

Appendix K

US Highway 33 - Nelsonville Bypass

Introduction

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is proposing to build a four-lane controlled access highway between Haydenville in Hocking County and New Floodwood in Athens County. This project is known as the Nelsonville Bypass project and is an upgrade of a nine-mile section of existing U.S. Highway 33 which currently goes through the city of Nelsonville. A significant portion of this Nelsonville Bypass will traverse and impact the Wayne National Forest (WNF). A map of the bypass location is shown in Figure K-1.

The USDA Forest Service (FS) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have executed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) 8/20/98 regarding the appropriation and transfer of Wayne National Forest lands for highway purposes. Per this agreement, the FS is designated as a cooperating agency and FHWA is designated as the lead agency. ODOT will serve as the highway agent and be responsible for constructing the highway. Per the MOU, the FS will serve as the agent of FHWA in monitoring and enforcement of the environmental conditions set forth in the proposed bypass' environment analysis documents, Record of Decision (ROD), and letter of consent (LOC).

Effects Analysis

A comprehensive effects analysis has been completed for the proposed Nelsonville Bypass project by ODOT and the Federal Highways Administration, in consultation with the Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other federal, state, and local agencies and public officials. The general public was also given opportunities to provide comments on the proposed project and their comments were considered.

The following environmental analysis documents have been completed for this project:

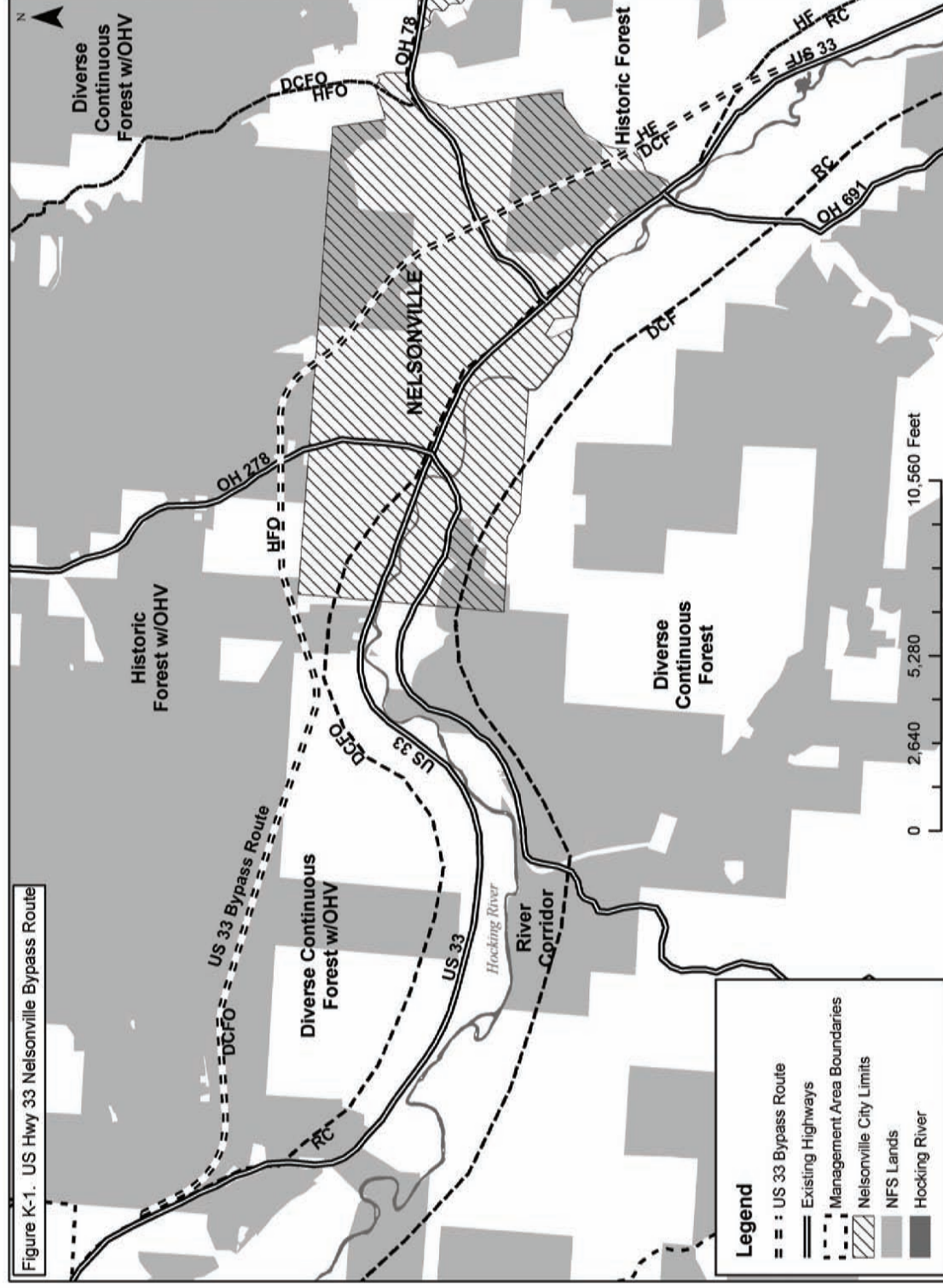
- Biological Assessment for Federally-Listed Species (BA) - 27 August 2003
- Biological Opinion for Federally-Listed Species (BO) - 15 April 2005
- Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) - 5 August 2005

- Biological Evaluation (BE) - 26 August 2005
- Record of Decision (ROD) - 19 August 2005
- Letter of Consent (LOC) – Fall 2005

All project terms, conditions, stipulations, and mitigations are addressed in the above documents

Incorporation By Reference

A detailed discussion of the effects, terms, conditions, stipulations, and mitigations of the proposed Nelsonville Bypass project will not be included in the Forest Plan revision FEIS, the 2006 Forest Plan, or any of the plan revision associated environmental documents. The effects of the Bypass are covered in the bypass' environmental analysis documents which are incorporated by reference in the Final EIS. All documents related to the Nelsonville Bypass project are recorded and can be reviewed at the Wayne National Forest's headquarters in Nelsonville, Ohio.



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