




## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

June 20, 2024

**TO:** Master Files

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

**SUBJECT:** Job 061826  
FAP HSIP-0030(34)  
Social Hill Rest Area Safety Impvts. (S)  
I-30, Section 21  
Hot Spring 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. A public hearing will not be offered for this project.

The purpose of this project is to install overhead lighting at the Social Hill Rest Area on and off-ramps in Hot Spring County, Arkansas. The need for improved lighting conditions came after a safety study revealed an elevated risk for nighttime fatal and serious injury crashes adjacent to the rest area facility. All work will be within existing right of way. A project location map is attached.

The project will not involve relocations, underground storage tanks, floodplains, important farmland, hazardous materials, noise impacts, environmental justice issues, 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 toxic concerns. The cultural resources clearance is attached.

The official species list obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation identified the Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), Arkansas Fatmucket (*Lampsilis powellii*), Ouachita Fanshell (*Cyprogenia sp. cf. aberti*), Ouachita Rock Pocketbook (*Arcidens wheeleri*), Pink Mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*), Rabbitsfoot (*Theliderma cylindrica*), Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), and Missouri bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*). It has been determined that the project will have "no effect"

on these species due the limited scope of the project, lack of habitat, and distance to known populations. The official USFWS species list is attached.

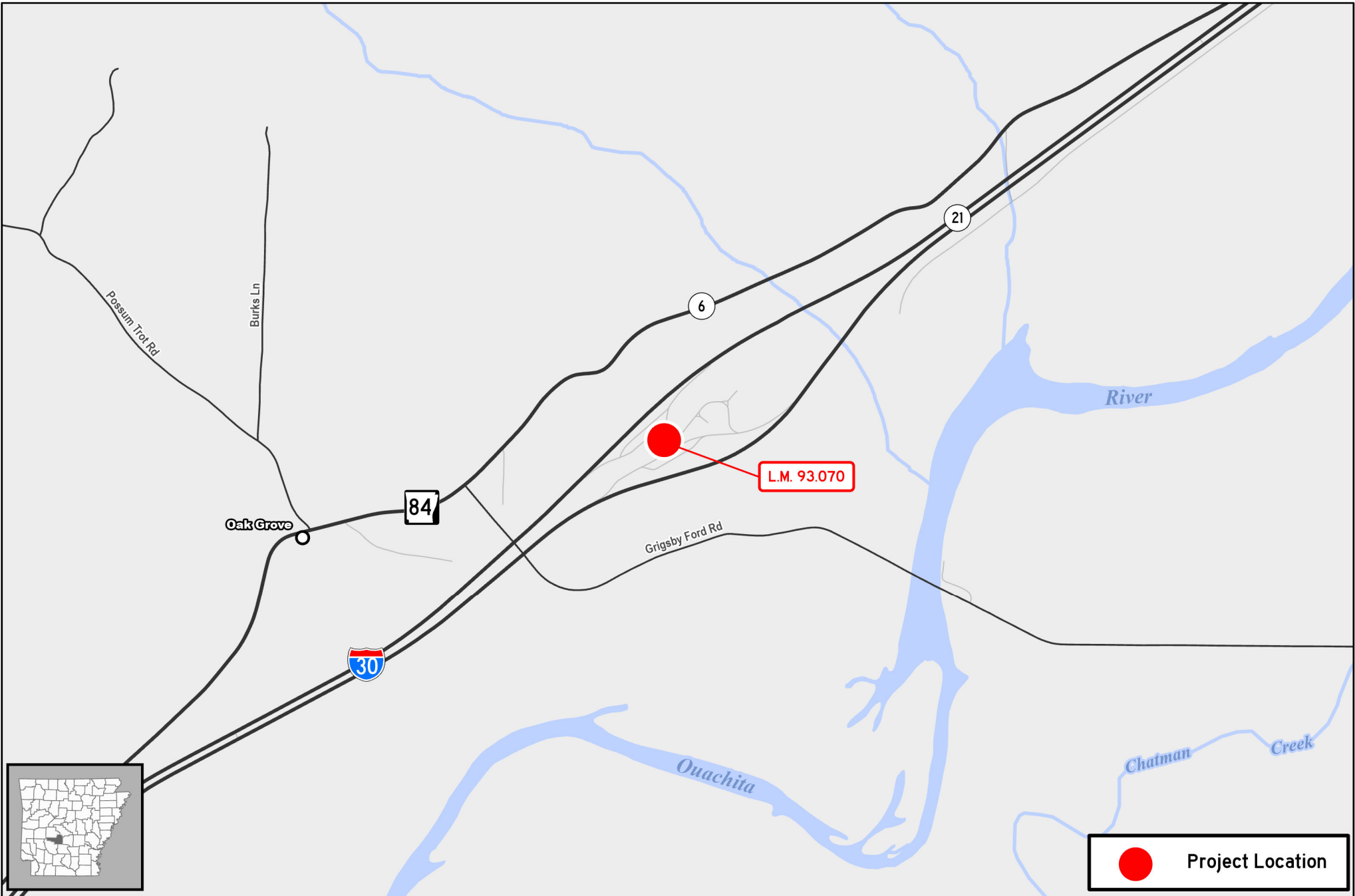
The Alligator Snapping Turtle is currently a proposed threatened species; the Tricolored Bat is a proposed endangered species, and the Monarch Butterfly is a candidate species; however, the proposed project will not jeopardize the continued existence of these species.

The project will not have a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States; therefore, a Section 404 permit will not be required.

#### Attachments

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

JF:JG:sw



**Job 061826**  
**Social Hill Rest Area Safety Impvts. (S)**  
 I-30, Sec. 21  
 Hot Spring County

**AR DOT**  
 ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT  
 OF TRANSPORTATION

0 375 750 1,500  
 Feet



# INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

February 9, 2024

**TO:** Environmental Job File

**FROM:** Mason Toms, Cultural Resources

**SUBJECT:** Cultural Resources Clearance  
Job 061826  
Social Hill Rest Area Impvts. (S)  
Route 30, Section 21  
Hot Spring County

The job proposes constructing new lighting and safety improvements at the Social Hill Rest Area on Interstate 30 in Hot Spring County. No new right-of-way (ROW) will be acquired. All work will occur within the existing ROW.

The Social Hill Rest Area is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Interstate Highway Exemption (70 FR 11928). A records check at the Arkansas Archeological Survey shows no archeological sites within 250 meters of the project area. No historic structures adjacent to the project area were shown on the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's structure database as listed or eligible for the NRHP. No cemeteries were identified within or adjacent to the project area.

Records check of historic maps and aerial imagery were not done based on the limited scope of the project. The highway infrastructure and known construction practices were examined to assess previous ground disturbance. All work will be within the existing ROW, and the limited scope of the project occurs within previously disturbed areas within the highway rest area. This type of undertaking will not affect historic properties. Therefore, this project requires no Section 106 review under Appendix C, Activity 25, of the 2021 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:

06/17/2024 14:19:58 UTC

Project Code: 2024-0104662

Project Name: 061826 - Social Hill Rest Area Safety Impvts. (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: 2024-0104662  
Project Name: 061826 - Social Hill Rest Area Safety Impvts. (S)  
Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification  
Project Description: additional lighting to off ramps and on ramps.  
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.3521435,-92.89031671923705,14z>



Counties: Hot Spring County, Arkansas

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 14 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. Note that 1 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, 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 <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949</a>	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This species only needs to be considered if the project includes wind turbine operations.</li> </ul> Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Endangered
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515</a>	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: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477</a>	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 <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039</a>	Threatened
Rufa Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864</a>	Threatened

## REPTILES

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

## CLAMS

NAME	STATUS
Arkansas Fatmucket <i>Lampsilis powellii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2213">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2213</a>	Threatened
Ouachita Fanshell <i>Cyprogenia sp. cf. aberti</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.	Threatened

NAME	STATUS
Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10889">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10889</a>	
Ouachita Rock Pocketbook <i>Arcidens wheeleri</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4509">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4509</a>	Endangered
Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) <i>Lampsilis abrupta</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7829">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7829</a>	Endangered
Rabbitsfoot <i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165</a>	Threatened

## INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Candidate

## FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Missouri Bladderpod <i>Physaria filiformis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5361">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5361</a>	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: mickey matthews

Address: 10324 I-30

City: Little Rock

State: AR

Zip: 72203

Email: mickey.matthews@ardot.gov

Phone: 5015692594

## **LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Lead Agency: Federal Highway Administration

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 061826 FAP HSIP-0030(34)

Job Title Social Hill Rest Area Safety Impvts. (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	X			No air quality/MSAT impacts
Cultural Resources	X			Cultural Resources clearance memo included
Economic	X			No adverse impacts
Endangered Species	X			A "no effect" determination was made.
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No impacts anticipated
Fish and Wildlife		X		Temporary during construction
Floodplains	X			No impacts anticipated
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No impacts anticipated
Land Use	X			Within existing ROW
Migratory Birds	X			No impacts anticipated
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No navigable waterways involved
Noise Levels	X			No increases due to project
Important Farmland	X			None impacted by the project
Protected Waters	X			None in the project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in the project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			None in the project area
Relocates	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No 4f/6f resources 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 the project area
Water Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Wetlands	X			None in the project area
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in the project area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? No

Section 404 Permit Required? No Type N/A

Remarks:  
  

---

Signature of Evaluator  Date 6/19/2024