October 24, 2017

TO: Master Files

FROM: John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division

SUBJECT: Job Number 100833
FAP Number NHPP-0016(73)
Ditch at L.M. 0.25 Str. & Apprs. (S)
Bridge Number M0050
Craighead 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 structurally deficient bridge over an unnamed stream on Highway 163 near Jonesboro in Craighead County. The total length of the project is 0.057 mile. A project location map is attached.

The existing roadway consists of two 11-foot wide paved travel lanes with no shoulders. Existing right of way width is approximately 80 feet. The existing 25' x 45' bridge (M0050) consists of a three-span concrete slab supported on channel beams. This bridge has a sufficiency rating of 11 and is structurally deficient.

Proposed improvements include replacing the existing bridge with a quadruple 11' x 9' x 80' R.C. box culvert on the existing alignment utilizing staged construction. The bridge approaches will have two 11-foot travel lanes and 6-foot shoulders. The new average right of way width will be 213 feet.

Design data for this project is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design Year</th>
<th>Average Daily Traffic</th>
<th>Percent Trucks</th>
<th>Posted Speed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>55 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2037</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>55 mph</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Job Number 100833
Tier 2 Categorical Exclusion
Page 2 of 2

There are no relocations, environmental justice issues, hazardous materials, wetlands, or cultural resources associated with this project. Concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer is attached. Approximately 0.59 acre of additional right of way will be required for this project, of which 0.39 acre is Farmland of Statewide Importance. Form NRCS-CPA-106 is attached.

The project will impact 144 linear feet of an unnamed stream. No wetlands will be impacted. Construction of the proposed project should be allowed under the terms of Nationwide Permit 14 as defined in Federal Register 82(4):1860-2008.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) webtool identified rabbitsfoot (Quadrula cylindrica), scaleshell (Leptodea leptodon), fat pocketbook (Potamilus capax), Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis), and pondberry (Lindera melissifolia) as potentially occurring at or near the project location. The official species list is attached.

ARDOT Environmental Division personnel conducted a field survey of the proposed project area. With the distance to known records, minimal impacts to streams, no tree clearing, and the incorporation of appropriate sediment and erosion controls, the project was determined to have no effect on listed species.

Attachments:
  Project Location Map
  SHPO Clearance
  USFWS Species List
  Environmental Study Checklist
  Design Sheet

Approved:

Kevin Thornton
Assistant Chief Engineer-Planning

JF:SL:fc

c: Program Management
  Right of Way
  Roadway Design
  District 10
  FHWA
  Master File
October 17, 2017

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

RE: Job Number 100833
Ditch at L.M. 0.25 Str. & Apprs. (S)
Craighead County

Dear Ms. Hurst:

Please find enclosed a Project Identification Form (PIF) for the above referenced project. If you have any questions or require additional information about the project, please contact Milton Hughes of my staff at 501-569-2080.

Sincerely,

John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division

Enclosures
PIF

Date 10/17/2017

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

Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer
## FORM FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS

### PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)

1. Name of Project: Ditch at L.M. 0.25 Str. & Apprs. (S)
2. Type of Project: Bridge replacement
3. Date of Land Evaluation Request: 10/12/17
4. Federal Agency Involved: FHWA
5. County and State: Craighead AR.

### 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
   - 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

### PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)

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: 0.39
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))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum Points</th>
<th>Corridor A</th>
<th>Corridor B</th>
<th>Corridor C</th>
<th>Corridor D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Area in Nonurban Use</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Availability Of Farm Support Services</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. On-Farm Investments</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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: Location Adjacent to existing
2. Total Acres Of Farmlands to be Converted by Project: 0.39 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance
3. Date Of Selection: 10/12/17
4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES NO
5. Reason For Selection:

**Signature of Person Completing this Part:**

**DATE:** 10/12/17

**NOTE:** Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor.
In Reply Refer To: Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2018-SLI-0021
Event Code: 04ER1000-2018-E-00032
Project Name: 100833 - Ditch at L.M. 0.25 Str. & Apprs. (s)

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

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](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: 04ER1000-2018-SLI-0021

Event Code: 04ER1000-2018-E-00032

Project Name: 100833 - Ditch at L.M. 0.25 Str. & Apprs. (s)

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: Replace the bridge on highway 163 over unnamed tributary with a quadruple concrete box culvert.

Project Location: Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/place/35.707871491206234N90.6614581129694W

Counties: Craighead, AR
Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 5 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indiana Bat <em>Myotis sodalis</em></td>
<td>Endangered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Species profile: [https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949](https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949)

Clams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fat Pocketbook <em>Potamilus capax</em></td>
<td>Endangered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: [https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2780](https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2780)

Rabbitsfoot *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*  

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

Species profile: [https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165](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](https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5881)

Flowering Plants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pondberry <em>Lindera melissifolia</em></td>
<td>Endangered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: [https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1279](https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1279)

Critical habitats
There are no critical habitats within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.
# ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

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<th>Environmental Impacts</th>
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<th>Minor</th>
<th>Significant</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction Impacts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Resources</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Economic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy Resources</td>
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<td>Environmental Justice/Title VI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fish and Wildlife</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Temporary during construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floodplains</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Service Property</td>
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<td>Hazardous Materials/Landfills</td>
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<td>Land Use Impacts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Migratory Birds</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Migratory Bird SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navigation/Coast Guard</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Noise Levels</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Farmland</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.39 acre Farmland of Statewide importance, Form NRCS-CPA-106 is attached.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected Waters</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Recreation Lands</td>
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<td>Public Water Supply/WHPA</td>
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<td>Relocatees</td>
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<td>Section 4(f)/6(f)</td>
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<td>Social</td>
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<tr>
<td>Underground Storage Tanks</td>
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<td>Visual Impacts</td>
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<td>Temporary during construction</td>
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<td>Wetlands</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Refuges</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required?  
No

Short-term Activity Authorization Required?  
Yes

Section 404 Permit Required?  
Yes  
Type  NWP 14

Remarks: No stream migration required

Signature of Evaluator  
Sherry LeBlanc  
Date  October 24, 2017

5/17/2011
**ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST**

**Job Number** 100833  **FAP No.** ________________  **County** Craighead

**Job Name** Ditch at L.M. 0.25 Str. & Apprs. (S)

**Design Engineer**  Kevin Wang  **Environmental Staff** ________________

**Brief Project Description** Bridge Replacement

### A. Existing Conditions:
- **Roadway Width:** 22
- **Shoulder Type/Width:** none
- **Number of Lanes and Width:** 2 – 11’
- **Existing Right-of-Way:** 80 ft.
- **Sidewalks?:** n/a
- **Location:**
- **Width:**
- **Bike Lanes?:** n/a
- **Location:**
- **Width:**

### B. Proposed Conditions:
- **Roadway Width:** 22’
- **Shoulder Type/Width:** 2’ paved 4’ agg.
- **Number of Lanes and Width:** 2 – 11’
- **Proposed Right-of-Way:** 213.03’
- **Sidewalks?:** n/a
- **Location:**
- **Width:**
- **Bike Lanes?:** n/a
- **Location:**
- **Width:**

### C. Construction Information:
- **If detour:** Where: Onsite
- **Length:** 917.28 ft.

### D. Design Traffic Data:
- **2017 ADT:** 2000
- **2037 ADT:** 2500
- **% Trucks:** 9%
- **Posted Speed:** 55 m.p.h.

### E. Approximate total length of project:
- **.057 mile(s)**

### F. Justification for proposed improvements:
- **Structure is deficient**

### G. Total Relocatees:
- **Residences:** 0
- **Businesses:** 0

### H. Have you coordinated with any outside agencies (e.g., FHWA, City, County, etc.)?
- **no**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency/Official</th>
<th>Person Contacted</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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Date Sent: __September 27, 2017__