

247 Handout  
2021-533



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September 13, 2021

BY EMAIL:  
[jason@sessionsdevelopment.com](mailto:jason@sessionsdevelopment.com)

Jason Sessions  
Sessions Development  
13901 Sutton Park Dr. S  
Jacksonville, FL 32224

**SUBJECT: Protected Species Assessment** – Trout River Development, Peoples Ln., Jacksonville, FL 32219  
PID Nos: 021186-0000, 021187-0000, 021187-0100, 021188-0000, 021188-0200, 021183-1300, 021183-1055, 021183-1050, 021183-1025, & 021160-0500

Dear Jason,

Thank you for contacting Carter Environmental Services (CES). We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you. At your request, we visited the subject property on September 2, 2021 to look for the presence of, or potential utilization by, any threatened, endangered, or species of special concern (SSC) as listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Prior to the site visit, CES compiled a list of potentially occurring species. The resources used to compile this list included, but are not limited to, a literature review of the soil units mapped on-site, The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) biodiversity matrix, and 2021 aerial photography of the property. The results of the survey are listed below.

**PROTECTED WILDLIFE**

• **Bald Eagle**

Using FWC's bald eagle nest locator (2017), CES located three (3) bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nests on record within a five-mile radius of the property. The nearest recorded nest is located approximately 3.31 miles to the east. Upon the site visit, no eagles or their nests were observed on or around the property. Therefore, there are no bald eagle restrictions associated with development of this property.

• **Gopher Tortoise**

CES determined there was low potential for gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) habitat on the subject property due to 100 percent of the onsite soils having poorly drained characteristics with an insufficient depth to water table to support tortoise burrowing. The site visit confirmed the habitat was unsuitable to support gopher tortoises. CES biologists observed no gopher tortoises or their burrows on the property, and the likelihood of any tortoises inhabiting the property in the future is extremely low. Therefore, there are no restrictions to development of the site due to gopher tortoise presence.

• **Listed Wading Birds**

CES reviewed current geospatial data, provided by FWS, to look for wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) colonies in close proximity to the site. The nearest known wood stork colony is located at the Jacksonville Zoo approximately 5.71 miles to the east, which puts this project inside of the wood stork colony's core foraging area. Although the area is included in the colony's core foraging area, no quality foraging habitat is located onsite. The onsite wetlands are heavily vegetated



and do not work for tactile feeders that primarily forage on fish. No wood storks were observed during the CES site visits.

CES reviewed the FWC database of wading bird rookeries (FWC Water Bird Colony Locator) to assess the potential for state listed wading birds such as the little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*) and tricolored heron (*Egretta tricolor*) to inhabit the project area. The review revealed the closest known, active rookery for state listed wading birds is approximately 18.74 miles to the east on Fort George Island. The wetlands onsite and within the surrounding area are not suitable for wading bird nesting because of inappropriate habitat structure. Wading birds typically select nest sites that are small islands, surrounded by shallow water, to provide foraging opportunity for fledglings. Additionally, using islands helps protect against nest predation from terrestrial mesomammals. No protected wading birds were observed during the site visits. Construction within the project area should have no effect on listed wading birds

- **Florida Pine Snake and Eastern Indigo Snake**

CES assessed the site for potential utilization by the Florida pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) and eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*). Both of these snakes need large expanses (sometimes hundreds of acres) of contiguous habitat, and require refugia to thermoregulate for survival. The landscape within this portion of the city is fragmented by relatively small, single family lots separated by a patchwork of roads. The landscape here is insufficient to support either of these snakes due to habitat fragmentation. Therefore, there are no concerns regarding eastern indigo or Florida pine snakes at this site.

### PROTECTED PLANT SPECIES

In addition to protected animal species, CES biologists reviewed the site for protected plant species and none were observed. No coordination would be required with any regulatory agency if protected plant species were observed in the future. Currently, no regulations exist for protected plant species occurring on privately owned land, unless the landowner is harvesting and engaging in the commercial sale of the protected plant species.

I trust that this information is helpful. Please contact me with any questions or if any additional information is needed.

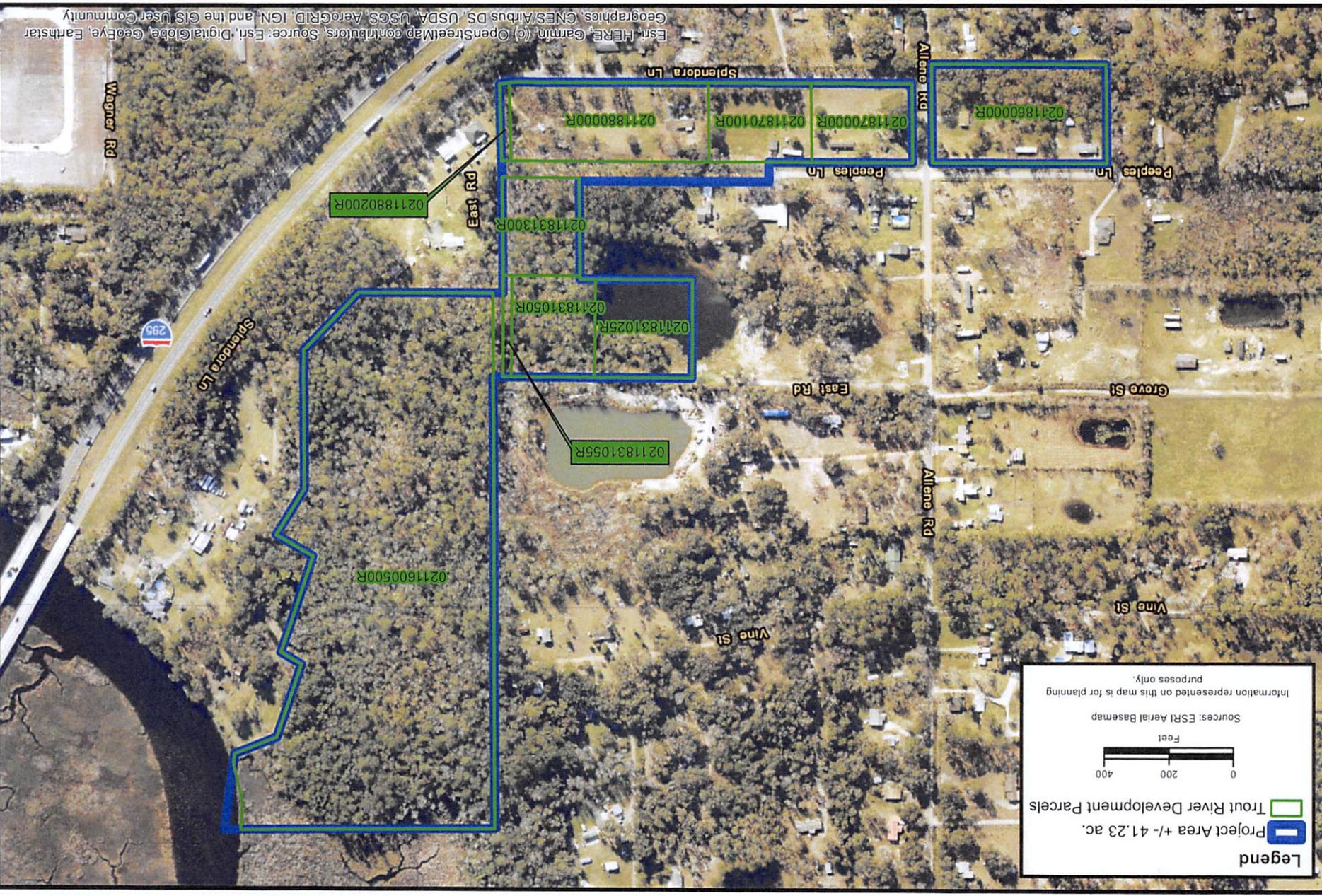
Sincerely,  
Carter Environmental Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Mosteller".

Tyler Mosteller CWB®  
(904) 540-1786

Enclosure: Trout River Development Parcels Map (Figure 1)

**Trout River Development**  
 Parcels Map



**Legend**

- Project Area +/- 41.23 ac.
- Trout River Development Parcels

Sources: ESRI Aerial Basemap  
 Information represented on this map is for planning purposes only.

Feet  
 0 200 400

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