



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1875 Century Blvd  
Atlanta, Georgia 30345



In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/CI/GA-W-F24AF02830

### **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

#### *Bartow County Archery Range, Bartow County, Georgia*

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division (GADNR) proposes to construct the Bartow County Archery Range on a tract located along Cass Pine Log Road in northern Bartow County, in the unincorporated limits of White, Georgia, approximately 3 miles northwest of White and 2 miles northeast of I-75. The proposed recreational archery range project is located on the southern portion of the 100-acre Bartow County-owned property, parcel No. 0081-0246-008.

The project area is approximately 21.66 acres. However, land disturbance will be limited to the construction of the archery range 3D trail, parking lot, stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), and fencing. There are no anticipated traffic control measures because all staging and construction will occur within the existing property limits, which will result in minimal disturbance to adjacent properties, pedestrians, and traffic.

The project will provide the following amenities and site upgrades:

1. 10 archery lanes, each equipped with concrete path target pads
  - a. 6 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant
  - b. 4 Non-ADA compliant
2. Archery tower
3. 0.25-mile 3D Archery Trail
4. 22 unique target stations
5. Chip-slate parking lot
6. 48 parking spaces
7. Two ADA compliant parking spaces
8. Restrooms
9. Pavilion
10. ADA compliant accessible sidewalks to all amenities
11. Green infrastructure practices (bioretention areas)

All use areas will be designed to meet the technical requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

An environmental assessment (EA), dated November 2024, was prepared by KCI Technologies (2160 Satellite Blvd, #130, Duluth, GA 30097). A summary of the findings follows:

**General Project Setting** – The proposed project site is mostly cleared, undeveloped land within the larger 100-acre property. However, moderate clearing of vegetation will be required at the western portion of the project area to prepare for the proposed archery target stations.

**Wildlife and Fisheries Resources:** No unique habitat is found on the property. Land is generally cleared, although 13 acres of forested land could be impacted. Impacts to terrestrial species is expected to be minimal due to the cleared nature of most of the property.

**Water Quality:** No water resources are found within the project area. Sedimentation will be minimized by the use of Best Management Practices (BMP's) to control construction-related erosion and sedimentation.

**Jurisdictional Waters:** It is anticipated that, due to the strict control of erosion and sedimentation, the proposed project will have no impact to jurisdictional waters.

**FEMA Floodplains:** The project does not lie in a 100-year flood hazed zone. There will be no construction or fill in a floodplain, so there will be no impact to floodplains due to this proposed project.

**Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species:** Given the regularly disturbed nature of the site (mowing and cattle grazing), the site does not provide suitable habitat for any of the state or federally protected plant species. The federal and state endangered gray bat inhabits cave roosts almost exclusively. While there are two documented caves nearby, there are no caves on site that would provide suitable roosting habitat for gray bats. The federally proposed endangered tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) is known to occur statewide and all trees located within the subject site provide suitable habitat for this species. Bats are most vulnerable during winter hibernation (December 1 – February 28) and non-volant pup season (May 1 – July 31). While bats may leave an area if disturbed and utilize the similar terrestrial habitat present over large areas adjacent to the project site, the following project commitments have been identified:

1. The contractor will coordinate directly with the USFWS prior to commencement of any tree clearing activities.
2. The contractor will avoid activities affecting trees from December 1st to February 28th (winter torpor) and May 1st to July 31st (pupping season) to adhere to the USFWS's voluntary conservation measures to minimize or avoid unforeseen impacts during the time of construction.
3. The contractor will use downward-facing, full cut-off lens lights for any permanent lighting in the site design to avoid disturbance to any tricolored bats.

***USFWS Ecological Services Section 7 compliance has been completed with a May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect determination for Cherokee Darter and Tricolored Bat. This compliance was completed March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.***

**Biological and Physical Impacts:** Minimal land disturbance and loss of wildlife habitat.

**Section 106 - Cultural Resources (Archaeological Resources/Historic Architecture):** In a memo dated July 1, 2024, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Historic Preservation Division (HPD) identified multiple resources within the proposed project's area of potential effect (APE), including some that may be eligible for listing in the NRHP (Appendix C). HPD's review concluded that the project will have No Adverse Effect to historic properties within its APE, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.5(d)(1), due to the scope of work and existing modern intrusions.

Tribal consultations were coordinated by the USFWS Office of Conservation Investment. Consulted tribes included: Muscogee Nation, the Poarch Band of Creeks, the Alabama-Coushatta, Kialegee

Tribal Town, and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. Letters dated 14 August 2024 were sent to the tribes through either email or standard mail. No comments have been received to date.

**Noise Impacts:** Noise impacts will be minor during construction.

**Recreation:** the proposed Bartow County Archery Range and all associated amenities will significantly enhance the County's recreational options for the public, which aligns with the project's Purpose and Need.

**Land Use Changes:** Approximately 21.66 acres will change in land use from the mostly cleared, undeveloped project area to the development of the archery range and its associated amenities. However, due to the nature of the archery range project and the intent to provide more recreational opportunities within the County, many natural elements within the project area will remain unchanged. The design aims to incorporate natural features of the property with the facilities required for construction.

**Hazardous Materials:** The development of the project area will not impact any source of hazardous waste or petroleum product.

**Prime and Unique Farmland:** Due to the limited ground disturbance, impacts to prime farmland soils are expected to be minimal.

**Public Engagement:** The Bartow County Grant Writing Department spoke about the proposed project at three of the Commissioner's public hearings. The Bartow County Grant Writing Department will hold two additional future-date public hearings, including a project-specific public hearing to gather public comments. The Grant Writing Department will ask the Commissioner to accept grant funds from the DNR via a "Grant Acceptance Resolution" at a future Commissioner's Public Hearing.

**Socioeconomic Data:** The proposed Archery Range property is located in a rural suburban and industrial-adjacent portion of Bartow County. The project is expected to provide a local socioeconomic benefit to all nearby communities interested in the facility due to the purchase of rental equipment, lessons, or other items at the archery range.

**Cumulative Impacts:** It is assumed that more use of the currently undeveloped project site and therefore more traffic to the property will occur as a result of the archery range. The increase in vehicle traffic to the facility will result in a very small increase in vehicle-caused air pollution to the area. This cumulative impact, however, is anticipated to be extremely minor. No other impacts are anticipated as a result of the development of the proposed project.

This FONSI addresses the November 2024 EA prepared by KCI Technologies for the Bartow County Archery Range. They believe the construction and installation of the outdoor range will not have a significant effect on the environment and will result in a positive overall impact by providing a much-needed range for the public. The range will be sited in such a way to minimize tree clearing and impacts to water resources. Impacts to wildlife resources will be minimal due to the large amount of alternative habitat directly adjacent to the range.

The USFWS Office of Conservation Investment (CI) believes the following conservation measures are necessary and appropriate to minimize impacts.

As part of this approval, the GADNR must commit to implement the conservation measures described below:

1. Pursuant to Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), if archaeological deposits (including but not limited to pottery or ceramics, stone tools, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historical building material that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlements), bones, or human remains are encountered during implementation of the proposed project, the applicant will stop all work immediately in the vicinity of the discovery and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The Georgian Department of Natural Resources (Agency) will inform CI immediately, and the State Historic Preservation Office will be consulted. Any construction plans and work orders must stipulate that work be stopped immediately, and the Agency and CI be contacted immediately, if any archaeological deposits are uncovered. Work in any areas identified will not resume until consultation is completed, and appropriate measures have been taken to ensure that the project is in compliance with the NHPA. Additional conditions may apply.
2. The contractor will coordinate directly with the USFWS prior to commencement of any tree clearing activities.
3. The contractor will avoid activities affecting trees from December 1st to February 28th (winter torpor) and May 1st to July 31st (pupping season) to adhere to the USFWS's voluntary conservation measures to minimize or avoid unforeseen impacts during the time of construction.
4. The contractor will use downward-facing, full cut-off lens lights for any permanent lighting in the site design to avoid disturbance to any tricolored bats.

Provided that all the recommended conservation measures described above are followed, the Service/Office of Conservation Investment accepts the November 2024 EA prepared in accordance with relevant provisions under the National Environmental Policy Act and other relevant Federal, State, and local regulations. Based on a review of the EA and evaluation of the effects of the Proposed Action, I conclude that the Proposed Action is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Consequently, no Environmental Impact Statement is required.

Sincerely,

Paul Wilkes  
SE Regional Manager, Office of Conservation Investment