October 7, 2016

Ms. M. Elaine Edwards  
Chief, Regulatory Division  
Little Rock District Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 867  
Little Rock, AR 72203-0867

RE: AHTD Job Number BR0405  
Wildcat Creek Str. & Apprs.  
Benton County

Dear Ms. Edwards:

Enclosed are the categorical exclusion, supporting illustrations, and proposed construction plans for the referenced AHTD project. This project appears to meet the requirements for the Nationwide Permit 14 for Linear Transportation Projects. Construction of this project will replace the existing County Road 1785 bridge and approaches over Wildcat Creek.

The current bridge is 167 ft in length with a 31.1 ft deck width with I-beams spans supported by single column bents. Two bents are located within the channel of Wildcat Creek. This bridge has been deemed structurally deficient due to deterioration of the deck. The new bridge will be constructed on existing alignment and will consist of one 178 ft continuous composite W-beam unit on spread footings at west abutment, drilled shaft-supported single hammer-head column at each intermediate bent, and trestle pile bent using steel H piles at the east abutment. Two piers will be constructed within the stream channel and will require the placement of fill below the plane of ordinary high water (OHW = elevation 1029.0 ft. msl). The existing piers within the channel of Wildcat Creek will be removed entirely prior to construction. One temporary work road (~400 yd² below OHW) will be constructed just downstream and adjacent to the bridge. Total impacts to waters of the United States are estimated at less than 0.1 acre.

The proposed project will not impact state or federal lands, national or state wild or scenic rivers, or extraordinary resource water bodies. The project lies within FEMA Special Flood Hazard Zone A with a 1% chance of annual flooding. AHTD design standards must comply with FEMA approved local floodplain ordinances.

The project lies within the known range of the federally protected candidate Arkansas darter (Etheostoma cragini), threatened piping plover (Charadrius melodus), threatened Ozark cavefish (Amblyopsis rosea), threatened northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis), endangered Neosho mucket (Lampsilis rafinesqueana), endangered gray bat (Myotis grisescens), endangered
Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), and endangered Ozark big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*). With distance to known hibernacula, limited vegetation clearing, and standard sediment control BMPs requirements for SWPPP approval “no effects” to threatened or endangered species are anticipated. The USFWS concurred with that determination on 8 August 2016.

Please review this project for concurrence that construction can proceed under terms of a Nationwide Permit 14 for Linear Transportation projects as defined in the Federal Register 77 (34): 10184-10290. If additional information is required, please contact Ben Thesing or Josh Seagraves of my staff at (501) 569-2522.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]
Division Head
Environmental Division

JF:JS:BT:ym

Enclosures
Supporting Illustrations
Proposed Construction Plans
Job BR0405.
Wildcat Creek Str. & Apprs.
Benton County.
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR PROPOSED COUNTY ROAD

WILDCAT CREEK
STR. & APPRS. (S)
COUNTY ROAD 1785
BENTON COUNTY
FED. AID PROJECT STPB-0004(7)

JOB BR0405

ST A. 112+00.00 END JOB BR0405
FED. AID PROJECT STPB-0004(7)

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY DIST. 9

PRELIMINARY
SUBJECT TO REV.
APPROVED

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF ENGINEER

DESIGN YEAR:
2035

2015 ADT:
177

DISTRIBUTION:
1%

77 MPH

DESIGN TRAFFIC DATA

LATITUDE
LONGITUDE
FED. AID PROJECT STPB-0004(7)

VICINITY MAP

PROJECT LOCATION

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY DIST. 9

CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR PROPOSED COUNTY ROAD
September 7, 2016

Mr. Angel Correa
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
700 West Capitol, Room 3130
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3298

Re: Job Number BR0405
FAP Number STPB-0004(58)
Bridge Number 01701
Wildcat Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)
Benton County
Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion

Dear Mr. Correa:

The Environmental Division has reviewed the referenced project and it falls within the definition of the Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion as defined by the AHTD/FHWA Memorandum of 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 the bridge over Wildcat Creek on County Road 1785 in Benton County. The total project length is 0.14 mile. A project location map is enclosed.

The existing roadway consists of two 12-foot wide paved travel lanes with 5-foot wide shoulders. Existing right of way width averages 100 feet. The existing bridge (#01701) is 167’ x 26’ with I-beam spans supported by single column bents. This bridge is structurally deficient and has a sufficiency rating of 45.1.
Proposed improvements include a new bridge with a 180’ x 28’ concrete deck with a continuous composite W-beam unit. The new roadway will have two 11-foot wide paved travel lanes with 5-foot shoulders. The proposed average right of way width will be 97 feet. Approximately 0.09 acre of additional right of way will be required for this project.

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>Design Speed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>40 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2036</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>40 mph</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are no relocations, or environmental justice issues associated with this project. Field inspections found no evidence of existing underground storage tanks or hazardous waste deposits. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated; concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer is enclosed. Approximately 0.03 acres of Prime Farmland will be converted to highway right of way. Form NRCS-CPA-106 is enclosed.

Benton County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. All of the floodplain encroachments within this county road 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.

Noise predictions have been made for this project utilizing the Federal Highway Administration’s TNM 2.5 (Traffic Noise Model) procedures. These procedures indicate that noise levels are below the FHWA noise criteria beyond the project’s proposed right-of-way limits for current (2016) and future (2036) planning periods. No sensitive receptors are currently impacted and no project related noise impacts are anticipated. Any excessive project noise, due to construction operations, should be of short duration and have a minimum adverse effect on land uses or activities associated with this project area. In compliance with Federal guidelines, local authorities will not require notification.

The County Road 1785 Bridge over Wildcat Creek will be replaced on existing location. Two piers within the plane of ordinary high water (elevation 1029.0 ft. msl) will be
replaced with reinforced concrete single column piers on drilled shafts. A temporary work road will be constructed adjacent to the bridge requiring the placement of 400 cubic yards of temporary fill below ordinary high water. Total impacts to waters of the United States are estimated at less than 0.1 acre. No wetlands will be impacted as a result of this project. Construction of the proposed project should be allowed under the terms of Nationwide Permit 14 as defined in Federal Register 77(34):10184-10290.

Records check of the Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) indicated the project lies within the known range of the federally protected candidate Arkansas darter (*Etheostoma cragini*), threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), threatened Ozark cavefish (*Amblyopsis rosalae*), threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), endangered Neosho mucket (*Lampsilis rafinesqueana*), endangered gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), and endangered Ozark big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*). Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) database shows no records of any federally listed species within the vicinity of the project. Visual inspection of entire bridge and piers during site visits showed no signs of bat occupancy or other habitats suitable for the listed species. Coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Division at 569-2281.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division

Enclosures

JF:JB:fc

c: Program Management
   Right of Way
   State Aid
   District 9
   Master File
Job BR0405
Wildcat Creek Str. & Apprs.
Benton County

Begin Job BR0405
End Job BR0405

Project Location

AHTD - Environmental GIS - Strawn
August 17, 2016
July 28, 2016

Mr. Robert Scoggin
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
323 Center Street, Suite 1500
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

RE: AHTD Job No. BR0405
Wildcat Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)
Benton 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 Jason Eads of my staff at (501) 569-2181.

Sincerely,

John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division

Enclosure
PIF

[Signature: Brenda Smart]
PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)  BR0405  3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 8/29/16  4. Sheet 1 of _______

1. Name of Project  Wildcat Creek – Str & Apprs.  5. Federal Agency Involved  FHWA

2. Type of Project  Bridge Replacement  6. County and State  Benton AR.

PART II (To be completed by NRCS)  1. Date Request Received by NRCS  2. Person Completing Form

3. Does the corridor contain orima unique statewide or local important farmland?  YES NO

(If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form)

4. Acres Irrigated  

5. Major Crop(s)  

6. Farmland 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corridor A</th>
<th>Corridor B</th>
<th>Corridor C</th>
<th>Corridor D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information

A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly

B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services

C. Total Acres In Corridor

PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criteron 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>Criteria</th>
<th>Maximum Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Area in Nonurban Use</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Availability Of Farm Support Services</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. On-Farm Investments</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use</td>
<td>10</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  100

Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)  160  45

TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)  260  145

1. Corridor Selected: Location Adjacent to existing

2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project: .03 acres of Prime Farmland

3. Date Of Selection:  

4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used?  YES ☐ NO ☐

5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part:  

DATE 9/7/16

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

The Service does not have any information indicating that there are any federally listed species in the affected area of this action. Additionally, the Service concurs with your assessment and determination of "no effect" as it relates to listed species. No further consultation is necessary at this time.

Thanks,

Lindsey Lewis
Biologist

US Fish & Wildlife Service
Arkansas Field Office
110 South Amity Rd., Suite 300
Conway, Arkansas 72032

(501) 513-4489 - voice
(501) 513-4480 - fax
Lindsey_Lewis@fws.gov
http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/

On Fri, Jul 24, 2015 at 8:27 AM, Thesing, Benjamin D. <Benjamin.Thesing@ahtd.ar.gov> wrote:

Lindsey,

Would you mind taking a look at this bridge replacement project? It is on County Road 1785 crossing Wildcat Creek in Benton County (36.187991, -94.337543). Included is a title sheet with location information. Currently the plan is the replace the bridge on location; therefore, no new right over way, tree clearing, or associated impacts with new location projects. Wildcat is a tributary to Osage Creek and further down to Illinois River.

Heritage records for candidate Arkansas Darter (Etheostoma cragini) are about 2.6 miles to the west off of Osage Creek. Also, I see Neosho mucket (Lampsilis rafinesqueana) records on the Illinois River about 3.8 miles to the west. Lastly, I see one heritage record of the least darter (Etheostoma microperca) from 1938 at the bridge location.

With the replace of the bridge proposed to be on current location requiring no row expansion, standard sediment control BMPs requirements for SWPPP approval, and lastly distance of
project from any protected species; we have come to the determination that this project will have "no effect" on listed species and seek concurrence from the service.

If you have any questions or comments please let me know.

Cheers,

Ben

Ben Thesing  
Environmental Analyst I  
Arkansas State Highway & Transportation Dept.  
PO BOX 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203  
P: 501-569-2520 F: 501-569-2009
### AHTD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

**AHTD Job Number** BR0405  **FAP Number** STPB-0004(58)

**Job Title** Wildcat Creek Str. & Apprs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Impacts</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Minor</th>
<th>Significant</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Impacts</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Temporary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Resources</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endangered Species</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>USFWS concurrence received 7/27/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Resources</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Justice/Title VI</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish and Wildlife</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Temporary during construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floodplains</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Within FEMA 100 year floodplain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Service Property</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous Materials/Landfills</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Use Impacts</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migratory Birds</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bird SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navigation/Coast Guard</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise Levels</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Farmland</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>.03 acres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected Waters</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Recreation Lands</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Water Supply/WHPA</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocatees</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 4(f)/6(f)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underground Storage Tanks</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Impacts</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream Impacts</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>NWP14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Quality</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Temporary during construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Refuges</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required?** No  
**Short-term Activity Authorization Required?** Yes  
**Section 404 Permit Required?** Yes  Type NWP14  
**Remarks:** USFWS concurred that the project will have no effect on listed species.

**Signature of Evaluator** [Signature]  **Date** 9/7/16

5/17/2011
STATE AID DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number_BR0405  FAP Number_STPB-0004(58)  County_Benton  
Job Name_Wildcat Creek Strs. & Apprs. (S)  
Design Engineer_Jonathan Clements  Environmental Staff  
Brief Project Description_Replace bridge and approaches.

A. Existing Conditions:
   1. Roadway Width: Metric_34’ English_34’
   2. Shoulder Width: Metric_5’ English_5’ Each Side
   3. Number of Lanes and Width: Metric_2-12’ English_2-12’
   4. Existing Right-of-Way: Metric_N/A English_N/A

B. Proposed Improvements:
   1. Roadway Width: Metric_32’ English_32’
   2. Shoulder Width: Metric_5’ Each Side
   3. Number of Lanes and Width: Metric_2-11’ English_2-11’
   4. Average Right-of-Way: Metric_47’Lt./50’ Rt.
      If bridge(s) will be replaced by culverts give dimensions:

C. Construction Information:
   If detour: Where:_N/A Length: _English

D. Design Data:
   2016 ADT:_350 2036 ADT:_500 Trucks:_3 %
   Design Speed:_40 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project:_0.14 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements:_Deficiencies in Drainage Structure

G. Total Relocatees:_0 Residences:_ Businesses:_

H. Have you coordinated with any of the following: (Provide name and date.)

   County Officials  County Judge
   State Agency  NO
   Federal Agency  NO
BRIDGE INFORMATION – PRELIMINARY

Job Number: BR0405  FAP Number: STPB-0004(58)  County: Benton
Job Name: Wildcat Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)
Design Engineer: Jeff Covay  Environmental Staff: John Baber/Ben Thesing

A. Description of Existing Bridge:
1. Bridge Number 01701 over Wildcat Creek
2. Location: Rte.: County Road 1785  Section: 00  Log Mile: 6.610
3. Length: 167'-0" ft  Br. Rdwy. Width: 26'-0" ft  Deck Width (Out-to-Out): 31'-10" ft
4. Type Construction: I-beams spans supported by single column bents
5. Deficiencies: Deck (Cond. Rating 3); Structurally Deficient
6. HBRRP Eligibility: Qualif. Code: SD  Sufficiency Rating: 45.1
7. Are any Condition Component Ratings at 3 or less: Yes (Deck Condition = 3)

B. Proposed Improvements:
1. Length: 180'-2" ft  Br. Rdwy. Width: 28'-0" ft  Deck Width (Out-to-Out): 31'-2" ft
2. Travel Lanes: Two 11'-0" lanes
3. Shoulder Width: 5'-0" on each side of roadway
4. Sidewalks? No

C. Construction Information:
1. Location in relation to existing bridge: The replacement bridge will be at the same location
2. Superstructure Type: One 178'-0" continuous composite W-beam unit
3. Span Lengths: 53'-72'-53'
4. Substructure Type: Spread footings @ west abutment, drilled shaft-supported single hammer-head column @ each intermediate bent, and trestle pile bent using steel H piles @ the east abutment
5. Ordinary High Water Elev. (OHW): Elev. 1029  No. of Bents inside OHW Contours: 2
8. Is Fill below OHW Req’d.? No  Surface Area: TBD ft²  Volume: TBD$yd^3$

D. Work Road Information:
1. Is Work Road(s) required? Yes  Location: TBD  Top Width: TBD ft
2. Is Fill below OHW required? Yes  Surface Area: TBD$yd^3$  Volume: TBD$yd^3$
3. Are Pipes required to meet Backwater Criteria? TBD  Waterway Opening: TBD ft²

E. Detour Information:
1. Is a detour bridge required? No  Location in relation to Existing Br.: TBD
3. Volume of Fill below OHW: TBD$yd^3$  Surface Area: TBD ft²

F. Coordination with Outside Agencies (e.g., FHWA, City, County, C of E, USCG):
Has Bridge Division coordinated with any outside agencies?  No

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Person Contacted</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>