



SPAULDING ENVIRONMENTAL, Inc.

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8 September 2008

Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. Keith Madison
44750 Highway 17
Vernon, Alabama 35592

Dear Mr. Madison:

This letter is my report of findings from a study to determine if any federally listed Threatened and Endangered Species are present on +/- 821 acres of property of the Twin Pines Coal Company, Inc. (Shannon Mine No 2.) near Blue Creek Road and Black diamond, located in Jefferson County, Alabama.

As requested I conducted a survey on September 6-7, 2008 for the following federally listed species: gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*). Searches were also made for any potential habitat for these taxa.

Habitat Description

Most of the area has been previously disturbed by surface mining in the past. Portions the site are almost barren or consist of old fields and cleared areas. The vegetation here was primarily herbaceous with seedlings and saplings of various trees from the surrounding forest.

The common plants of these open areas were poor-joe (*Diodia teres*), glandular croton (*Croton glandulosus*), partridge-pea (*Cassia fasciculata*), Vasey's grass (*Paspalum urvillei*), bristlegass (*Setaria glauca*), fireweed (*Erectites hieraciaefolia*), broomsege (*Andropogon virginicus*), bracted plantain (*Plantago aristata*), bushclovers (*Lespedeza* spp.), Johnson grass (*Sorghum halapense*), daisy fleabanes (*Erigeron* spp.), asters (*Aster* spp.), bahia grass (*Paspalum notatum*), panic grasses (*Dichanthelium* spp.), goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*), crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*), greenbriers (*Smilax* spp.), highbush blackberry (*Rubus argutus*), ragweed (*Ambrosia artemesifolia*), poor-joe (*Diodia teres*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera*

japonica), smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), wild potato vine (*Ipomoea pandurata*), horse-nettle (*Solanum tuberosum*), and mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*).

Older sections have matured into a young pine forest or mixed pine-hardwood forest with a sparse ground cover due to somewhat dense growth. Common canopy trees occurring in various combinations include loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), chestnut oak (*Quercus montana*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), black jack oak (*Quercus marilandica*), post oak (*Quercus stellata*), black oak (*Quercus velutina*), and mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*).

Associated canopy and subcanopy trees are black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), red bud (*Cercis canadensis*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) and mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*). Shrubs and vines that are often encountered include oak-leaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*), Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), highbush blackberry (*Rubus trivialis*), southern dewberry (*Rubus trivialis*), muscadine grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), greenbriers (*Smilax* spp.) and the exotic Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*).

Threatened and Endangered Species

No suitable habitat was available and no protected species were observed at the site and, therefore, no impacts to are expected from the project.

The two bat species require caves or rock shelters for their hibernacula and roosting. Gray bat colonies are found in Alabama year round and are restricted entirely to caves or cave-like habitats. The Indiana bat migrates to foraging areas outside of Alabama in the summer but will hibernate in caves during the fall and winter here in Alabama. No caves or rock shelters were observed and the rock type in the area rarely has these kind of geologic features.

The red-cockaded woodpecker requires pine trees, often longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), that are generally 80 years old. They utilize mature trees because of the need for sufficient heartwood for a cavity free of sap. Trees will usually be infected with a red heart fungus that allows for easier excavation of the roosting chamber. All the pines seen in the area were not old enough to support a population. No active or inactive cavity trees were observed.

Additional Studies And Mitigation Recommendations

Based on literature review and a field survey of the project site, **no** additional studies are required to be in compliance with state and federal endangered species laws associated with project impacts to Threatened & Endangered species.

It is recommended that appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) be applied to minimize siltation and in-stream disturbance to sediments. The guidelines and procedures in the following publication, "Best Management Practices for Erosion and Sediment Control" (Roberts 1995. Eastern Federal Lands Highway Design, Federal Highway Administration Report No. FHWA-FLP-94-005, 21400) can help to mitigate impacts to all aquatic habitat and water quality in the project area.

If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Spaulding

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Environmental Consultant

dspaulding@annistonmuseum.org

Attachments

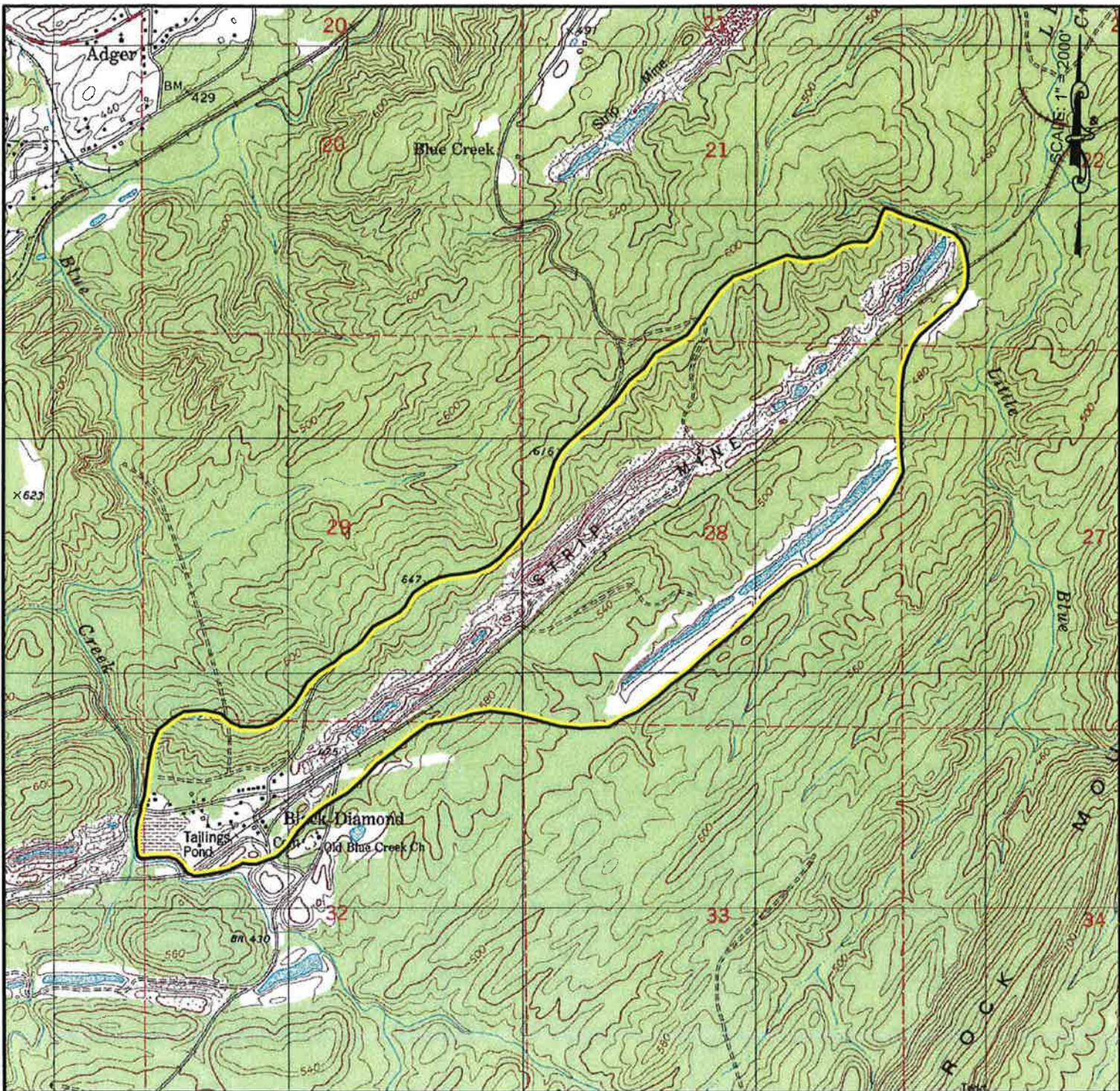
SITE RECONNAISSANCE PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph 1- Mixed forest adjacent to old field



Photograph 2- Old field adjacent to pine forest



LEGEND

AREA OF INTEREST



GOODWYN, MILLS AND CAWOOD, INC.

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**TWIN PINES COAL COMPANY, INC.
 SHANNON MINE NO. 2
 SITE LOCATION MAP**

*Part of Sections 21, 22,
 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, & 33
 Township 19 South, Range 5 West,
 Jefferson County, Alabama*

Note:
 Base map taken from the McCalla, Alabama U.S.G.S.
 Quadrangle Map.

DRAWN BY: BAT	DATE: 7-28-2008
DWG. NAME: TPCCS2-SLM	
APPROVED BY: WKM	SCALE: 1"=2000'