



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

August 16, 2019

TO: Master Files

FROM:  John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

SUBJECT: Job Number 090518
FAP Number ER-0064(15)
Hwy. 377 Slide Repairs (Searcy Co.) (S)
Route 377, Section 1
Searcy County
Tier 2 Categorical Exclusion

The Environmental Division reviewed the referenced project and has determined 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 repair and stabilize areas where landslides occurred at two locations on Highway 377 in Searcy County. Total project length is 0.87 mile. Repair work will include construction of a rock buttresses to add weight to the lower portion of the hillside, concrete paving of ditches along the north side of Highway 377 to improve water drainage, and an asphalt overlay of the highway. A total of 0.07 acre of new right of way and 2.6 acres of temporary construction easement will be required for the project. A project location map is attached.

The project will not involve relocations, floodplains, prime farmlands, wetlands, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, any environmental justice issues, or cultural resources. The State Historic Preservation Officer's clearance is attached. 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 toxic concerns.

The official species list obtained through the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation website lists gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Ozark big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*), Rabbitsfoot (*Theliderma cylindrica*) and Missouri bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*) as species potentially affected by the proposed project. This project will not affect the Snuffbox, Rabbitsfoot, or Missouri bladderpod due to limited scope of the project, the lack of suitable habitat, and distance to known species locations. Emergency consultation, as described in regulations codified in 50 CFR 402.05(a), will be completed on the remaining species following construction. The USFWS has been notified of the slides.

The project will have a minor discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with the bridge; therefore, a Section 404 permit will be required. The project should be authorized by Nationwide Permit 18 for Minor Discharges as defined in Federal Register 82(4): 1860-2008.

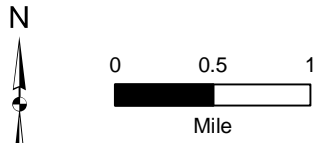
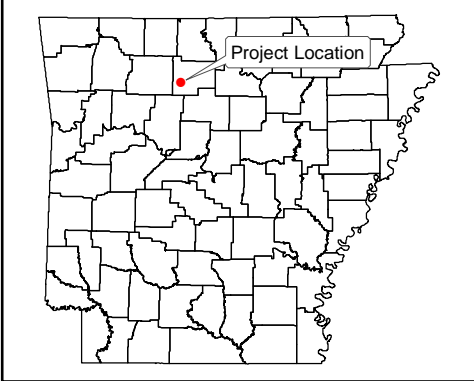
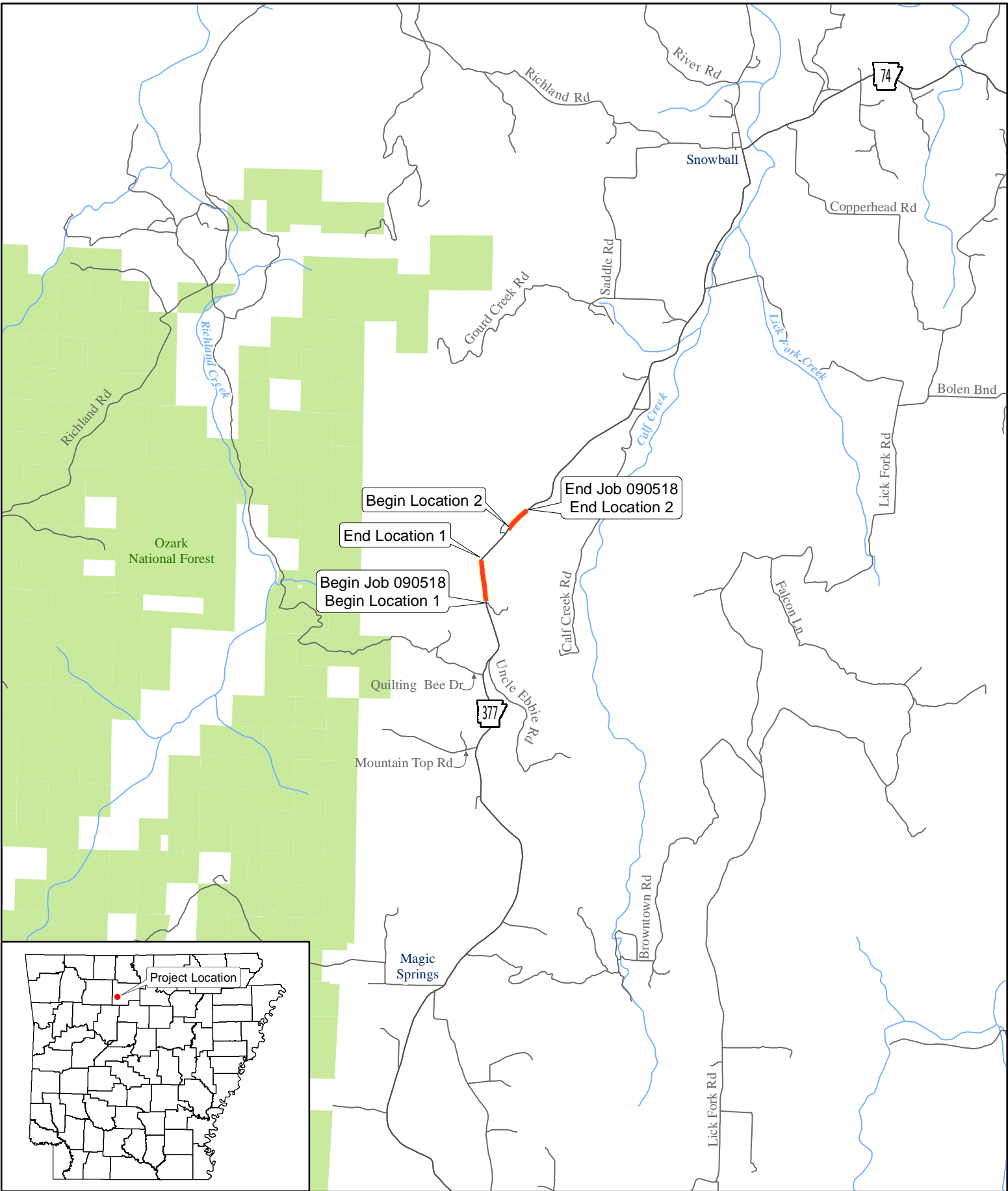
Attachments:
Project Location Map
SHPO Clearance
Environmental Study Checklist

Approved:



Kevin Thornton
Assistant Chief Engineer-Planning

JF:JG:am

c: Program Management
Right of Way
District 9
FHWA



Job 090518
Hwy. 377 Slide Repairs
Searcy County

 Project Location



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
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Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

August 16, 2019

Mr. John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division
Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department
P.O. Box 2261
Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

RE: Searcy County — General
Section 106 Review — FHWA
Hwy. 377 Slide Repair (S)
Route 377, Section 1
ARDOT Job Number: 090518
AHPP Tracking Number: 104520

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the Project Identification Form for the above-referenced job. According to your correspondence, the undertaking entails repairing two landslides between mile markers 6.55 and 7.42 on Arkansas Highway 377. Repair methods will include clearing debris from the roadway and installing rock buttressing and concrete paving ditches. The latter will be restricted to the north side of the highway. The rock buttressing will require a temporary construction easement.

The field investigation recorded one archeological site proximal to the area of potential effects. The site consists of two burials dating from 1890 and 1980 surrounded by a partially collapsed wood and wire fence. There are dry-laid rock walls parallel to the north and south sides of the fence. The graves are located approximately 240 meters northwest of the APE. The proposed undertaking will not affect the burial sites.

Arkansas Department of Transportation archeologists assigned temporary site number 090518-1. The department is awaiting assignment of a state site number. Due to the urgent need to address the landslides, the AHPP agreed to review the undertaking prior to issuance of a site number. The department will forward the site number to the AHPP when it is available.

Based on the provided information, the AHPP concurs with the finding of **no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1)** for the proposed undertaking.

Tribes that have expressed an interest in the area include the Absentee Shawnee Tribe (Ms. Devon Frazier), the Caddo Nation (Ms. Tamara Francis), the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma (Ms. Elizabeth Toombs), the Osage Nation (Dr. Andrea Hunter), the Quapaw Nation (Mr. Everett Bandy), the Shawnee Tribe (Ms. Tonya Tipton), the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians



1100 North Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880
fax: (501) 324-9184

info@arkansaspreservation.org
www.arkansaspreservation.com

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(Ms. Erin Thompson and Charlotte Wolfe), and the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Mr. Gary McAdams). We recommend consultation in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(2).

Thank you for the opportunity to review this undertaking. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number listed above in all correspondence. If you have any questions, please call Eric Mills of my staff at 501-324-9784 or email eric.mills@arkansas.gov.

Sincerely,

For Eric Mills

Scott Kaufman
Director, AHPP

cc: Mr. Randall Looney, Federal Highway Administration
Ms. Devon Frazier, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe
Ms. Tamara Francis, Caddo Nation
Ms. Elizabeth Toombs, Cherokee Nation
Dr. Andrea Hunter, Osage Nation
Mr. Everett Bandy, Quapaw Nation
Ms. Tonya Tipton, the Shawnee Tribe
Ms. Erin Thompson and Charlotte Wolfe, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
Mr. Gary McAdams, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes
Dr. Ann Early, Arkansas Archeological Survey

**ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL VERIFICATION CHECKLIST
FOR CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

ARDOT Job Number 090518 FAP Number ER-0064(15)
Job Title Hwy. 377 Slide Repairs (Searcy Co.) (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	X			No air quality/MSAT impacts
Cultural Resources	X			SHPO clearance is attached
Economic	X			No adverse impacts
Endangered Species	X			No effect
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			EJ populations not located in project area
Fish and Wildlife		X		Minor disturbance during construction
Floodplains	X			None occur in project area
Forest Service Property	X			None occur in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No sites in project area
Land Use	X			Will not be impacted by project
Migratory Birds	X			No structures with nests
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No navigable waterways involved
Noise Levels	X			No increases due to project
Prime Farmland	X			None in project area
Protected Waters	X			None occur in project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			No public water supplies in project area
Relocates	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			4f resources not present
Social	X			No impacts to the social environment
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No USTs in project area
Visual	X			No changes to visual environment
Streams	X			None in project area
Water Quality	X			Erosion and sediment control during construction
Wetlands	X			None in project area
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in the area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No
 Short-term Activity Authorization Required? No
 Section 404 Permit Required? Yes Type Nationwide Permit 18

Remarks:

Signature of Evaluator Joshua Graham Date 08/16/2019