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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

December 2, 2021

USDA Forest Service
ATTN: Barry Garten, Area Ranger
3714 Highway 16
Marion, VA 24354

Re: Fox Creek Stream Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Garten:

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage (DCR) has searched its Biotics Data System for occurrences of natural heritage resources from the area outlined on the submitted map. Natural heritage resources are defined as the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, unique or exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic formations.

Biotics documents the presence of the Balsam Mountains Conservation Site within the project boundary. However, due to the scope of the activity and distance to the resources, we do not anticipate that this project will adversely impact natural heritage resources. In addition, the project boundary does not intersect any of the predictive models identifying potential habitat for natural heritage resources.

DCR supports the planting of native species within the riparian areas and the exclusion of cattle. DCR also recommends the development and implementation of an invasive species plan for the project.

Under a Memorandum of Agreement established between the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the DCR, DCR represents VDACS in comments regarding potential impacts on state-listed threatened and endangered plant and insect species. The current activity will not affect any documented state-listed plants or insects.

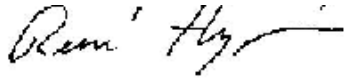
There are no State Natural Area Preserves under DCR's jurisdiction in the project vicinity.

New and updated information is continually added to Biotics. Please re-submit a completed order form and project map for an update on this natural heritage information if the scope of the project changes and/or six months has passed before it is utilized.

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR) maintains a database of wildlife locations, including threatened and endangered species, trout streams, and anadromous fish waters that may contain information not documented in this letter. Their database may be accessed from <http://vafwis.org/fwis/> or contact Amy Martin at 804-367-2211 or amy.martin@dwr.virginia.gov.

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 804-371-2708. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Rene' Hypes", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

S. Rene' Hypes
Natural Heritage Project Review Coordinator