

PROGRAMMATIC CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

**ARDOT JOB A60063
FAP STPSC-9210(62)
HWY. 7 IMPVTS. (HOT SPRINGS) (S)
GARLAND COUNTY**

Pursuant to 23 CFR Part 771.117
and the Programmatic Agreement between
the Federal Highway Administration
and the
Arkansas Department of Transportation

April 2026

4/28/2026

Date of Approval

Kristina Boykin

for Josh Seagraves
Division Head – Environmental
Arkansas Department of Transportation

The proposed project would mill and overlay 5.9 miles of Highway 7 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. A project location map is attached.

The project would not involve relocations or impacts to Important Farmlands, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, public water supplies, floodplains, Waters of the U.S., 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. All work would be within existing right of way. Cultural resources clearance is attached.

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: Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), and Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). The project would have “no effect” on these species due to the limited scope of the action, lack of suitable habitat, and distance to known species locations.

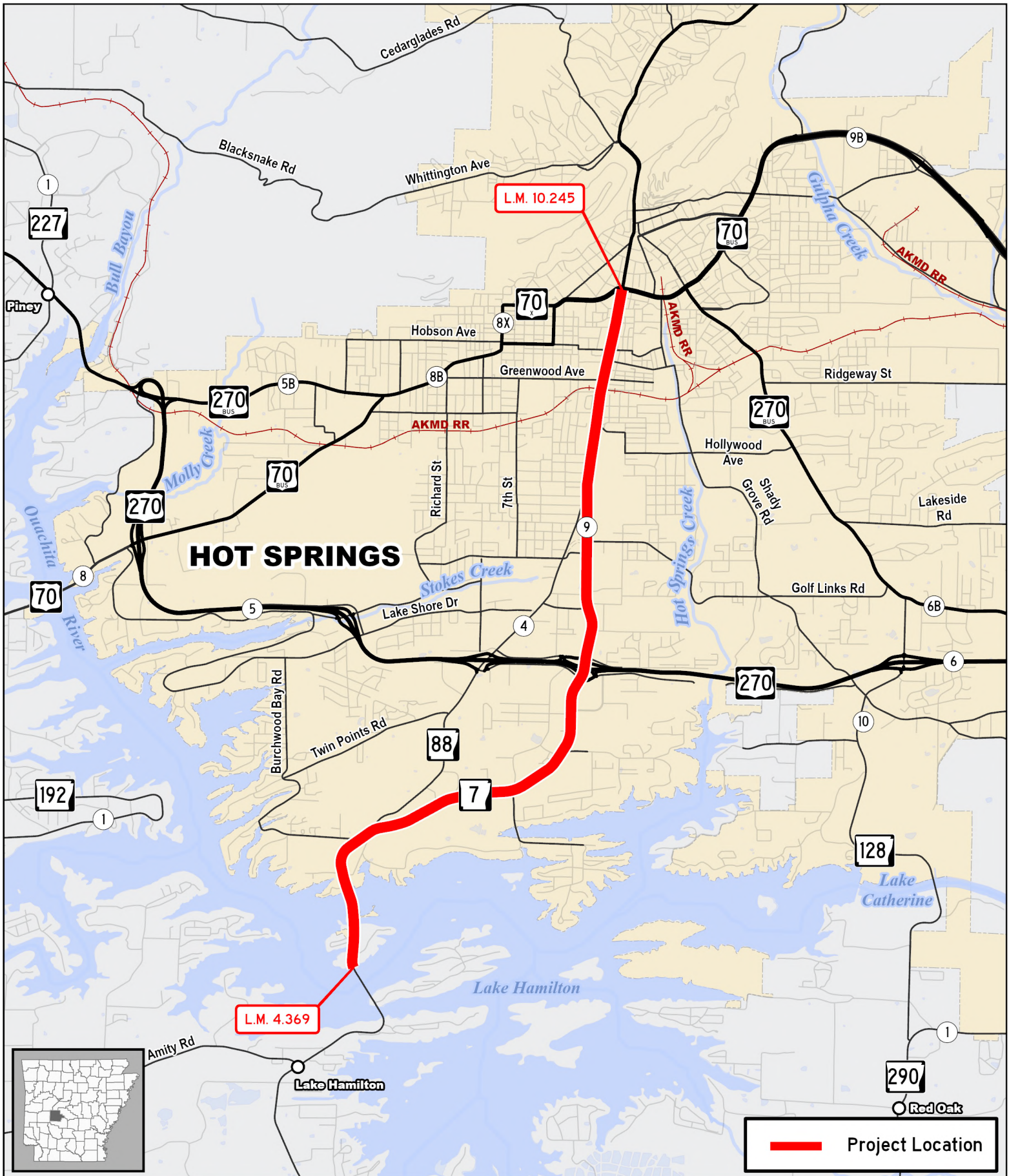
The Alligator Snapping Turtle and the Monarch Butterfly are currently proposed threatened species, and the Tricolored bat is currently a proposed endangered species. The proposed project would not jeopardize the continued existence of these species.

The project is within Hot Springs National Park wellhead protection areas and the Kimzey Regional Water District surface water source protection area. No ground disturbance would occur, so no impacts are anticipated. A Water Pollution Control Special Provision will be included in the job contract.

This project would not result in a discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the U.S. A Section 404 permit is not required.

Commitments made as part of the NEPA process:

- None



Job A60063

Hwy. 7 Impvts. (Hot Springs) (S)

Hwy. 7, Sec. 9

Garland County





ARDOT.gov | Jared D. Wiley, P.E., Director

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

April 14, 2026

TO: Environmental Job File

FROM: Daniel Hildebran, Cultural Resources

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Daniel Hildebran'.

SUBJECT: Cultural Resources Clearance
Job A60063
Hwy. 7 Impvts. (Hot Springs) (S)
Route 7, Section 9
Garland County

This project proposes to mill and overlay 5.876 miles of Highway 7 in Garland County.

This project is subject to the 2024 Programmatic Agreement and falls under Activity C in Appendix A. The project is exempt from further work or Section 106 review.



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:

04/27/2026 12:47:21 UTC

Project Code: 2026-0073575

Project Name: A60063 - Hwy. 7 Impvts. (Hot Springs) (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: 2026-0073575
Project Name: A60063 - Hwy. 7 Impvts. (Hot Springs) (S)
Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification
Project Description: Pavement Preservation. Mill and overlay
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.518715150000006,-93.05582629392106,14z>



Counties: Garland County, 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 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: Parker Brannon

Address: 10324 I-30

City: Little Rock

State: AR

Zip: 72209

Email: parker.brannon@ardot.gov

Phone: 5015692083

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)

Endangered Species Act Review

DETERMINATION KEY

AFO Arkansas Multi-Species Determination Key

Release date: April 15, 2026

You completed the latest version of this key, published April 15, 2026, and reached a determination of not applicable for species or critical habitats covered by the key.

This decision key is intended for projects or actions funded, authorized or carried out by federal agencies to help you make effect determinations for listed species and designated critical habitat that may occur in your project area. This decision key is not applicable to after-the-fact project coordination.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office (ARFO) has completed consultations with the Corps of Engineers Little Rock, Memphis and Vicksburg districts and the Farm Service Agency regarding proposed, recurring actions and effects to listed species. The resultant Standard Local Operative Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES) and Programmatic Informal Consultation evaluations form the basis of this key. See the links below for detailed information on these consultations.

[SLOPES with Little Rock District 2018](#)

[Farm Service Agency Statewide Programmatic Consultation 2019](#)

[USFS Ouachita National Forest Programmatic Biological Opinion 2010](#)

[USFS Ozark St. Francis National Forest Programmatic Biological Opinion 2010](#)

[Cooperative Agreement Between USFWS and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission](#)

[Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Indiana Bat Programmatic Biological Opinion 2019](#)

[Arkansas Species Determination Key Standing Analysis](#)

For projects that meet incorporated criteria, your responses to questions in this key will allow you to make effect determinations for species included in these consultations. More information about section 7(a)(2) and effect determinations is available [here](#) and on the Service's [website](#). Reaching an effect determination in the key indicates a project proponent can rely on the above consultations and the Service's concurrence with the resulting determinations. For those species with a resulting determination of "no effect" or "may affect, not likely to adversely affect", the project proponent has satisfied consultation requirements under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act for the project. For projects that reach a "may affect" or "may affect, likely to adversely affect" determination for a species, further consultation with ARFO will be required to meet consultation requirement.

Species covered by this key

This key covers the following species, and critical habitat for these species, expected to occur in this project area:

BIRDS

Eastern Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*

Rufa Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa*

MAMMALS

Indiana Bat *Myotis sodalis*

The following species, also covered by this key, are not expected to occur in this project area:

American Burying Beetle *Nicrophorus americanus*

Arkansas Fatmucket *Lampsilis powellii*

Benton County Cave Crayfish *Cambarus aculabrum*

Curtis Pearlymussel *Epioblasma curtisii*

Fat Pocketbook *Potamilus capax*

Geocarpon minimum

Gray Bat *Myotis grisescens*

Harperella *Ptilimnium nodosum*

Hell Creek Cave Crayfish *Cambarus zophonastes*

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum*

Leopard Darter *Percina pantherina*

Missouri Bladderpod *Physaria filiformis*

Neosho Mucket *Lampsilis rafinesqueana*

Ouachita Fanshell *Cyprogenia* sp. cf. *aberti*
 Ouachita Rock Pocketbook *Arcidens wheeleri*
 Ozark Big-eared Bat *Corynorhinus* (=Plecotus) *townsendii ingens*
 Ozark Cavefish *Amblyopsis rosae*
 Ozark Hellbender *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi*
 Pallid Sturgeon *Scaphirhynchus albus*
 Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) *Lampsilis abrupta*
 Pondberry *Lindera melissifolia*
 Rabbitsfoot *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*
 Red-cockaded Woodpecker *Dryobates borealis*
 Salamander Mussel *Simpsonaias ambigua*
 Scaleshell Mussel *Leptodea leptodon*
 Snuffbox Mussel *Epioblasma triquetra*
 Speckled Pocketbook *Lampsilis streckeri*
 Spectaclecase (mussel) *Cumberlandia monodonta*
 Western Fanshell *Cyprogenia aberti*
 Whooping Crane *Grus americana*
 Winged Mapleleaf *Quadrula fragosa*
 Yellowcheek Darter *Etheostoma moorei*

Critical habitats covered by this key

This key covers the critical habitats for the following species expected to occur in this project area:

None

For more information about this determination key, including a list of all potential questions, refer to the [detailed overview](#).

Qualification interview

1. Have you made an effects determination of "no effect" for all species in the area of the project?

A "no effect" determination means the project will have no beneficial effect, no short-term adverse effects, and no long-term adverse effects on any of the species on the IPaC-generated species list for the proposed project or those species habitat. A project with effects that cannot be meaningfully measured, detected or evaluated, effects that are extremely unlikely to occur, or entirely beneficial effects should not have a "no effect" determination. (If unsure, select "No").

Yes

When the action agency determines its proposed action will not affect a listed species, there is no need to coordinate further with the Service. If listed species will not be directly or indirectly exposed to the proposed action or any resulting environmental changes, an action agency may conclude "no effect" and document the finding, thus completing the section 7 process. For example, if the species or its suitable habitat is not present in the action area and the project does not otherwise present any effects to the species, action agencies typically conclude and document "No Effect - species not present" as their finding."

As documentation of this "no effect" determination print this screen, add it to your project files, and select "exit review" on the progress ribbon to return to the project home page.

If you no longer wish to use this key for your project, you can delete your evaluation.



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:

04/27/2026 12:51:06 UTC

Project code: 2026-0073575

Project Name: A60063 - Hwy. 7 Impvts. (Hot Springs) (S)

Subject: No Effect Technical Assistance letter for the 'A60063 - Hwy. 7 Impvts. (Hot Springs) (S)' project under the December 13, 2024, FHWA, FRA, FTA Programmatic Biological Opinion for Transportation Projects within the Range of the Indiana Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, and Tricolored Bat.

To whom it may concern:

This letter records the determination of effects to federally listed (or proposed) bat species anticipated to result from A60063 - Hwy. 7 Impvts. (Hot Springs) (S) (the Project). This determination is based upon information you entered into the assisted determination key (Dkey) associated with the above referenced Programmatic Biological Opinion/Conference Opinion (PBO/PCO) in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system on the date listed above.

Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC:

The Service developed the IPaC system and this Dkey in accordance with the ESA and based on the PBO/PCO. All information submitted by the project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in the Dkey invalidates this letter.

Determinations:

Based on the information you provided (Project Description shown below), you have determined that the Project will have the following effect determinations:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Indiana Bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	No effect
Northern Long-eared Bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Endangered	No effect

Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*)Proposed
Endangered

No effect

If the Project is not modified, **no consultation is required for these species**. If the Project is modified, or new information reveals that it may affect the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, or tricolored bat in a manner or to an extent not considered in the PBO/PCO, further review to conclude the requirements of ESA section 7(a)(2) may be required.

For Proposed Actions that include bridge/culvert or structure removal, replacement, and/or maintenance activities:

If your initial bridge, culvert, or structure assessment failed to detect Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, or tricolored bat use or occupancy, yet bats are later detected prior to, or during construction, promptly notify the local Service Field Office within 2 working days of the discovery. In addition, please document whether incidental take occurred, and if so, the type (i.e. kill or harm) and amount (i.e. number of individuals) and submit documentation to the local Service Field Office within 5 working days from the completion of the bridge, culvert, or structure construction (use Appendix E - Post Assessment Discovery of Bats at Bridge/Culvert or Structure Form in the [User's Guide](#)). In these instances, potential incidental take of Indiana bats, northern long-eared bats, or tricolored bats may be exempted provided that the take is reported to the Service. In these instances, potential incidental take of Indiana bats, northern long-eared bats, or tricolored bats may be exempted provided that the take is reported to the Service.

If the Project may affect any other federally listed or proposed species and/or designated critical habitat, additional consultation between the lead Federal action agency and this Service Field Office is required for those species/designated critical habitat. If the Project has the potential to take bald or golden eagles, additional coordination with the Service under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act may also be required. In either of these circumstances, please advise the lead Federal action agency to contact this Service Field Office

The following species may occur in your project area and **are not** covered by this determination:

- Alligator Snapping Turtle *Macrochelys temminckii* Proposed Threatened
- Eastern Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis* Threatened
- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened
- Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* Threatened
- Rufa Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa* Threatened

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The following project name and description was collected in IPaC as part of the endangered species review process.

NAME

A60063 - Hwy. 7 Impvts. (Hot Springs) (S)

DESCRIPTION

Pavement Preservation. Mill and overlay

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.518715150000006,-93.05582629392106,14z>



DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the information you provided, you have determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on the species covered by this determination key. Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is required for those species.

QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Which Federal Agency is the lead federal agency the action?

A) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

2. Does the Action Area intersect the species list area of the Northern long-eared bat?

Automatically answered

Yes

3. Does the Action Area intersect the species list area of the Indiana bat?

Automatically answered

Yes

4. Does the Action Area intersect the species list area of the tricolored Bat (TCB)?

Automatically answered

Yes

5. Is the project within 0.5 miles radius of an entrance/opening to any known Indiana bat hibernaculum?

No

6. [Semantic] Is any portion of the action area within a 0.5 mile radius of an entrance/opening to any known NLEB or TCB hibernacula?

Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact the Field Office listed in the letterhead of this letter.

Automatically answered

No

7. Does the action area overlap with any state where bats may use talus or anthropogenic or naturally formed rock crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs for hibernation?

Automatically answered

Yes

8. Does the action area contain or occur within 0.5 miles of (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

No

9. Does your project's activities include raising the road profile above the tree canopy in documented habitat for the Indiana bat, NLEB, or TCB?

Note: For the definition of documented habitat, refer to Appendix A: <https://www.fws.gov/media/users-guide-range-wide-programmatic-consultation-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat>

No

10. Is your project located within a karst area?

No

11. Will the project include bridge, culvert, or structure removal, replacement, and/or alteration activities?

Note: For definitions of bridge, culvert, and structure, refer to Appendix A: <https://www.fws.gov/media/users-guide-range-wide-programmatic-consultation-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat>.

No

12. Do your project's activities involve tree removal/trimming, temporary lighting, new/additional permanent lighting, ground disturbance, percussives that involves noise/vibration above existing background levels, vibrations, or slash pile burning?

No

13. Does the Action Area intersect the species list area of the Indiana bat?

Automatically answered

Yes

14. Does the Action Area intersect the species list area of the tricolored Bat (TCB)?

Automatically answered

Yes

15. Does the Action Area intersect the species list area of the northern long-eared bat (NLEB)?

Automatically answered

Yes

PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Have you made a No Effect determinations for all other species included on the FWS IPaC generated species list?

Yes

2. Have you made a May Affect determination for any other species on the FWS IPaC generated list?

No

DETERMINATION KEY DESCRIPTION: FHWA, FRA, FTA PROGRAMMATIC CONSULTATION FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AFFECTING IBAT, NLEB, OR TCB

This key was last updated in IPaC on April 08, 2026. Keys are subject to periodic revision.

This decision key is intended for projects/activities funded or authorized by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and/or Federal Transit Administration (FTA), which may require consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and may affect the federally listed endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and/or federally proposed endangered tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*).

This decision key should only be used to verify project applicability with the Service's Programmatic Biological Opinion/Conference Opinion for Transportation Projects in the Range of the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, and tricolored bat, dated December 13, 2024. The programmatic consultation limited transportation activities that may affect the covered bat species and addresses situations that are both likely and not likely to adversely affect the covered bat species. This decision key will assist in identifying the effect of a specific project/activity and the applicability of the programmatic consultation. The programmatic consultation is not intended to cover all types of transportation actions. Activities outside the scope of the programmatic consultation, or that may affect ESA-listed species other than the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, or tricolored bat, or their designated critical habitat, may require additional ESA Section 7 consultation.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Arkansas Department of Transportation

Name: Parker Brannon

Address: 10324 I-30

City: Little Rock

State: AR

Zip: 72209

Email: parker.brannon@ardot.gov

Phone: 5015692083

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 A60063 FAP STPSC-9210(62)

Job Title Hwy. 7 Impvts. (Hot Springs) (S)

Class Determination C(26)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Community/Social	X			No impacts anticipated
Cultural Resources	X			Cultural resources clearance attached
Economic	X			No impacts anticipated
Federal Lands	X			No impacts anticipated
Floodplains	X			No impacts anticipated
Hazardous Materials	X			No impacts anticipated
Important Farmland	X			No impacts anticipated
Land Use	X			All work within existing right of way
Protected Species	X			No impacts anticipated
Protected Waters	X			No impacts anticipated
Public Water Supply	X			WHPA & PWS; no impacts anticipated
Relocations	X			No relocations anticipated
Section 4(f)/6(f) properties	X			No impacts anticipated
Solid Waste	X			No impacts anticipated
Streams	X			No impacts anticipated
Traffic Noise	X			No impacts anticipated
Visual	X			No impacts anticipated
Water Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Wetlands	X			No impacts anticipated

Permits: Indicate either a "yes" or "no" if permit is required or not.

Section 404 Permit Required? No Type None

Section 408 Approval Required? No

Section 9 USCG Bridge Permit Required? No

Section 10 Navigable Waters Permit Required? No

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? No

Remarks:
WPC SP (emul. asph.) will be included.

Signature of Evaluator Mikayla Shaddon Date 4/27/2026