



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

January 15, 2025

TO: Master Files

FROM: Josh Seagraves, Division Head – Environmental 

SUBJECT: Job 012535
FAP NHPP-0076(380)
Pope Co. Line – Little Rock Interstate Sign Upgrades (S)
Various Counties
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

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.

The proposed project includes the installation and replacement of 148 overhead and ground mounted main lane signs and five overhead structures on Interstates 30, 40, 430, and 630 in Conway, Faulkner, and Pulaski Counties. No additional right of way would be required. A project location map is attached.

The project would not involve relocations or impacts to Important Farmlands, Waters of the U.S., floodplains, 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. The cultural resources clearance is attached. This project would not have a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States; therefore, a Section 404 permit will not be required.

The attached official species lists obtained through the US Fish and Wildlife Service's 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*), Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), and Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). This project would have "no effect" on the aforementioned federally listed species due to the limited scope of the action, lack of suitable habitat, and distance to known species locations.

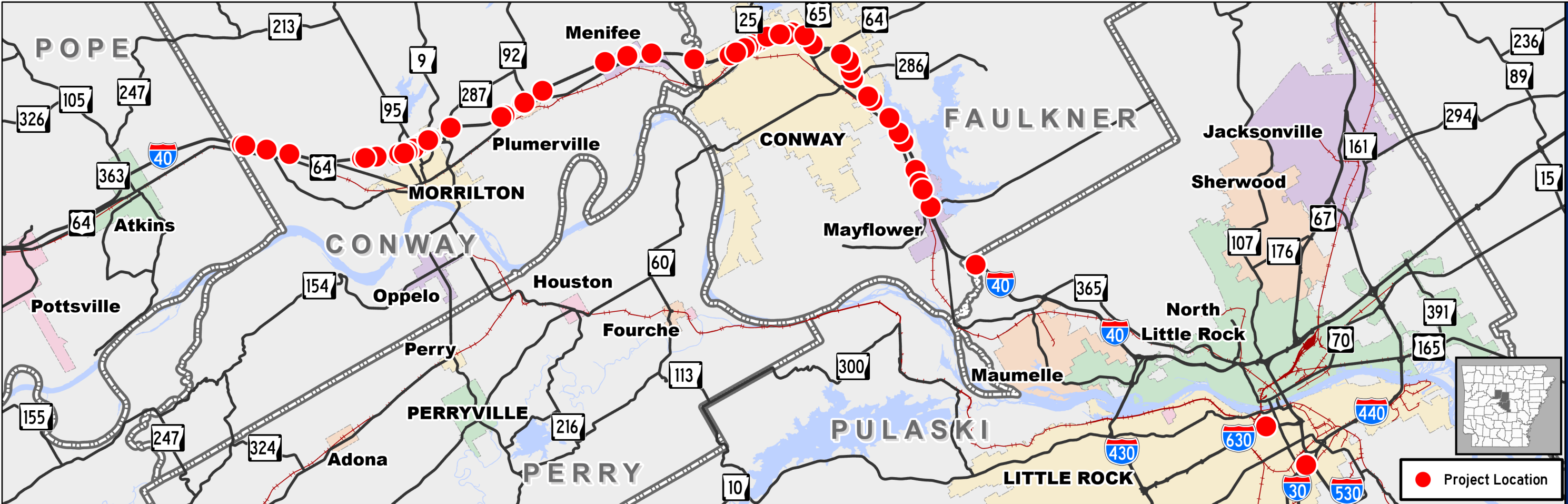
The Alligator Snapping Turtle is currently a proposed threatened species, the Tricolored Bat is a proposed endangered species, and the Monarch Butterfly is a proposed threatened species; however, the proposed project would not jeopardize the continued existence of any of these species.

Job 012535
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion
Page 2 of 2

Attachments

c: Program Management
Right of Way
Roadway Design
Districts 6 and 8
FHWA

JS:MS:sw



Structure Number	County	Route	Section	Log Mile	Log Direction	Structure Number	County	Route	Section	Log Mile	Log Direction	Structure Number	County	Route	Section	Log Mile	Log Direction	Structure Number	County	Route	Section	Log Mile	Log Direction
EXIT117-WB	Conway	I-40	31	0.044	A	ML40-117-4WB	Conway	I-40	31	166.654	B	EXIT124-EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	123.290	A	LG40-132WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	150.202	B
EXIT108-WB	Conway	I-40	31	0.050	A	ML40-112-1WB	Conway	I-40	31	167.668	B	LA40-125EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	123.487	A	ML40-132-2WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	150.372	B
EXIT112-WB	Conway	I-40	31	0.056	A	LGF40-112WB	Conway	I-40	31	170.587	B	LL40-125EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	123.687	A	EXIT132-WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	151.811	B
ML40-108-3WB	Conway	I-40	31	0.061	A	ML40-112-2WB	Conway	I-40	31	170.740	B	ML40-125-1EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	124.191	A	ML40-129-1WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	152.751	B
EXIT107-WB	Conway	I-40	31	0.062	A	ML40-112-3WB	Conway	I-40	31	171.666	B	LF40-125EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	124.243	A	LAL40-129WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	154.056	B
ML40-108-1WB	Conway	I-40	31	1.056	A	ML40-108-2WB	Conway	I-40	31	174.595	B	ML40-125-2EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	124.270	A	LF40-129WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	154.207	B
LGF40-101EB	Conway	I-40	31	99.254	A	LF40-108WB	Conway	I-40	31	174.881	B	LG40-125EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	124.430	A	LGG40-129WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	154.357	B
ML40-101-3EB	Conway	I-40	31	99.413	A	LGL40-108WB	Conway	I-40	31	175.036	B	OH-040-23-06	Faulkner	I-40	32	124.570	A	ML40-129-2WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	154.590	B
ML40-101-4EB	Conway	I-40	31	100.358	A	ML40-108-8WB	Conway	I-40	31	175.351	B	OH40-125-2EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	124.570	A	ML40-129-3WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	154.681	B
EXIT101-EB	Conway	I-40	31	100.458	A	ML40-108-4WB	Conway	I-40	31	175.549	B	OH40-127-1EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	124.573	A	LC40-127WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	156.280	B
ML40-107-1EB	Conway	I-40	31	101.367	A	ML40-108-5WB	Conway	I-40	31	175.711	B	EXIT125-EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	124.831	A	LL40-127WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	156.426	B
ML40-107-2EB	Conway	I-40	31	104.597	A	ML40-108-6WB	Conway	I-40	31	175.893	B	ML40-127-1EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	125.456	A	LF40-127WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	156.702	B
LLC40-107EB	Conway	I-40	31	104.746	A	ML40-108-7WB	Conway	I-40	31	176.153	B	ML40-127-2EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	125.588	A	LG40-127WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	156.841	B
LF40-107EB	Conway	I-40	31	104.898	A	ML40-107-1WB	Conway	I-40	31	176.395	B	ML40-127-3EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	125.656	A	ML40-127-1WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	156.974	B
LG40-107EB	Conway	I-40	31	105.053	A	LLC40-107WB	Conway	I-40	31	177.203	B	LC40-127EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	125.723	A	ML40-127-2WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	157.109	B
ML40-107-3EB	Conway	I-40	31	105.237	A	LF40-107WB	Conway	I-40	31	177.337	B	LL40-127EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	125.848	A	LA40-125WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	157.862	B
ML40-107-4EB	Conway	I-40	31	106.233	A	LG40-107WB	Conway	I-40	31	177.462	B	LF40-127EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	125.982	A	ML40-125-2WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	158.182	B
EXIT107-EB	Conway	I-40	31	106.333	A	ML40-107-2WB	Conway	I-40	31	177.671	B	LG40-127EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	125.992	A	ML40-125-3WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	158.307	B
LGL40-108EB	Conway	I-40	31	106.454	A	ML40-101-1WB	Conway	I-40	31	178.811	B	EXIT127-EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	126.509	A	ML40-125-4WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	158.484	B
LF40-108EB	Conway	I-40	31	106.617	A	LGF40-101WB	Conway	I-40	31	182.335	B	LLA40-129EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	127.304	A	LL40-125WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	158.584	B
ML40-108-1EB	Conway	I-40	31	106.925	A	ML40-101-2WB	Conway	I-40	31	182.497	B	LF40-129EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	127.617	A	LF40-125WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	158.673	B
ML40-108-6EB	Conway	I-40	31	107.117	A	ML40-101-3WB	Conway	I-40	31	183.461	B	LG40-129EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	127.770	A	LG40-125WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	158.766	B
ML40-108-2EB	Conway	I-40	31	107.252	A	EXIT101-WB	Conway	I-40	31	183.574	B	ML40-129-1EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	127.935	A	EXIT125-WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	159.005	B
ML40-108-3EB	Conway	I-40	31	107.397	A	ML40-94-1WB	Conway	I-40	31	184.465	B	ML40-129-2EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	128.076	A	ML40-124-1WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	160.009	B
ML40-108-4EB	Conway	I-40	31	107.533	A	ML40-94-2WB	Conway	I-40	31	185.651	B	ML40-129-3EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	128.214	A	LF40-124BWB	Faulkner	I-40	32	160.046	B
ML40-108-5EB	Conway	I-40	31	107.654	A	EXIT129B-WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	0.018	A	EXIT129-EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	128.560	A	ML40-124-2WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	160.247	B
EXIT108-EB	Conway	I-40	31	107.761	A	EXIT129A-WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	0.026	A	ML40-132-1EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	129.602	A	LG40-124BWB	Faulkner	I-40	32	160.348	B
ML40-112-1EB	Conway	I-40	31	108.778	A	EXIT124A-WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	0.027	A	ML40-132-2EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	129.865	A	ML40-117-1WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	161.706	B
LGF40-112EB	Conway	I-40	31	111.104	A	EXIT124B-WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	0.045	A	LG40-132EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	130.917	A	ML40-117-2WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	164.155	B
ML40-112-2EB	Conway	I-40	31	111.262	A	EXIT135-WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	0.071	A	ML40-132-3EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	131.680	A	OH-030-60-07	Pulaski	I-30	23	137.605	A
ML40-112-3EB	Conway	I-40	31	112.186	A	EXIT127-WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	0.071	A	EXIT132-EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	132.140	A	OH30-138-3EB	Pulaski	I-30	23	137.605	A
EXIT112-EB	Conway	I-40	31	112.285	A	EXITTP-WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	0.079	A	EXITTP-EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	133.482	A	OH30-138B-3EB	Pulaski	I-30	23	137.605	A
ML40-117-1EB	Conway	I-40	31	113.237	A	EXIT129-WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	0.093	A	LAX40-135EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	134.083	A	ML40-142-1EB	Pulaski	I-40	33	138.263	A
ML40-117-2EB	Conway	I-40	31	116.238	A	ML40-124-3EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	121.847	A	LGF40-135EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	134.405	A	OC-430-60-24	Pulaski	I-430	21	7.450	B
ML40-117-3EB	Conway	I-40	31	117.252	A	ML40-124-4EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	122.157	A	EXIT135-EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	135.241	A	OC430-5-1SB	Pulaski	I-430	21	7.450	B
EXIT117-EB	Conway	I-40	31	117.351	A	ML40-124-5EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	122.430	A	ML40-135-3WB	Faulkner	I-40	33	146.149	B	OC-630-60-9	Pulaski	I-630	21	1.835	A
ML40-124-1EB	Conway	I-40	31	118.320	A	LF40-124EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	122.579	A	LAX40-135WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	147.375	B	OC630-2B-1WB	Pulaski	I-630	21	1.835	A
ML40-124-2EB	Conway	I-40	31	120.222	A	LG40-124EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	122.762	A	LGF40-135WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	147.547	B						
ML40-117-3WB	Conway	I-40	31	165.653	B	ML40-124-6EB	Faulkner	I-40	32	122.952	A	ML40-132-1WB	Faulkner	I-40	32	149.844	B						



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ARDOT.gov | IDriveArkansas.com | Lorie H. Tudor, P.E., Director

10324 Interstate 30 | P.O. Box 2261 | Little Rock, AR 72203-2261 | Phone: 501.569.2000

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

December 23, 2024

TO: Environmental Job File

FROM: Richard Jenkins, Cultural Resources 

SUBJECT: Cultural Resources Clearance
Job 012535
Pope Co. Line – Little Rock
Interstate Upgrades (S)
Various Routes & Sections
Conway, Faulkner, & Pulaski Counties

This project proposes to install and replace 148 overhead/ground mounted main lane signs and 1 overhead structure on Interstate 40, and 4 overhead structures in the Little Rock metro area along Interstates 30 and 430, in Conway, Faulkner, and Pulaski Counties. No new right-of-way (ROW) will be acquired.

Records check of previous sites and structures, historic maps, and aerial imagery were not done based on the limited scope of the project. All work will be within the existing ROW, and the limited scope of the project occurs within previously disturbed areas (interstate construction). Therefore, this project requires no Section 106 review under Appendix B, Activity 1, of the 2024 Amended Programmatic Agreement.



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:

01/06/2025 13:12:58 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0038098

Project Name: 012535 - Pope Co. Line – Little Rock Interstate Sign Upgrades (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.

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: 2025-0038098

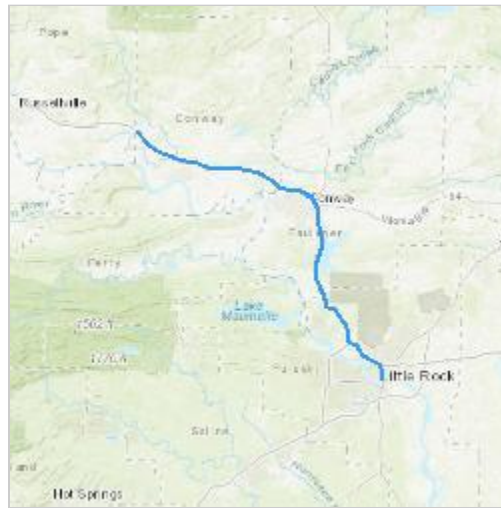
Project Name: 012535 - Pope Co. Line – Little Rock Interstate Sign Upgrades (S)

Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification

Project Description: Existing signs will be replaced due to loss of reflectivity or damage.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.991610800000004,-92.41492991832882,14z>



Counties: Conway , Faulkner , and Pulaski counties, Arkansas

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 8 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.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> 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	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	Endangered
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477	Threatened
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 does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened
Rufa Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Alligator Snapping Turtle <i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658	Proposed Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

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.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Arkansas Department of Transportation

Name: Sarah Hallett

Address: 10324 I-30

City: Little Rock

State: AR

Zip: 72209

Email sarah.hallett@ardot.gov

Phone: 5015692078

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 012535 FAP NHPP-0076(380)

Job Title Pope Co. Line – Little Rock Interstate Sign Upgrades (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Cultural Resources	X			2024 Amended Programmatic Agreement
Economic	X			No adverse impacts anticipated
Endangered Species	X			"No effect" on all listed species
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No impacts anticipated
Fish and Wildlife	X			No impacts anticipated
Floodplains	X			No impacts anticipated
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No impacts anticipated
Land Use	X			No impacts anticipated
Migratory Birds	X			No bridge or large culvert work
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No navigable waters impacted
Noise Levels	X			No impacts anticipated
Prime Farmland	X			No impacts anticipated
Protected Waters	X			None in project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			No impacts anticipated
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			No impacts anticipated
Relocatees	X			No relocations anticipated
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No impacts anticipated
Social	X			No impacts anticipated
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No impacts anticipated
Visual	X			No impacts anticipated
Streams	X			No impacts anticipated
Water Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Wetlands	X			None in project area
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in project area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? No

Section 404 Permit Required? No Type None

Remarks:

Signature of Evaluator Mikayla Shaddon Date 1/8/2025