



## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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April 19, 2023

**TO:** Master Files

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

**SUBJECT:** Job 061748  
FAP STPB-0026(47)  
Mill Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)  
Route 600, Section 21  
Garland County  
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.

The purpose of this project is to replace the Highway 600 bridge (Str. 19840) crossing Mill Creek in Garland County. The existing bridge is weight restricted and will be replaced with a new bridge on existing location. The total length of the project is 0.03 mile. A project location map is attached.

The existing typical section has two 9' wide paved travel lanes with 1' wide grass shoulders. There is no existing right of way. The proposed typical section will have two 9' wide paved travel lanes with 2' wide paved shoulders. Traffic will be maintained via a temporary detour route. No right of way will be acquired for this job; however, approximately 0.1 acre of temporary construction easement will be needed. The project is entirely within the boundaries of Lake Ouachita State Park. All of the park property is leased by the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism – Arkansas State Parks Division (ASP) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Both ASP and USACE were involved in early coordination efforts, and coordination will continue through project construction.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic (vpd)	Percent Trucks	Design Speed (mph)
2025	120	3	20
2045	140		

There are no relocations, environmental justice concerns, floodplains, important farmland, underground storage tanks/hazardous wastes, or cultural resources associated with this project. State Historic Preservation Officer clearance is attached.

Based on the ARDOT noise policy, a noise analysis is not required for this project. Replacing the bridge will not involve adding capacity, substantially changing the roadway alignment, or exposing noise sensitive land uses to traffic noise sources. In compliance with federal guidelines, local authorities will not require notification.

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 (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 official species list obtained through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website identifies the following federally listed species as potentially occurring in the project area: Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*); Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*); Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis* ssp. *jamaicensis*); Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*); Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*); Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*); Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*); and Missouri bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*).

Due to the lack of suitable habitat, it has been determined that the project will have "no effect" on the listed bird species and the Missouri bladderpod.

Utilizing the Programmatic Biological Opinion for Transportation Projects Within the Range of Indiana Bats and Northern Long-Eared Bats, it has been determined that the project "may affect but is not likely to adversely affect" the listed bats. A

prohibition against tree clearing during the Indiana Bat's active season, March 15 to November 15, will be added to the project. The USFWS concurred with this determination on January 30, 2023.

The Alligator Snapping Turtle is proposed for listing as a threatened species. This project will not jeopardize the continued existence of the Alligator Snapping Turtle. The Monarch Butterfly is a candidate species and, as such, is not federally protected under the Endangered Species Act. However, the USFWS recommends agencies implement conservation measures for candidate species in action areas as these are species, by definition, that may warrant future protection under the Act. ARDOT will plant native wildflowers after construction as a conservation measure.

Temporary stream impacts to Mill Creek are estimated at less than 30 linear feet and less than 0.03 acre. Permanent impacts to wetlands adjacent to Mill Creek are estimated at 0.13 acre. Wetland impacts will be mitigated at the Department's Upper Saline Mitigation Bank. Construction of the proposed project should be allowed under the terms of a Nationwide 14 Section 404 Permit for Linear Transportation Projects as defined in the Federal Register 86(245):73522-73583. Pre-construction notification will be required.

Aesthetic bridge treatments will be used due to its location within a State Park and nearby Civilian Conservation Corps-style structures. Special Provisions (SP) for Architectural Finish and Staining Concrete Surfaces will be included in the contract to ensure wood texture, field stone finish, and appropriate colors are used.

No other adverse environmental impacts were identified. The design sheet and checklist used to verify consideration of potential environmental impacts are attached.

### *Commitments*

- Migratory Bird, Wellhead Protection Area, Water Pollution Control, Clearing Restriction, and Architectural Finish and Staining Concrete Surfaces SPs will be included in the contract.
- Wetland impacts will be mitigated at the Upper Saline Mitigation Bank.
- Short-term Activity Authorization and Pre-construction Notification will be required.
- ARDOT will plant native wildflowers following construction as a Monarch Butterfly conservation measure.

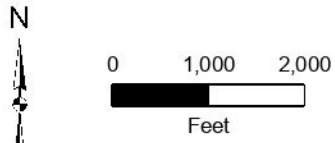
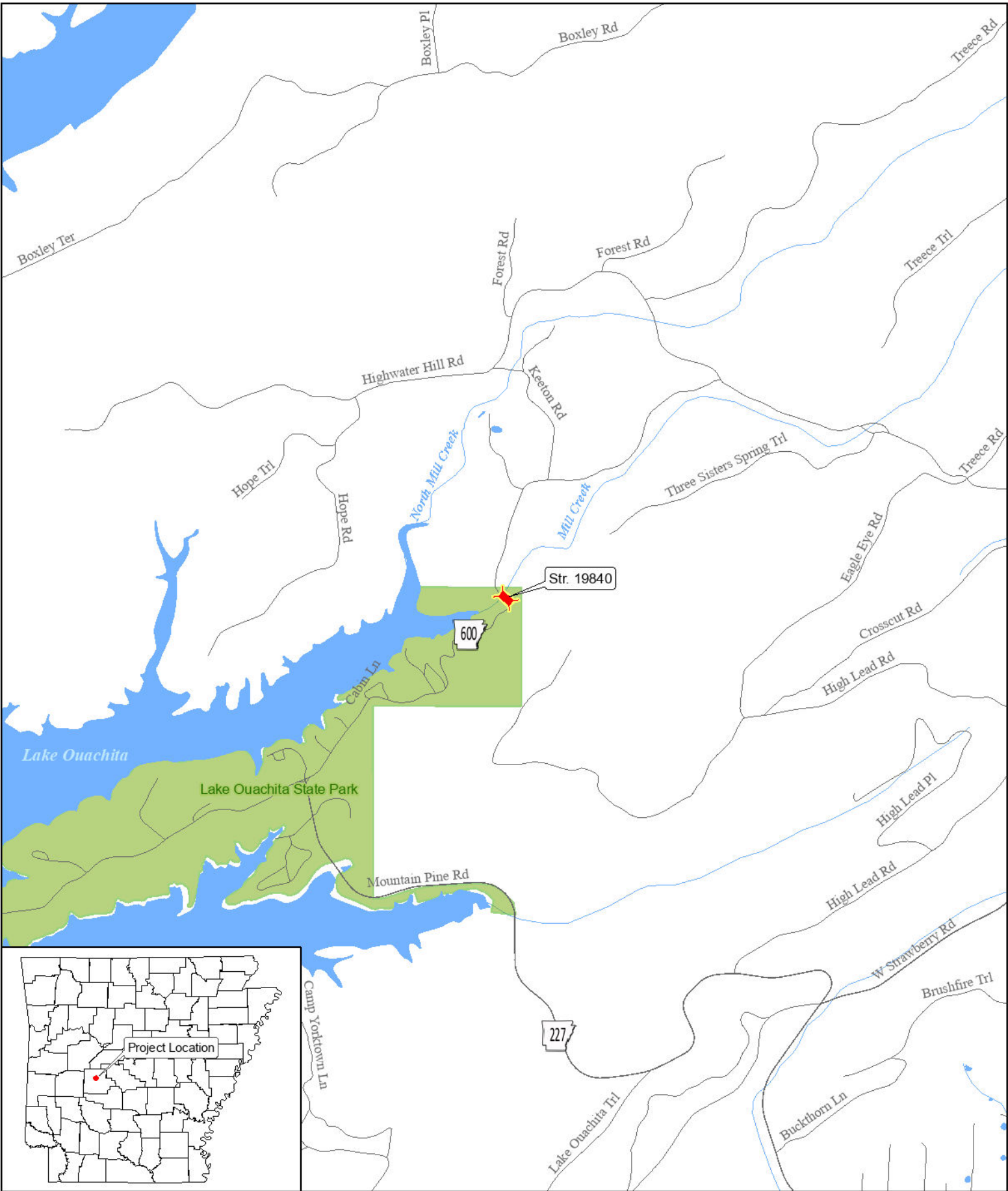
- ARDOT will coordinate tree clearing activities and temporary construction easement acquisition with ASP and USACE representatives.

JF:MP:sw

Attachments:

Project Location Map  
SHPO Clearance  
Design Sheet  
Environmental Study Checklist

c: Program Management  
Right of Way  
Roadway Design  
District 6  
FHWA



Job 061748  
 Mill Creek Str. & Apprs.  
 (Hwy. 600)  
 Garland County

 Project Location



Sarah Huckabee Sanders  
Governor  
Mike Mills  
Secretary

March 30, 2023

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

RE: Garland County: General  
Section 106 Review: FHwA  
Proposed Undertaking: Mill Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)  
Route 600, Section 21  
ARDOT Number: 061748  
AHPP Tracking Number: 110908.01

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the Project Identification Form for the abovementioned project located in Section 20, Township 1 South, Range 20 West in Garland County, Arkansas. The proposed project entails the replacement of Bridge Number 19840 on Highway 600. The Bridge will be replaced on the existing location and the proposed survey is 0.99 acres of temporary construction easement.


An architectural resources survey recorded one property, which is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (AHPP Tracking Number 110908). No shovel tests were excavated within the area of potential effect (APE) due to gravelly soils and slopes at the bridge location. The pedestrian survey did not reveal any new archeological sites within the APE.

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 Caddo Nation, the Osage Nation, the Quapaw Nation, and the Shawnee Tribe. 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, call Kathryn Bryles at 501-324-9784 or email [kathryn.bryles@arkansas.gov](mailto:kathryn.bryles@arkansas.gov).

Sincerely,  
Kathryn  
Bryles

 Digitally signed by  
Kathryn Bryles  
Date: 2023.03.30  
11:19:35 -05'00'

*for*

Scott Kaufman  
AHPP Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Dr. Melissa Zabecki, Arkansas Archeological Survey  
Mr. Randal Looney, Federal Highway Administration

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

ARDOT Job 061748 FAP STPB-0026(47)

Job Title Mill Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments-required for each item
Air Quality	X			No MSAT, no impacts
Cultural Resources	X			SHPO clearance attached
Economic	X			No adverse impacts
Endangered Species		X		Not likely to adversely affect NLEB & IBAT
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			EJ populations not identified in area
Fish and Wildlife		X		Minimal during construction
Floodplains	X			Not identified in the project area
Forest Service Property	X			Avoiding nearby F.S. property
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			None identified in the project area
Land Use		X		No new ROW; approx. 0.1 acre TCE
Migratory Birds	X			Migratory bird SP included in contract
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			None in project area
Noise Levels	X			Noise analysis not required
Prime Farmland	X			No important farmlands identified
Protected Waters	X			No impacts anticipated
Public Recreation Lands	X			Within a State Park; property leased from USACE, construction coordination with ASP and USACE will occur
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			No impacts anticipated; WPA SP required for offsite areas
Relocatees	X			No relocations necessary
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			Section 4(f)/6(f) not required (FHWA determination 3/29/23)
Social	X			No adverse impacts
Underground Storage Tanks	X			None in project area
Visual	X			Architectural Finish & Staining Concrete Surfaces SPs for bridge will be included
Streams		X		Less than 30' and 0.03 acre
Water Quality		X		Minimal during construction; WPC SP *
Wetlands		X		Approximately 0.12 acre; PCN required
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in project area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No  
 Short-term Activity Authorization Required? Yes  
 Section 404 Permit Required? Yes Type NW14

Remarks: .

\* WPC SP (450' from Lake Ouachita ERW)

Signature of Evaluator Mary Pearson Date 04/17/23

**ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST**

Job Number 061748 FAP No. STPB-0026(47) County Garland

Job Name Mill Creek Str. & Apprs. (S)

Design Engineer George Davison *GD* Environmental Staff \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed Project Description This project will replace a bridge on Hwy. 600 in Garland County with a new bridge on existing location. The project will utilize a full road closure in order to remove the existing bridge and construct the proposed bridge. Traffic will resume once the proposed bridge is constructed.

A. Existing Conditions:

Roadway Width: 20' Shoulder Type/Width: 1' Grass

Number of Lanes and Width: 2 (9') Existing Right-of-Way: N/A

Sidewalks? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

Bike Lanes? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

B. Proposed Conditions:

Roadway Width: 22' Shoulder Type/Width: 2' Paved

Number of Lanes and Width: 2 (9') Proposed Right-of-Way: N/A

Sidewalks? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

Bike Lanes? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

C. Construction Information:

If detour: Where: N/A Length: N/A

D. Design Traffic Data:

2025 ADT: 120 2045 ADT: 140 % Trucks: 3

Design Speed: 20 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: 0.03 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Bridge Replacement

G. Total Relocatees: 0 Residences: 0 Businesses: 0

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

Agency/Official	Person Contacted	Date