




## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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September 14, 2017

**TO:** Master Files

**FROM:** John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

**SUBJECT:** Job Number 020584  
FAP Number NHPP-0035(50)  
Sandy Bayou Str. & Apprs.  
Bridge Number M1015  
Jefferson County  
Tier 2 Categorical Exclusion

The Environmental Division has reviewed the referenced project and it falls within the definition of a Tier 2 Categorical Exclusion under 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 771.117, and the ARDOT/FHWA Memorandum of Agreement on the processing of Categorical Exclusions. A public hearing will not be offered for this project.

The purpose of this project is to replace a bridge on Highway 54 in Jefferson County. Total length of the project is 0.028 mile. The attached figure illustrates the project location.

Existing Highway 54 consists of two 10-foot wide travel lanes with no shoulders. The existing bridge (#M1015) has a 27' x 40' concrete deck with an asphalt overlay on two span timber girders supported by timber pile bents with timber caps. The bridge has a sufficiency rating of 48.0. There is no recorded existing right of way.

Proposed improvements include a quadruple 10' x 8' x 60' reinforced concrete box culvert with two 11-foot wide paved travel lanes and 4-foot wide shoulders. The proposed average right of way width will be 98 feet. Approximately 0.9 acre of right of way will be required for this project.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed
2018	530	4	55 mph
2038	620	4	55 mph

There are no relocations, endangered species, or environmental justice issues associated with this project. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated; concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer is attached. Field inspections found no evidence of existing underground storage tanks or hazardous waste deposits. Approximately 0.2 acre of Statewide Important Farmland will be converted to highway right of way. Form NRCS-CPA-106 is attached.

Based upon the ARDOT's *Policy on Highway Traffic Noise Abatement*, a noise analysis is not required for this project. This project does not involve added capacity, construction of new through lanes or auxiliary lanes, changes in the horizontal or vertical alignment of the roadway or exposure of noise sensitive land uses to a new noise source.

Jefferson County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. All of the floodplain encroachments within this highway construction project will be designed to comply with the county's local flood damage prevention ordinance. The project lies within Zone A, Special Flood Hazard Area. 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 significant floodplain encroachment or a significant risk to property or life.

Construction of the proposed project will result in minor impacts to Sandy Bayou, however, construction of the proposed project should be allowed under terms of a Nationwide Permit 14 for Linear Transportation Projects as defined in the Federal Register 82 (4):1860-2008.

The official species list obtained through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation webtool identified the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) as the only listed species potentially occurring within the

project area. No critical habitat for this species was located within the project area. On August 31, 2017, the USFWS stated that “The Service does not have any information that there are any listed species in the affected area of this action. We do not anticipate any effects to the Piping Plover will occur from this action.” Based on that assessment it is determined that the project will have no effect on listed species.

Attachments:

Project Location Map  
SHPO Clearance  
Environmental Study Checklist  
Design Sheet

Approved:

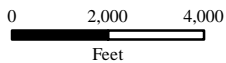
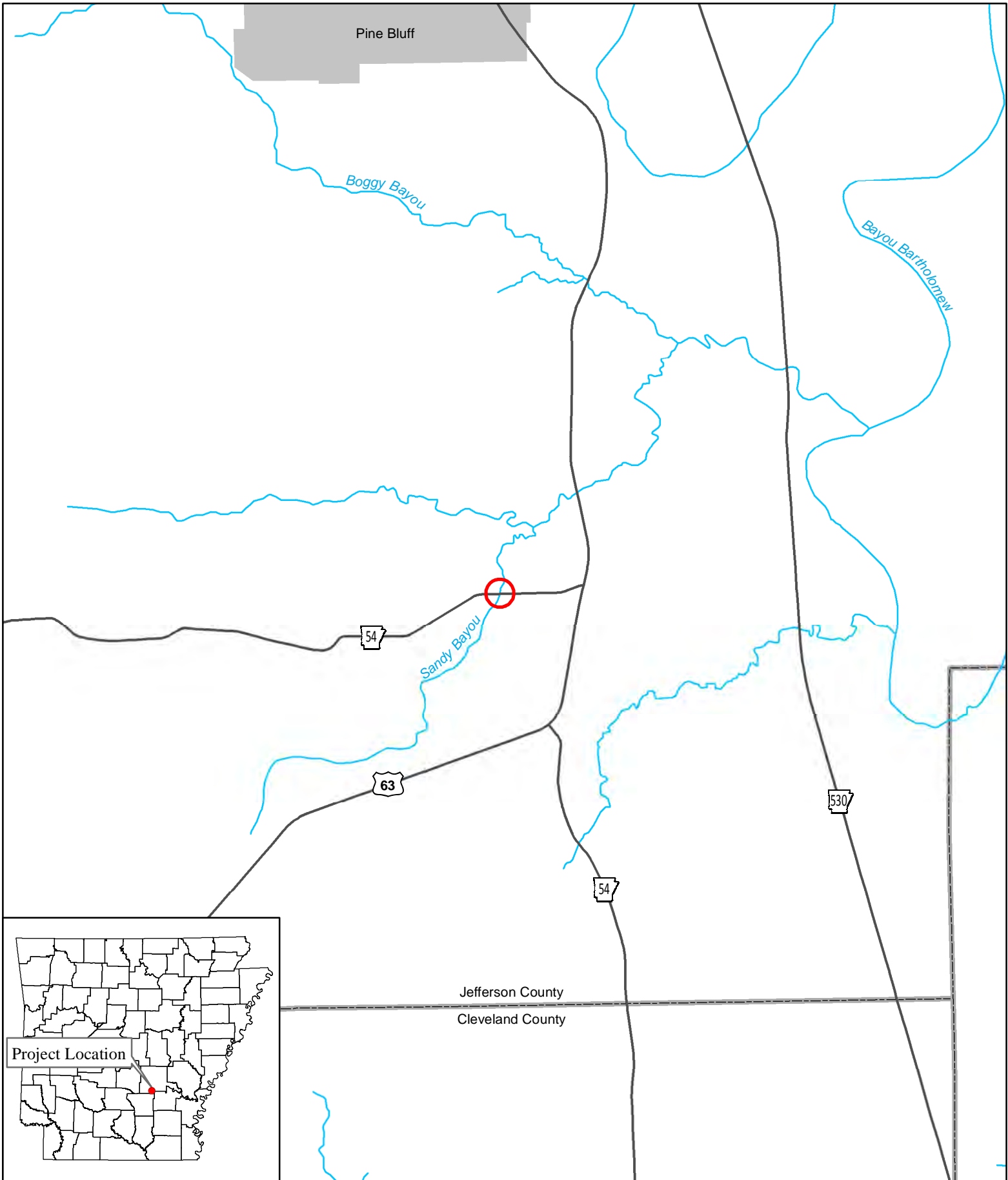


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Kevin Thornton  
Assistant Chief Engineer-Planning

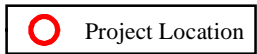
JF:JB:fc

c: Program Management  
Right of Way  
Roadway Design  
District 2  
FHWA  
Master File



ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Strawn  
August 24, 2017

Job 020584  
Sandy Bayou Str. & Apprs.  
(Hwy. 54)  
Jefferson County



RECEIVED  
AHTD  
NOV 08 2016  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
DIVISION

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY  
AND  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

96763  
FHWA  
AHPP  
OCT 27 2016

Scott E. Bennett  
Director  
Telephone (501) 569-2000  
Voice/TTY 711



P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261  
Telefax (501) 569-2400  
www.arkansashighways.com

October 26, 2016

Mr. Robert Scoggin  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
1100 North Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Re: AHTD Job Number 020584  
Sandy Bayou Str. & Apprs. (S)  
Jefferson County

Dear Mr. Scoggin:

A Project Identification Form 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 Scott Smallwood of my staff at 501-569-2038.

Sincerely,

John Fleming  
Division Head  
Environmental Division

JF:DW:CSS:ym

Enclosure  
PIF

Date **NOV 04 2016**  
No known historic properties will be  
affected by this undertaking. This  
effect determination could change  
if additional information comes to light.  
*Frances McSwain*  
Frances McSwain, Deputy State  
Historic Preservation Officer

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b> Job 020584		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 9/7/17	4. Sheet 1 of _____
1. Name of Project Sandy Bayou Strs. Apprs.		5. Federal Agency Involved FHWA	
2. Type of Project Bridge Replacement		6. County and State Jefferson AR	
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		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 NO	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	

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment</b>			
	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				

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	0.2			
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				

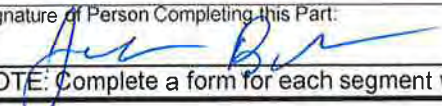
**PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)**

<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>	Maximum Points				
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	15			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	20			
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	0			
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	0			
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0			
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5			
8. On-Farm Investments	20	0			
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0			
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	0			
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>50</b>			

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>				
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	100		
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	50		
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>150</b>		

1. Corridor Selected: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project: .02 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used?  YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part:  DATE: 9/14/17

**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:

August 21, 2017

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2017-SLI-1204

Event Code: 04ER1000-2017-E-01758

Project Name: Sandy Bayou Str. & Apprs.

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.**

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](http://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

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## Project Summary

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2017-SLI-1204

Event Code: 04ER1000-2017-E-01758

Project Name: Sandy Bayou Str. & Apprs.

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: Bridge replacement

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/34.100465171661085N92.00148937117456W>



Counties:

Jefferson, AR

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## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 1 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. 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.

### Birds

NAME	STATUS
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: except Great Lakes watershed There is a <b>final</b> <a href="#">critical habitat</a> designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039</a>	Threatened

### Critical habitats

There are no critical habitats within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

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## ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

ARDOT Job Number 020584 FAP Number NHPP-0035(50)  
 Job Title Sandy Bayou Str. Apprs.

Environmental Impacts	None	Minor	Significant	Comments
Air Quality	X			
Construction Impacts		X		Temporary
Cultural Resources	X			
Economic	X			
Endangered Species	X			
Energy Resources	X			
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			
Fish and Wildlife		X		Very minor during construction
Floodplains		X		Floodplain permit required
Forest Service Property	X			
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			
Land Use Impacts	X			
Migratory Birds		X		Migratory Bird SP
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			
Noise Levels	X			
Prime Farmland		X		.02 acres of Statewide Importance
Protected Waters	X			
Public Recreation Lands	X			
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			
Relocates	X			
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			
Social	X			
Underground Storage Tanks	X			
Visual Impacts	X			
Stream Impacts		X		Temporary during construction
Water Quality		X		Temporary during construction
Wetlands	X			
Wildlife Refuges	X			

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No  
 Short-term Activity Authorization Required? Yes  
 Section 404 Permit Required? Yes Type NWP 14

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Evaluator  Date September 13, 2017

## ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number 020584 FAP No. NHPP-0035(50) County Jefferson

Job Name Sandy Bayou Str. & Apprs. (S)

Design Engineer Primary Environmental Staff \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Project Description Bridge Replacement

**A. Existing Conditions:**

Roadway Width: 20' Shoulder Type/Width: 0'

Number of Lanes and Width: 2 Existing Right-of-Way: N/A

Sidewalks? N/A Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_

Bike Lanes? N/A Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Proposed Conditions:**

Roadway Width: 22' Shoulder Type/Width: 4' w/ 2' Paved

Number of Lanes and Width: 2- 11' Proposed Right-of-Way: 98'

Sidewalks? N/A Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_

Bike Lanes? N/A Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Construction Information:**

If detour: Where: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Design Traffic Data:**

2018 ADT: 530 2038 ADT: 620 % Trucks: 4  
Design Speed: 55 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: 0.028 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Replace weight restricted bridge

G. Total Relocates: 0 Residences: \_\_\_\_\_ Businesses: \_\_\_\_\_

H. Have you coordinated with any outside agencies (e.g., FHWA, City, County, etc.)? Yes

Agency/Official	Person Contacted	Date
Jefferson Co. Director of Roads	Rickey Bullard	8-17-17
OEM	Salinda Hayden	8-17-17