochemical functions in southern forested wetlands. *Wetlands* 14:10-17.

**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 adjacent 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: The subject intermittent streams drain approximately 175 acres (R4SB) and 800 acres (Offsite tributary adjacent/south of PFO1-1) respectively. Flow occurs seasonally and after rainfall events.

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

- Tributary waters:

**R4SB-1a, 410 linear feet, 8 feet wide**  
**R4SB-1b, 124 linear feet, 12 feet wide**  
**R4SB-1c, 271 linear feet, 6 feet wide**  
 linear feet width (ft).

- Other non-wetland waters:

**PUB-1, 3.182 acres**  
 acres.

Identify type(s) of waters: **PUB-1 is an impoundment of R4SB.**

**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:

**EDF-1, 244 linear feet, 6 feet wide**  
**EDF-2, 353 linear feet, 6 feet wide**  
**EDF-3, 96 linear feet, 6 feet wide**  
 linear feet width (ft).

- Other non-wetland waters: acres.

Identify type(s) of waters: .

**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: .

<sup>8</sup>See Footnote # 3.

- 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: PEM1-1 and PFO1-2 directly touch PUB-1, which is an impoundment of R4SB.

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: **PEM1-1, 1.245 acres and PFO1-2, 0.703 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 jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: **PFO1-1, 0.093 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:            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.  
 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:            .

**Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination:**            .

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

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

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

- 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 area 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):            .

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

<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.

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the sole 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): linear feet width (ft).
- Lakes/ponds: acres.
- Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: .
- 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): linear feet, width (ft).
- Lakes/ponds: acres.
- Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: .
- Wetlands: 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: Blackbird Environmental, LLC, Wetland Delineation Study, June 24, 2021.
- 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: .
- Corps navigable waters’ study: .
- U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas: .
  - USGS NHD data.
  - USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
- U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: 1:24,000, Leonard, OK (1957) and 1:24,000, Broken Arrow, OK (1955).
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation: .
- National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: Wetlands Mapper (<https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html>).
- State/Local wetland inventory map(s): .
- FEMA/FIRM maps: .
- 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929)
- Photographs:  Aerial (Name & Date): Google Earth aerial imagery 1995-2020.  
or  Other (Name & Date): .
- Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: .
- Applicable/supporting case law: .
- Applicable/supporting scientific literature: See above citations.
- Other information (please specify): .

**B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD:** The Regulatory Office (RO) does not concur with the delineation report finding that PFO1-1 is not adjacent to a potentially jurisdictional waterbody. Rather, the RO agrees that PFO1-1 drains into an intermittent stream (Offsite tributary adjacent/south of PFO1-1). And, in light of the close physical proximity to said stream PFO1-1 was determined to be adjacent and subsequently jurisdictional, as described in the above documentation. All aquatic resources identified within the Blackbird Environmental delineation report, occurring within the applicable site boundary associated with the approved jurisdictional determination request are jurisdictional waters of the U.S.