



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

August 7, 2025

TO: Master Files

FROM: *for* Josh Seagraves, Division Head – Environmental *KB*

SUBJECT: Job 101189
FAP STPR-0016(107)
Hwys. 18/139 Inters. Impvts. (Monette) (S)
Routes 18 & 139, Sections 4 & 1
Craighead 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 add traffic signals and improve turning radii at the Highway (Hwy.) 18/139 interchange in Monette. Dedicated left turn lanes will be added to turn from Hwy. 139/Edmonds St onto Hwy. 18. Hwy. 18 will also receive a 2" overlay. A project location map is attached.

The project will not involve relocations, endangered species, prime 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. The cultural resources clearance is attached.

The official species list obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) identified the following species as potentially occurring within the project boundaries: the 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*), Fat Pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*), Rabbitsfoot (*Theliderms cylindrica*), Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), and pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*). The official species list is attached. This project will 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; however, the project will not jeopardize the continued existence of any of these species.

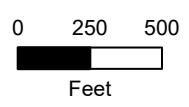
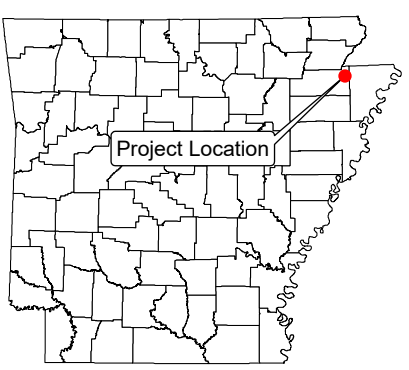
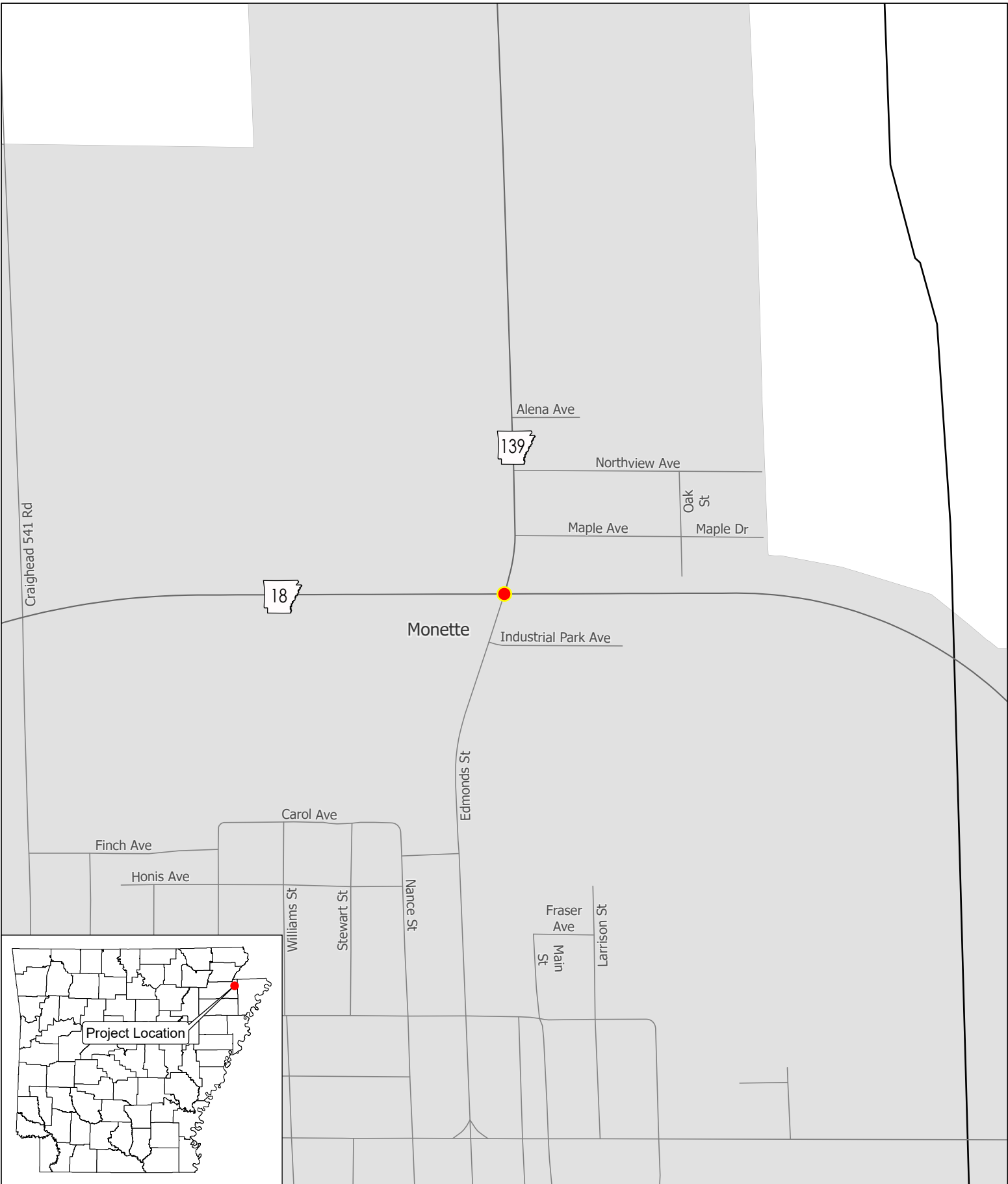
Waters of the United States will not be impacted by this project; therefore, a Section 404 permit is not required.

Job 101189
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion
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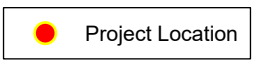
Attachments

c: Program Management
Right of Way
Roadway Design
District 10
FHWA

JS:KR:sw



Job 101189
 Hwys. 18/139 Inters. Impvts.
 (Monette)
 Craighead County





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

Phone: (501) 569-2000 | Voice/TTY 711 | Fax: (501) 569-2400

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

July 21, 2025

TO: Environmental Job File
M H

FROM: M. Hughes, Cultural Resources

SUBJECT: Cultural Resources Clearance
Job 101189
Hwys. 18/139 Inters. Impvts.
(Monette) (S)
Route 18, Section 4
Route 139, Section 1
Craighead County

This project proposes to upgrade traffic signals and improve turning radii at the Highway 18/139 interchange in Monette. No new right-of-way (ROW) or temporary construction easements (TCE) will be utilized, and all work will be confined to previously disturbed areas.

A records review conducted at the Arkansas Archeological Survey and at the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program found no previously recorded archeological sites or historic properties in or near the project area. The 1848 General Land Office plat for T15N, R7E showed no paths, trails, roads, fields, houses or other possible cultural indicators in or near the project. The 1936 Craighead County General Highway and Transportation map shows a few structures in and around the project, but the recent widening of Highway 18 has undoubtedly destroyed any trace of any structures that may have been located in the resulting ROW. The 1983 7.5' Leachville, ARK topographic map does not provide any additional cultural resource information. The 1941 and 1956 15' Leachville, ARK topographic maps show a structure near the project location. Aerials dating to 1957 and 1976 showed no structures in the project limits. The cultural resources survey conducted for the recent Highway 18 widening did not identify any cultural resources in the final highway ROW.

The existing topography, known construction practices, utilities, and plans were examined to assess previous ground disturbance. All work will be conducted within heavily disturbed areas (highway construction). This project is subject to the 2024 Amended Programmatic Agreement and falls under Activities 3 and 19 of Appendix B. The project is exempted from further work or Section 106 review. No further archeological work is recommended for the project.



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:

07/30/2025 13:05:22 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0128704

Project Name: 101189 - Hwys. 18/139 Inters. Impvts. (Monette) (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 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>.

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: 2025-0128704

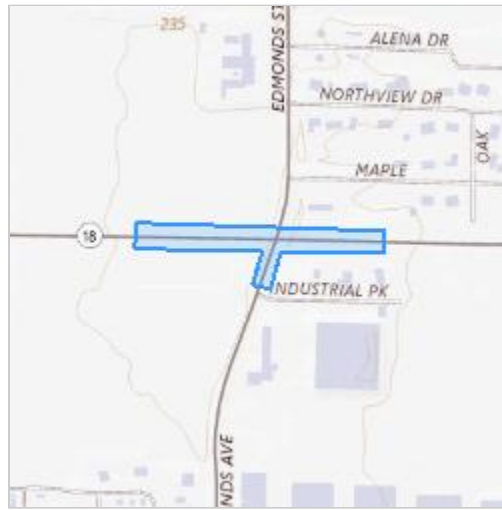
Project Name: 101189 - Hwys. 18/139 Inters. Impvts. (Monette) (S)

Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification

Project Description: Intersection improvements and traffic light installation.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@35.89804625,-90.34179525007342,14z>



Counties: Craighead County, Arkansas

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 9 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
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

CLAMS

NAME	STATUS
Fat Pocketbook <i>Potamilus capax</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2780	Endangered
Rabbitsfoot <i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</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/5165	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.	Proposed Threatened

NAME	STATUS
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Pondberry <i>Lindera melissifolia</i>	Endangered
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	
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 101189 FAP STPR-0016(107)

Job Title Hwys. 18/139 Inters. Impvts. (Monette) (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	X			No MSAT analysis required
Cultural Resources	X			Cultural Resources clearance attached
Economic	X			No impacts anticipated
Endangered Species	X			No effect
Civil Rights/Title VI	X			No impacts
Fish and Wildlife	X			No impacts anticipated
Floodplains	X			None in project area
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			None in project area
Land Use	X			All work within existing ROW
Migratory Birds	X			No bridge or large culvert work
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No impact
Noise Levels	X			No impacts
Prime Farmland	X			No impacts
Protected Waters	X			None in project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			None in project area
Relocates	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No impacts
Social	X			No impacts
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No impacts
Visual	X			No impacts
Streams	X			None in project area
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 N/A

Remarks: _____

Signature of Evaluator Kathryn Rose Date 8/7/2025