



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

January 30, 2018

TO: Master Files

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

SUBJECT: Job Number BR6508
FAP Number STPB-0065(50)
Cedar Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)
Bridge Number 16834
Sebastian 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 the project is to replace a functionally obsolete bridge on County Road 181 in Sebastian County. The total length of the project is 0.07 mile. The attached figure shows the project location.

County Road 181 currently has two 9-foot wide paved travel lanes with no shoulders. The existing bridge is a 21' x 33' steel stringer/multi-beam structure with a wooden subdeck, concrete posts and steel pipe railing, a stone pier, and stone and concrete abutments. The bridge has a sufficiency rating of 27.8. The existing right of way width is approximately 40 feet.

The project will replace the bridge with a 8' x 6' x 42' quadruple barrel reinforced concrete box culvert. The new roadway approaches will have two 11-foot wide paved travel lanes and 4-foot wide gravel shoulders. The new average right of way width will be 70' – 105'. Approximately 0.46 acre of additional right of way is required for this project. A detour will not be required, because the bridge will be replaced on existing location and the road will be closed during construction.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed
2017	500	3	40 mph
2037	550	3	40 mph

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. All 0.46 acre of additional right of way is prime farmland; form NRCS-CPA-106 is attached.

Based on the ARDOT's *Policy on Highway Traffic Noise Abatement*, a noise analysis is not required for this project. The 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 or existing highway noise source.

Sebastian County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. The project is located with a Zone A Special Flood Hazard Area as designated by the National Flood Insurance Program. 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 project construction. None of the encroachments will constitute a significant floodplain encroachment or a significant risk to property or life.

Stream impacts are estimated to be less than 0.1 acre. Construction of the project should be allowed under the terms of a Nationwide 14 Permit for Linear Transportation Projects as defined in Federal Register 82(4):1860-2008.

The official species list obtained through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) IPaC website lists gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalist*), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), and American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) as threatened or endangered species potentially occurring in the project area. Based on the lack of habitat, it has been determined that the project will have no

Job Number BR6508
Tier 2 Categorical Exclusion
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effect on the gray bat, Indiana bat, Piping Plover, and American burying beetle. No prohibited take will occur for the northern long-eared bat following the guidance of the final 4(d) rule (50 CFR §17.40(o)). Concurrence from the USFWS was received on December 22, 2017. The USFWS species list is attached.

Attachments:

Project Location Map
SHPO Clearance
Form NRCS-CPA-106
USFWS Species List
Environmental Study Checklist
Design Sheet

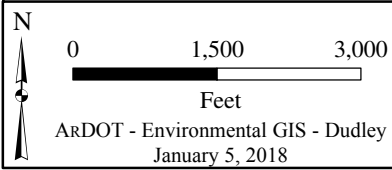
Approved:



Kevin Thornton
Assistant Chief Engineer-Planning

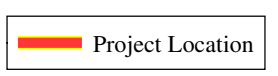
JF:MP:fc

c: Program Management
Right of Way
State Aid
District 4
FHWA



ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Dudley
January 5, 2018

Job BR6508
Cedar Creek Str. & Apprs.
Sebastian County





ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ArDOT.gov | IDriveArkansas.com | Scott E. Bennett, P.E., Director

10324 Interstate 30 | P.O. Box 2261 | Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

Phone: 501.569.2000 | Voice/TTY 711 | Fax: 501.569.2400

January 5, 2018

100102
FHWA

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

AHPP

JAN 05 2018

RECEIVED
AR DOT

JAN 09 2018

ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION

Re: Job Number BR6508
Cedar Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)
Sebastian County

Dear Ms. Hurst:

Please find enclosed a Project Identification Form (PIF) for the above referenced project. This project proposes to replace a bridge on CR 181 in Sebastian County. If you have any questions or require additional information about the project, please contact William McAlexander of my staff at 501-569-2078.

Sincerely,

John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division

Enclosure:
PIF

JF:DW:WM:fc

Date 1/5/2018
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

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

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency) Job BR6508		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 1/17/18	4. Sheet 1 of _____
1. Name of Project Cedar Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)		5. Federal Agency Involved FHWA	
2. Type of Project Bridge replacement		6. County and State Sebastian 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)	Alternative Corridor For Segment			
	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				

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	0.46			
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland				
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))	Maximum Points				
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	15			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	5			
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			
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	35			

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	35			
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260	135			

1. Corridor Selected: New Location Adjacent to existing	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project: 0.46 acres of Prime Farmland	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: *[Signature]* DATE: *1/30/18*

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:

December 11, 2017

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2018-SLI-0251

Event Code: 04ER1000-2018-E-00414

Project Name: Job BR6508 Cedar Creek 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

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.

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-0251

Event Code: 04ER1000-2018-E-00414

Project Name: Job BR6508 Cedar Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: Replace White Bluff Rd (Sebastian County Road 181) or Cedar Creek with a quadruple box culvert.

Project Location:

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

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/35.25820068316915N94.41144127128928W>



Counties: Sebastian, AR

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 6 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: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6329	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
American Burying Beetle <i>Nicrophorus americanus</i> 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	Endangered
American Burying Beetle <i>Nicrophorus americanus</i> Population: Ex Pop, SW Missouri No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/66	Experimental Population, Non-Essential

Flowering Plants

NAME

STATUS

Geocarpon minimum

Threatened

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7699>

Critical habitats


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

ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

AHTD Job Number BR6508 FAP Number STPB-0065(50)
 Job Title Cedar Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)

Environmental Impacts	None	Minor	Significant	Comments
Air Quality	X			
Construction Impacts		X		Temporary
Cultural Resources	X			
Economic	X			
Endangered Species		X		Temporary during Construction
Energy Resources	X			
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			
Fish and Wildlife		X		Temporary during Construction
Floodplains		X		County will obtain permit
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		0.46 acre
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		NWP 14
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 January 30, 2018

STATE AID DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number: BR6508 FAP Number: STPB-0065(50) County: Sebastian County
Job Name: Cedar Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)
Design Engineer: Al Fleagle Environmental Staff _____
Brief Project Description: Replace existing obsolete bridge.

A. Existing Conditions:

- 1. Roadway Width: Metric _____ English 18'-0"
- 2. Shoulder Width: Metric _____ English 0'-0"
- 3. Number of Lanes and Width: Metric _____ English 2 @ 9'-0"
- 4. Existing Right-of-Way: Metric _____ English 40'

B. Proposed Improvements:

- 1. Roadway Width: Metric _____ English 22'-0"
 - 2. Shoulder Width: Metric _____ English 4'-0"
 - 3. Number of Lanes and Width: Metric _____ English 2 @ 11'-0"
 - 4. Average Right-of-Way: Metric _____ English Varies 70' to 105'
- If bridge will be replaced by culvert, give dimensions: QUADRUPLE 8' X 6' X42'

C. Construction Information:

Detour: (if applicable) _____
Where: N/A
Approximate total length of detour: _____ kilometer(s) _____ mile(s)

D. Design Data:

2017 ADT: 500 2037 ADT: 550 Trucks: 3 %
Design Speed: 40 MPH

E. Approximate total length of project: _____ kilometer(s) 0.07 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: To replace functionally obsolete bridge

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

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

County Officials: Sebastian County Judge
State Agency: No
Federal Agency: No