

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ARDOT.gov | IDriveArkansas.com | Lorie H. Tudor, P.E., Director 10324 Interstate 30 | P.O. Box 2261 | Little Rock, AR 72203-2261 | Phone: 501.569.2000

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

July 31, 2023

TO: Master Files

FROM: Solution John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division

SUBJECT: Jobs 012469, 012470, 012471, & 012472

FAP STPF-0076(322), STPF-0076(323), STPF-0076(324), & STPF-0076(325)

Statewide Raised Pavement Marker Installation

Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

The purpose of these projects is to install raised pavement markers on the entire Arkansas state highway system to improve visibility and safety. The proposed installation would occur solely on existing highway surfaces.

These projects would not involve relocations or impacts to important farmlands, wetlands, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, any environmental justice issues, or cultural resources. These projects have been determined to generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria pollutants and have not been linked with any special mobile source air toxics concerns. The cultural resources clearance is attached.

The official species lists obtained through the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation identified the following species as potentially occurring within the project areas: Gray Bat (Myotis grisescens), Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis), Northern Long-eared Bat (Myotis septentrionalis), Ozark Big-eared Bat (Corynorhinus townsendii ingens), Tricolored Bat (Perimyotis subflavus), Eastern Black Rail (Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis), Ivory-billed Woodpecker (Campephilus principalis), Piping Plover (Charadrius melodus), Red Knot (Calidris canutus rufa), Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Picoides borealis), Whooping Crane (Grus americana), Alligator Snapping Turtle (Macrochelys temminckii), Leopard Darter (Percina pantherina), Ozark Cavefish (Amblyopsis rosae), Ozark Hellbender (Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi), Pallid Sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus albus), Arkansas Fatmucket (Lampsilis powellii), Curtis Pearlymussel (Epioblasma curtisii), Fat Pocketbook (Potamilus capax), Lousiana Pearlshell (Margaritifera hembeli), Neosho Mucket (Lampsilis rafinesqueana), Ouachita Rock Pocketbook (Arcidens wheeleri), Pink Mucket (Lampsilis abrupta), Rabbitsfoot (Theliderma cylindrica), Scaleshell (Potamilus leptodon), Snuffbox (Epioblasma triquetra), Speckled Pocketbook (Lampsilis streckeri), Spectaclecase (Cumberlandia monodonta), Winged Mapleleaf (Quadrula fragosa), American Burying Beetle (Nicrophorus americana), Benton County Cave Crayfish (Cambarus aculabrum), Missouri bladderpod (Physaria filiformis), harperella (Ptilimnium nodosum), pondberry (Lindera melissifolia), geocarpon (Geocarpon minimum), and Monarch Butterfly (Danaus plexippus). The official species lists are attached. These projects will have "no effect" on

Jobs 012469, 012470, 012471, & 012472 Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion Page 2 of 2

the aforementioned species due to the limited scope of the action, lack of suitable habitat, and distance to known species locations.

The Alligator Snapping Turtle is currently a proposed threatened species; the Tricolored Bat is a proposed endangered species, and the Monarch Butterfly is a candidate species; however, the proposed projects would not jeopardize the continued existence of these species.

These projects would not have a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States; therefore, a Section 404 permit will not be required.

After appropriate environmental review, it has been determined that the subject jobs are a Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion as described by the ARDOT/FHWA Programmatic Agreement on Categorical Exclusion Documentation and Processing. A public hearing will not be offered for the projects.

Attachments

c: Program Management Right of Way Roadway Design Districts 1-10 FHWA

JF:DH:sw



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

May 22, 2023

TO: Environmental Job File

FROM: Richard Jenkins, Cultural Resources

SUBJECT: Cultural Resources Clearance

Job 012469, Districts 1, 5 & 10 Raised Pavement Markers (2024) (S) Job 012470, Districts 2, 3 & 7 Raised Pavement Markers (2024) (S) Job 012471, Districts 4 & 9 Raised Pavement Markers (2024) (S) Job 012472, Districts 6 & 8 Raised Pavement Markers (2024) (S)

The Arkansas Department of Transportation proposes the installation of raised pavement safety markers along portions of the Arkansas Primary Highway Network, statewide. No new right-of-way will be acquired. All work will occur within the existing roadways.

The proposed safety markers will be installed on the existing pavement surfaces and the extremely limited scope of the project does not have the potential to affect any undisturbed land surfaces or historic properties. Therefore, this project requires no Section 106 review under Appendix B, Activity A, of the 2021 Programmatic Agreement.



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office 110 South Amity Suite 300 Conway, AR 72032-8975 Phone: (501) 513-4470 Fax: (501) 513-4480

In Reply Refer To: July 14, 2023

Project Code: 2023-0104758

Project Name: 012469 - Districts 1, 5 & 10 Raised Pavement Markers (2024) (S)

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

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Attachment	C	١.
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Official Species List

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 21 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Gray Bat <i>Myotis grisescens</i>	Endangered
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	<u> </u>
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6329	
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis	Endangered
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Proposed
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	Endangered
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	O

BIRDS

NAME STATUS Eastern Black Rail Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis Threatened No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477 Ivory-billed Woodpecker Campephilus principalis Endangered No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8230 Piping Plover Charadrius melodus Threatened Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039 Threatened Red Knot Calidris canutus rufa There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864 Whooping Crane *Grus americana* Experimental Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, Population, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) Non-No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Essential Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758 **REPTILES** NAME **STATUS** Alligator Snapping Turtle Macrochelys temminckii **Proposed** No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Threatened Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658 **AMPHIBIANS NAME STATUS** Ozark Hellbender Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/647

CLAMS

NAME STATUS

Curtis Pearlymussel *Epioblasma florentina curtisii*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5628

Fat Pocketbook *Potamilus capax*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2780

Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) Lampsilis abrupta

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7829

Rabbitsfoot Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165

Scaleshell Mussel *Leptodea leptodon*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5881

Snuffbox Mussel *Epioblasma triquetra*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4135

Speckled Pocketbook *Lampsilis streckeri*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7869

INSECTS

NAME STATUS

Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME STATUS

Missouri Bladderpod *Physaria filiformis*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5361

Pondberry *Lindera melissifolia*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1279

Endangered

Threatened

Endangered

Endangered

Endangered

Threatened

Endangered

Endangered

Endangered

Candidate

CRITICAL HABITATS

There is 1 critical habitat wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME
Rabbitsfoot Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165#crithab

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Arkansas Department of Transportation

Name: Nicholas Dial Address: 10324 I-30 City: Little Rock

State: AR Zip: 72209

Email nicholas.dial@ardot.gov

Phone: 5015692617



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office 110 South Amity Suite 300 Conway, AR 72032-8975 Phone: (501) 513-4470 Fax: (501) 513-4480

In Reply Refer To: July 14, 2023

Project Code: 2023-0104810

Project Name: 012470 - Districts 2, 3 & 7 Raised Pavement Markers (2024) (S)

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

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evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

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Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php.

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In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

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Official Species List

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 26 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

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NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Endangered
There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.	G
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	
Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis	Endangered
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	J
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Proposed
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	Endangered
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	<i>8</i>

BIRDS

NAME **STATUS** Eastern Black Rail Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis Threatened No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477 Endangered Ivory-billed Woodpecker Campephilus principalis No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8230 Threatened Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039 Threatened Red Knot Calidris canutus rufa There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864 Red-cockaded Woodpecker Picoides borealis Endangered No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7614 Whooping Crane Grus americana Experimental Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, Population, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) Non-No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Essential Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758 **REPTILES NAME STATUS** Alligator Snapping Turtle *Macrochelys temminckii* Proposed No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Threatened Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658 **FISHES NAME STATUS** Threatened Leopard Darter *Percina pantherina* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8470 Pallid Sturgeon Scaphirhynchus albus Endangered No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7162

CLAMS

NAME **STATUS** Arkansas Fatmucket *Lampsilis powellii* Threatened No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2213 Fat Pocketbook *Potamilus capax* Endangered No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2780 Threatened Louisiana Pearlshell *Margaritifera hembeli* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8468 Ouachita Rock Pocketbook Arcidens wheeleri **Endangered** No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4509 Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) *Lampsilis abrupta* Endangered No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7829 Threatened Rabbitsfoot Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165 Endangered Scaleshell Mussel *Leptodea leptodon* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5881 Spectaclecase (mussel) *Cumberlandia monodonta* **Endangered** No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7867 Winged Mapleleaf Quadrula fragosa Endangered Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4127 **INSECTS** NAME **STATUS** American Burying Beetle *Nicrophorus americanus* Threatened Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/66 Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Candidate No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME STATUS

Geocarpon minimum

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7699

Missouri Bladderpod *Physaria filiformis*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5361

Pondberry Lindera melissifolia Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1279

CRITICAL HABITATS

There are 2 critical habitats wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME STATUS

Louisiana Pigtoe *Pleurobema riddellii*

Proposed

Threatened

Threatened

For information on why this critical habitat appears for your project, even though Louisiana Pigtoe is not on the list of potentially affected species at this location, contact the local field office. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10233#crithab

Rabbitsfoot Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica

Final

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165#crithab

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Arkansas Department of Transportation

Name: Nicholas Dial Address: 10324 I-30 City: Little Rock

State: AR Zip: 72209

Email nicholas.dial@ardot.gov

Phone: 5015692617



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office 110 South Amity Suite 300 Conway, AR 72032-8975 Phone: (501) 513-4470 Fax: (501) 513-4480

In Reply Refer To: July 14, 2023

Project Code: 2023-0104833

Project Name: 012471 - Districts 4 & 9 Raised Pavement Markers (2024) (S)

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

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Official Species List

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 23 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Gray Bat <i>Myotis grisescens</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6329	Endangered
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Endangered
Ozark Big-eared Bat <i>Corynorhinus</i> (= <i>Plecotus</i>) townsendii ingens No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7245	Endangered
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

BIRDS

NAME **STATUS** Eastern Black Rail Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis Threatened No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477 Piping Plover Charadrius melodus Threatened Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039 Threatened Red Knot Calidris canutus rufa There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864 Red-cockaded Woodpecker Picoides borealis Endangered No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7614 Whooping Crane *Grus americana* Experimental Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, Population, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) Non-No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Essential Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758 **REPTILES** NAME **STATUS** Alligator Snapping Turtle Macrochelys temminckii **Proposed** No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Threatened Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658 **FISHES NAME STATUS** Threatened Leopard Darter *Percina pantherina* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8470 Ozark Cavefish Amblyopsis rosae Threatened No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6490

07/14/2023 5

CLAMS

NAME **STATUS**

Arkansas Fatmucket *Lampsilis powellii*

Threatened No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2213

Neosho Mucket Lampsilis rafinesqueana Endangered

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3788

Rabbitsfoot Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica Threatened

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165

Snuffbox Mussel *Epioblasma triquetra* Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4135

INSECTS

NAME **STATUS**

Threatened American Burying Beetle *Nicrophorus americanus*

Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/66

Candidate Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

CRUSTACEANS

NAME **STATUS**

Endangered

Benton County Cave Crayfish Cambarus aculabrum

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5011

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME

Geocarpon minimum

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7699

Harperella Ptilimnium nodosum

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3739

Endangered

No profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3739

Missouri Bladderpod *Physaria filiformis*

Threatened

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5361

CRITICAL HABITATS

There are 3 critical habitats wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME

Leopard Darter Percina pantherina
 https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8470#crithab

Neosho Mucket Lampsilis rafinesqueana
 https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3788#crithab

Rabbitsfoot Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica
 https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165#crithab

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Arkansas Department of Transportation

Name: Nicholas Dial Address: 10324 I-30 City: Little Rock

State: AR Zip: 72209

Email nicholas.dial@ardot.gov

Phone: 5015692617



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office 110 South Amity Suite 300 Conway, AR 72032-8975 Phone: (501) 513-4470 Fax: (501) 513-4480

In Reply Refer To: July 14, 2023

Project Code: 2023-0104850

Project Name: 012472 - Districts 6 & 8 Raised Pavement Markers (2024) (S)

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

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Official Species List

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1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Gray Bat <i>Myotis grisescens</i>	Endangered
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	<u> </u>
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6329	
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis	Endangered
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Proposed
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	Endangered
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	O

BIRDS

NAME **STATUS** Eastern Black Rail Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis Threatened No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477 Ivory-billed Woodpecker Campephilus principalis Endangered No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8230 Piping Plover Charadrius melodus Threatened Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039 Threatened Red Knot Calidris canutus rufa There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864 Red-cockaded Woodpecker Picoides borealis Endangered No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7614 Whooping Crane *Grus americana* Experimental Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, Population, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) Non-No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Essential Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758 **REPTILES NAME STATUS** Alligator Snapping Turtle *Macrochelys temminckii* Proposed No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Threatened

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658

CLAMS

NAME **STATUS** Arkansas Fatmucket *Lampsilis powellii* Threatened No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2213 Ouachita Rock Pocketbook Arcidens wheeleri Endangered No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4509 Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) *Lampsilis abrupta* Endangered No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7829 Threatened Rabbitsfoot Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165 Scaleshell Mussel Leptodea leptodon Endangered No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5881 Winged Mapleleaf Quadrula fragosa Endangered Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4127 **INSECTS** NAME **STATUS** American Burying Beetle *Nicrophorus americanus* Threatened Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/66 Candidate Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME STATUS

Harperella Ptilimnium nodosum

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3739

Missouri Bladderpod *Physaria filiformis*

Threatened

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5361

Pondberry Lindera melissifolia

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1279

CRITICAL HABITATS

There is 1 critical habitat wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME STATUS

Rabbitsfoot *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica* https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165#crithab

Final

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Arkansas Department of Transportation

Name: Nicholas Dial Address: 10324 I-30 City: Little Rock

State: AR Zip: 72209

Email nicholas.dial@ardot.gov

Phone: 5015692617

ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL VERIFICATION CHECKLIST FOR CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

ARDOT Job _	012469, 012470, 012471, & 012472	FAP_	See below*	
Job Title	Statewide Raised Pavement Mar	ker Insta	llation	

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments	
Air Quality	Х			No impacts anticipated	
Cultural Resources	Х			See attached cultural resources clearance	
Economic	Х			No impacts anticipated	
Endangered Species	Х			No effect determination	
Environmental Justice/Title VI	Х			No impacts anticipated	
Fish and Wildlife	Х			No impacts anticipated	
Floodplains	Х			No impacts anticipated	
Forest Service Property	Х			No impacts anticipated	
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	Х			No impacts anticipated	
Land Use	Х			All work in existing highway footprint	
Migratory Birds	X			No impacts anticipated	
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No impacts anticipated	
Noise Levels	Χ			No impacts anticipated due to project	
Prime Farmland	Х			No impacts anticipated	
Protected Waters	X			No impacts anticipated	
Public Recreation Lands	Χ			No impacts anticipated	
Public Water Supply/WHPA	Х			No impacts anticipated	
Relocatees	X			No relocations	
Section 4(f)/6(f)	Χ			No impacts anticipated	
Social	X			No impacts anticipated	
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No impacts anticipated	
Visual	X			No impacts anticipated	
Streams	Χ			No impacts anticipated	
Water Quality	X			No impacts anticipated	
Wetlands	X			No impacts anticipated	
Wildlife Refuges	X			No impacts anticipated	
Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? Short-term Activity Authorization Required? Section 404 Permit Required? No Type None Remarks: *FAP Numbers: STPF-0076(322), STPF-0076(323), STPF-0076(324), & STPF-0076(325)					
Signature of Evaluator	ni 1/1 G	E. Hun		Date07/26/2023	