

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

April 12, 2024

TO: Master Files

FROM: Josh Seagraves, Division Head – Environmental

SUBJECT: Job A80035

FAP STPR-0053(40) Yell Co. Line – Perry (S) Route 10, Section 5

Perry County

Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

The proposed project is a pavement preservation job that would mill and overlay approximately 18.2 miles of Highway 10 in Perry County. All work would take place in existing right of way. A project location map is attached.

The project would not involve relocations, Important Farmland, wetlands, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, environmental justice populations, or cultural resources. This project has been determined to generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria pollutants and has not been linked with any special mobile source air toxics concerns. Cultural resources clearance is attached.

The attached official species lists obtained through the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation identified the following species as potentially occurring within the project area: Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), and Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). This project would have "no effect" on the species listed above due to the limited scope of the project, lack of suitable habitat, and distance to known species locations.

The Alligator Snapping Turtle is currently a proposed threatened species, the Tricolored Bat is a proposed endangered species, and the Monarch Butterfly is a candidate species. The proposed project would not jeopardize the continued existence of these species.

This project would not have a discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States. A Section 404 permit will not be required.

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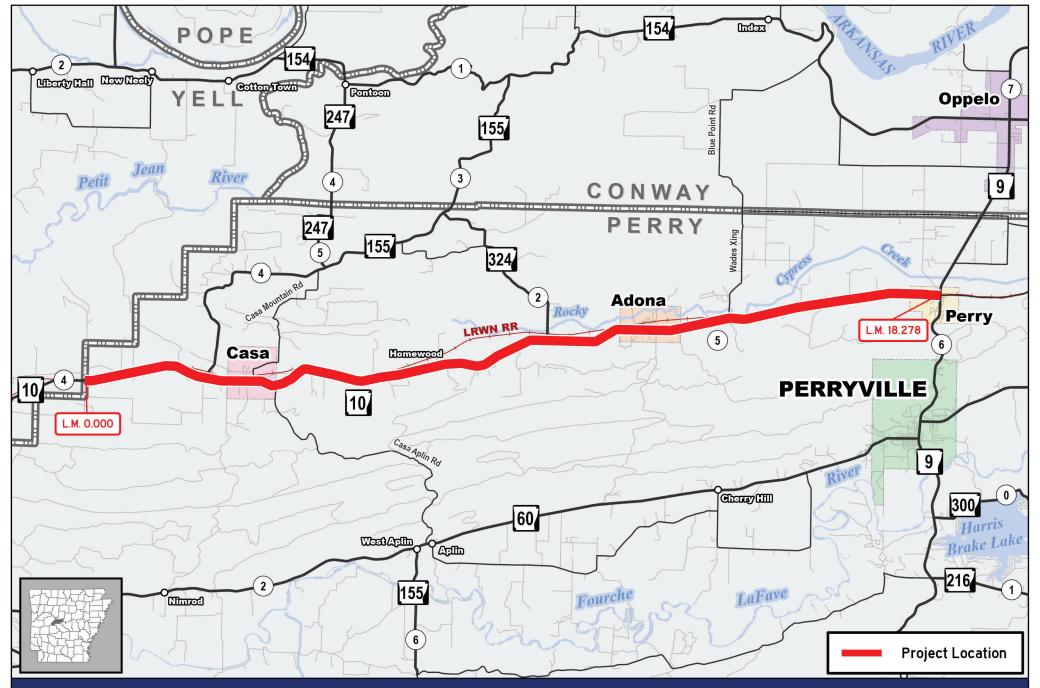
Perry County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. The project lies within a Zone A Special Flood Hazard Area and regulatory floodway. The final project design will be reviewed to confirm that the design is adequate and that the potential risk to life and property are minimized. Adjacent properties should not be impacted nor have a greater flood risk than existed before construction of the project.

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

Attachments

c: Program Management Right of Way Roadway Design District 8 FHWA

JS:DH:sw



Job A80035 Yell Co. Line – Perry (S)

Hwy. 10, Sec. 5 Perry County





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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

March 21, 2024

TO: Assessments

FROM: Wm. Lane Shields, Cultural Resources Section

SUBJECT: Cultural Resources Clearance

Job A80035

Yell Co. Line – Perry (S) Route 10, Section 5

Perry County

This project proposes to mill and overlay 18.28 miles of Hwy. 10 between the Yell County line and the intersection with Highway 9 in Perry.

This project is subject to the 2021 Programmatic Agreement under Appendix B, Activity C. The project is exempt from 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

In Reply Refer To: 03/25/2024 15:45:09 UTC

Project Code: 2024-0067480

Project Name: A80035 - Yell Co. Line - Perry (S)

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, 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.*).

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 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 IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

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.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

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If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds.

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 Code 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

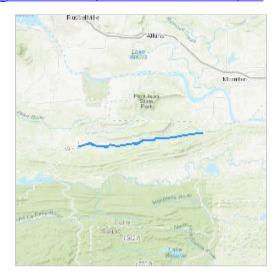
Project Code: 2024-0067480

Project Name: A80035 - Yell Co. Line - Perry (S)
Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification

Project Description: Pavement Preservation

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@35.03509635,-92.93877308780179,14z



Counties: Perry County, Arkansas

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

Project code: 2024-0067480

There is a total of 9 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.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

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.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

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MAMMALS

NAME STATUS

Indiana Bat *Myotis sodalis*

Endangered

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949

Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045

Tricolored Bat *Perimyotis subflavus*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515

Endangered

Proposed Endangered

BIRDS

NAME STATUS

Eastern Black Rail Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477

Threatened

Threatened

Piping Plover Charadrius melodus

 $Population: [At lantic \ Coast \ and \ Northern \ Great \ Plains \ populations] \ - \ Wherever \ found, \ except$

those areas where listed as endangered.

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Picoides borealis

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7614

Endangered

Rufa Red Knot Calidris canutus rufa

There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864

Threatened

REPTILES

NAME STATUS

Alligator Snapping Turtle *Macrochelys temminckii*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658

Proposed

Threatened

Candidate

INSECTS

NAME STATUS

Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

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CRITICAL HABITATS

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

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

Project code: 2024-0067480 03/25/2024 15:45:09 UTC

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Arkansas Department of Transportation

Name: Nicholas Dial Address: 10324 I-30 City: Little Rock

State: AR Zip: 72209

Email nicholas.dial@ardot.gov

Phone: 5015692617

You have indicated that your project falls under or receives funding through the following special project authorities:

• BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL) (OTHER)

ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL VERIFICATION CHECKLIST FOR CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

ArDOT Job A80035	<u>, </u>	F	AP	STPR-0053(40)
Job Title	Υ	∕ell Co. Lir	<u>ne – Per</u>	ry (S)
Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	Х			No impacts anticipated
Cultural Resources	Х			Falls under Section 106 PA
Economic	Х			No impacts anticipated
Endangered Species	Х			No effect determination
Environmental Justice/Title VI	Х			No impacts anticipated
Fish and Wildlife	Х			No impacts anticipated
Floodplains		Х		Project lies in SFHA Zone A
Forest Service Property	Х			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	Х			No impacts anticipated
Land Use	Х			All work in existing right of way
Migratory Birds	Х			No impacts anticipated
Navigation/Coast Guard	Х			None in project area
Noise Levels	Х			No impacts anticipated
Prime Farmland	Х			No impacts anticipated
Protected Waters	Х			None in project area
Public Recreation Lands	Х			No impacts anticipated
Public Water Supply/WHPA	Х			None in project area
Relocatees	Х			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	Х			No impacts anticipated
Social	X			No impacts anticipated
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No impacts anticipated
Visual	X			No impacts anticipated
Streams	Х			No impacts
Water Quality	Х			No impacts
Wetlands	Х			None in project area
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in project area
Section 401 Water Quality Certit Short-term Activity Authorization Section 404 Permit Required?		•		No No Type None
Remarks:				
Signature of Evaluator	iuh E.	Plun		Date04/12/2024