

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY  
AND  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Scott E. Bennett  
Director  
Telephone (501) 569-2000  
Voice/TTY 711



P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261  
Telefax (501) 569-2400  
www.arkansashighways.com

June 21, 2017

Mr. Angel Correa  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
700 West Capitol, Room 3130  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3298

Re: Job Number 100839  
FAP Number NHPP-0047(54)  
Bridge Number M2233  
Ditch No. 43 Str. & Apprs. (S)  
Mississippi County  
Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion

Dear Mr. Correa:

The Environmental Division has reviewed the referenced project and it falls within the definition of the Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion as defined by the AHTD/FHWA Memorandum of Agreement on the processing of Categorical Exclusions. The following information is included for your review and, if acceptable, approval as the environmental documentation for this project.

The purpose of this project is to replace a structurally deficient bridge on Highway 181 in Mississippi County. Total length of the project is 0.019 mile. A project location map is enclosed.

The existing 24' x 38' bridge (Bridge No. M2233) over Ditch No. 43 consists of a concrete deck on timber piles. This bridge has a sufficiency rating of 17.9 and is structurally deficient. The existing roadway consists of two paved 10-foot lanes with no shoulders. The existing right of way width is 80 feet.

Proposed improvements include replacing the existing bridge with a triple 9' x 9' x 72' reinforced concrete box culvert on the existing location. The bridge approaches will have two paved 11-foot wide travel lanes with 6-foot shoulders (2-foot paved, 4-foot gravel). The new average right of way width will be 160 feet. Highway 181 will be closed during construction.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed
2018	800	7	55 mph
2038	965	7	55 mph

There are no relocatees, wetlands, cultural resources, environmental justice issues, or prime farmland associated with this project. Field inspections found no evidence of existing underground storage tanks or hazardous waste deposits. Approximately 0.25 acre of additional right of way will be required.

There will be no wetland impacts due to construction activities and impacts to waters of the United States are estimated to be less than 0.1 acre. Construction of this project should be covered under the terms of a Nationwide Permit 14 for Linear Transportation Projects as defined in the Federal Register 82 (4):1860-2008.

Mississippi County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. All of the floodplain encroachments within this highway construction project will be designed to comply with the county's local flood damage prevention ordinance. The project lies within the Zone A, Special Flood Hazard Area. 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 will constitute a significant floodplain encroachment or a significant risk to property or life.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) IPaC database determined that four endangered/threatened species could be located within the project boundaries. The threatened Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), endangered pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), endangered fat pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*), and the endangered scaleshell mussel (*Leptodea leptodon*) were identified as species that may occur in the proposed project location. Based on the lack of available/suitable habitat in the project area and distance to known populations for the Piping Plover, pallid sturgeon and scaleshell mussel; it has been determined that the project will have no effect on these

species. The project is located in the Upper Ditch No. 40 12-digit HUC. Ditch 43 is a small intermittent tributary to upper Ditch 40. The Wentz (2008) inventory of aquatic biota of the Tyronza River and other mussel surveys have located the fat pocketbook over 20 miles downstream in the Tyronza River. The project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect this species. USFWS concurrence is enclosed.

Based upon the AHTD's *Policy on Highway Traffic Noise Abatement*, a noise analysis is not required for this project. The project does not involve added capacity, construction of new through lanes or auxiliary lanes, changes in the horizontal or vertical alignment of the roadway or exposure of noise sensitive land uses to a new or existing highway noise source.

If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Division at 569-2281.

**APPROVED**  
  
Environmental Specialist  
Federal Highway Administration  
Date: 6-22-2017

Sincerely,

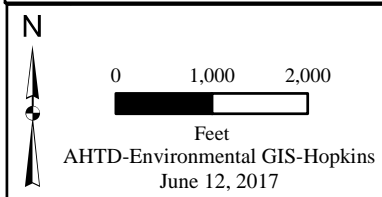
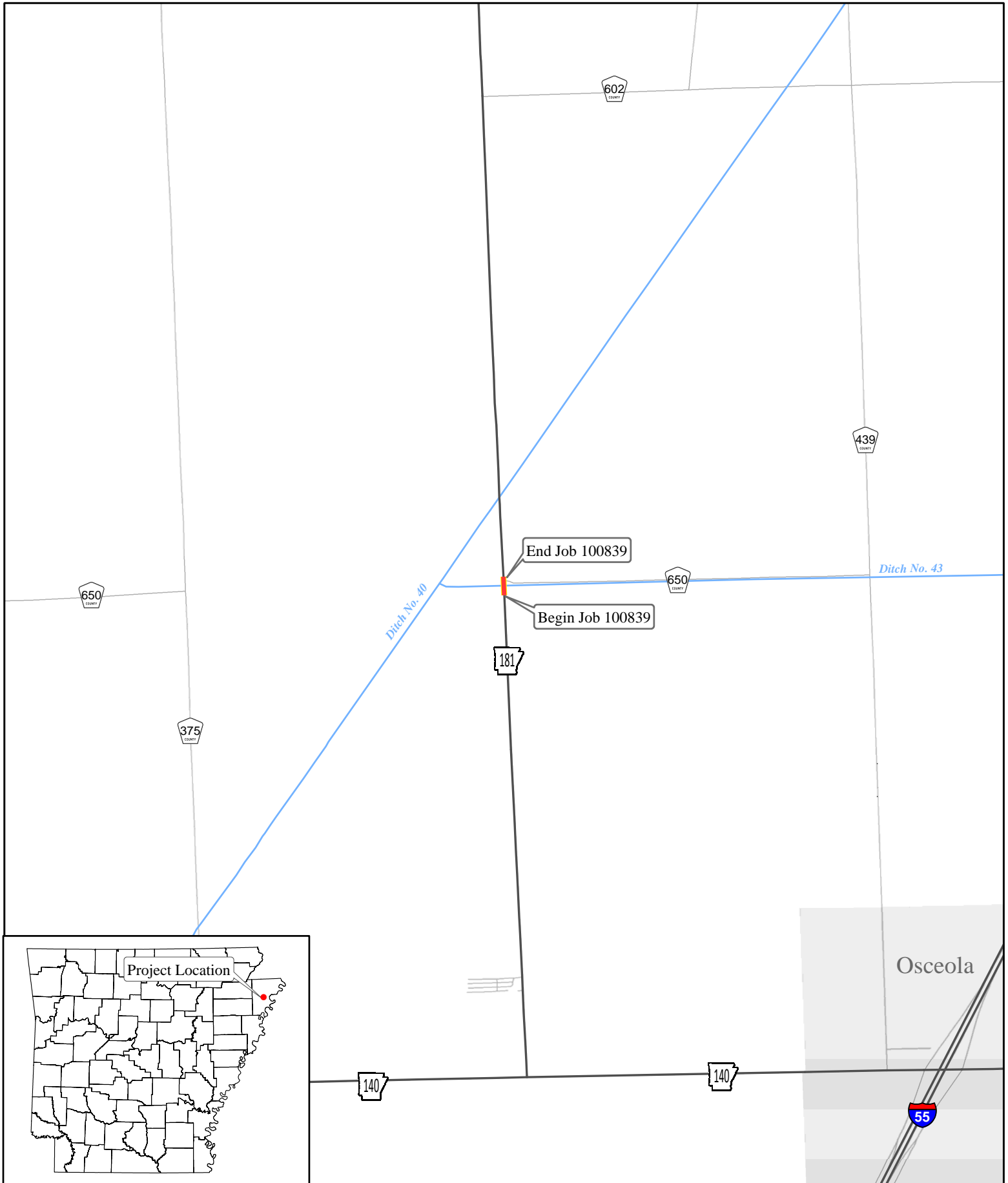


John Fleming  
Division Head  
Environmental Division

Enclosures

JF:SL:fc

c: Program Management  
Right of Way  
Roadway Design.  
District 5  
Master File



Job 100839  
 Ditch No. 43 Str. & Apprs.  
 (Hwy. 181)  
 Mississippi County



ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY  
AND  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

AHPP

DEC 13 2016

96981.01  
FHWA

Scott E. Bennett, P. E.  
Director  
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P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261  
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www.arkansashighways.com

December 12, 2016

Ms. Frances McSwain  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
1100 North Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

RE: AHTD Job No. 100839  
Ditch No. 43 Str. & Apprs. (S)  
Mississippi County

Dear Ms. McSwain:

A Project Identification Form for the referenced project is enclosed. Please review for concurrence with the findings of my staff. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Kristina Boykin at (501) 569-2079.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Fleming'.

John Fleming  
Division Head  
Environmental Division

Enclosure  
PIF

JF:DW:KB:ym

RECEIVED  
AHTD

DEC 21 2016

ENVIRONMENTAL  
DIVISION

DEC 15 2016

Date

No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. This effect determination could change should new information come to light.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Frances McSwain'.

Frances McSwain, Deputy State  
Historic Preservation Officer

DEC 15 2016



## 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  
<http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es>

In Reply Refer To:

April 11, 2017

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2017-SLI-0662

Event Code: 04ER1000-2017-E-00885

Project Name: 100839 Ditch No. 43 Str. & Apprs.

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies endangered, threatened, 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.). **This letter only provides an official species list and technical assistance; if you determine that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected in any way by the proposed project, even if the effect is wholly beneficial, consultation with the Service will be necessary.**

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. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found on our website.

**Please visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/home.html> for species-specific guidance to avoid and minimize adverse effects to federally endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species.** Our web site also contains additional information on species life history and habitat requirements that may be useful in project planning.

**If your project involves in-stream construction activities, oil and natural gas infrastructure, road construction, transmission lines, or communication towers, please review our project**

specific guidance at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/ProjSpec.html>.

The karst region of Arkansas is a unique region that covers the **northern third of Arkansas** and we have specific guidance to conserve sensitive cave-obligate and bat species. **Please visit <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/Karst.html> to determine if your project occurs in the karst region and to view karst specific-guidance.** Proper implementation and maintenance of best management practices specified in these guidance documents is necessary to avoid adverse effects to federally protected species and often avoids the more lengthy formal consultation process.

**If your species list includes any mussels, Northern Long-eared Bat, Indiana Bat, Yellowcheek Darter, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, or American Burying Beetle, your project may require a presence/absence and/or habitat survey prior to commencing project activities.** Please check the appropriate species-specific guidance on our website to determine if your project requires a survey. We strongly recommend that you contact the appropriate staff species lead biologist (see office directory or species page) prior to conducting presence/absence surveys to ensure the appropriate level of effort and methodology.

**Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or its designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service further.** Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service, to make "no effect" determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have "no effect" on threatened or endangered species or their respective critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service. Nevertheless, it is a violation of Federal law to harm or harass any federally-listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species without the appropriate permit.

Through the consultation process, we will analyze information contained in a biological assessment that you provide. If your proposed action is associated with Federal funding or permitting, consultation will occur with the Federal agency under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. Otherwise, an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (also known as a habitat conservation plan) is necessary to harm or harass federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species. In either case, there is no mechanism for authorizing incidental take "after-the-fact." For more information regarding formal consultation and HCPs, please see the Service's Consultation Handbook and Habitat Conservation Plans at [www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/index.html#consultations](http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/index.html#consultations).

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 ECOS-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 ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

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 Tracking Number 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

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## Project Summary

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2017-SLI-0662

Event Code: 04ER1000-2017-E-00885

Project Name: 100839 Ditch No. 43 Str. & Apprs.

Project Type: BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE

Project Description: Replace existing bridge over Ditch No. 43 with triple barrel box culvert on existing location.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/35.722684630903316N90.07312376682896W>



Counties: Mississippi, AR

## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on your 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. See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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## Birds

NAME	STATUS
Piping Plover ( <i>Charadrius melodus</i> ) Population: except Great Lakes watershed There is a <b>final critical habitat</b> designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039</a>	Threatened

## Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Pallid Sturgeon ( <i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i> ) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7162">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7162</a>	Endangered

## Clams

NAME	STATUS
Fat Pocketbook ( <i>Potamilus capax</i> ) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2780">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2780</a>	Endangered
Scaleshell Mussel ( <i>Leptodea leptodon</i> ) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5881">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5881</a>	Endangered

## Critical habitats

There are no critical habitats within your project area.

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**From:** [Seagraves, Josh](#)  
**To:** [Leblanc, Sherry](#); [Bailey, William](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 100839 ES Concurrence  
**Date:** Thursday, June 15, 2017 11:12:09 AM

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**From:** Bailey, William  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 04, 2017 10:17 AM  
**To:** Seagraves, Josh; Mendoza, Yulissa M.  
**Subject:** 100839 ES Concurrence

Please save in the SS Folder

**From:** Lewis, Lindsey [[mailto:lindsey\\_lewis@fws.gov](mailto:lindsey_lewis@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 04, 2017 10:15 AM  
**To:** Bailey, William  
**Subject:** Re: ES Concurrence

Bill,

The Service does not have any information indicating that there are any federally listed species in the affected area of this action due to the limited nature of the action, habitat type, disturbed environment, and distance to any known species locations. Therefore, the Service concurs with AHTD's assessment and determination.

Additionally, there is the potential that this bridge may be a nesting location for one or more species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). We recommend applying the AHTD Special Provision for Nesting Sites of Migratory Birds, performing surveys to insure absence, and/or avoiding demolition/construction during the nesting season for this action in order to avoid taking of MBTA listed species.

Thanks,

Lindsey Lewis  
Biologist

US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Arkansas Field Office  
110 South Amity Rd., Suite 300  
Conway, Arkansas 72032

(501) 513-4489 - voice  
(501) 513-4480 - fax  
[Lindsey.Lewis@fws.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Lewis@fws.gov)  
<http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/>

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

On Wed, May 3, 2017 at 9:28 AM, Bailey, William <[William.Bailey@ahtd.ar.gov](mailto:William.Bailey@ahtd.ar.gov)> wrote:

Lindsey....please review the attached project map and USFWS IPaC threatened/endangered species list and let us know if you concur with our opinion. The proposed project is located in Mississippi County approximately 5 miles west of Osceola. The structurally deficient bridge will be replaced with a triple concrete box culvert. The highway will be closed during construction and no detour will be required. The IPaC search revealed four threatened/endangered species may be located within the project area. The threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), endangered pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), endangered fat pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*), and the endangered scaleshell mussel (*Leptodea leptodon*) were identified as species that may occur in the proposed project location. Based on the lack of available/suitable habitat in the project area and distance to known populations for the piping plover, pallid sturgeon and scaleshell mussel it has been determined that the project will have no effect on these species. The project is located in the Upper Ditch No. 40 12-digit HUC. Ditch 43 is a small intermittent tributary to upper Ditch 40. The Wentz (2008) inventory of aquatic biota of the Tyronza River and other mussel surveys have located the fat pocketbook over 20 miles downstream in the Tyronza river. The project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect this species.

Bill Bailey  
Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department  
Environmental Division  
Environmental Scientist  
10324 Interstate 30  
Little Rock, AR 72209  
501-569-2617

## AHTD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

AHTD Job Number 100839 FAP Number NHPP-0047(54)

Job Title Ditch No. 43 Str. & Apprs.

Environmental Impacts	None	Minor	Significant	Comments
Air Quality	X			
Construction Impacts		X		
Cultural Resources	X			
Economic	X			
Endangered Species		X		USFWS Concurrence 5/4/2017
Energy Resources	X			
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			
Fish and Wildlife		X		During construction
Floodplains		X		
Forest Service Property	X			
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			
Land Use Impacts	X			
Migratory Birds		X		Migratory Bird SP included
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			
Noise Levels	X			
Prime Farmland	X			
Protected Waters	X			
Public Recreation Lands	X			
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			
Relocatees	X			
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			
Social	X			
Underground Storage Tanks	X			
Visual Impacts	X			
Stream Impacts		X		During construction, replacing a bridge with a triple box culvert
Water Quality		X		During construction
Wetlands	X			
Wildlife Refuges	X			

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? Yes

Section 404 Permit Required? Yes Type NW14

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Evaluator Don Michael Date 6/21/2017

**ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST**Job Number 100839 FAP No. \_\_\_\_\_ County MississippiJob Name Ditch No. 43 Str. & Apprs. (S)Design Engineer Primary Environmental Staff \_\_\_\_\_Brief Project Description Replace Bridge with R.C. Box Culvert

## A. Existing Conditions:

Roadway Width: 20' Shoulder Type/Width: N/ANumber of Lanes and Width: 2-10' Existing Right-of-Way: 80'Sidewalks? N/A Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_Bike Lanes? N/A Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Proposed Conditions:

Roadway Width: 22' Shoulder Type/Width: 2'paved/4' gravelNumber of Lanes and Width: 2-11' Proposed Right-of-Way: 160'Sidewalks? N/A Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_Bike Lanes? N/A Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_

## C. Construction Information:

If detour: Where: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

## D. Design Traffic Data:

2018 ADT: 800 2038 ADT: 965 % Trucks: 7Design Speed: 55 m.p.h.E. Approximate total length of project: 0.019 mile(s)F. Justification for proposed improvements: Bridge replacement

G. Total Relocates: \_\_\_\_\_ Residences: \_\_\_\_\_ Businesses: \_\_\_\_\_

H. Have you coordinated with any outside agencies (e.g., FHWA, City, County, etc.)? Yes

Agency/Official	Person Contacted	Date
County Judge	Randy L. Carney	April 20, 2017



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**MEMPHIS DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
167 NORTH MAIN STREET B-202  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103-1894

August 2, 2017

Mr. John Fleming  
AHTD  
P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261

RECEIVED  
AHTD

AUG 07 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL  
DIVISION

Dear Mr. Fleming

This is in response to your request to replace the existing bridge over Ditch Number 43 with a triple (9' x 9' x 72') concrete box culvert on Highway 181 in Mississippi County, Arkansas, as shown on the attached map.

Based on a review of recent maps, aerial photography, a site visit on July 19 2017, and the information submitted by you, the proposed work meets the criteria of Nationwide Permit (NWP) No. 14 (Linear Transportation Projects), pursuant to the Federal Register, Volume 82, Number 4, dated January 6, 2017.

This verification is valid until the NWP is modified, reissued or revoked. All of the existing NWPs are scheduled to be modified, reissued or revoked prior to March 18, 2022. It is incumbent upon you to remain informed of changes to the NWPs. We will issue a public notice when the NWPs are reissued. Furthermore, if you commence or are under contract to commence this activity before the date that the relevant NWP is modified or revoked, you will have 12 months from the date of the modification or revocation of the NWP to complete the activity under the present terms and conditions of this NWP.

No impacts to federally listed threatened or endangered species are expected to occur. The attached general and state conditions must be met. Note specifically General Conditions 9, 12, 18 and 20 concerning management of water flows, soil erosion and sediment control, endangered species and historic properties. If all conditions cannot be met an individual permit may be required.

This permit conveys no property rights, either in real estate or material or any exclusive privileges. Furthermore, no injury to property or invasion of rights or any infringement of federal, state or local laws or regulations is authorized.

The enclosed certification form must be signed and returned to the Corps of Engineers within 30 days after project completion.



The Memphis District, Regulatory Branch is committed to providing quality and timely service to our customers. In an effort to improve customer service, we invite you to complete our customer service survey found on our website at [http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm\\_apex/f?p=regulatory\\_survey](http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm_apex/f?p=regulatory_survey). Your comments, positive or negative, will not affect any current or future dealing with the Corps of Engineers.

If you have questions, please contact Emily McCann at (901) 544-0731 and refer to File No. MVM-2017-219.

Sincerely,



for Roger S. Allan  
Supervisor  
Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

## Certificate of Completion

Permit Name: MVM-2017-219

Name of Permittee: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

Date of Issuance: August 2, 2017

Upon completion of the activity authorized by this permit and any mitigation required by the permit, sign this certification and return it to the following address:

**Regulatory Branch  
Corps of Engineers Memphis District  
167 N Main Street Room B202  
Memphis, TN 38103-1894**

Please note that your permitted activity is subject to a compliance inspection by an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative. If you fail to comply with this permit you are subject to permit suspension, modification or revocation.

I hereby certify that the work authorized by the above referenced permit has been completed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the said permit and required mitigation (if needed) was completed in accordance with the permit conditions.

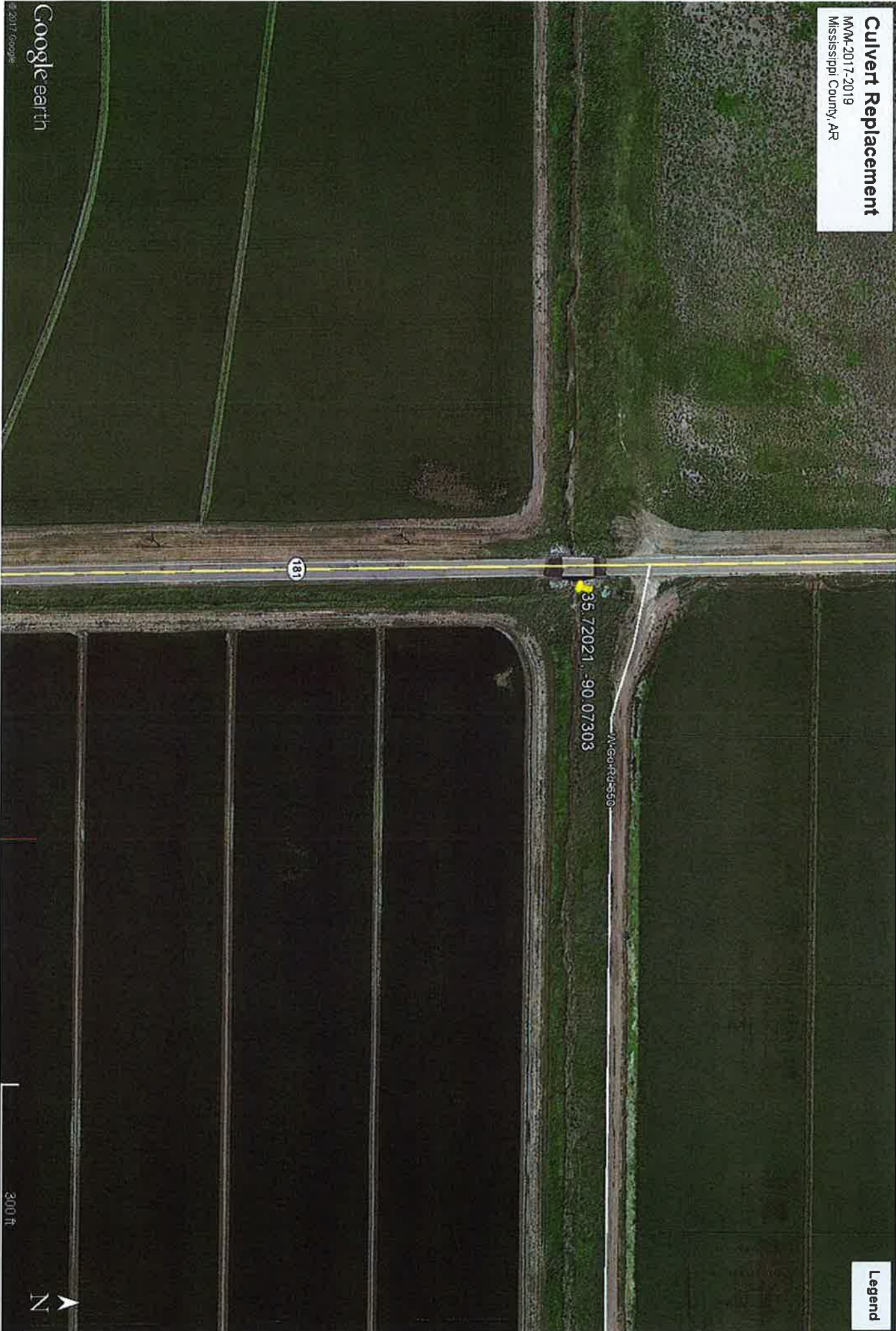
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Signature of Permittee

# Culvert Replacement

MMA-2017-2019  
Mississippi County, AR

Legend



35.72021, -90.07303

MA-GORRUS-550

181

Google earth

© 2017 Google

300 ft



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**Little Rock District**  
**Corps of Engineers**  
**Post Office Box 867**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867**

**FINAL**  
**NATIONWIDE PERMIT REGIONAL CONDITIONS**  
**IN ARKANSAS**

**Regional Condition No. 1.** For Nationwide Permits (NWP) 7 and 12, intake structures shall be constructed with screening to prevent the entry of fish.

**Regional Condition No. 2.** For NWPs 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 23, 25, 29, 30, 35, 36, 39, 40, 42, 43, 51, 52, and 53 in the following listed waters, the prospective permittee shall provide written notification to the appropriate District. Notification will be to the District Engineer according to *General Condition No. 32 (Federal Register, Vol. 82, No. 4, FR 1860-2008)*.

- **Fens** - A peat-accumulating wetland that receives some drainage from surrounding mineral soil and usually supports marshlike vegetation.
- **Bogs** - A peat-accumulating wetland that has no major inflows or outflows and supports acidophilic mosses, particularly sphagnum.
- **Groundwater seeps** - Wetlands at the base of steep slopes where the groundwater surface intersects with the land surface.
- **Dune depressional wetlands** - Wetlands in shallow depressions that have no major outflows but receive runoff from the surrounding land, located between sandy ridges in northeast Arkansas and southeast Missouri. These wetlands often support pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*), a federally-listed endangered plant.
- **Cache River and adjacent wetlands** - From the mouth upstream to AR Highway 18 near Grubbs.

**Regional Condition No. 3.** NWP No. 44 cannot be used to authorize mining activities within areas of government-managed navigation systems on rivers designated as navigable under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S. Code 403).

**Regional Condition No. 4.** For NWPs 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 35, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 51, 52, and 53 in the waters listed below, the prospective permittee shall provide written notification to the appropriate District. Notification will be to the District Engineer according to *General Condition No. 32 (Federal Register, Vol. 82, No. 4, FR 1860-2008)*. This notification shall be used to review the project to ensure that the proposed project will have "no effect" on federally listed threatened or endangered (T&E) species and to determine if the project would have a minimal impact on the aquatic environment. The application will be coordinated with

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies as determined appropriate by the Corps of Engineers. No activity is authorized under any NWP which "may affect" a listed species or critical habitat, unless Section 7 consultation addressing the effects of the proposed activity has been completed (refer to NWP General Condition No. 18). The list of waters may be revised periodically in the case of future updates to the status of T&E species.

**In addition to the waterbodies listed below, the following federal concern species are known to occur in various wetland areas, or cave streams:**

Ashley, Clay, Jackson, Lawrence, Woodruff, and Craighead Counties; Species: *Lindera melissifolia*, Pondberry - LE

Benton County; Species: *Amblyopsis rosae*, Ozark Cavefish - LE

Benton and Stone Counties; Species: *Cambarus aculabrum*, Cave Crayfish - LE

**Alum Fork Saline River** - Saline County – Species: *Lampsilis powellii*, Arkansas Fatmucket - LT

**Antoine River** - Clark and Pike Counties – Species: *Lampsilis powellii*, Arkansas Fatmucket - LT

**Archey Creek** - Pope and Van Buren Counties – Species: *Etheostoma moorei*, yellowcheek darter - LE, *Lampsilis streckeri*, Speckled Pocketbook - LE

**Arkansas River** - Arkansas, Conway, Crawford, Desha, Faulkner, Franklin, Jefferson, Johnson, Lincoln, Logan, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Sebastian, and Yell Counties – Species: *Scaphirhynchus albus*, pallid sturgeon - LE, *Sternula antillarum athalassos*, Interior Least Tern - LE

**Beech Creek** - Cleburne and Stone Counties – Species: *Etheostoma moorei*, yellowcheek darter - LE, *Lampsilis streckeri*, Speckled Pocketbook - LE

**Big Brushy Creek** - Montgomery County – Species: *Ptilimnium nodosum*, harperella - LE

**Big Creek** - Cleburne, Independence, and White Counties – Species: *Lampsilis streckeri*, Speckled Pocketbook - LE

**Black River** - Clay, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties – Species: *Epioblasma triquetra*, Snuffbox - LE, *Lampsilis abrupta*, Pink Mucket - LE, *Leptodea leptodon*, Scaleshell - LE, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**Brush Creek** - Perry and Yell Counties – Species: *Ptilimnium nodosum*, harperella - LE

**Buffalo Creek** - Polk County – Species: *Percina pantherina*, leopard darter - LT

**Buffalo River** - Baxter, Marion, Newton, and Searcy Counties – Species: *Epioblasma triquetra*, Snuffbox - LE, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**Caddo River Above DeGray Lake** - Clark, Montgomery, and Pike Counties – Species: *Lampsilis powellii*, Arkansas Fatmucket - LT

**Caddo River Below DeGray Lake** - Clark County – Species: *Lampsilis powellii*, Arkansas Fatmucket - LT

**Clear Fork** - Scott County – Species: *Ptilimnium nodosum*, harperella - LE

**Cossatot River Above Gillham Lake** - Howard and Polk Counties – Species: *Percina pantherina*, leopard darter - LT

**Cossatot River Below Gillham Lake** - Howard and Sevier Counties – Species: *Leptodea leptodon*, Scaleshell – LE, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT, *Quadrula fragosa*, Winged Mapleleaf - LE

**Current River** - Clay and Randolph Counties – Species: *Lampsilis abrupta*, Pink Mucket - LE, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**Devils Fork Little Red River** - Cleburne County – Species: *Etheostoma moorei*, yellowcheek darter - LE, *Lampsilis streckeri*, Speckled Pocketbook - LE

**Dry Fork Fourche LaFave River** - Perry and Yell Counties – Species: *Ptilimnium nodosum*, harperella - LE

**Eleven Point River** - Randolph County – Species: *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi*, Ozark Hellbender - LE, *Lampsilis abrupta*, Pink Mucket - LE

**Fiddlers Creek** - Montgomery and Yell Counties – Species: *Ptilimnium nodosum*, harperella - LE

**Fourche LaFave River** - Perry, Scott, and Yell Counties – Species: *Ptilimnium nodosum*, harperella - LE

**Frog Bayou** - Crawford County – Species: *Leptodea leptodon*, Scaleshell - LE

**Illinois River** - Benton, Washington Counties – Species: *Lampsilis rafinesqueana*, Neosho Mucket - LE, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**Irons Fork** - Polk County – Species: *Ptilimnium nodosum*, harperella - LE

**Irons Fork Ouachita River** - Garland, Montgomery, and Yell Counties – Species: *Ptilimnium nodosum*, harperella - LE

**Kings River** - Carroll and Madison Counties – Species: *Epioblasma triquetra*, Snuffbox - LE, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**L' Anguille River** - Lee and St. Francis Counties: - Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**Left Hand Chute Little River** - Mississippi and Poinsett Counties – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**Lewis Creek** - Polk County – Species: *Lampsilis powellii*, Arkansas Fatmucket - LT

**Little Brushy Creek** - Montgomery County – Species: *Ptilimnium nodosum*, harperella - LE

**Little Missouri River below Lake Greeson** - Clark, Hempstead, Nevada, Ouachita, and Pike Counties – Species: *Lampsilis abrupta*, Pink Mucket - LE *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT *Quadrula fragosa*, Winged Mapleleaf - LE

**Little River Above Millwood Lake** - Little River and Sevier Counties – Species: *Arcidens wheeleri*, Ouachita Rock Pocketbook – LE *Lampsilis abrupta*, Pink Mucket - LE, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**Little River Below Millwood Lake** - Hempstead and Little River Counties – Species: *Arcidens wheeleri*, Ouachita Rock Pocketbook - LE

**Middle Fork Little Red River** - Cleburne, Searcy, Stone, and Van Buren Counties – Species: *Etheostoma moorei*, yellowcheek darter - LE, *Lampsilis streckeri*, Speckled Pocketbook, LE *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**Middle Fork Saline River** - Garland, Perry, and Saline Counties – Species: *Lampsilis powellii*, Arkansas Fatmucket - LT

**Mississippi River** - Chicot, Crittenden, Desha, Lee, Mississippi, and Phillips Counties – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE, *Scaphirhynchus albus*, pallid sturgeon - LE, *Sternula antillarum athalassos*, Interior Least Tern - LE

**Mountain Fork River** - Polk County – Species: *Percina pantherina*, leopard darter - LT

**Muddy Creek** - Montgomery County – Species: *Ptilimnium nodosum*, harperella - LE

**Muddy Fork Illinois River** - Washington County – Species: *Lampsilis rafinesqueana*, Neosho Mucket - LE

**Myatt Creek** - Fulton County – Species: *Leptodea leptodon*, Scaleshell - LE

**North Fork Creek** - Garland County – Species: *Ptilimnium nodosum*, harperella - LE

**North Fork Ouachita River** - Montgomery County – Species: *Lampsilis powellii*, Arkansas Fatmucket - LT

**North Fork Saline River** - Perry and Saline Counties – Species: *Lampsilis powellii*, Arkansas Fatmucket - LT

**Ouachita River, Lower** - Bradley, Calhoun, Clark, Dallas, Hot Spring, Ouachita, and Union Counties – Species: *Arcidens wheeleri*, Ouachita Rock Pocketbook - LE, *Cumberlandia monodonta*, Spectaclecase - LE, *Lampsilis abrupta*, Pink Mucket - LE, *Lampsilis powellii*, Arkansas Fatmucket - LT, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT, *Quadrula fragosa*, Winged Mapleleaf - LE

**Ouachita River, Upper** - Montgomery and Polk Counties – Species: *Lampsilis powellii*, Arkansas Fatmucket - LT, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**Rainy Creek** - Montgomery County – Species: *Ptilimnium nodosum*, harperella - LE

**Red River** - Hempstead, Lafayette, Little River and Miller Counties – Species: *Sternula antillarum athalassos*, Interior Least Tern - LE

**Right Hand Chute Little River & Ditches** - Craighead, Mississippi, and Poinsett Counties – Species: *Leptodea leptodon*, Scaleshell - LE, *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**Robinson Creek** - Polk and Sevier Counties – Species: *Percina pantherina*, leopard darter - LT

**Rolling Fork Below DeQueen Reservoir** - Sevier County – Species: *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**Saline River** - Ashley, Bradley, Cleveland, Dallas, Drew, Grant and Saline Counties – Species: *Lampsilis abrupta*, Pink Mucket - LE, *Lampsilis powellii*, Arkansas Fatmucket - LT, *Leptodea leptodon*, Scaleshell - LE, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT, *Quadrula fragosa*, Winged Mapleleaf - LE

**Saline River Below Dierks Reservoir** - Howard and Sevier Counties – Species: *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**South Fork Little Red River** - Van Buren County – Species: *Etheostoma moorei*, yellowcheek darter - LE, *Lampsilis streckeri*, Speckled Pocketbook - LE

**South Fork Ouachita River** - Montgomery County – Species: *Lampsilis powellii*, Arkansas Fatmucket - LT

**South Fork Saline River** - Garland and Saline Counties – Species: *Lampsilis powellii*, Arkansas Fatmucket - LT

**South Fork Spring River** - Fulton and Sharp Counties – Species: *Epioblasma florentina curtisii*, Curtis Pearlymussel - LE, *Leptodea leptodon*, Scaleshell – LE, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**South Fourche LaFave River** - Perry and Yell Counties – Species: *Leptodea leptodon*, Scaleshell - LE, *Ptilimnium nodosum*, harperella - LE

**Spring River** - Fulton, Lawrence, Randolph, and Sharp Counties – Species: *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi*, Ozark Hellbender - LE, *Epioblasma florentina curtisii*, Curtis Pearlymussel - LE, *Epioblasma triquetra*, Snuffbox - LE, *Lampsilis abrupta*, Pink Mucket - LE, *Leptodea leptodon*, Scaleshell - LE, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**St. Francis River** - Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Greene, Lee, Phillips, Poinsett, and St. Francis Counties – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE



**St. Francis River, Clark Corner Cutoff** - St. Francis County – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**St. Francis River, Cross County Ditch** - Cross County – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**St. Francis River, Ditch No 10** - Craighead and Poinsett Counties – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**St. Francis River, Ditch No 123** - Poinsett County – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**St. Francis River, Ditch No 60** - Craighead and Poinsett Counties – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**St. Francis River, Ditch No 61** - Poinsett County – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**St. Francis River, Ditch No 9** - Poinsett County – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**St. Francis River, Iron Mines Creek** - Poinsett County – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**St. Francis River, Little Bay Ditch** - Craighead and Poinsett Counties – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**St. Francis River, Little Slough Ditch** - Craighead County – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**St. Francis River, St. Francis Bay** - Cross County – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**St. Francis River, St. Francis Floodway** - Lee and St. Francis Counties – Species: *Leptodea leptodon*, Scaleshell - LE, *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**St. Francis River, Straight Slough** - Cross and Poinsett Counties – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**Strawberry River** - Fulton, Independence, Izard, Lawrence, and Sharp Counties – Species: *Epioblasma triquetra*, Snuffbox – LE, *Leptodea leptodon*, Scaleshell - LE, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**Turkey Creek** - Stone County – Species: *Etheostoma moorei*, yellowcheek darter - LE, *Lampsilis streckeri*, Speckled Pocketbook - LE

**Tyronza River** - Crittenden, Cross, Mississippi, and Poinsett Counties – Species: *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE

**War Eagle Creek** - Benton, Madison and Washington Counties – Species: *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**White River** - Arkansas, Baxter, Desha, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Marion, Monroe, Phillips, Prairie, Stone, White, and Woodruff Counties – Species: *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi*, Ozark Hellbender - LE, *Epioblasma triquetra*, Snuffbox - LE, *Lampsilis abrupta*, Pink Mucket - LE, *Leptodea leptodon*, Scaleshell - LE, *Potamilus capax*, Fat Pocketbook - LE, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*, Rabbitsfoot - LT

**Legend:**

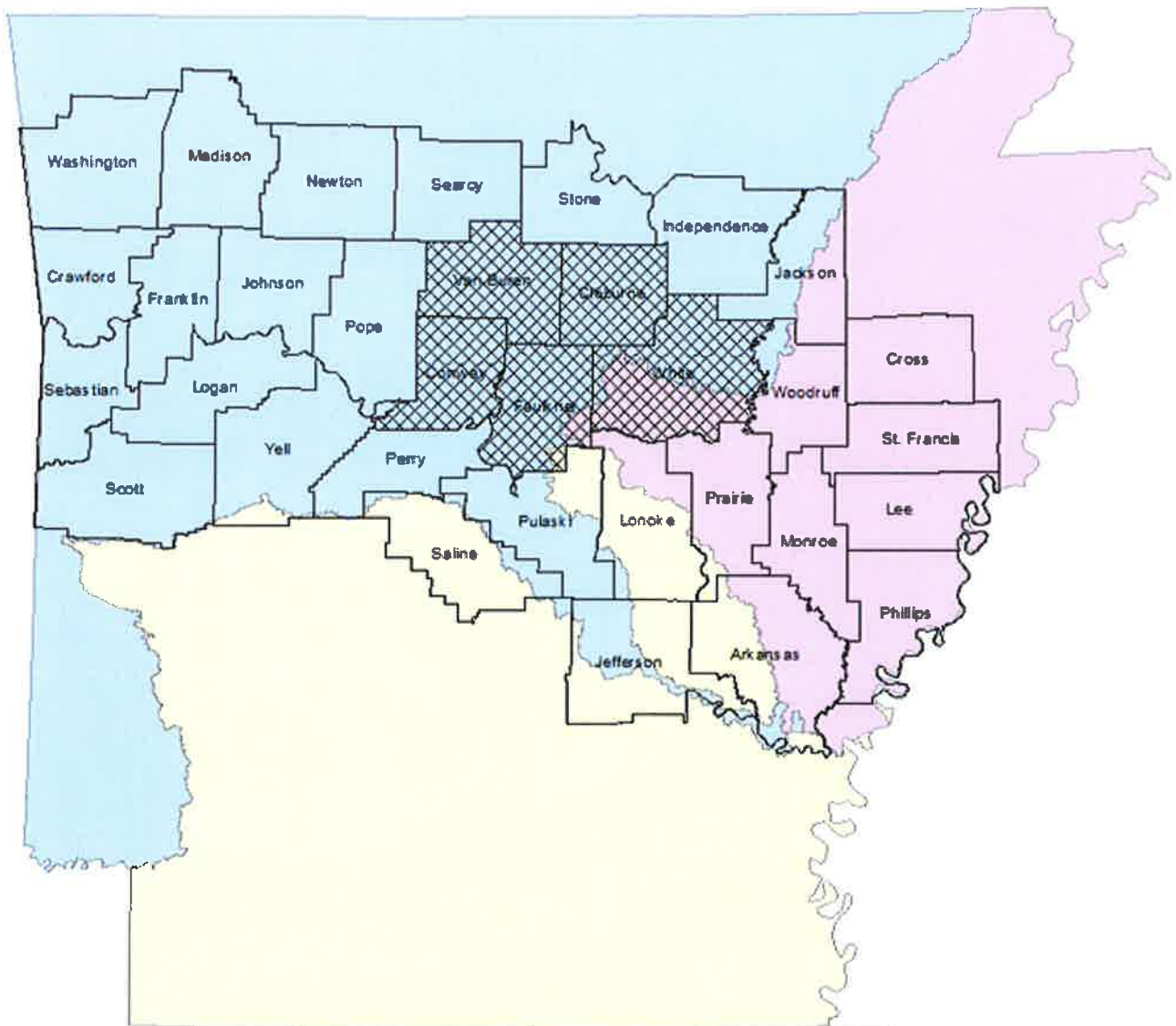
LE - Listed Endangered; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed these species as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

LT - Listed Threatened; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed these species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

**Regional Condition No. 5.** For NWP 6, 12, 14, and 18 in waters of the United States located in the following Fayetteville Shale Play region counties: Cleburne, Van Buren, Conway, Faulkner, and White (See Enclosed Map), the prospective permittee shall provide written pre-construction notification (PCN) to the appropriate district. PCN will be to the District Engineer according to *General Condition No. 32 (Federal Register, Vol. 82, No. 4, FR 1860-2008)*. This PCN shall be used to review the project to determine if it will result in more than minimal effects to the watersheds within the listed counties of the Fayetteville Shale Play region. This condition does not lessen the restrictions provided by any General Conditions of the NWPs.



# Fayetteville Shale Natural Gas Play Regional Condition No. 5



Regional Condition No. 5 Counties Arkansas Regulatory Boundaries	
Fayetteville Shale Play Counties	Little Rock District
Cleburne	Memphis District
Conway	Vicksburg District
Faulkner	
Van Buren	
White	



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Little Rock District



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

Memphis District

# Nationwide Permit Conditions

The following General Conditions must be followed in order for any authorization by NWP to be valid:

**Note:** To qualify for NWP authorization, the prospective permittee must comply with the following general conditions, as applicable, in addition to any regional or case-specific conditions imposed by the division engineer or district engineer. Prospective permittees should contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine if regional conditions have been imposed on an NWP. Prospective permittees should also contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine the status of Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification and/or Coastal Zone Management Act consistency for an NWP. Every person who may wish to obtain permit authorization under one or more NWPs, or who is currently relying on an existing or prior permit authorization under one or more NWPs, has been and is on notice that all of the provisions of 33 CFR through 330.6 apply to every NWP authorization. Note especially 33 CFR 330.5 relating to the modification, suspension, or revocation of any NWP authorization.

**1. Navigation.**

(a) No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.  
(b) Any safety lights and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, must be installed and maintained at the permittee's expense on authorized facilities in navigable waters of the United States.  
(c) The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

**2. Aquatic Life Movements.** No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. All permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies shall be suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of those aquatic species. If a bottomless culvert cannot be used, then the crossing should be designed and constructed to minimize adverse effects to aquatic life movements.

**3. Spawning Areas.** Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

**4. Migratory Bird Breeding Areas.** Activities in waters of the United States that serve as breeding areas for migratory birds must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

**5. Shellfish Beds.** No activity may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWPs 4 and 48, or is a shellfish seeding or habitat restoration activity authorized by NWP 27.

**6. Suitable Material.** No activity may use unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.). Material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic

pollutants in toxic amounts (see section 307 of the Clean Water Act).

**7. Water Supply Intakes.** No activity may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake, except where the activity is for the repair or improvement of public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.

**8. Adverse Effects from Impoundments.** If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to accelerating the passage of water, and/or restricting its flow must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

**9. Management of Water Flows.** To the maximum extent practicable, the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization, storm water management activities, and temporary and permanent road crossings, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high flows, unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage high flows. The activity may alter the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).

**10. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains.** The activity must comply with applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

**11. Equipment.** Heavy equipment working in wetlands or mudflats must be placed on mats, and other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.

**12. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls.** Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow, or during low tides.

**13. Removal of Temporary Fills.**

Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The affected areas must be revegetated, as appropriate.

**14. Proper Maintenance.** Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety and compliance with applicable NWP general conditions, as well as any activity-specific conditions added by the district engineer to an NWP authorization.

**15. Single and Complete Project.** The activity must be a single and complete project. The same NWP cannot be used more than once for the same single and complete project.

**16. Wild and Scenic Rivers.**

(a) No NWP activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, unless the appropriate Federal agency with direct management responsibility for such river, has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(b) If a proposed NWP activity will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification (see general condition 32). The district engineer will coordinate the PCN with the Federal agency

with direct management responsibility for that river. The permittee shall not begin the NWP activity until notified by the district engineer that the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river has determined in writing that the proposed NWP activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(c) Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency responsible for the designated Wild and Scenic River or study river (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Information on these rivers is also available at: <http://www.rivers.gov/>.

**17. Tribal Rights.** No NWP activity may cause more than minimal adverse effects on tribal rights (including treaty rights), protected tribal resources, or tribal lands.

**18. Endangered Species.**

(a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species. No activity is authorized under any NWP which "may affect" a listed species or critical habitat, unless ESA section 7 consultation addressing the effects of the proposed activity has been completed. Direct effects are the immediate effects on listed species and critical habitat caused by the NWP activity. Indirect effects are those effects on listed species and critical habitat that are caused by the NWP activity and are later in time, but still are reasonably certain to occur.

(b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA. If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed activity, the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements.

The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation has not been submitted, additional ESA section 7 consultation may be necessary for the activity and the respective federal agency would be responsible for fulfilling its obligation under section 7 of the ESA.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat, and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the district engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that might affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species that might be affected by the proposed activity or that utilize the designated critical habitat that might be affected by the proposed activity. The district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity "may affect" or will have "no effect" to listed species and designated critical habitat and will notify the non-Federal applicant of the Corps' determination within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification. In cases where the non-Federal applicant has identified listed species or critical habitat that might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, and has so notified the Corps, the applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification that the proposed activity will have "no effect" on listed species or critical habitat, or until ESA section 7 consultation has been completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(d) As a result of formal or informal consultation with the FWS or NMFS the district engineer may add species-specific permit conditions to the NWPs.

(e) Authorization of an activity by an NWP does not authorize the "take" of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a

Biological Opinion with "incidental take" provisions, etc.) from the FWS or the NMFS, the Endangered Species Act prohibits any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take a listed species, where "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The word "harm" in the definition of "take" means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering.

(f) If the non-federal permittee has a valid ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit with an approved Habitat Conservation Plan for a project or a group of projects that includes the proposed NWP activity, the non-federal applicant should provide a copy of that ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit with the PCN required by paragraph (c) of this general condition. The district engineer will coordinate with the agency that issued the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit to determine whether the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation conducted for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. If that coordination results in concurrence from the agency that the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, the district engineer does not need to conduct a separate ESA section 7 consultation for the proposed NWP activity. The district engineer will notify the non-federal applicant within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit covers the proposed NWP activity or whether additional ESA section 7 consultation is required.

(g) Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the FWS and NMFS or their world wide Web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/> or <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/> respectively.

**19. Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles.** The permittee is responsible for ensuring their action complies with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The permittee is responsible for contacting appropriate local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine applicable measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds or eagles, including whether "incidental take" permits are necessary and available under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act for a particular activity.

**20. Historic Properties.**

(a) In cases where the district engineer determines that the activity may have the potential to cause effects to properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, the activity is not authorized, until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied.

(b) Federal permittees should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed NWP activity, the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation is not submitted, then additional consultation under section 106 may be necessary. The respective federal agency is responsible for fulfilling its obligation to comply with section 106.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. For such activities, the pre-construction notification must state which historic properties might have the potential to be affected by the proposed NWP activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location of, or potential for, the presence of historic properties can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or designated tribal

representative, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)).

When reviewing pre-construction notifications, district engineers will comply with the current procedures for addressing the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and field survey. Based on the information submitted in the PCN and these identification efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed NWP activity has the potential to cause effects on the historic properties. Section 106 consultation is not required when the district engineer determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR 800.3(a)). Section 106 consultation is required when the district engineer determines that the activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. The district engineer will conduct consultation with consulting parties identified under 36 CFR 800.2(c) when he or she makes any of the following effect determinations for the purposes of section 106 of the NHPA: no historic properties affected, no adverse effect, or adverse effect. Where the non-Federal applicant has identified historic properties on which the activity might have the potential to cause effects and so notified the Corps, the non-Federal applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer either that the activity has no potential to cause effects to historic properties or that NHPA section 106 consultation has been completed.

(d) For non-federal permittees, the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether NHPA section 106 consultation is required. If NHPA section 106 consultation is required, the district engineer will notify the non-Federal applicant that he or she cannot begin the activity until section 106 consultation is completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 306113) prevents the Corps from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Corps is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, SHPO/ THPO, appropriate Indian tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affects historic properties on tribal lands or affects properties of interest to those tribes, and other parties known to have a legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties.

**21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts.** If you discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify the district engineer of what you have found, and to the maximum extent practicable, avoid construction activities that may affect the remains and artifacts until the required coordination has been completed. The district engineer will initiate the Federal, Tribal, and state coordination required to determine if the items or remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

**22. Designated Critical Resource Waters.** Critical resource waters include, NOAA-managed marine sanctuaries and marine monuments, and National Estuarine Research Reserves. The district engineer may designate, after notice and opportunity for public comment, additional waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance, such as outstanding national resource

waters or state natural heritage sites. The district engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for public comment.

(a) Discharges of dredged or fill

material into waters of the United States are not authorized by NWPs 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, 50, 51, and 52 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters.

(b) For NWPs 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38,

and 54, notification is required in accordance with general condition 32, for any activity proposed in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The district engineer may authorize activities under these NWPs only after it is determined that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

**23. Mitigation.** The district engineer will consider the following factors when determining appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal:

(a) The activity must be designed and

constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the United States to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (*i.e.*, on site).

(b) Mitigation in all its forms

(avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating for resource losses) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal.

(c) Compensatory mitigation at a

minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland losses that exceed 1/10-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. For wetland losses of 1/10-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects.

(d) For losses of streams or other open

waters that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may require compensatory mitigation to ensure that the activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. Compensatory mitigation for losses of streams should be provided, if practicable, through stream rehabilitation, enhancement, or preservation, since streams are difficult-to-replace resources (see 33 CFR 332.3(e)(3)).

(e) Compensatory mitigation plans for

NWP activities in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the restoration or enhancement, maintenance, and legal protection (*e.g.*, conservation easements) of riparian areas next to open waters. In some cases, the restoration or maintenance/protection of riparian areas may be the only compensatory mitigation required. Restored riparian areas should consist of native species.

The width of the required riparian area will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns.

Normally, the riparian area will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the district engineer may require slightly wider riparian areas to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. If it is not possible to restore or maintain/protect a riparian area on both sides of a stream, or if the waterbody is a lake or coastal waters, then restoring or maintaining/protecting a riparian area along a single bank or shoreline may be sufficient. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the district engineer will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (*e.g.*, riparian areas and/or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where riparian areas are determined to be the most appropriate form of minimization or compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to

provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses.

(f) Compensatory mitigation projects provided to offset losses of aquatic resources must comply with the applicable provisions of 33 CFR part 332.

(1) The prospective permittee is responsible for proposing an appropriate compensatory mitigation option if compensatory mitigation is necessary to ensure that the activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. For the NWP, the preferred mechanism for providing compensatory mitigation is mitigation bank credits or in-lieu fee program credits (see 33 CFR 332.3(b)(2) and (3)). However, if an appropriate number and type of mitigation bank or in-lieu credits are not available at the time the PCN is submitted to the district engineer, the district engineer may approve the use of permittee-responsible mitigation.

(2) The amount of compensatory mitigation required by the district engineer must be sufficient to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see 33 CFR 330.1(e)(3)). (See also 33 CFR 332.3(f)).

(3) Since the likelihood of success is greater and the impacts to potentially valuable uplands are reduced, aquatic resource restoration should be the first compensatory mitigation option considered for permittee-responsible mitigation.

(4) If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, the prospective permittee is responsible for submitting a mitigation plan. A conceptual or detailed mitigation plan may be used by the district engineer to make the decision on the NWP verification request, but a final mitigation plan that addresses the applicable requirements of 33 CFR 332.4(c)(2) through (14) must be approved by the district engineer before the permittee begins work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation (see 33 CFR 332.3(k)(3)).

(5) If mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program credits are the proposed option, the mitigation plan only needs to address the baseline conditions at the impact site and the number of credits to be provided.

(6) Compensatory mitigation requirements (e.g., resource type and amount to be provided as compensatory mitigation, site protection, ecological performance standards, monitoring requirements) may be addressed through conditions added to the NWP authorization, instead of components of a compensatory mitigation plan (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(g) Compensatory mitigation will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of the NWPs. For example, if an NWP has an acreage limit of 1/2-acre, it cannot be used to authorize any NWP activity resulting in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, even if compensatory mitigation is provided that replaces or restores some of the lost waters. However, compensatory mitigation can and should be used, as necessary, to ensure that an NWP activity already meeting the established acreage limits also satisfies the no more than minimal impact requirement for the NWPs.

(h) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee programs, or permittee-responsible mitigation. When developing a compensatory mitigation proposal, the permittee must consider appropriate and practicable options consistent with the framework at 33 CFR 332.3(b). For activities resulting in the loss of marine or estuarine resources, permittee-responsible mitigation may be environmentally preferable if there are no mitigation banks or in-lieu fee programs in the area that have marine or estuarine credits available for sale or transfer to the permittee. For permittee-responsible mitigation, the special conditions of the NWP verification must clearly indicate the party or parties responsible for the implementation and performance of the compensatory mitigation project, and, if required, its long-term management.

(i) Where certain functions and

services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected by a regulated activity, such as discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that will convert a forested or scrub-shrub wetland to a herbaceous wetland in a permanently maintained utility line right-of-way, mitigation may be required to reduce the adverse environmental effects of the activity to the no more than minimal level.

**24. Safety of Impoundment Structures.** To ensure that all impoundment structures are safely designed, the district engineer may require non-Federal applicants to demonstrate that the structures comply with established state dam safety criteria or have been designed by qualified persons. The district engineer may also require documentation that the design has been independently reviewed by similarly qualified persons, and appropriate modifications made to ensure safety.

**25. Water Quality.** Where States and authorized Tribes, or EPA where applicable, have not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, individual 401 Water Quality Certification must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(c)). The district engineer or State or Tribe may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality.

**26. Coastal Zone Management.** In coastal states where an NWP has not previously received a state coastal zone management consistency concurrence, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained, or a presumption of concurrence must occur (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)). The district engineer or a State may require additional measures to ensure that the authorized activity is consistent with state coastal zone management requirements.

**27. Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions.** The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the Division Engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state, Indian Tribe, or U.S. EPA in its section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

**28. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits.** The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is prohibited, except when the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by the NWPs does not exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit. For example, if a road crossing over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14, with associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre.

**29. Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications.** If the permittee sells the property associated with a nationwide permit verification, the permittee may transfer the nationwide permit verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the appropriate Corps district office to validate the transfer. A copy of the nationwide permit verification must be attached to the letter, and the letter must contain the following statement and signature:

*"When the structures or work authorized by this nationwide permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this nationwide permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below."*

\_\_\_\_\_ (Transferee)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

**30. Compliance Certification.** Each permittee who receives an NWP verification letter from the Corps must provide a signed certification documenting completion of the authorized activity and implementation of any required compensatory mitigation. The success of any required permittee-responsible mitigation, including the achievement of ecological performance standards, will be addressed separately by the district engineer. The Corps will

provide the permittee the certification document with the NWP verification letter. The certification document will include:

- (a) A statement that the authorized activity was done in accordance with the NWP authorization, including any general, regional, or activity-specific conditions;
- (b) A statement that the

implementation of any required compensatory mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions. If credits from a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program are used to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements, the certification must include the documentation required by 33 CFR 332.3(f)(3) to confirm that the permittee secured the appropriate number and resource type of credits; and

- (c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the activity and mitigation. The completed certification document must be submitted to the district engineer within 30 days of completion of the authorized activity or the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation, whichever occurs later.

**31. Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States.** If an NWP activity also requires permission from the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized Civil Works project (a "USACE project"), the prospective permittee must submit a pre-construction notification. See paragraph (b)(10) of general condition 32. An activity that requires section 408 permission is not authorized by NWP until the appropriate Corps office issues the section 408 permission to alter, occupy, or use the USACE project, and the district engineer issues a written NWP verification.

#### **32. Pre-Construction Notification.**

(a) *Timing.* Where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the district engineer by submitting a pre-construction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The district engineer must determine if the PCN is complete within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt and, if the PCN is determined to be incomplete, notify the prospective permittee within that 30 day period to request the additional information necessary to make the PCN complete. The request must specify the information needed to make the PCN complete. As a general rule, district engineers will request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the PCN is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of the requested information has been received by the district engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity until either:

- (1) He or she is notified in writing by the district engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the district or division engineer; or

(2) 45 calendar days have passed from the district engineer's receipt of the complete PCN and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the district or division engineer. However, if the permittee was required to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 18 that listed species or critical habitat might be affected or are in the vicinity of the activity, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 20 that the activity might have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that there is "no effect" on listed species or "no potential to cause effects" on historic properties, or that any consultation required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)) and/or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)) has been completed. Also, work cannot begin under NWPs 21, 49, or 50 until the permittee has received written approval from the Corps. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP, the permittee may not begin the activity until the district engineer issues the waiver. If the district or division engineer notifies the permittee in writing that an individual permit is required within 45 calendar days of receipt of a complete PCN, the permittee cannot begin the activity until an individual permit has been obtained. Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the NWP

may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

(b) *Contents of Pre-Construction Notification:* The PCN must be in writing and include the following information:

- (1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;
- (2) Location of the proposed activity;
- (3) Identify the specific NWP or NWP(s) the prospective permittee wants to use to authorize the proposed activity;
- (4) A description of the proposed activity; the activity's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the activity would cause, including the anticipated amount of loss of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters expected to result from the NWP activity, in acres, linear feet, or other appropriate unit of measure; a description of any proposed mitigation measures intended to reduce the adverse environmental effects caused by the proposed activity; and any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings for linear projects that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification. The description of the proposed activity and any proposed mitigation measures should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse environmental effects of the activity will be no more than minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures. For single and complete linear projects, the PCN must include the quantity of anticipated losses of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters for each single and complete crossing of those wetlands, other aquatic sites, and other waters. Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP. (Sketches usually clarify the activity and when provided results in a quicker decision. Sketches should contain sufficient detail to provide an illustrative description of the proposed activity (e.g., a conceptual plan), but do not need to be detailed engineering plans);
- (5) The PCN must include a delineation of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters, such as lakes and ponds, and perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams, on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters on the project site, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters. Furthermore, the 45 day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, as appropriate;
- (6) If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands and a PCN is required, the prospective permittee must submit a statement describing how the mitigation requirement will be satisfied, or explaining why the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal and why compensatory mitigation should not be required. As an alternative, the prospective permittee may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan.
- (7) For non-Federal permittees, if any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat, the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species that might be affected by the proposed activity or utilize the designated critical habitat that might be affected by the proposed activity. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, Federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act;
- (8) For non-Federal permittees, if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to a historic property listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, the PCN must state which historic property might have the potential to be affected by the proposed activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, Federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act;



(9) For an activity that will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the PCN must identify the Wild and Scenic River or the "study river" (see general condition 16); and

(10) For an activity that requires permission from the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers federally authorized civil works project, the pre-construction notification must include a statement confirming that the project proponent has submitted a written request for section 408 permission from the Corps office having jurisdiction over that USACE project.

(c) *Form of Pre-Construction Notification:* The standard individual permit application form (Form ENG 4345) may be used, but the completed application form must clearly indicate that it is an NWP PCN and must include all of the applicable information required in paragraphs (b)(1) through (10) of this general condition. A letter containing the required information may also be used. Applicants may provide electronic files of PCNs and supporting materials if the district engineer has established tools and procedures for electronic submittals.

(d) *Agency Coordination:*

(1) The district engineer will consider any comments from Federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the activity's adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal.

(2) Agency coordination is required for: (i) all NWP activities that require pre-construction notification and result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States; (ii) NWP 2.1, 2.9, 3.9, 4.0, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5.0, 5.1, and 5.2 activities that require pre-construction notification and will result in the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of stream bed; (iii) NWP 1.3 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, fills greater than one cubic yard per running foot, or involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites; and (iv) NWP 5.4 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, or that extend into the waterbody more than 30 feet from the mean low water line in tidal waters or the ordinary high water mark in the Great Lakes.

(3) When agency coordination is required, the district engineer will immediately provide (e.g., via e-mail, facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy of the complete PCN to the appropriate Federal or state offices (FWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 3.7, these agencies will have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to notify the district engineer via telephone, facsimile transmission, or e-mail that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. The comments must explain why the agency believes the adverse environmental effects will be more than minimal. If so contacted by an agency, the district engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the pre-construction notification. The district engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs, including the need for mitigation to ensure the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The district engineer will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The district engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each pre-construction notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. For NWP 3.7, the emergency watershed protection and rehabilitation activity may proceed immediately in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur. The district engineer will consider any comments received to decide whether the NWP 3.7 authorization should be modified, suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedures at 33 CFR 330.5.

(4) In cases of where the prospective permittee is not a Federal agency, the district engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 calendar days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations, as required by section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

(5) Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps with either electronic files or multiple copies of pre-construction notifications to expedite agency coordination.

## D. District Engineer's Decision

1. In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the district engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. If a project proponent requests authorization by a specific NWP, the district engineer should issue the NWP verification for that activity if it meets the terms and conditions of that NWP, unless he or she determines, after considering mitigation, that the proposed activity will result in more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment and other aspects of the public interest and exercises discretionary authority to require an individual permit for the proposed activity. For a linear project, this determination will include an evaluation of the individual crossings of waters of the United States to determine whether they individually satisfy the terms and conditions of the NWP(s), as well as the cumulative effects caused by all of the crossings authorized by NWP. If an applicant requests a waiver of the 300 linear foot limit on impacts to streams or of an otherwise applicable limit, as provided for in NWPs 4.3, 2.1, 2.9, 3.6, 3.9, 4.0, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5.0, 5.1, 5.2, or

5.4, the district engineer will only grant the waiver upon a written determination that the NWP activity will result in only minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects. For those NWPs that have a waivable 300 linear foot limit for losses of intermittent and ephemeral stream bed and a 1/2-acre limit (i.e., NWPs 2.1, 2.9, 3.9, 4.0, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5.0, 5.1, and 5.2), the loss of intermittent and ephemeral stream bed, plus any other losses of jurisdictional waters and wetlands, cannot exceed 1/2- acre.

2. When making minimal adverse environmental effects determinations the district engineer will consider the direct and indirect effects caused by the NWP activity. He or she will also consider the cumulative adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by NWP and whether those cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal. The district engineer will also consider site specific factors, such as the environmental setting in the vicinity of the NWP activity, the type of resource that will be affected by the NWP activity, the functions provided by the aquatic resources that will be affected by the NWP activity, the degree or magnitude to which the aquatic resources perform those functions, the extent that aquatic resource functions will be lost as a result of the NWP activity (e.g., partial or complete loss), the duration of the adverse effects (temporary or permanent), the importance of the aquatic resource functions to the region (e.g., watershed or ecoregion), and mitigation required by the district engineer. If an appropriate functional or condition assessment method is available and practicable to use, that assessment method may be used by the district engineer to assist in the minimal adverse environmental effects determination. The district engineer may add case-specific special conditions to the NWP authorization to address site-specific environmental concerns.

3. If the proposed activity requires a PCN and will result in a loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands, the prospective permittee should submit a mitigation proposal with the PCN. Applicants may also propose compensatory mitigation for NWP activities with smaller impacts, or for impacts to other types of waters (e.g., streams). The district engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures the applicant has included in the proposal in determining whether the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The compensatory mitigation proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the district engineer determines that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal, after considering mitigation, the district engineer will notify the permittee and include any activity-specific conditions in the NWP verification the district engineer deems necessary. Conditions for compensatory mitigation requirements must comply with the appropriate provisions at 33 CFR 332.3(k). The district engineer must approve the final mitigation plan before the permittee commences work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation. If the prospective permittee elects to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the PCN, the district engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan. The district engineer must review the proposed compensatory

mitigation plan within 45 calendar days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the proposed mitigation would ensure the NWP activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. If the net adverse environmental effects of the NWP activity (after consideration of the mitigation proposal) are determined by the district engineer to be no more than minimal, the district engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the NWP activity can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP, including any activity-specific conditions added to the NWP authorization by the district engineer.

4. If the district engineer determines that the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are more than minimal, then the district engineer will notify the applicant either: (a) That the activity does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an individual permit; (b) that the activity is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal; or (c) that the activity is authorized under the NWP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the district engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse environmental effects, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN period (unless additional time is required to comply with general conditions 18, 20, and/or 31, or to evaluate PCNs for activities authorized by NWPs 21, 49, and 50), with activity-specific conditions that state the mitigation requirements. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or detailed mitigation plan or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal. When compensatory mitigation is required, no work in waters of the United States may occur until the district engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan or has determined that prior approval of a final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation.

#### **E. Further Information**

1. District Engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP.
2. NWPs do not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.
3. NWPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
4. NWPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
5. NWPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project (see general condition 31).

#### **F. Definitions**

*Best management practices (BMPs):* Policies, practices, procedures, or structures implemented to mitigate the adverse environmental effects on surface water quality resulting from development. BMPs are categorized as structural or non-structural.

*Compensatory mitigation:* The restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment (creation), enhancement, and/or in certain circumstances preservation of aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

*Currently serviceable:* Useable as is or with some maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction.

*Direct effects:* Effects that are caused

by the activity and occur at the same time and place.

*Discharge:* The term "discharge" means any discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

*Ecological reference:* A model used to

plan and design an aquatic habitat and riparian area restoration, enhancement, or establishment activity under NWP 27. An ecological reference may be based on the structure, functions, and dynamics of an aquatic habitat type or a riparian area type that currently exists in the region where the proposed NWP 27 activity is located. Alternatively, an ecological

reference may be based on a conceptual model for the aquatic habitat type or riparian area type to be restored, enhanced, or established as a result of the proposed NWP 27 activity. An ecological reference takes into account the range of variation of the aquatic habitat type or riparian area type in the region.

*Enhancement:* The manipulation of

the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific aquatic resource function(s).

Enhancement results in the gain of selected aquatic resource function(s), but may also lead to a decline in other aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

*Ephemeral stream:* An ephemeral stream has flowing water only during,

and for a short duration after, precipitation events in a typical year. Ephemeral stream beds are located above the water table year-round. Groundwater is not a source of water for the stream. Runoff from rainfall is the primary source of water for stream flow.

*Establishment (creation):* The

manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist at an upland site. Establishment results in a gain in aquatic resource area.

*High Tide Line:* The line of

intersection of the land with the water's surface at the maximum height reached by a rising tide. The high tide line may be determined, in the absence of actual data, by a line of oil or scum along shore objects, a more or less continuous deposit of fine shell or debris on the foreshore or berm, other physical markings or characteristics, vegetation lines, tidal gages, or other suitable means that delineate the general height reached by a rising tide. The line encompasses spring high tides and other high tides that occur with periodic frequency but does not include storm surges in which there is a departure from the normal or predicted reach of the tide due to the piling up of water against a coast by strong winds such as those accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm.

*Historic Property:* Any prehistoric or

historic district, site (including archaeological site), building, structure, or other object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria (36 CFR part 60).

*Independent utility:* A test to determine what constitutes a single and

complete non-linear project in the Corps Regulatory Program. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. Portions of a multi-phase project that depend upon other phases of the project do not have independent utility. Phases of a project that would be constructed even if the other phases were not built can be considered as separate single and complete projects with independent utility.

*Indirect effects:* Effects that are caused by the activity and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable.

*Intermittent stream:* An intermittent stream has flowing water during certain

times of the year, when groundwater provides water for stream flow. During dry periods, intermittent streams may not have flowing water. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.

*Loss of waters of the United States:* Waters of the United States that are permanently adversely affected by

filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity.

Permanent adverse effects include permanent discharges of dredged or fill material that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody. The acreage of loss of waters of the United States is a threshold measurement of the impact to jurisdictional waters for determining whether a project may qualify for an NWP; it is not a net threshold that is calculated after considering compensatory mitigation that may be used to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. The loss of stream bed includes the acres or

linear feet of stream bed that are filled or excavated as a result of the regulated activity. Waters of the United States temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to pre-construction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the United States. Impacts resulting from activities that do not require Department of the Army authorization, such as activities eligible for exemptions under section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act, are not considered when calculating the loss of waters of the United States.

**Navigable waters:** Waters subject to section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. These waters are defined at 33 CFR part 329.

**Non-tidal wetland:** A non-tidal wetland is a wetland that is not subject to the ebb and flow of tidal waters. Non-tidal wetlands contiguous to tidal waters are located landward of the high tide line (i.e., spring high tide line).

**Open water:** For purposes of the NWRPs, an open water is any area that in a year with normal patterns of precipitation has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that an ordinary high water mark can be determined. Aquatic vegetation within the area of flowing or standing water is either non-emergent, sparse, or absent. Vegetated shallows are considered to be open waters. Examples of "open waters" include rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.

**Ordinary High Water Mark:** An ordinary high water mark is a line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics, or by other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

**Perennial stream:** A perennial stream has flowing water year-round during a typical year. The water table is located above the stream bed for most of the year. Groundwater is the primary source of water for stream flow. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.

**Practicable:** Available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes.

**Pre-construction notification:** A request submitted by the project proponent to the Corps for confirmation that a particular activity is authorized by nationwide permit. The request may be a permit application, letter, or similar document that includes information about the proposed work and its anticipated environmental effects. Pre-construction notification may be required by the terms and conditions of a nationwide permit, or by regional conditions. A pre-construction notification may be voluntarily submitted in cases where pre-construction notification is not required and the project proponent wants confirmation that the activity is authorized by nationwide permit. **Preservation:** The removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources. This term includes activities commonly associated with the protection and maintenance of aquatic resources through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation does not result in a gain of aquatic resource area or functions.

**Protected tribal resources:** Those natural resources and properties of traditional or customary religious or cultural importance, either on or off Indian lands, retained by, or reserved by or for, Indian tribes through treaties, statutes, judicial decisions, or executive orders, including tribal trust resources.

**Re-establishment:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former aquatic resource. Re-establishment results in rebuilding a former aquatic resource and results in a gain in aquatic resource area and functions.

**Rehabilitation:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/historic functions to a degraded aquatic resource. Rehabilitation results in a gain in aquatic resource function, but does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Restoration:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic resource. For the purpose of tracking net gains in aquatic resource area, restoration is divided into two categories: Re-establishment and rehabilitation.

**Riffle and pool complex:** Riffle and pool complexes are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Riffle and pool complexes sometimes characterize steep gradient sections of streams. Such stream sections are recognizable by their hydraulic characteristics. The rapid movement of water over a coarse substrate in riffles results in a rough flow, a turbulent surface, and high dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Pools are deeper areas associated with riffles. A slower stream velocity, a streaming flow, a smooth surface, and a finer substrate characterize pools.

**Riparian areas:** Riparian areas are lands next to streams, lakes, and estuarine-marine shorelines. Riparian areas are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, through which surface and subsurface hydrology connects riverine, lacustrine, estuarine, and marine waters with their adjacent wetlands, non-wetland waters, or uplands. Riparian areas provide a variety of ecological functions and services and help improve or maintain local water quality. (See general condition 23.)

**Shellfish seeding:** The placement of

shellfish seed and/or suitable substrate to increase shellfish production.

Shellfish seed consists of immature individual shellfish or individual shellfish attached to shells or shell fragments (i.e., spat on shell). Suitable substrate may consist of shellfish shells, shell fragments, or other appropriate materials placed into waters for shellfish habitat.

**Single and complete linear project:** A linear project is a project constructed for the purpose of getting people, goods, or services from a point of origin to a terminal point, which often involves multiple crossings of one or more waterbodies at separate and distant locations. The term "single and complete project" is defined as that portion of the total linear project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers that includes all crossings of a single water of the United States (i.e., a single waterbody) at a specific location. For linear projects crossing a single or multiple waterbodies several times at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river, or individual arms of a large, irregularly shaped wetland or lake, etc., are not separate waterbodies, and crossings of such features cannot be considered separately.

**Single and complete non-linear project:** For non-linear projects, the term "single and complete project" is defined at 33 CFR 330.2(j) as the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers. A single and complete non-linear project must have independent utility (see definition of "independent utility"). Single and complete non-linear projects may not be "piecemealed" to avoid the limits in an NWP authorization.

**Stormwater management:** Stormwater management is the mechanism for controlling stormwater runoff for the purposes of reducing downstream erosion, water quality degradation, and flooding and mitigating the adverse effects of changes in land use on the aquatic environment.

**Stormwater management facilities:** Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, stormwater retention and detention ponds and best management practices, which retain water for a period of time to control runoff and/or improve the quality (i.e., by reducing the concentration of nutrients, sediments, hazardous substances and other pollutants) of stormwater runoff.

**Stream bed:** The substrate of the stream channel between the ordinary high water marks. The substrate may be bedrock or inorganic particles that range in size from clay to boulders. Wetlands contiguous to the stream bed, but outside of the ordinary high water marks, are not considered part of the stream bed.

**Stream channelization:** The manipulation of a stream's course, condition, capacity, or location that causes more than minimal interruption of normal stream processes. A channelized stream remains a water of the United States.

**Structure:** An object that is arranged in a definite pattern of organization. Examples of structures include, without limitation, any pier, boat dock, boat ramp, wharf, dolphin, weir, boom, breakwater, bulkhead, revetment, riprap, jetty, artificial island, artificial reef, permanent mooring structure, power transmission line, permanently moored floating vessel, piling, aid to navigation, or any other manmade obstacle or obstruction.

**Tidal wetland:** A tidal wetland is a jurisdictional wetland that is inundated by tidal waters.

Tidal waters rise and fall in a predictable and measurable rhythm or cycle due to the gravitational pulls of the moon and sun. Tidal waters end where the rise and fall of the water surface can no longer be practically measured in a predictable rhythm due to masking by other waters, wind, or other effects. Tidal wetlands are located channelward of the high tide line.

*Tribal lands:* Any lands title to which is either: (1) Held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual; or (2) held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to restrictions by the United States against alienation.

*Tribal rights:* Those rights legally accruing to a tribe or tribes by virtue of inherent sovereign authority, unextinguished aboriginal title, treaty, statute, judicial decisions, executive order or agreement, and that give rise to legally enforceable remedies.

*Vegetated shallows:* Vegetated shallows are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. They are areas that are permanently inundated and under normal circumstances have rooted aquatic vegetation, such as seagrasses in marine and estuarine systems and a variety of vascular rooted plants in freshwater systems.

*Waterbody:* For purposes of the NWRPs, a waterbody is a jurisdictional water of the United States. If a wetland is adjacent to a waterbody determined to be a water of the United States, that waterbody and any adjacent wetlands are considered together as a single aquatic unit (see 33 CFR 328.4(c)(2)). Examples of “waterbodies” include streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands.

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## NATIONWIDE PERMIT No. 14

### Linear Transportation Projects

Activities required for crossings of waters of the United States associated with the construction, expansion, modification, or improvement of linear transportation projects (e.g., roads, highways, railways, trails, airport runways, and taxiways) in waters of the United States. For linear transportation projects in non-tidal waters, the discharge cannot cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. For linear transportation projects in tidal waters, the discharge cannot cause the loss of greater than 1/3-acre of waters of the United States. Any stream channel modification, including bank stabilization, is limited to the minimum necessary to construct or protect the linear transportation project; such modifications must be in the immediate vicinity of the project.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to construct the linear transportation project. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

This NWP cannot be used to authorize non-linear features commonly associated with transportation projects, such as vehicle maintenance or storage buildings, parking lots, train stations, or aircraft hangars.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) the loss of waters of the United States exceeds 1/10-acre; or (2) there is a discharge in a special aquatic site, including wetlands. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note 1: For linear transportation projects crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. Linear transportation projects must comply with 33 CFR 330.6(d).

Note 2: Some discharges for the construction of farm roads or forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining equipment, may qualify for an exemption under section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act (see 33 CFR 323.4).

Note 3: For NWP 14 activities that require pre-construction notification, the PCN must

include any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification (see paragraph (b) of general condition 32). The district engineer will evaluate the PCN in accordance with Section D, "District Engineer's Decision." The district engineer may require mitigation to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see general condition 23).