




INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

May 1, 2025

TO: Master Files

FROM: Josh Seagraves, Division Head – Environmental 

SUBJECT: Job 061915
FAP HSIP-436-0(8)
I-57 Guardrail Impvts. (Lonoke & Pulaski Cos.) (S)
Lonoke and Pulaski Counties
Interstate 57, Sections 1 and 2
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 would involve upgrading guardrails with turned-down terminals to increase safety utilizing Federal-aid Highway Safety Improvement Program funding. The guardrails are located on both the eastbound and westbound travel lanes at four locations along Interstate 57 in Lonoke 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, wetlands, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, 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. Cultural resources clearance is attached.

Lonoke and Pulaski Counties participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Portions of the proposed project are located within Zone A and Zone AE Special Flood Hazard Area and regulatory floodways. 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 would constitute a substantial floodplain encroachment or risk to property or life.

The attached official species lists obtained through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation website identified the following species as potentially occurring within the project area: 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*), Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), and pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*). 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.

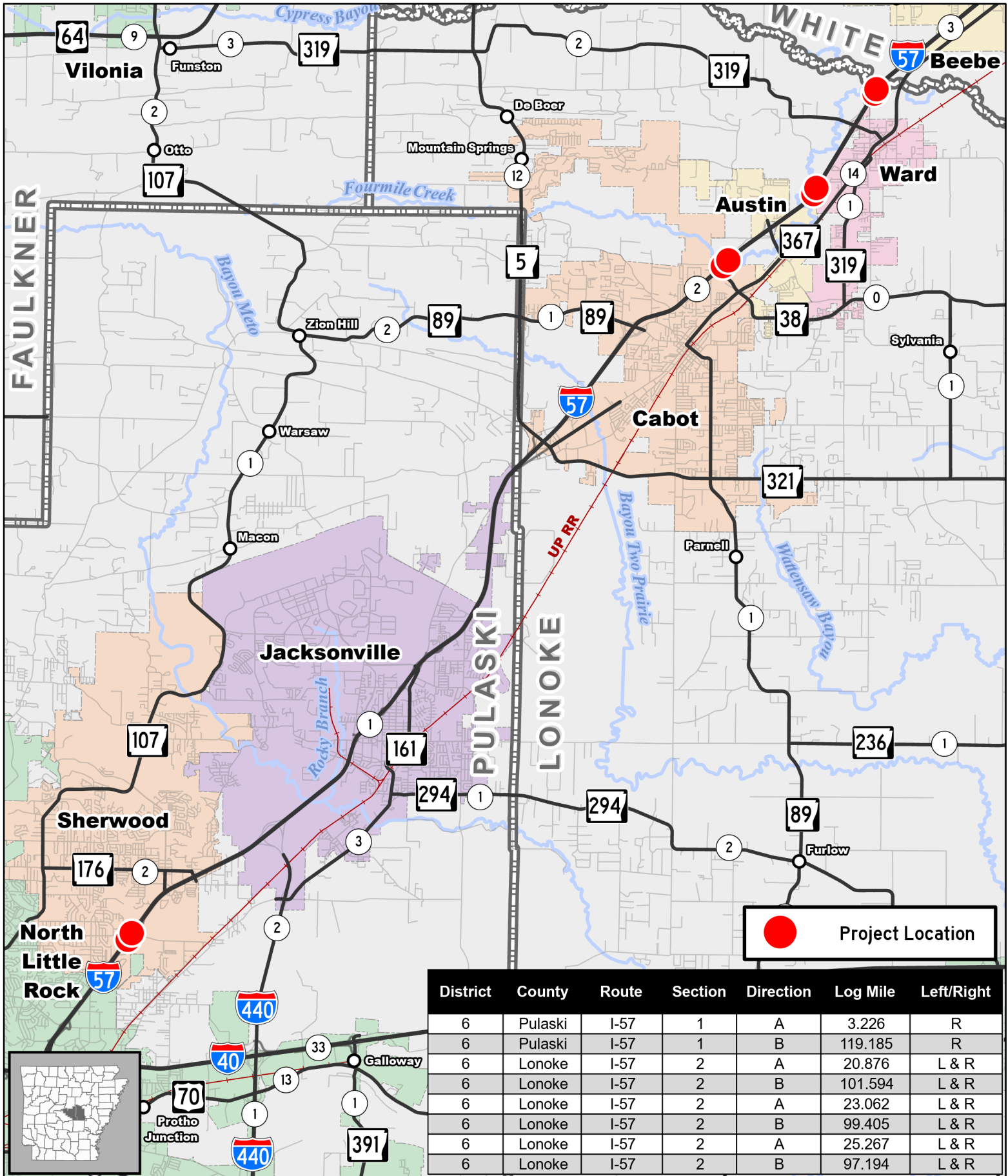
The Alligator Snapping Turtle and Monarch Butterfly are currently proposed threatened species, and the Tricolored Bat is a proposed endangered species. The proposed project would not jeopardize the continued existence of these species.

This project would not have a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. A Section 404 permit is not required.

Attachments

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

JS:MS:sw



District	County	Route	Section	Direction	Log Mile	Left/Right
6	Pulaski	I-57	1	A	3.226	R
6	Pulaski	I-57	1	B	119.185	R
6	Lonoke	I-57	2	A	20.876	L & R
6	Lonoke	I-57	2	B	101.594	L & R
6	Lonoke	I-57	2	A	23.062	L & R
6	Lonoke	I-57	2	B	99.405	L & R
6	Lonoke	I-57	2	A	25.267	L & R
6	Lonoke	I-57	2	B	97.194	L & R

Job 061915

I-57 Guardrail Impvts. (Lonoke & Pulaski Cos.) (S)

I-57, Secs. 1 & 2

Lonoke & Pulaski Counties






INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

April 30, 2025

TO: Environmental Job File

FROM: Richard Jenkins, Environmental Division 

SUBJECT: Cultural Resources Clearance
Job 061915
I-57 Guardrail Impvts.
(Lonoke & Pulaski Cos.) (S)
Route 57, Sections 1 & 2
Lonoke & Pulaski Counties

This job proposes to upgrade guardrails for east and west bound travel lanes at four locations along Interstate 57, in Lonoke and Pulaski Counties.

A records check at the Arkansas Archeological Survey shows no recorded sites in the immediate vicinity of these locations. No recorded historic properties listed or eligible to the NRHP are shown on the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program structure database near the project locations. The GLO maps show no cultural development near the project areas. The 1936 Lonoke and Pulaski County General Highway and Transportation maps show no structures near the project locations.

The existing topography, aerial imagery, previous infrastructure, and construction practices were examined to assess previous ground disturbance. The project will require no new ROW. All work will be within the existing ROW, and the limited scope of the project occurs within previously disturbed areas. Therefore, this project requires no Section 106 review under Appendix B, Activity 19, 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:

04/28/2025 14:04:39 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0088894

Project Name: 061915 - I-57 Guardrail Impvts. (Lonoke & Pulaski Cos.) (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: 2025-0088894

Project Name: 061915 - I-57 Guardrail Impvts. (Lonoke & Pulaski Cos.) (S)

Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification

Project Description: Guardrail improvements.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.95265335,-92.05939663890011,14z>



Counties: Lonoke , Pulaski , and White 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.

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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
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

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Pondberry <i>Lindera melissifolia</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	Endangered

NAME

STATUS

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1279>

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 061915 FAP HSIP-436-0(8)

Job Title I-57 Guardrail Impvts. (Lonoke & Pulaski Cos.) (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Cultural Resources	X			Falls under 2024 Amended PA
Economic	X			No impacts anticipated
Endangered Species	X			"No effect" on all listed species
Civil Rights/Title VI	X			No impacts anticipated
Fish and Wildlife	X			No impact anticipated
Floodplains		X		Within Zone A and Zone AE SFHA
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			None in project area
Land Use	X			No impacts anticipated
Migratory Birds	X			No bridge or large culvert work
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No navigable waters
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			None in project area
Relocatees	X			No relocations anticipated
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No impacts anticipated
Social	X			No adverse impacts anticipated
Underground Storage Tanks	X			None in project area
Visual	X			No impacts anticipated
Streams	X			No impacts
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 4/30/2025