



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

December 22, 2023

TO: Master Files

FROM:  John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

SUBJECT: Job 040912
FAP NHPP-1724(2)
Interstate 40 Sign Upgrades (S)
Route 40, Sections 11 & 12
Crawford & Franklin Counties
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

The project proposes to install and replace 158 Overhead/Ground Mounted main lane signs on Interstate 40 in Crawford and Franklin counties. Additionally, the project would replace the associated regulatory, warning, and interchange ramp signs to provide an Interstate facility that meets current standards. A project location map with sign information is attached.

The project will not involve relocations, prime farmlands, wetlands, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, any environmental justice issues, or cultural resources. This project has been determined to generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria pollutants and has 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 (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation identified the following species as potentially occurring within the project area: 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*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), American Burying Beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*), Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), and Missouri bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*). This project will have "no effect" on the aforementioned federally listed species due to the limited scope of the action, lack of suitable habitat, and distance to known species locations. The official species list is attached.

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 project will not jeopardize the continued existence of any of these species.

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

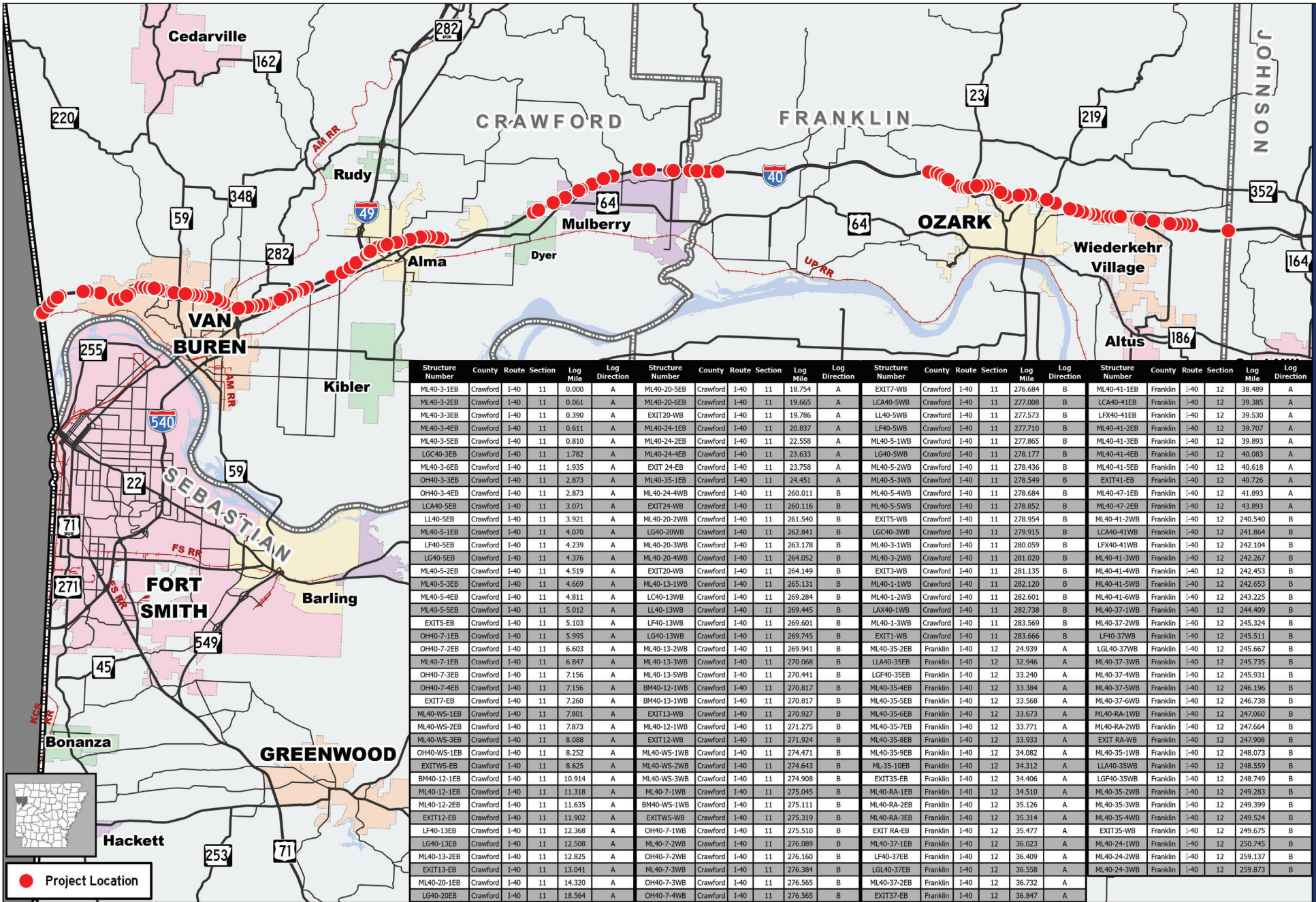
After appropriate environmental review, it has been determined that the subject job is a Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion as described by the ARDOT/FHWA Programmatic Agreement on Categorical Exclusion Documentation and Processing. A public hearing will not be offered for this project.

Attachments

c: Program Management
Roadway Design
District 4
FHWA

JF:DH:sw

Job 040912
Interstate 40 Sign Upgrades (S)
I-40, Secs. 11 & 12
Crawford & Franklin Counties




Structure Number	County	Route	Section	Log Mile	Log Direction	Structure Number	County	Route	Section	Log Mile	Log Direction	Structure Number	County	Route	Section	Log Mile	Log Direction	Structure Number	County	Route	Section	Log Mile	Log Direction
ML40-3-1EB	Crawford	I-40	11	0.000	A	ML40-20-5EB	Crawford	I-40	11	18.754	A	EXIT7-WB	Crawford	I-40	11	276.684	B	ML40-41-1EB	Franklin	I-40	12	38.489	A
ML40-3-2EB	Crawford	I-40	11	0.061	A	ML40-20-6EB	Crawford	I-40	11	19.665	A	LCA40-5WB	Crawford	I-40	11	277.008	B	LCA40-41EB	Franklin	I-40	12	39.385	A
ML40-3-3EB	Crawford	I-40	11	0.390	A	EXIT20-WB	Crawford	I-40	11	19.786	A	LL40-5WB	Crawford	I-40	11	277.573	B	LF40-41EB	Franklin	I-40	12	39.530	A
ML40-3-4EB	Crawford	I-40	11	0.611	A	ML40-24-1EB	Crawford	I-40	11	20.837	A	LF40-5WB	Crawford	I-40	11	277.710	B	ML40-41-2EB	Franklin	I-40	12	39.707	A
ML40-3-5EB	Crawford	I-40	11	0.810	A	ML40-24-2EB	Crawford	I-40	11	22.558	A	ML40-5-1WB	Crawford	I-40	11	277.865	B	ML40-41-3EB	Franklin	I-40	12	39.893	A
LG40-3EB	Crawford	I-40	11	1.782	A	ML40-24-4EB	Crawford	I-40	11	23.633	A	LG40-5WB	Crawford	I-40	11	278.177	B	ML40-41-4EB	Franklin	I-40	12	40.083	A
ML40-3-6EB	Crawford	I-40	11	1.935	A	EXIT 24-EB	Crawford	I-40	11	23.758	A	ML40-5-2WB	Crawford	I-40	11	278.436	B	ML40-41-5EB	Franklin	I-40	12	40.618	A
OH40-3-3EB	Crawford	I-40	11	2.873	A	ML40-35-1EB	Crawford	I-40	11	24.451	A	ML40-5-3WB	Crawford	I-40	11	278.549	B	EXIT41-EB	Franklin	I-40	12	40.726	A
OH40-3-4EB	Crawford	I-40	11	2.873	A	ML40-24-4WB	Crawford	I-40	11	260.011	B	ML40-5-4WB	Crawford	I-40	11	278.684	B	ML40-47-1EB	Franklin	I-40	12	41.893	A
LCA40-5EB	Crawford	I-40	11	3.071	A	EXIT24-WB	Crawford	I-40	11	260.116	B	ML40-5-5WB	Crawford	I-40	11	278.852	B	ML40-47-2EB	Franklin	I-40	12	43.893	A
LL40-5EB	Crawford	I-40	11	3.921	A	ML40-20-2WB	Crawford	I-40	11	261.540	B	EXIT5-WB	Crawford	I-40	11	278.954	B	ML40-41-2WB	Franklin	I-40	12	240.540	B
ML40-5-1EB	Crawford	I-40	11	4.070	A	LG40-20WB	Crawford	I-40	11	262.841	B	LG40-3WB	Crawford	I-40	11	279.915	B	LCA40-41WB	Franklin	I-40	12	241.864	B
LF40-5EB	Crawford	I-40	11	4.239	A	ML40-20-3WB	Crawford	I-40	11	263.178	B	ML40-3-1WB	Crawford	I-40	11	280.059	B	LF40-41WB	Franklin	I-40	12	242.104	B
LG40-5EB	Crawford	I-40	11	4.376	A	ML40-20-4WB	Crawford	I-40	11	264.052	B	ML40-3-2WB	Crawford	I-40	11	281.020	B	ML40-41-3WB	Franklin	I-40	12	242.267	B
ML40-5-2EB	Crawford	I-40	11	4.519	A	EXIT20-WB	Crawford	I-40	11	264.149	B	EXIT3-WB	Crawford	I-40	11	281.135	B	ML40-41-4WB	Franklin	I-40	12	242.453	B
ML40-5-3EB	Crawford	I-40	11	4.669	A	ML40-13-1WB	Crawford	I-40	11	265.131	B	ML40-1-1WB	Crawford	I-40	11	282.120	B	ML40-41-5WB	Franklin	I-40	12	242.653	B
ML40-5-4EB	Crawford	I-40	11	4.811	A	LC40-13WB	Crawford	I-40	11	269.284	B	ML40-1-2WB	Crawford	I-40	11	282.601	B	ML40-41-6WB	Franklin	I-40	12	243.225	B
ML40-5-5EB	Crawford	I-40	11	5.012	A	LL40-13WB	Crawford	I-40	11	269.445	B	LAX40-1WB	Crawford	I-40	11	282.738	B	ML40-37-1WB	Franklin	I-40	12	244.409	B
EXIT5-EB	Crawford	I-40	11	5.103	A	LF40-13WB	Crawford	I-40	11	269.601	B	ML40-1-3WB	Crawford	I-40	11	283.569	B	ML40-37-2WB	Franklin	I-40	12	245.324	B
OH40-7-1EB	Crawford	I-40	11	5.995	A	LG40-13WB	Crawford	I-40	11	269.745	B	EXIT1-WB	Crawford	I-40	11	283.666	B	LF40-37WB	Franklin	I-40	12	245.511	B
OH40-7-2EB	Crawford	I-40	11	6.603	A	ML40-13-2WB	Crawford	I-40	11	269.941	B	ML40-35-2EB	Franklin	I-40	12	24.939	A	LG40-37WB	Franklin	I-40	12	245.667	B
ML40-7-1EB	Crawford	I-40	11	6.847	A	ML40-13-3WB	Crawford	I-40	11	270.068	B	LLA40-35EB	Franklin	I-40	12	32.946	A	ML40-37-3WB	Franklin	I-40	12	245.735	B
OH40-7-3EB	Crawford	I-40	11	7.156	A	ML40-13-5WB	Crawford	I-40	11	270.441	B	LG40-35EB	Franklin	I-40	12	33.240	A	ML40-37-4WB	Franklin	I-40	12	245.931	B
OH40-7-4EB	Crawford	I-40	11	7.156	A	BM40-12-1WB	Crawford	I-40	11	270.817	B	ML40-35-4EB	Franklin	I-40	12	33.384	A	ML40-37-5WB	Franklin	I-40	12	246.196	B
EXIT7-EB	Crawford	I-40	11	7.260	A	BM40-13-1WB	Crawford	I-40	11	270.817	B	ML40-35-5EB	Franklin	I-40	12	33.568	A	ML40-37-6WB	Franklin	I-40	12	246.738	B
ML40-WS-1EB	Crawford	I-40	11	7.801	A	EXIT13-WB	Crawford	I-40	11	270.927	B	ML40-35-6EB	Franklin	I-40	12	33.673	A	ML40-RA-1WB	Franklin	I-40	12	247.060	B
ML40-WS-2EB	Crawford	I-40	11	7.873	A	ML40-12-1WB	Crawford	I-40	11	271.275	B	ML40-35-7EB	Franklin	I-40	12	33.771	A	ML40-RA-2WB	Franklin	I-40	12	247.664	B
ML40-WS-3EB	Crawford	I-40	11	8.088	A	EXIT12-WB	Crawford	I-40	11	271.924	B	ML40-35-8EB	Franklin	I-40	12	33.933	A	EXIT RA-WB	Franklin	I-40	12	247.908	B
OH40-WS-1EB	Crawford	I-40	11	8.252	A	ML40-WS-1WB	Crawford	I-40	11	274.471	B	ML40-35-9EB	Franklin	I-40	12	34.082	A	ML40-35-1WB	Franklin	I-40	12	248.073	B
EXITWS-EB	Crawford	I-40	11	8.625	A	ML40-WS-2WB	Crawford	I-40	11	274.643	B	ML-35-10EB	Franklin	I-40	12	34.312	A	LLA40-35WB	Franklin	I-40	12	248.559	B
BM40-12-1EB	Crawford	I-40	11	10.914	A	ML40-WS-3WB	Crawford	I-40	11	274.908	B	EXIT35-EB	Franklin	I-40	12	34.406	A	LG40-35WB	Franklin	I-40	12	248.749	B
ML40-12-1EB	Crawford	I-40	11	11.318	A	ML40-7-1WB	Crawford	I-40	11	275.045	B	ML40-RA-1EB	Franklin	I-40	12	34.510	A	ML40-35-2WB	Franklin	I-40	12	249.283	B
ML40-12-2EB	Crawford	I-40	11	11.635	A	BM40-WS-1WB	Crawford	I-40	11	275.111	B	ML40-RA-2EB	Franklin	I-40	12	35.126	A	ML40-35-3WB	Franklin	I-40	12	249.399	B
EXIT12-EB	Crawford	I-40	11	11.902	A	EXITWS-WB	Crawford	I-40	11	275.319	B	ML40-RA-3EB	Franklin	I-40	12	35.314	A	ML40-35-4WB	Franklin	I-40	12	249.524	B
LF40-13EB	Crawford	I-40	11	12.368	A	OH40-7-1WB	Crawford	I-40	11	275.510	B	EXIT RA-EB	Franklin	I-40	12	35.477	A	EXIT35-WB	Franklin	I-40	12	249.675	B
LG40-13EB	Crawford	I-40	11	12.508	A	ML40-7-2WB	Crawford	I-40	11	276.089	B	ML40-37-1EB	Franklin	I-40	12	36.023	A	ML40-24-1WB	Franklin	I-40	12	250.745	B
ML40-13-2EB	Crawford	I-40	11	12.825	A	OH40-7-2WB	Crawford	I-40	11	276.160	B	LF40-37EB	Franklin	I-40	12	36.409	A	ML40-24-2WB	Franklin	I-40	12	259.137	B
EXIT13-EB	Crawford	I-40	11	13.041	A	ML40-7-3WB	Crawford	I-40	11	276.384	B	LG40-37EB	Franklin	I-40	12	36.558	A	ML40-24-3WB	Franklin	I-40	12	259.873	B
ML40-20-1EB	Crawford	I-40	11	14.320	A	OH40-7-3WB	Crawford	I-40	11	276.565	B	ML40-37-2EB	Franklin	I-40	12	36.732	A						
LG40-20EB	Crawford	I-40	11	18.564	A	OH40-7-4WB	Crawford	I-40	11	276.565	B	EXIT37-EB	Franklin	I-40	12	36.847	A						



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

December 13, 2023

TO: Environmental Job File

FROM: Richard Jenkins, Cultural Resources 

SUBJECT: Cultural Resources Clearance
Job 040912
Interstate 40 Sign Upgrades (S)
Route 40, Sections 11, 12
Crawford & Franklin Counties

The project proposes to install and replace 158 Overhead/Ground Mounted main lane signs, as well as regulatory, warning, and interchange ramp signs, on Interstate 40, in Crawford and Franklin counties. No new right-of-way (ROW) will be acquired.

Any evidence of past human activities would have been destroyed with the construction of the interstate. If present, there is little potential to impact existing intact archeological sites or historic resources with the replacement and installation of signs in the existing ROW. No new visual elements will be introduced since signs are already present along these roadways. No impacts will occur to historic properties present near these corridors.

Records check of previous sites and structures, historic maps, and aerial imagery were not done based on the limited scope of the project. This project has no potential to impact existing archeological or historic resources due to previous interstate construction. All work will be within the existing ROW, and the limited scope of the project occurs within previously disturbed areas. This type of undertaking will not affect historic properties. Therefore, this project requires no Section 106 review under Appendix C, Activity 28, 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:
Project Code: 2024-0026631
Project Name: 040912 - Interstate 40 Sign Upgrades (S)

December 14, 2023

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 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 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:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.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/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

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/library/collections/threats-birds>.

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/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

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.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 12 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.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), 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 (=Plecotus) townsendii ingens</i> 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 <i>Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477	Threatened
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> 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
Rufa Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Alligator Snapping Turtle <i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658	Proposed Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
American Burying Beetle <i>Nicrophorus americanus</i> 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	Threatened
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Missouri Bladderpod <i>Physaria filiformis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5361	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Arkansas Department of Transportation

Name: Sarah Hallett

Address: 10324 I-30

City: Little Rock

State: AR

Zip: 72209

Email: sarah.hallett@ardot.gov

Phone: 5015692078

ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL VERIFICATION CHECKLIST FOR CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

ARDOT Job 040912 FAP NHPP-1724(2)

Job Title Interstate 40 Sign Upgrades (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Cultural Resources	X			See CR Clearance
Economic	X			No impacts anticipated
Endangered Species	X			No effect determination
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No impacts anticipated
Fish and Wildlife		X		Temporary during construction
Floodplains	X			No impacts anticipated
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No impacts anticipated
Land Use	X			No new ROW or TCE
Migratory Birds	X			No impacts anticipated
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			None in project area
Noise Levels	X			No impacts anticipated
Prime Farmland	X			No impacts anticipated
Protected Waters	X			None in project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			No impacts anticipated
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			None in project area
Relocatees	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No 4(f) properties in project area
Social	X			No impacts anticipated
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No impacts anticipated
Visual	X			No impacts anticipated
Streams	X			None in project area
Water Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Wetlands	X			None in project area
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in project area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? No

Section 404 Permit Required? No Type None

Remarks: _____

Signature of Evaluator *David E. Henry* Date 12/15/2023