

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**August 16, 2017**

**TO:** Master Files

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

*JF*

*h. Price*

**SUBJECT:** Job Number 040684  
FAP Number STPF-0017 (39)  
Hwy. 71 & Hwy. 282 Signal (Crawford Co.) (S)  
Crawford County  
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

After appropriate environmental review, it has been determined that the subject job is a Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion as described by the ARDOT/FHWA Memorandum of Agreement on Categorical Exclusion Documentation and Processing.

The project consists of installing a traffic signal at the intersection of Highway 71 and Highway 282 in Crawford County. No additional right of way will be required, and a public hearing will not be offered.

The above referenced job is covered under the Memorandum of Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Officer executed on June 21, 1999 under the exempted Work Category "Safety/Traffic Operations". The job consists of conducting work within a previously disturbed area. All work will be within the existing right of way and does not have the potential to disturb cultural resources.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service IPaC Species List determined that five endangered species and two threatened species may occur within the project area. The gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalists*), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Ozark big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), spectaclecase mussel (*Cumberlandia monodonta*), and the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) were identified as possibly occurring

Job Number 040684  
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion  
Page 2 of 2

within the project area. Based on a lack of suitable habitat, it is our determination that the project will have no effect on the listed species.

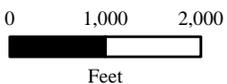
No Section 404 permit will be required.

Attachments:

- Location Map
- Section 106 Clearance
- USFWS Species List
- Environmental Study Checklist

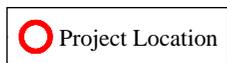
JF:KS:fc

- c: Program Management
  - Right of Way
  - Roadway Design
  - District 4
  - FHWA
  - Master File



AHTD-Environmental GIS-Hopkins  
September 20, 2016

Job 040684  
Hwy. 71 & Hwy. 282 Signal  
Dean Springs Rd.  
Crawford County

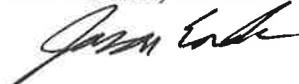


**ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**July 19, 2017**

**TO:** Job File

**FROM:** Jason Eads, Cultural Resources Section, Environmental Division  


**SUBJECT:** Archeological Clearance  
Job Number 040684  
Hwy. 71 & Hwy. 282 Signal (S)  
Crawford County

This job proposes to install traffic signals at the junction of Hwy. 71 and Hwy. 282, about 2 miles north of Alma in Crawford County. A records check at the Arkansas Archeological Survey shows no sites in or near the right-of-way (ROW). One cultural indicator, "Road," was found on the 1840 General Land Office map near the project. The 1936 Crawford County road map shows one structure near the northwest corner of the intersection. No recorded historic structures are shown on the AHPP structure database in or near the ROW. The project will require no new ROW. All work will be within the existing ROW and the extremely limited scope of the project does not have the potential to affect any undisturbed land surfaces or potential historic properties. This project is subject to the 1999 MOA and falls under the exempted Work Category "Safety/Traffic Operations." The project is not considered an undertaking and requires no further work or Section 106 review.



## 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 14, 2017

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2017-SLI-1118

Event Code: 04ER1000-2017-E-01654

Project Name: Hwy. 71 & Hwy. 282 Signal (Crawford Co.)

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

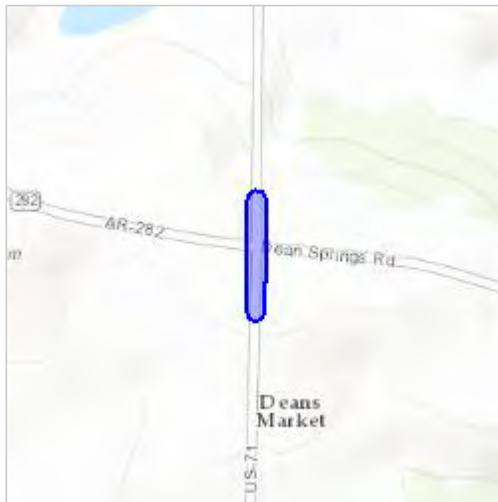
---

## Project Summary

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2017-SLI-1118  
Event Code: 04ER1000-2017-E-01654  
Project Name: Hwy. 71 & Hwy. 282 Signal (Crawford Co.)  
Project Type: TRANSPORTATION  
Project Description: signal & intersection improvements

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps:  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/35.53776471464716N94.2207589870988W>



Counties: Crawford, AR

---

## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 8 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.

### Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Gray Bat <i>Myotis grisescens</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6329">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6329</a>	Endangered
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is a <b>final critical habitat</b> designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949</a>	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Threatened
Ozark Big-eared Bat <i>Corynorhinus (=Plecotus) townsendii ingens</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7245">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7245</a>	Endangered

### Birds

NAME	STATUS
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: except Great Lakes watershed There is a <b>final critical habitat</b> 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

---

## Clams

### NAME

### STATUS

Spectaclecase (mussel) *Cumberlandia monodonta*

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7867>

## Insects

### NAME

### STATUS

American Burying Beetle *Nicrophorus americanus*

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/66>

American Burying Beetle *Nicrophorus americanus*

Experimental Population,  
Non-Essential

Population: Ex Pop, SW Missouri

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/66>

## Critical habitats

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

---

## ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

ARDOT Job Number 040684 FAP Number STPF-0017 (39)

Job Title Hwy. 71 & Hwy. 282 Signal (Crawford Co.) (S)

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			
Floodplains	X			
Forest Service Property	X			
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			
Land Use Impacts	X			
Migratory Birds	X			
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			
Noise Levels	X			
Prime Farmland	X			
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			
Water Quality	X			
Wetlands	X			
Wildlife Refuges	X			

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? No

Section 404 Permit Required? No Type \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of Evaluator *Karla Srd* Date August 16, 2017