

TIER 3 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

**ARDOT JOB NUMBER 020589
FAP NUMBER NHPP-022(38)
BAYOU BARTHOLOMEW STR. & APPRS.
BRIDGE NUMBER 03700
ROUTE 277, SECTION 1
DREW COUNTY**

Submitted Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)

By the

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

And the

Arkansas Department of Transportation

February 27, 2019

2/27/2019

Date of Approval



Randal Looney
Environmental Coordinator
Federal Highway Administration

The Environmental Division reviewed the referenced project and has determined it falls within the definition of the Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion as defined by the ARDOT/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 a bridge on Highway 277 over Bayou Bartholomew in Drew County. Total length of the project is 0.46 mile. The enclosed figure illustrates the project location.

The existing roadway consists of two 10' wide paved travel lanes with no shoulders. The existing structurally deficient bridge (#03700) has a 315' x 24' concrete deck. Existing right of way width varies between 80' - 120'.

Proposed improvements include a new bridge with a 350' x 30' concrete deck. The new approaches will have two 11' wide paved travel lanes with 4' wide shoulders (2' paved). The proposed right of way width will be between 80' – 220'. Approximately 2.4 acres of additional right of way will be required for this project.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed
2020	530	9	55 mph
2040	660	9	55 mph

There are no relocations, environmental justice issues, or cultural resources associated with this project. Concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer is enclosed. Field inspections found no evidence of existing underground storage tanks or hazardous waste deposits. Approximately 1.2 acres of Prime Farmland will be converted to highway right of way. Form NRCS-CPA-106 is enclosed.

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 FHWA noise criteria beyond the project's proposed right of way limits and no sensitive receptors are currently impacted. Any increases in roadway noise levels will not be the result of the proposed project, but instead a result of traffic volume increases during the planning period (Year 2040). Therefore, any noise level increases will occur independently of this proposed project, and no project related noise impacts are anticipated. In compliance with Federal guidelines, local authorities will not require notification.

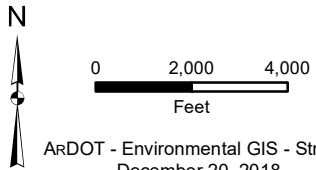
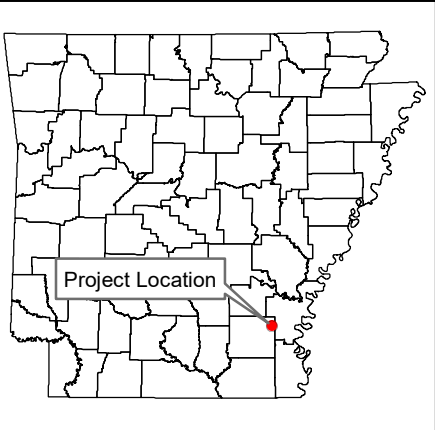
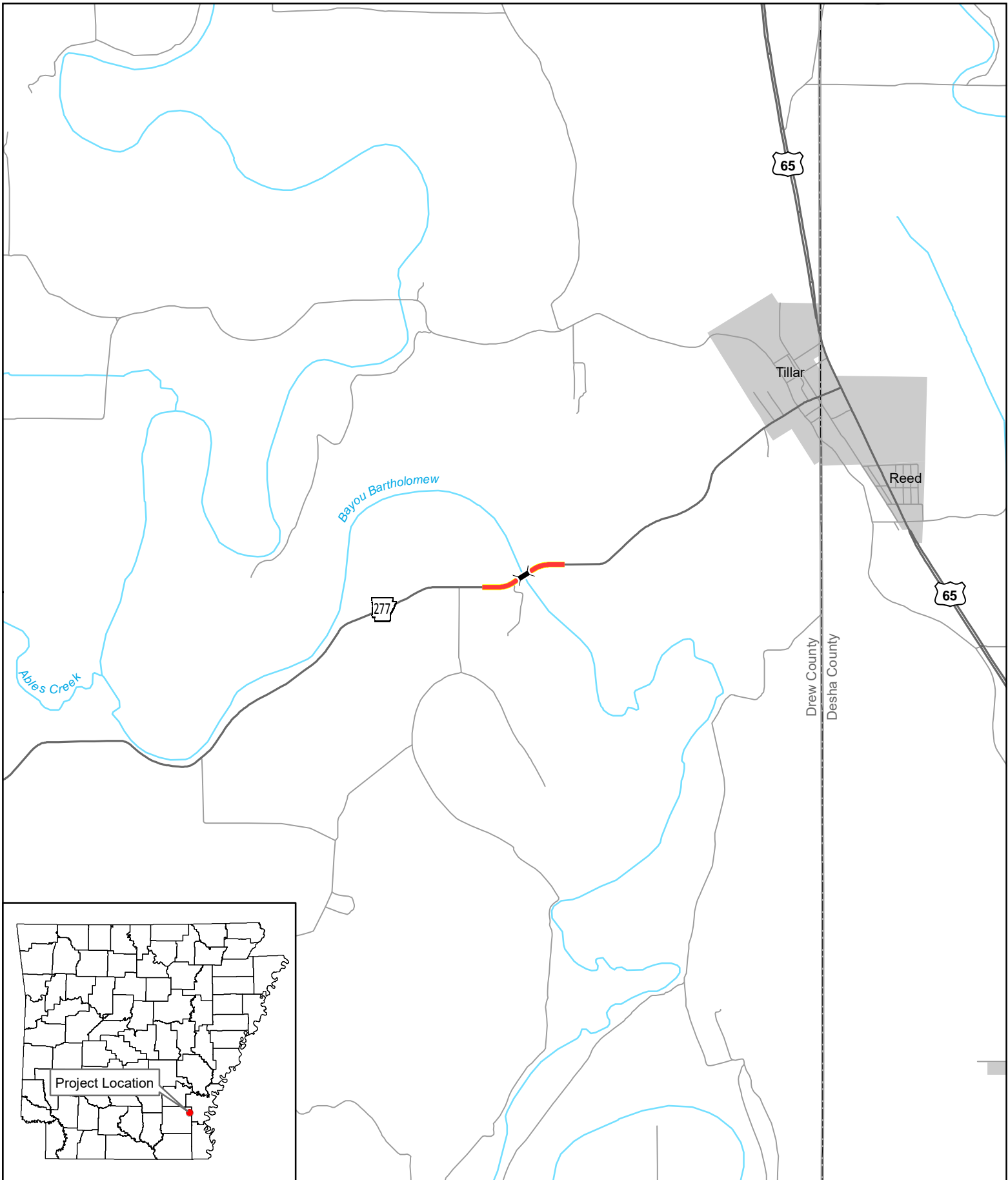
The official species list obtained through US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation website identifies the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) and *Geocarpin minimum* as federally listed species having the potential to occur in the project area. A "no effect" determination was made for these species due to a lack of habitat in the project area. The USFWS species list is enclosed.

Construction of the proposed project will impact Bayou Bartholomew and 1.4 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands. Compensatory mitigation will be required for unavoidable impacts to wetlands. The project should be covered under the terms of a Section 404 Nationwide 23 Permit for Approved Categorical Exclusions as defined in Federal Register 82(4):1860-2008.

Drew County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. 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 substantial floodplain encroachment or a risk to property or life.

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 (MSAT) concerns. As such, this project will not result in changes in traffic volumes, vehicle mix, basic project location, or any other factor that would cause a meaningful increase in MSAT impacts of the project from that of the no-build alternative.

The checklist of all potential environmental impacts is enclosed. A public involvement meeting will not be held for this project.



Job 020589
Bayou Bartholomew Str. & Apprs.
(Hwy. 277)
Drew County

Project Location

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY
AND
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

96837.03
FHWA

Scott E. Bennett, P.E.
Director
Telephone (501) 569-2000
Voice/TTY 711



P.O. Box 2261
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261
Telefax (501) 569-2400
www.arkansashighways.com

January 25, 2017

AHPP

JAN 26 2017

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

RE: AHTD Job No. 020589
Bayou Bartholomew
Str. & Apprs. (S)
Drew County

Dear Ms. Hurst:

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Fleming'.

John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division

Enclosure
PIF

JF:DW:JE:ym

RECEIVED
AHTD

JAN 30 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION

JAN 26 2017

Date _____
No known historic properties will be
affected by this undertaking. This
effect determination could change
should new information come to light.
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Frances McSwain'.
Frances McSwain, Deputy State
Historic Preservation Officer

JAN 26 2017

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency) Job 020589	3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 1/4/19	4. Sheet 1 of
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1. Name of Project Bayou Bartholomew Str. & Apprs. (Hwy. 277)	5. Federal Agency Involved FHWA
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2. Type of Project Bridge Replacement	6. County and State Drew AR.
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PART II (To be completed by NRCS)	1. Date Request Received by NRCS	2. Person Completing Form
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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
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5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: %	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %
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8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS
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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				
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B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services				
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C. Total Acres In Corridor				
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PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information				
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A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	1.2			
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B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland				
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C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted				
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D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value				
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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)				
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PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))	Maximum Points				
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1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	15			
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2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10			
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3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	5			
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4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	0			
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5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	0			
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6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0			
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7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5			
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8. On-Farm Investments	20	0			
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9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0			
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10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	0			
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TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	30			
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PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
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Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	100			
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Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	35			
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TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260	135			
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1. Corridor Selected: New <input type="checkbox"/> existing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project: 1.2 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:	DATE
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John Baber 2/25/19

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:

February 08, 2019

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2019-SLI-0460

Event Code: 04ER1000-2019-E-00859

Project Name: ArDOT Job 020589 Bayou Batholomew Str. & Apprs.

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.**

If you determine that this project will have no effect on listed species and their habitat in any way, then you have completed Section 7 consultation with the Service and may use this letter in your project file or application.

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: 04ER1000-2019-SLI-0460

Event Code: 04ER1000-2019-E-00859

Project Name: ArDOT Job 020589 Bayou Batholomew Str. & Apprs.

Project Type: BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE

Project Description: Bridge replacement

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/33.69494104571218N91.48306846618652W>



Counties: Drew, AR

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 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. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Red-cockaded Woodpecker <i>Picoides borealis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7614	Endangered

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Geocarpon minimum No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7699	Threatened

Critical habitats

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

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

ARDOT Job Number 020589 FAP Number NHPP-0022(38)

Job Title Bayou Bartholomew Str. & Apprs. (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments-required for each item
Air Quality	X			No impacts
Cultural Resources	X			Will not be impacted by the project
Economic	X			Will not be impacted by the project
Endangered Species	X			No effect, suitable habitat not present
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			Will not be impacted by the project
Fish and Wildlife		X		Minimal loss of habitat
Floodplains	X			No impacts expected
Forest Service Property	X			None in the project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			Will not be impacted by the project
Land Use	X			Will not be impacted by the project
Migratory Birds		X		Migratory bird SP required
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No impacts
Noise Levels	X			No increases due to project
Prime Farmland	X			1.2 acres of prime farmland converted
Protected Waters		X		Bayou Bartholomew 303(d) listed
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			Wellhead Protection SP required
Relocatees	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			Resources not present
Social	X			No impacts to the social environment
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No USTs in project area
Visual	X			No changes in visual environment
Streams		X		404 Permit required
Water Quality		X		Temporary impacts during construction
Wetlands		X		1.4 acres, mitigation required
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in the project area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No
 Short-term Activity Authorization Required? Yes
 Section 404 Permit Required? Yes Type Nationwide 23

Remarks:

Signature of Evaluator John Baber Date 2/25/19

ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number 020589 FAP No. NHPP-022(38) County Drew

Job Name Bayou Bartholomew Str. & Apprs. (S)

Design Engineer Garver Environmental Staff _____

Brief Project Description Bridge and approach improvements for the replacement of Structure Number 03700 on Hwy. 277 over Bayou Bartholomew.

A. Existing Conditions:

Roadway Width: 20' Shoulder Type/Width: 0'

Number of Lanes and Width: 2 at 10' Existing Right-of-Way: 80'-120'

Sidewalks? No Location: _____ Width: _____

Bike Lanes? No Location: _____ Width: _____

B. Proposed Conditions:

Roadway Width: 22' Shoulder Type/Width: 4' (2'paved)

Number of Lanes and Width: 2 at 11' Proposed Right-of-Way: 80'-220'

Sidewalks? No Location: _____ Width: _____

Bike Lanes? No Location: _____ Width: _____

C. Construction Information:

If detour: Where: N/A Length: _____

D. Design Traffic Data:

2020 ADT: 530 2040 ADT: 660 % Trucks: 9
Design Speed: 55 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: 0.464 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Structurally Deficient Bridge Structure

G. Total Relocatees: 1 Farm Shed Residences: _____ Businesses: _____

H. Have you coordinated with any outside agencies (e.g., FHWA, City, County, etc.)? No

Agency/Official	Person Contacted	Date