

TIER 3 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

ARDOT JOB NUMBER 061615

FAP NUMBER NHPP-0059 (16)

LA GRUE BAYOU, WOLF ISLAND SLASH & HONEY CREEK STRS. &

APPRS. (S)

ROUTE 63, SECTION 11

ROUTE 33, SECTION 5

PRAIRIE COUNTY

Submitted Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)

By the

U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

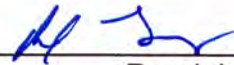
And the

Arkansas Department of Transportation

June 2020

6/16/2020

Date of Approval



Randal Looney
Environmental Coordinator
Federal Highway Administration

The Environmental Division reviewed the referenced project and has determined it falls within the definition of the Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion as defined by the ARDOT/FHWA Programmatic Agreement on the processing of Categorical Exclusions. The following information is included for your review and, if acceptable, approval as the environmental documentation for this project.

The purpose of this project is to replace three bridges on Highway 63 in Prairie County over segments of LaGrue Bayou and Wolf Island Slash. In addition, one bridge will be replaced on Highway 33 over Honey Creek. Existing Bridge (#01858) is 76' x 25.5', Bridge (#01859) is 101' x 25.5', Bridge (#01860) is 101' x 25.5', and Bridge (#M0756) is 74.5' x 22.2'. Bridge (#M0756) on Highway 33 will be replaced by a quadruple 12' x 12' R.C. Box Culvert. Total length of the project is less than 2.0 miles. A project location map is attached.

The existing roadway on Highway 63 consists of two 12' wide paved travel lanes with 3' wide paved shoulders. The existing roadway on Highway 33 consists of two 10' wide paved travel lanes with 3' wide unpaved shoulders.

Proposed improvements to Highway 63 include four 12' wide paved travel lanes, an 11' wide painted median, and 8' wide paved shoulders. Proposed improvements to Highway 33 include two 11' wide paved travel lanes with 4' (2' paved) wide shoulders. Up to 6.0 acres of additional right of way may be required for this project.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic Hwy. 63	Average Daily Traffic Hwy. 33	Percent Trucks	Design Speed Hwy. 63	Design Speed Hwy. 33
2021	4,100	640	8	60 mph	55 mph
2041	4,800	750	8		

There are no relocations, environmental justice issues, wellhead protection areas/public water supplies, or cultural resources associated with this project. State Historic Preservation Officer clearance is attached. Field inspections found no evidence of existing underground storage tanks or hazardous waste deposits. Up to 0.3 acre of Prime Farmland and 2.7 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance may be converted to highway right of way. Form NRCS-CPA-106 is attached.

Based on the ARDOT noise policy, a noise analysis is not required for this project. The bridge replacements will not involve adding capacity, substantially changing

the roadway alignment, or exposing noise sensitive land uses to traffic noise sources. In compliance with federal guidelines, local authorities will not require notification.

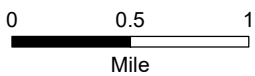
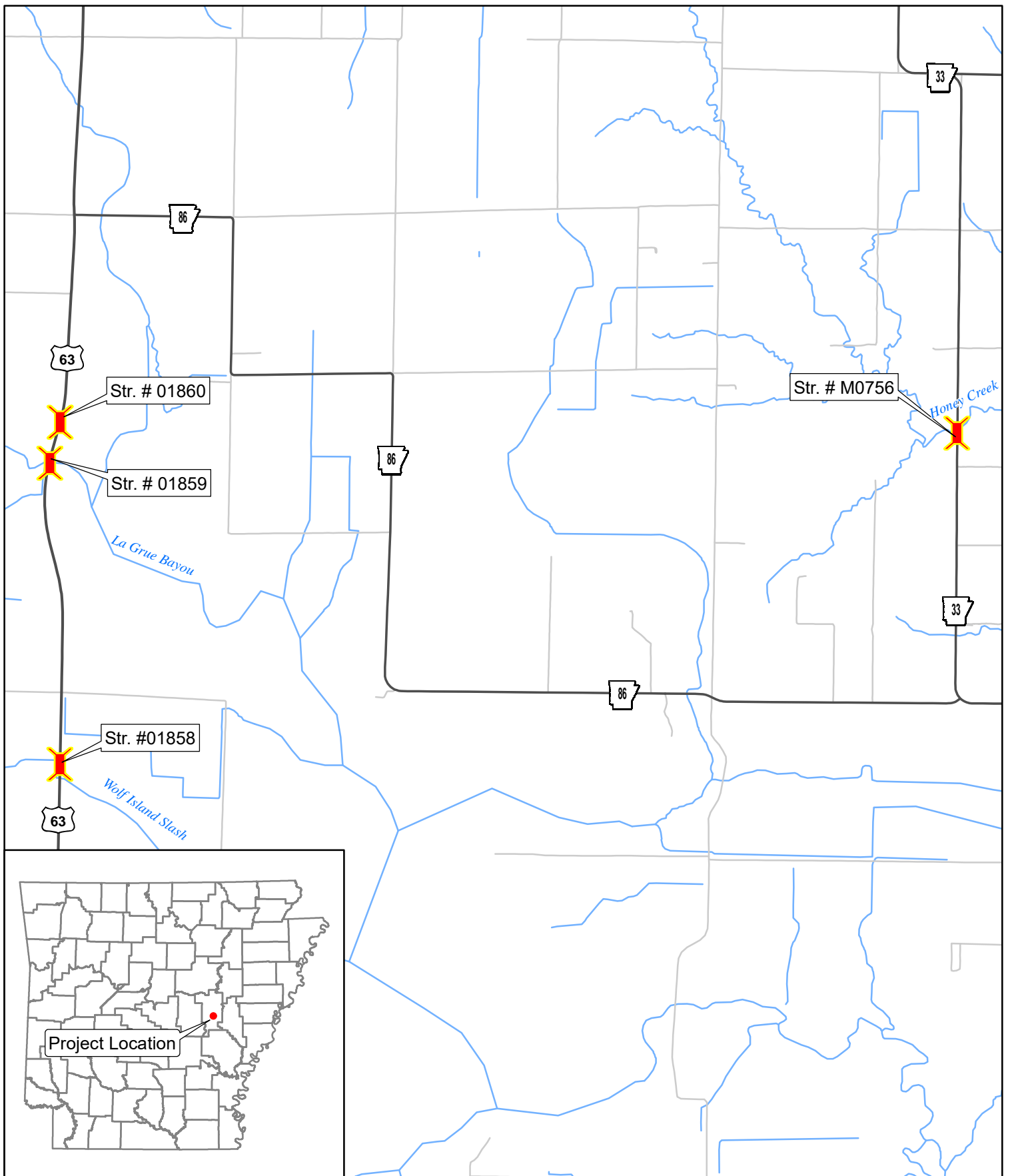
The official species list obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation identified the Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis spp. jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), and pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*) as threatened and endangered species potentially occurring within the project area. Due to the lack of habitat and distance to known species occurrences, it is our determination that the proposed project will have "no effect" on the aforementioned federally listed species. The USFWS official species list is attached.

The project will have a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with the bridge replacement; therefore, a Section 404 permit will be required. Total wetland impacts are estimated at up to 7.0 acres. Construction should be allowed under the terms of Nationwide 23 for Categorical Exclusions as defined in Federal Register 82 (4): 1860-2008. A pre-construction notification is required.

Prairie County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. The project lies within Zone A, area of 100-year flood event. The final project design will be reviewed to confirm that the design is adequate and that the potential risk to life and property are minimized. Adjacent properties should not be impacted nor have a greater flood risk than existed before construction of the project. None of the encroachments will constitute a substantial floodplain encroachment or a risk to property or life.

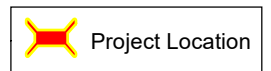
This project has been determined to generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria pollutants and has not been linked with any special mobile source air toxic (MSAT) concerns. As such, this project will not result in changes in traffic volumes, vehicle mix, basic project location, or any other factor that would cause a meaningful increase in MSAT impacts of the project from that of the no-build alternative.

No other adverse environmental impacts were identified. The checklist used to verify consideration of potential environmental impacts is attached.



ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Dudley
June 8, 2020

Job 061615
La Grue Bayou, Wolf Island Slash,
& Honey Creek Strs. & Apprs.
Prairie County





ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ArDOT.gov | IDriveArkansas.com | Lorie H. Tudor, P.E., Director

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

10324 Interstate 30 | P.O. Box 2261 | Little Rock, AR 72203-2261 | Phone: 501.569.2281 | Fax: 501.569.2009

APR 15 2020

105552.01
FHWA

April 15, 2020

Secretary Stacy Hurst
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
1100 North Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Date 4.15.20
No known historic properties will be
affected by this undertaking. This
effect determination could change
should new information come to light.

Eric Mills
For Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer

RE: Job Number 061615
Wolf Bayou, Honey & La Grue
Creeks Strs. & Apprs. (S)
Routes 63 & 33, Sections 11 & 5
Prairie County

Dear Secretary Hurst:

A Project Identification Form (PIF) for the referenced project is enclosed. Please review for concurrence with the findings of my staff. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Jason Eads of my staff at (501) 569-2181.

Sincerely,

John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division

JF:KB:JE:cb

Enclosure
PIF

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency) Job 061615		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request		4. Sheet 1 of _____	
1. Name of Project		5. Federal Agency Involved			
2. Type of Project		6. County and State			
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		1. Date Request Received by NRCS		2. Person Completing Form	
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated		Average Farm Size	
5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: _____ %		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: _____ %		
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System		10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS		
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Corridor For Segment			
		Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly					
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services					
C. Total Acres In Corridor					
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland					
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland					
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted					
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value					
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)					
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))		Maximum Points			
1. Area in Nonurban Use		15			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use		10			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed		20			
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government		20			
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		10			
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland		25			
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services		5			
8. On-Farm Investments		20			
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		25			
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		10			
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS		160			
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100			
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		160			
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260			
1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		
5. Reason For Selection:					

Signature of Person Completing this Part:

DATE

Joshua Graham

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor



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
<http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es>

In Reply Refer To:

March 25, 2020

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2020-SLI-0686

Event Code: 04ER1000-2020-E-01654

Project Name: Wolf Bayou, Honey and La Grue Creeks Strs. & Apprs. (Hwy. 63 adn 33)

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies endangered, threatened, 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.*). **This letter only provides an official species list and technical assistance; if you determine that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected in any way by the proposed project, even if the effect is wholly beneficial, consultation with the Service will be necessary.**

If you determine that this project will have no effect on listed species and their habitat in any way, then you have completed Section 7 consultation with the Service and may use this letter in your project file or application.

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. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found on our website.

Please visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/home.html> for species-specific guidance to avoid and minimize adverse effects to federally endangered,

threatened, proposed, and candidate species. Our web site also contains additional information on species life history and habitat requirements that may be useful in project planning.

If your project involves in-stream construction activities, oil and natural gas infrastructure, road construction, transmission lines, or communication towers, please review our project specific guidance at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/ProjSpec.html>.

The karst region of Arkansas is a unique region that covers the **northern third of Arkansas** and we have specific guidance to conserve sensitive cave-obligate and bat species. **Please visit <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/Karst.html> to determine if your project occurs in the karst region and to view karst specific-guidance.** Proper implementation and maintenance of best management practices specified in these guidance documents is necessary to avoid adverse effects to federally protected species and often avoids the more lengthy formal consultation process.

If your species list includes any mussels, Northern Long-eared Bat, Indiana Bat, Yellowcheek Darter, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, or American Burying Beetle, your project may require a presence/absence and/or habitat survey prior to commencing project activities. Please check the appropriate species-specific guidance on our website to determine if your project requires a survey. We strongly recommend that you contact the appropriate staff species lead biologist (see office directory or species page) prior to conducting presence/absence surveys to ensure the appropriate level of effort and methodology.

Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or its designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service further. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service, to make "no effect" determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have "no effect" on threatened or endangered species or their respective critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service. Nevertheless, it is a violation of Federal law to harm or harass any federally-listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species without the appropriate permit.

Through the consultation process, we will analyze information contained in a biological assessment that you provide. If your proposed action is associated with Federal funding or permitting, consultation will occur with the Federal agency under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. Otherwise, an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (also known as a habitat conservation plan) is necessary to harm or harass federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species. In either case, there is no mechanism for authorizing incidental take "after-the-fact." For more information regarding formal consultation and HCPs, please see the Service's Consultation Handbook and Habitat Conservation Plans at www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/index.html#consultations.

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.

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 Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.**

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office

110 South Amity Suite 300

Conway, AR 72032-8975

(501) 513-4470

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2020-SLI-0686

Event Code: 04ER1000-2020-E-01654

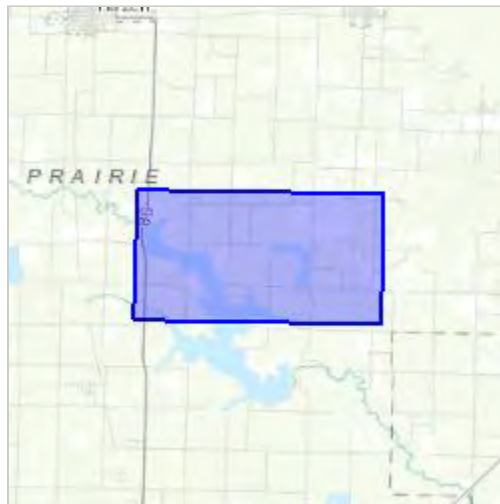
Project Name: Wolf Bayou, Honey and La Grue Creeks Strs. & Apprs. (Hwy. 63 adn 33)

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: Replacing existing structures with new structures

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/34.69426998973731N91.50517427335518W>



Counties: Prairie, AR

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 4 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. [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.

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	Proposed 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 is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Pondberry <i>Lindera melissifolia</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1279	Endangered

Critical habitats

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

ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL VERIFICATION CHECKLIST FOR CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

ARDOT Job Number 061615 FAP Number NHPP-0059 (16)

Job Title La Grue Bayou, Wolf Island Slash & Honey Creek Strs. & Apprs. (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments-required for each item
Air Quality	X			No air quality/MSAT impacts
Cultural Resources	X			SHPO clearance attached
Economic	X			No adverse impacts
Endangered Species	X			"No effect" determinations
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			EJ population impacts not anticipated
Fish and Wildlife		X		Temporary during construction
Floodplains	X			Zone A, no impacts anticipated
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No sites in project area
Land Use		X		Up to 6.02 acres of new Right of Way
Migratory Birds		X		Migratory Bird SP included
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No navigable waterways involved
Noise Levels	X			No increases due to project
Prime Farmland		X		Up to 0.32 acre Prime Farmland/ 2.74 acres of Statewide Imp. converted; NRCS form attached
Protected Waters	X			None occur in project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			No impacts anticipated
Relocates	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No impacts to 4f/6f resources
Social	X			No impacts to the social environment
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No USTs in project area
Visual	X			No changes to visual environment
Streams		X		Nationwide 23 Permit required
Water Quality		X		Temporary impacts during construction
Wetlands		X		Up to 7.0 acres of wetland impacts; Nationwide 23 Permit required
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in the project area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? Yes

Section 404 Permit Required? Yes Type Nationwide Permit 23

Remarks: _____

Signature of Evaluator  Date 6-8-2020

PROJECT DESIGN CRITERIADATE: April 27, 2020
REV.: _____

JOB NO:	<u>061615</u>	ROUTE / SECTION:	<u>63/11, 33/5</u>	LENGTH:	<u>0.66 mile</u>	COUNTY:	<u>Prairie</u>
JOB NAME:	<u>Wolf Bayou, Honey & La Grue Creeks Strs. & Apprs. (S)</u>					MIN ORDER:	<u>2018-080</u>
2021 ADT:	<u>4100⁽¹⁾, 640⁽²⁾</u>	2041 ADT:	<u>4800⁽¹⁾, 750⁽²⁾</u>	TRUCK:	<u>8%⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾</u>	4-LANE GRID SYSTEM:	<u>Yes⁽¹⁾, No⁽²⁾</u>
APHN:	<u>Yes</u>	INCENTIVE/DISINCENTIVE:	<u>Yes</u>	FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION:	<u>Minor Arterial⁽¹⁾, Major Collector⁽²⁾</u>		

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ROADWAY WIDTH:	<u>30⁽¹⁾, 26⁽²⁾</u>	WIDTH OF TRAVELED WAY:	<u>24⁽¹⁾, 20⁽²⁾</u>	SHOULDERS (WIDTH/TYPE):	<u>3' paved⁽¹⁾, 3' unpaved⁽²⁾</u>
BIKE/PED ACCOMMODATIONS:	<u>No</u>	CRASH RATE:	<u>0.70⁽¹⁾, 0.63⁽²⁾</u>	STATEWIDE CRASH RATE:	<u>0.75⁽¹⁾, 1.05⁽²⁾</u>

BRIDGE INFORMATION

Bridge No.	Log Mile	Length x Width	Structure Type	BCI	Deck/Culvert Rating	Superstructure Rating	Substructure Rating	Posted
1858 ⁽³⁾	10.781	76.0' x 25.5'	Steel Multi-Beam	71.40	5	4	5	5
1860 ⁽³⁾	8.573	101.0' x 25.5'	Steel Multi-Beam	58.76	5	4	5	5
1859 ⁽³⁾	8.754	101.0' x 25.5'	Steel Multi-Beam	67.79	5	4	5	5
M0756 ⁽⁴⁾	3.143	74.5' x 22.2'	Timber Multi-Beam	44.33	6	6	5	1

* Refer to PDC Bridge Information Codes

RECOMMENDED CRITERIA

NO. OF LANES:	<u>4⁽¹⁾, 2⁽²⁾</u>	WIDTH:	<u>12⁽¹⁾, 11⁽²⁾</u>	SHOULDERS (WIDTH/TYPE):	<u>8' paved⁽¹⁾, 4'(2' paved)⁽²⁾</u>
DIVIDED:	<u>Yes⁽¹⁾, No⁽²⁾</u>	MEDIAN WIDTH:	<u>11⁽¹⁾/N/A⁽²⁾</u>	PARKING:	<u>No</u>
BRIDGE WIDTHS:	<u>75⁽¹⁾, N/A⁽²⁾</u>	DESIGN SPEED - RURAL:	<u>60 MPH⁽¹⁾, 55 MPH⁽²⁾</u>	URBAN:	<u>N/A</u>
DEGREE OF ACCESS CONTROL:	<u>N/A</u>	CLEAR ZONE:	<u>30'@6:1⁽¹⁾, 18'@6:1/24'@4:1⁽²⁾</u>		
LOCATION OF INTERCHANGES:	<u>N/A</u>	CHANNELIZED INTERSECTION:	<u>As Warranted</u>		
TRAFFIC SIGNALS:	<u>As Warranted</u>	RR X-ING PROTECTION:	<u>N/A</u>		
BIKE/PED ACCOMMODATIONS:	<u>N/A</u>				
PREVIOUS PLANNING STUDY:	<u>No</u>				
STUDY FINDING:	<u>N/A</u>				

RECOMMENDED TYPE FUNDS:	<u>NHPP</u>
PRELIM COST ESTIMATE:	ROADWAY: <u>\$4,700,000</u> BRIDGE: <u>\$3,200,000</u> TOTAL: <u>\$7,900,000</u>

REMARKS:

Highway 63 ⁽¹⁾, Highway 33 ⁽²⁾

Bridge Replacement ⁽³⁾, R.C. Box Culvert ⁽⁴⁾

Use AASHTO Green Book (2018)

RECOMMENDED BY:Charles Ellis: Charles R EllisTrinity Smith: Trinity SmithDate: 4-28-2020Date: 4-27-2020**APPROVED BY:**Mike Fugett: Mike FugettDate: 4-28-2020

ACE-Design

(ATTACH NEW PROJECT MEMO, LOCATION MAP, AND CRASH ANALYSIS)