



## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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December 14, 2017

**TO:** Master Files

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

**SUBJECT:** Job Number 100957  
FAP Number NHPP-0056(44)  
Hwy. 14 – Craighead Co. Line  
Poinsett County  
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

This purpose of this project is to provide an Ultrathin Bonded Wearing Course on the travel lanes with a Fog-Seal surface treatment for the shoulders. Total length of the project is 13.5 miles. The attached figure illustrates the project location.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service's IPaC website lists Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalists*), Fat Pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*), Rabbitsfoot (*Theliderma cylindrica*), Scaleshell Mussel (*Leptodea leptodon*), Pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*), and Missouri bladderpod as species potentially affected by the proposed project. Due to the limited scope of the project, lack of habitat present within the project area, and distance to known habitat, a determination was made that the project will not affect these listed species.

This project will not require a Section 404 permit. The cultural resources clearance is attached.

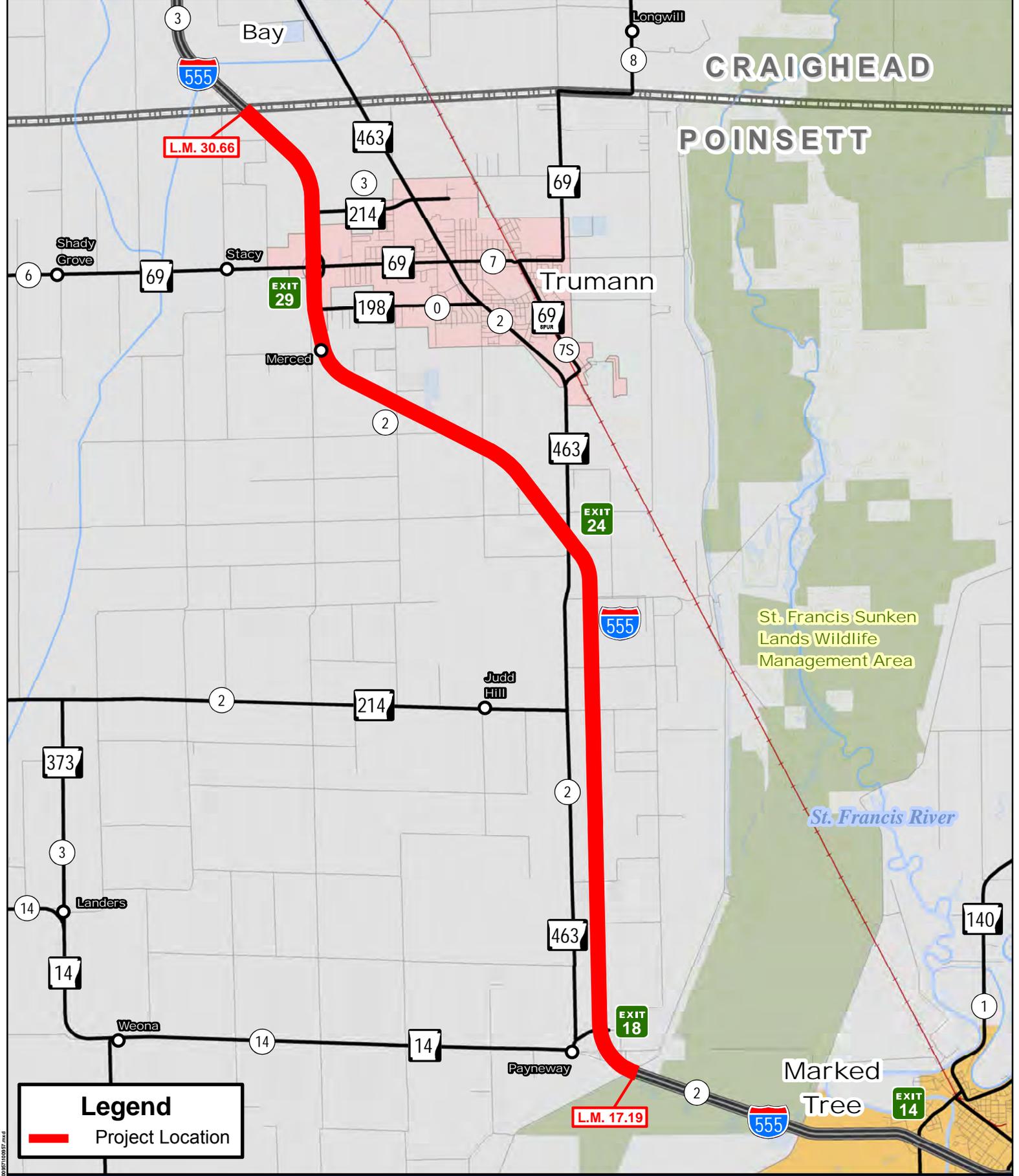
After appropriate environmental review, it has been determined that the subject job is a Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion as described by the ARDOT/FHWA Memorandum of Agreement on Categorical Exclusion Documentation and Processing. A public hearing will not be offered for this project.

JF:JB:fc

**Attachments:**

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

c: Program Management  
Right of Way  
Roadway Design  
District 10  
FHWA



**Legend**  
 Project Location

**Job 100957**  
 Hwy. 14 - Craighead Co. Line (S)  
 I-555, Sec. 2  
 Poinsett County



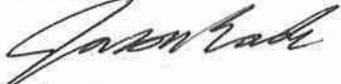
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**ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**June 21, 2017**

**TO:** Job File

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


**SUBJECT:** Previously Approved  
Job Number 100957  
Hwy. 14-Crittenden Co. Line (S)  
Poinsett County

This job proposes to apply ultrathin bonded wearing course (UTBWC) and fog seal shoulders on an existing 13.47 miles of road surface on Interstate 555, from Hwy. 14 to the Craighead Co. Line, in Poinsett County. This project originally fell under AHTD Job 012267 and was approved by SHPO on November 18, 2016. This project is also subject to the 1999 MOA and falls under the exempted Work Category "Resurfacing." 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:

December 07, 2017

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2018-SLI-0239

Event Code: 04ER1000-2018-E-00400

Project Name: 100957

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: 04ER1000-2018-SLI-0239

Event Code: 04ER1000-2018-E-00400

Project Name: 100957

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: UTWBC and polymer overlay of I-555 from the county line south to Hwy 14.

Project Location:

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

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/35.62608588599247N90.49711615010736W>



Counties: Craighead, AR | Poinsett, AR

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## 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

| NAME   | STATUS     |
|--|------------|
| Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i><br>There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.<br>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949</a> | Endangered |

### Clams

| NAME   | STATUS     |
|--|------------|
| Fat Pocketbook <i>Potamilus capax</i><br>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.<br>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2780">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2780</a>   | Endangered |
| Rabbitsfoot <i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i><br>There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.<br>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165</a> | Threatened |
| Scaleshell Mussel <i>Leptodea leptodon</i><br>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.<br>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5881">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5881</a>  | Endangered |

### Flowering Plants

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

### Critical habitats

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

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## AHTD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

AHTD Job Number 100957 FAP Number NHPP-0056(44)

Job Title Hwy. 14 - Craighead Co. Line (S)

| Environmental Impacts          | None | Minor | Significant | Comments                              |
|--------------------------------|------|-------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Air Quality                    | X    |       |             |                                       |
| Construction Impacts           |      | X     |             | Minor during construction             |
| 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    |       |             | All work within existing right of way |
| 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?     N      
 Short-term Activity Authorization Required?     N      
 Section 404 Permit Required?     N     Type                     

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

Signature of Evaluator  Date December 7, 2017