



STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS



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Mitigation - Restoration - Environmental - Archaeology - Mapping

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1. <u>COMPANY INTRODUCTION</u>

Waypoint, LLC is an environmental consulting firm based out of Lexington, Kentucky. At Waypoint, we guide our clients through a variety of complex regulatory situations with an emphasis on restoration and protection of our natural resources.

Our devoted staff has grown to include a number of professionals with extensive backgrounds in natural resource management, mitigation and restoration, aquatic and terrestrial ecology, state and federal regulations, forestry, botany, wetland science, stream delineations, geomorphology, hydrology, GIS/geospatial analysis, drone technology, and cultural resources/archaeology.

We understand the complicated and delicate situations which may arise when working with the environment and seek to simplify and streamline projects to meet our client's goals, and resolve challenges with efficient and pragmatic solutions. Waypoint can manage and coordinate all stages of a project or offer individual services tailored to meet unique requirements. With an innovative approach, foresight into tomorrow's regulatory challenges, a passion for our job, and a strong commitment to high quality service, we strive to achieve success for our clients in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

2. PROFILE OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

2.1 <u>KYTC PRE-QUALIFICATIONS</u>

Waypoint is approved as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC). We are prequalified for the following services for KYTC projects:

- Historic Archaeology
- Prehistoric Archaeology
- Botany
- Fisheries
- Freshwater Macroinvertebrates
- Terrestrial Zoology
- Water Quality
- Wetlands
- Stream and Wetland Mitigation
- UST and Hazmat Preliminary Site Assessment (Phase 1)
- Environmental Document Writing

2.2 AQUATIC ASSESSMENTS

Aquatic assessments provide insight into the aquatic resources on a site and provide information about the quantity or quality of those resources. Our aquatic resource specialists have extensive experience in multiple states using differing aquatic assessment protocols. We routinely perform benthic macroinvertebrate surveys, stream and wetland delineations and monitoring, in-stream water quality testing, and fish censuses.



Waterbody identified during Stream Delineation.

2.3 FRESHWATER MACROINVERTEBRATES

Waypoint, LLC scientists collect and analyze benthic macroinvertebrate samples according to the Kentucky Division of Water regulatory protocols. Waypoint personnel have experience in collecting and analyzing hundreds of benthic macroinvertebrate samples.



Macroinvertebrates viewed through a microscope for identification.

2.4 SECTION 7 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)

Waypoint personnel have over 100 years of experience performing fish, mussel, macroinvertebrate, botanical, and bat surveys and habitat assessments; evaluating potential Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) related impacts to threatened and endangered species; preparing technical reports and supporting USFWS consultation. Waypoint personnel have conducted and prepared hundreds of ecological assessments and subsequent technical reports due to the potential presence of federally listed threatened and endangered species. Since many of these projects were in sensitive habitats or outstanding state resource waters, we have partnered closely with project design teams to prevent or mitigate impacts and coordinate with various federal and state regulatory agencies.

Waypoint personnel hold several federal permits for T&E species as illustrated on the following page.



Big Sandy Crayfish (Cambarus callianus)



Blackside dace (Chrosomus cumberlandensis)



Kentucky Arrow Darter (*Etheostoma spilotum*)



Cumberland Darter (*Etheostoma susanae*)



Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis)



Gray Bat (Myotis grisescens)



Northern-long eared Bat (Myotis septentrionalis)

2.5 <u>CLEAN WATER ACT SECTIONS 401, 402, 404 PERMITTING</u> <u>AND COMPLIANCE</u>

Waypoint personnel have over 50 years of experience performing Clean Water Act permitting, compliance, and surveys for clientele. These projects included potential impacts to Streams and Wetlands; preparing and receiving approval for over 50 Individual and Nationwide Section 401 WQC/404 Permit Applications and Mitigation Design Plans, and over 100 Section 402 General and Individual KPDES Permits and Best Management Practices Plans (BMPP), including Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plans (SPCC). Waypoint personnel have also completed over 100 jurisdictional determinations in the State of Kentucky. These projects were completed within the allotted time and cost constraints.

SAMPLE OF CWA SECTION 401 WQC/404 PERMITS ASSIGNED AND COMPLETED:

- Turkey Branch Individual Permit: Leslie County
- Bear Branch Individual Permit: Leslie County
- Carr Fork Lake Individual Permit: Knott County
- Big Branch Nationwide Permit: Leslie County
- Stinnett Nationwide Permit: Leslie County
- Dry Branch Nationwide Permit: Bell County
- Tinsley Branch Nationwide Permit: Knox County
- Jones Creek Nationwide Permit: Harlan County
- Maple Creek Nationwide Permit: Whitley County
- Kelly Branch Individual Permit: Harlan County

SAMPLE OF CWA SECTION 404/401WQC STREAM RESTORATION PROJECTS MONITORED AND RELEASED FROM MITIGATION LIABILITIES:

- Horse Fork
- Doty Creek
- Sang Branch
- Long Branch
- Hen Wilder Branch
- Catron Branch
- Lewis Creek
- Fugitt Creek

2.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Waypoint, LLC provides a full suite of cultural resource management services for the assessment and identification of cultural resources including historic cemeteries, buildings, and prehistoric sites. Many federal agencies such as the Corps of Engineers, Department of Transportation, and the EPA require Section 106 consultation for their permitting requirements.

Waypoint personnel have over 50 years of experience performing archaeological surveys with over 250 projects receiving related regulatory approvals. We provide a full suite of cultural resource management services for the assessment and identification of cultural resources including historic cemeteries, buildings, and prehistoric sites. Equipped in the field with tools such as GPS units, shovels, and drones, and in the office using software packages such as ArcGIS, AutoCad, and other software, Waypoint archaeologists and GIS technicians can provide high precision documentation of resources during surveys.

Waypoint is preapproved with KYTC for prehistoric and historic archaeological surveys. Our staff have experience working in multiple states across the U.S. providing historic and prehistoric archaeological survey services to identify any archaeological resources within a project area and assess the eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).



Identification of Cultural Resources

2.6 UAV SERVICES

Waypoint employs multiple FAA Approved Pilots for conducting and documenting ecological, archaeological, and environmental projects. UAV pilots fly our drones and provide high quality and detail documentation of projects for clients. Our UAV systems allows for detailed and accurate low elevation data acquisition flights, yielding important information about vegetation or crop health, soil health, drainage patterns, etc. This data cannot be obtained with traditional methods from these elevations, providing a unique perspective for any project. Our drones can also eliminate the need for walking across sensitive habitats that would be impacted by walking on them such as sand dunes or oyster beds._UAV's can provide better quality data for clients to review and place in their files, many times avoiding additional field trip/costs for those involved.

EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS:

- Pre, During, and Post Construction (Live Video Feed Available)
- Baseline Planning Studies
- LiDAR Services
- Documenting Archaeological Sites
- Bond Release Studies (Still photos, Video, NDVI)
- Coastal Planning and Erosion Monitoring
- Stream and Wetland Mitigation Monitoring Activities (Pre, During or Post Construction)
- Aerial Photography and Video Capture
- Crop and Crop Residual Density Surveys
- Precision Agriculture
- Livestock Management
- Grazing/Pasture Management
- Soil Health Mapping
- Farm / Conservation Planning
- Wildlife Management
- Environmental Compliance
- Eel Grass Coverage Monitoring
- Sheet & Rill Erosion Monitoring
- Drainage Assessment / Mapping
- Topographic Mapping
- Timber Harvesting Monitoring
- 3D Timber Canopy Modeling
- Tree and Vegetation Species Identification
- Flood Management
- Stream and Wetland Delineations
- Sensitive Habitat Avoidance





2.7 <u>GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)</u>

A Geographic Information System (GIS) contains very useful tools that allow Waypoint to create visual illustrations, analyze complex data sets, and provide our clients with the most current data available for their projects. Our GIS and visual software includes ArcGIS, Agisoft Metashape, AutoCAD, and Adobe Photoshop. Using these programs and technology we are able to create real-time visualization depictions of projects to help meet the goals of each project. Waypoint can provide GIS services and related mapping, design, and implementation to many types of projects, including Phase I ESA, stream restoration, construction, invasive species, bat habitat assessments, threatened and endangered species studies, botanical surveys, ornithological studies, eel grass monitoring, environmental assessments, cumulative impact assessments, archaeological surveys, and many other types of projects. GIS technology assists our clients in accomplishing operations and maintenance tasks more quickly and efficiently. Our GIS technicians work closely with staff to develop a final product that meets individual project needs within the project budget.

2.8 STREAM AND WETLAND MITIGATION

Waypoint has helped design, manage, monitor, and construct over one hundred thousand feet of stream and over 50 acres of wetlands. We strive to provide our clients with cost-effective mitigation monitoring services and now our UAVs can provide better quality data for the agencies to review and place in their files, many times avoiding additional field trips for the agencies involved.



Mitigation Monitoring of a Restored Stream

2.9 PHASE 1 ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENTS

Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) are typically performed to identify potential or existing environmental contamination liabilities related to a tract of land, business, loan, lease, or other type of property transaction. A Phase 1 Environmental report is typically requested by lenders and is highly recommended prior to property or land acquisitions. This assessment will help identify potential contamination in the land or water surrounding the site or help identify potential liabilities related to the property. The assessment typically addresses both the underlying land as well as physical improvements to the property. We can perform preliminary desktop assessments or a full Phase 1 Assessment.

3. <u>REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS</u>

Below are representative projects and specific capabilities, provided as examples of the generalized scope of the services offered by Waypoint.





UPPER CUMBERLAND STREAM MITIGATION BANK

Project Manager Jesse Robinson, RA

Common Team Members

James Robinson Michael Boller Brian Sharp, GISP Jacob Riddle

Project Similarities

Section 401 WQC/404 Permitting

Aquatic Ecosystem Analysis

Wetland Delineation

Section 7 (ESA) Compliance and Mitigation

Stream and Wetland Mitigation

Terrestrial Ecosystem Analysis

Agencies

United States Army Corps of Engineers

United States Environmental Protection Agency

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, Division of Water

Project Description:

The Upper Cumberland Stream Mitigation Bank (UCSMB) project located in Harlan County, Kentucky was established to provide stream mitigation credits for Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit related impacts. Waypoint provided support for the environmental compliance for this project which included aquatic ecosystem analysis, terrestrial ecosystem analysis, Section 404/401 permitting, wetland delineation, and Section 7 of Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance. The project will provide over 5,000 linear feet of Blackside dace (federally threatened) habitat restoration. The project will also restore and enhance over 20,000 linear feet of stream and preserve approximately 300 acres of mixed mesophytic forestland in the Mountains and Cumberland Plateau region. The land is also considered potential habitat for the Indiana, Gray, and Northern long-eared bats.

Waypoint,LLC conducted baseline aquatic resource investigations, jurisdictional determinations, wetland delineations, biological assessments, surveys for bat and fish species, and an archaeological survey. EcoDrones were deployed to investigate the bank site from a low altitude aerial perspective, collecting high resolution video and still images, to help document the baseline conditions of the project and will be used to document future progress of the site.

Waypoint was able to confirm the current absence of the federally threatened Blackside dace despite presence of the species approximately 2 miles south of the project. However, Blackside dace habitat restoration has been incorporated into the project design. Waypoint's multiple-discipline biologists and archaeologists were able to concurrently assess the adjacent upstream and downstream habitats for potential habitat of the Indiana bat, gray bat, and northern long-eared bat, eliminating the need for additional trips to the project site. Waypoint prepared the Biological Assessment covering all federally listed species with the potential to occur in the area.

This site is located in high gradient stream areas which created a highly complex stream assessment and mitigation design situation. Steep slope streams require careful planning and extensively difficult field efforts to capture the data required for the documentation and approval of the project. Waypoint, LLC is also providing all natural stream design work for the project including planviews and profiles, cross-sections, stream structures, and the revegetation plan for the project. Ultimately this project will provide high quality stream mitigation while protecting stream resources in the most ecologically diverse part of the state.





KELLY BRANCH SMCRA PERMIT - HARLAN COUNTY. KENTUCKY

Project Manager

Jesse Robinson, RA James Robinson

Common Team Members

James Robinson Michael Boller Brian Sharp, GISP Jacob Riddle Jason Robinson Tom Wilson Cindy Robinson, M.S.

Project Similarities

Section 401 WQC/404 Permitting

Aquatic Ecosystem Analysis

Wetland Delineation

Section 7 (ESA) Compliance and Mitigation

Stream and Wetland Mitigation

Terrestrial Ecosystem Analysis

Agencies

United States Army Corps of Engineers

United States Environmental Protection Agency

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, Division of Water

Project Description:

The project was for environmental services in support of the development of a coal extraction site. The project site included thousands of feet of ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial streams. Waypoint personnel provided support for the environmental compliance for this project which included aquatic ecosystem analysis, terrestrial ecosystem analysis, Section 404/401 permitting, and Section 7 of Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance. No wetlands were identified during the project.

The provided services included preparing and managing technical reports and environmental requirements. Due to its location the site was required to be surveyed for unique and sensitive species of birds, fish, and plants, requiring study plans to be approved prior to project completion. Botanical and ornithological studies were completed. An aquatic study plan was also required to be completed and approved by FWS, KDOW for benthic macroinvertebrates, fish, physicochemical, substrate, and stream habitat. Surveys and analysis of benthic macroinvertebrate populations were completed. The project site was located in very steep slope terrain and within an Outstanding State Resource Water (due to presence of federally threatened Blackside dace) watershed which added difficult terrain and several years of background environmental studies to establish baseline conditions for future monitoring.

Due to the presence of the federally threatened Blackside dace, additional studies and preparation of a Protection and Enhancement Plan (PEP) was required to protect the minnow species. The PEP was supported by all of the on-site and several offsite baseline studies which allowed the project to be approved under the 1996 Biological Opinion. Waypoint personnel also conducted field investigations (measurements of bankfull, stream pattern, profile, dimensions) to help characterize and delineate streams to address mitigation for impacts to Waters of the US/Commonwealth, and subsequently prepared and received approval for the required project permit applications including Individual Section 404 Permit, Individual Section 402 KPDES permit, as well as the Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification.

Throughout the projects lifetime Waypoint personnel made several critical decisions and was involved in several meetings with the FWS, KDNR, KDOW, and USACE which were crucial in regard to the project alternatives analysis to identify and support a favorable permit decision.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL KEY STAFF



Jesse Robinson, RA, CERPIT Principal/Biological and Regulatory Compliance Specialist

Mr. Robinson has accrued over 20 years of experience conducting ecological, archaeological, and Clean Water Act surveys and project management. His primary focus has been Section 7

Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Section 106 project management and compliance. His field expertise includes work with fish, streams and wetlands, and historic and prehistoric archaeological resources.



James Robinson Senior Ecologist and Section 7

(ESA) Compliance Specialist

Mr. Robinson has over 42 years of professional work experience in the ecological and environmental fields. His primary focus has been project and resource management projects related to

Section 7 (ESA) and Clean Water Act related projects, including threatened and endangered species studies, aquatic, and terrestrial biological surveys, protection and enhancement plans, and habitat assessments. It also includes extensive work managing CWA permitting and compliance, mitigation design and habitat and resource mapping.



Brian Sharp, GISP

Senior GIS Professional

Mr. Sharp has 18 years of professional work experience in environmental science, ecology, regulatory compliance, stream restoration design, GIS database management, geographical mapping, and habitat and resource mapping. His primary

focus has been freshwater macroinvertebrates, assisting in Section 7 (ESA) related studies, wetland and stream restoration design, planning, and stream restoration monitoring. His expertise includes GIS mapping of aquatic and terrestrial surveys and habitats, including threatened and endangered species.

Elizabeth Robinson, MBA Principal



With over a decade of experience in the ecological consulting and business administration industry, Mrs. Robinson is responsible for office administration, organizational management, and project coordination. She also participates in a variety of field efforts, including habitat surveys, fish censuses, and mitigation monitoring.



Michael Boller Biologist

Mr. Boller has 6 years of professional experience in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. His areas of expertise include plant identification, natural channel design planning and mitigation monitoring; macroinvertebrate and fisheries surveys;

water quality assessment; bat studies; stream and wetland delineations; and environmental assessment studies. His primary focus has been participating in CWA Section 404/401 wetland and stream restoration projects, monitoring, and conducting a variety of aquatic and terrestrial surveys, including threatened and endangered species studies.



Tom Wilson Biologist

Mr. Wilson has 11 years of professional experience in the field of environmental science. His primary focus has been managing Clean Water Act projects involving water quality sampling,

Section 7 related biological studies including threatened and endangered species, as well as habitat surveys. His areas of expertise include macroinvertebrate and fisheries surveys; water quality assessment; bat studies; and environmental assessment studies.