# **Appendix C** — Agency and Tribal Correspondence

## **Agencies Consulted**

## **Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)**

Response received on June 8, 2018.

## **Arkansas Department of Health (ADH)**

Responses received on June 22, July 5, and July 26, 2018.

## **Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism (ADPT)**

Responses received on June 25, August 7, August 9, and December 13, 2018.

## **Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC)**

No response received to date.

## **Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP)**

Responses received June 12 and July 27, 2018.

## **Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC)**

Response received on July 26, 2018.

## **Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC)**

No response received to date.

## National Park Service (NPS)

No response received to date.

## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**

Response regarding 408 permissions received on January 11, 2019.

## U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

• Response received on June 18, 2018 (see Appendix H for final forms).

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

- Responses received July 19, 2018, March 15, 2019 (IPaC), and August 27, 2019 (IPaC updated species list).
- Response regarding the Habitat Assessment and Effects Determination received September 9, 2019.

## U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Response received on May 30, 2018.

## **Tribes Consulted**

## **Caddo Nation**

No response received.

## **Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma**

No response received.

## Jena Band of the Choctaw Indians

• No response received.

## **Osage Nation**

• Response received on August 3, 2018.

## **Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma**

• Response received on August 2, 2018.

## Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, Inc.

• No response received.

## **United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians**

• No response received.



June 8, 2018

Mr. Bill McAbee Garver, LLC 4701 Northshore Drive North Little Rock, AR 72118

RE: Environmental Assessment for Proposed Southwest Trail in Garland, Saline, and Pulaski Counties, Arkansas

Dear Mr. McAbee:

The Office of Water Quality at the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has completed its review of the above request and has the following comments:

Based on the maps that were provided, it appears that the project may cross or impact waterbodies during the course of this project. Waterbodies of note are Ten Mile Creek and the Saline River of which are an Ecologically Sensitive Waterbody and an Extraordinary Resource Waterbody respectively as stated in Regulation No. 2. The applicant should contact ADEQ to obtain a Short Term Activity Authorization (STAA) from the Office of Water Quality. The STAA allows for a one-time exceedance of the water quality standards for activity that is "essential to the protection or promotion of the public interest and where no permanent or long-term impairment of beneficial uses is likely to result (Reg. 2.305, Regulation No. 2, ADEQ)."

In addition, the applicant must also comply with all provisions of the NPDES General Stormwater Construction Permit and submit a Pollution Prevention Plan to the Office of Water Quality of ADEQ. This information can be obtained by contacting ADEQ at 501 682-0621. Section 404 permitting maybe required if any of the proposed project areas are considered to be jurisdictional by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Little Rock District.

Sincerely,

Melanie K. Treat

Welowce Treat

**Ecologist** 

Office of Water Quality, ADEQ

501-682-0040



# **Arkansas Department of Health**

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000

Governor Asa Hutchinson

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer

Engineering Section, Slot 37 www.healthy.arkansas.gov

Ph 501-661-2623 Fax 501-661-2032 After Hours Emergency 800-554-5738

June 22, 2018

Bill McAbee Garver, LLC 4701 Northshore Drive North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118

RE: Southwest Trail between Hot Springs and Little Rock

ADH Project 103844

Dear Mr. McAbee:

The submittal for the above captioned project, dated May 25, 2018, has been reviewed and we concur with the project in general, with the following conditions:

- 1. Construction activity around the Saline River crossing shall be conducted as to not adversely impact the drinking water intake or water quality for the Arkansas Health Center.
- 2. Plans and specifications for any water and sewer utility extensions or relocations shall be submitted to and approved by the Engineering Section prior to beginning construction.

The submittal is being retained for our records.

Sincerely,

Lance A. Jones, P.E. Chief Engineer

**Engineering Section** 

LAJ: ACH: DR: SGB: sgb

cc: Arkansas Health Center, PWS# 485



## **Arkansas Department of Health**

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000

Governor Asa Hutchinson

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer

July 5, 2018

Bill McAbee Garver, LLC 4701 Northshore Drive North Little Rock, AR 72118

RE:

Southwest Trail Between Hot Springs and Little Rock, Arkansas

Garland, Saline, and Pulaski Counties, Arkansas

ARDOT Job No. 061562, Federal Aid Project No. FLAP-FLAP (16) - SW Trail

Dear Mr. McAbee,

A staff review has been made of the information received on the following project:

ARDOT Project	ADH Number	Permit Name	County
061562	32-7875	SOUTHWEST TRAIL - HOT SPRINGS TO LITTLE ROCK	GARLAND, SALINE, PULASKI

The Engineering Section has no comments on the submittal but requests that all active public water systems that are located within the project area be notified prior to construction. The public water systems located within the project area are ARDOT-Lonsdale Rest Area, Arkansas Health Center, Benton Waterworks, CK Quick Stop, Cloud 9 RV Park, Hot Springs National Park Happy Hollow, Hot Springs National Park, Kimzey Regional Water District, Malvern Waterworks, Oak Hill Lodge SGT, and Shooting Star Beverages.

If you have any questions or comments, please coordinate them through Tyler Couch at (501) 280-4428.

Sincerely,

Teresa Lee, P.E.

Chief, Technical Support Engineering Section

TL:DR:tc

CC:

ARDOT-Lonsdale Rest Area, 3600 Albert Pike, Hot Springs, AR 71913
Arkansas Health Center, 6701 Highway 67, Benton, AR 72015-8489
Benton Waterworks, 1314 Venturi Drive, Benton, AR 72019
CK Quick Stop, 4945 E. Grand Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71901-8650
Cloud 9 RV Park, 136 Cloud 9 Drive, Hot Springs, AR 71901
Hot Springs National Park, 631 Whittington Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71901
Kimzey Regional Water District, 319 West Third Street, Malvern, AR 72104
Malvern Waterworks, P.O. Box 638, Malvern, AR 72104
Oak Hill Lodge SGT, 311 Whittington Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71901
Shooting Star Beverages, 6921 I-30, Little Rock, AR 72209

**From:** Tyler Couch <Tyler.Couch@arkansas.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 26, 2018 11:03 AM

To: Schmidt, Cassie P.
Cc: Darcia Routh

**Subject:** RE: GIS Shapefile/Layer Information Request - ARDOT 061562 - Southwest Trail

**Attachments:** Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEsources.cpg; Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEsources.dbf;

Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEsources.prj; Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEsources.sbn; Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEsources.sbx; Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEsources.shp;

Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEsources.shp.xml; Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEsources.shx

**Categories:** Filed by Newforma

Hi Cassie,

I'm glad to help you with this request. As I am sure you have been informed, the information in the .shp files that are attached to this email is sensitive material that is not to be reproduced or displayed in a public setting. Please find the .shp files for all Public Drinking Water Sources that are active within the 5 mile radius that you requested. I will send another email following this one with the Assessment/Wellhead Protection Areas attached. (the files are too large to send in one email)

If you have any other questions or need further assistance, please let me know!

Thank you,

## Tyler Couch

Environmental Health Specialist
Source Water Protection
Engineering Section, AR Dept. of Health
4815 W Markham ST
Little Rock AR 72205
501-280-4428
Tyler.Couch@arkansas.gov

**From:** Schmidt, Cassie P. [mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2018 5:12 PM **To:** Tyler Couch < Tyler.Couch@arkansas.gov>

Cc: Mountain, Ryan C. <RCMountain@GarverUSA.com>

Subject: GIS Shapefile/Layer Information Request (second separate project request)

Hi Tyler,

I tried sending you this earlier, but it looks like you are not able to receive zip files. Please find the attached shapefile for our ArDOT Job 061562 (southwest trail). If you could please provide us with a GIS shapefile or layer showing any surface water intake and wellhead protection areas (and any other environmental information/constraints you have record of)

within a 5 mile radius of our project's boundary lines, I'd appreciate it very much. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

## Thank you,



## **Cassie Schmidt**

Environmental Scientist/Environmental Specialist Transportation Team Office: 479-287-4673

**From:** Tyler Couch <Tyler.Couch@arkansas.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 26, 2018 11:05 AM

**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P. **Cc:** Darcia Routh

Subject: RE: GIS Shapefile/Layer Information Request (second separate project request)

**Attachments:** Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEassessment\_areas.cpg;

Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEassessment\_areas.dbf; Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEassessment\_areas.prj; Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEassessment\_areas.sbn; Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEassessment\_areas.shp; Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEassessment\_areas.shp.xml; Garver\_Southwest\_Trail\_ACTIVEassessment\_areas.shx

**Categories:** Filed by Newforma

Cassie,

I have attached the Assessment/Wellhead Protection Areas for all Public Drinking Water Sources that are active within the 5 mile radius that you have requested.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Thanks.

## Tyler Couch

Environmental Health Specialist
Source Water Protection
Engineering Section, AR Dept. of Health
4815 W Markham ST
Little Rock AR 72205
501-280-4428
Tyler.Couch@arkansas.gov

**From:** Schmidt, Cassie P. [mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2018 5:12 PM **To:** Tyler Couch < Tyler.Couch@arkansas.gov>

Cc: Mountain, Ryan C. <RCMountain@GarverUSA.com>

Subject: GIS Shapefile/Layer Information Request (second separate project request)

Hi Tyler,

I tried sending you this earlier, but it looks like you are not able to receive zip files. Please find the attached shapefile for our ArDOT Job 061562 (southwest trail). If you could please provide us with a GIS shapefile or layer showing any surface water intake and wellhead protection areas (and any other environmental information/constraints you have record of)

within a 5 mile radius of our project's boundary lines, I'd appreciate it very much. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

## Thank you,



## **Cassie Schmidt**

Environmental Scientist/Environmental Specialist Transportation Team Office: 479-287-4673



4701 Northshore Drive North Little Rock, AR 72118

TEL 501.376.3633 FAX 501.372.8042

www.GarverUSA.com

May 25, 2018

Matt McNair
Environmental Review Coordinator
Outdoor Recreation Grants Program
Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism
1 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Arkansas Dept. of Parks & Tourism

-> SUPPORT (-

No apparent or immediate conflict with public outdoor recreation at this time.

Dete

Bignatura:

Matt McNair

Bavironmental Review Coordinator
One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
501-682-1227

matt.mcnair@arkansas.gov

Re:

Southwest Trail Between Hot Springs and Little Rock, Arkansas

Garland, Saline, and Pulaski Counties, Arkansas

ARDOT Job No. 061562, Federal Aid Project ("FAP") No. FLAP-FLAP (16) - Southwest Trail

Request for Information

Dear Mr. McNair:

Garver is preparing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) for the referenced project. The purpose of the project is to develop a 63-mile long recreational and alternative transportation resource trail, centrally located and spanning the area between Hot Springs National Park in Garland County and the Arkansas River Trail and the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site in Pulaski County.

We are in the process of developing alternatives for analysis in the NEPA document. We are requesting your review the proposed study area (see enclosed exhibits) and ask that you notify us of any constraints or concerns you may have regarding the proposed project. A shapefile or KMZ of the study area can be provided upon request. We are seeking comments regarding resources such as unique environmental features or environmentally sensitive areas, species of concern, and permits or approvals that should be obtained prior to construction of the project. Formal, written replies should be emailed to WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com or mailed to:

Bill McAbee Garver, LLC 4701 Northshore Drive North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118

We would appreciate your response within 30 days to help us maintain the schedule. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 501-537-3259 or WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com.

Sincerely,

Bill McAbee

Environmental Manager

Bill Mother

Enclosures

cc: Don Nichols-ARDOT

RECEIVED

MAY 3 1 2018

**Outdoor Recreation Grants** 



4701 Northshore Drive North Little Rock, AR 72118 Arkansas Dept. of Parks & Tour nprort <

TEL 501.376.3633 FAX 501.372.8042

www.GarverUSA.com

Kennard Williams, District Conservationist (Pulaski Co.)

No apparent or immediate conflict with public outdoor recreation at this time.

JUL 2 6 2018

**Outdoor Recreation Grants** 

July 25, 2018

and the second of assessment of

Kennard Williams, District Conservationist (Fulaski Co.)
Natural Resources Conservation Service, North Little Rock, Arkenses 72201

4004 McCain Blvd., Suite 201 North Little Rock, AR 72116

501-682-1227 matt.mcnair@arkansas.gov

Re:

Southwest Trail Between Hot Springs and Little Rock, Arkansas—East Extension

Garland, Saline, and Pulaski Counties, Arkansas

ARDOT Job No. 061562, Federal Aid Project ("FAP") No. FLAP-FLAP (16) - Southwest Trail

Request for Information – Additional Study Area

Dear Mr. Williams:

Garver is preparing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) for the referenced project. The purpose of the project is to develop a 63-mile long recreational and alternative transportation resource trail, centrally located and spanning the area between Hot Springs National Park in Garland County and the Arkansas River Trail and the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site in Pulaski County. We are in the process of evaluating alternatives for analysis in the NEPA document.

On May 25, 2018, we sent a letter requesting information for the project's original footprint. An approximately 1.7-mile long extension to the east end of the alignment has been added to this project; therefore, we are requesting your review of the proposed additional study area (see enclosed exhibits) and ask that you notify us of any constraints or concerns you may have regarding the proposed project. A shapefile or KMZ of the study area can be provided upon request. We are seeking comments regarding resources such as unique environmental features or environmentally sensitive areas, socio-economic concerns, proposed urban developments, and permits or approvals that should be obtained prior to construction of the project. Additionally, please provide information regarding prime or unique farmlands, farmlands of statewide importance, wetland banks, conservation easements/areas, farmed wetlands, and prior converted wetlands. Formal, written replies should be emailed to WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com or mailed to:

> Bill McAbee Garver, LLC

4701 Northshore Drive

North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118

We would appreciate your response within 30 days to help us maintain the schedule. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 501-537-3259 or WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com.

Sincerely

Bill McAbee

Environmental Manager

**Enclosures** 

From: Matt McNair <matt.mcnair@arkansas.gov>

Sent: Thursday, August 9, 2018 2:42 PM

To:Schmidt, Cassie P.Subject:Affected Parks - SW TrailAttachments:Parks - SW Trail footprint.pdf

Howdy, Cassie. There are five parks in the SW Trail footprint; three of them are LWCF. I made some rough slides for illustration, and attached them here. They go from east (Little Rock) to west (Hot Springs).

- 1. Interstate Park. This is an LWCF-funded park near the I-30/630/530 interchange.
- 2. Bauxite FUN Park. FUN Parks are state-funded, but we'd of course rather them not get plowed under. That being said, we're in favor of the trail.
- 3. Ralph Bunche Park (Benton). LWCF-funded.
- 4. Holland Park (Benton) As you can see, only the southwest corner of this park is in the footprint.
- 5. Lonsdale FUN Park. Another little FUN Park; the trail will likely go through this one, as it's between the Lonsdale community and the creek and RR bed.

Okay, hope this helps. If any of these parks are disturbed by construction activity, I'll need to comment, but again, the ADPT is in favor of this trail, so I don't anticipate a problem. Ditto the NPS; as long as existing, used facilities within the LWCF boundary are not being demolished, installing a public trail will not be an issue. As to that, though, the one place where that might occur is Ralph Bunche Park. It's pretty busy, development-wise, and so might present a construction problem. That being said, I'm not overly familiar with it, so there might well be more room than I'm remembering.

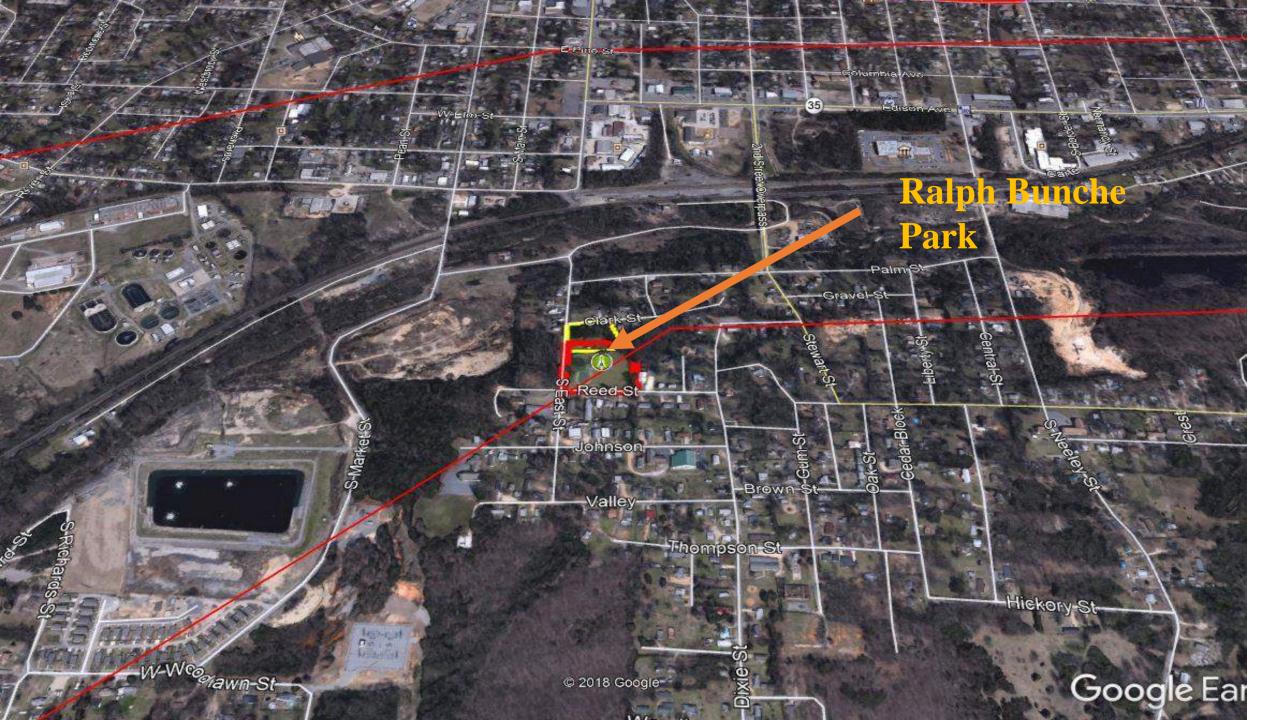
Okay, hope this helps. Let me know if you need anything else.

Cheers,

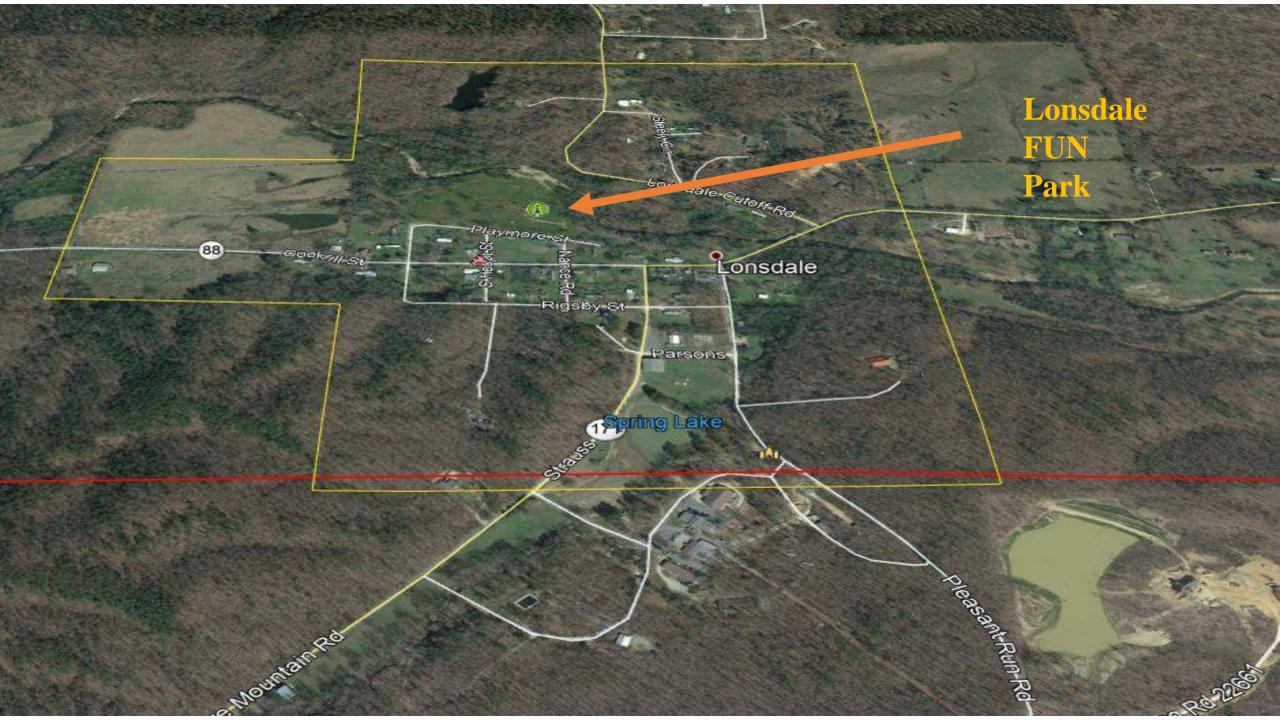
Matt McNair
Project Officer / Environmental Review Coordinator
Arkansas Dept. of Parks & Tourism, Outdoor Recreation Grants Program
1 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201
501.682.1227
matt.mcnair@arkansas.gov











From: Matt McNair <matt.mcnair@arkansas.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 3:12 PM

**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P.

**Subject:** RE: Affected Parks - SW Trail

**Categories:** Filed by Newforma

Howdy, Cassie. I am indeed ready for the holiday season, and hope you've laid suitable plans as well.

Per our conversation today (12/13/2018), it's my opinion that no action regarding 6(f)(3) compliance is required at this time. With regard to 6(f)(3)-encumbered parks, the project under consideration will enhance public outdoor recreation within the boundaries of affected sites, and are therefore allowable under 6(f)(3) guidelines. Construction within these parks (staging, construction, site rehabilitation, etc.) should be completed as quickly as possible, and such activities might need to be documented with the National Park Service; those documents, if necessary, will be submitted by our office. Local sponsors of affected parks, of course, must be willing participants in any such enhancements.

As for 4(f) requirements, I'm under the impression that is more properly addressed by the Arkansas Department of Transportation. Regardless, as we discussed, submitting this proposal to the Arkansas State Clearinghouse ( <a href="https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/intergovernmental-services/state-clearinghouse-project-notification-review-system/">https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/intergovernmental-services/state-clearinghouse-project-notification-review-system/</a>) should provide all relevant stakeholders ample time to voice any concerns.

In addition to submitting this project to the Clearinghouse, it will be helpful for you to contact me any time the project reaches a phase that might affect one of the 6(f)(3) parks we have already discussed, as any unforeseen issues are easier handled before dirt is turned. And, again, our agency is in support of the Southwest Trail, and this project is one very much in keeping with the goals of the LWCF and related provisions, so notwithstanding rejection by stakeholders, any conflicts should be easily resolved.

Okay, hope this helps. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any assistance, and do have a bang-up Yuletide.

Cheers,

Matt McNair
Project Officer / Environmental Review Coordinator
Arkansas Dept. of Parks & Tourism, Outdoor Recreation Grants Program
1 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201
501.682.1227
matt.mcnair@arkansas.gov

**From:** Schmidt, Cassie P. [mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 13, 2018 1:00 PM **To:** Matt McNair <matt.mcnair@arkansas.gov>

Subject: RE: Affected Parks - SW Trail

Hi Matt,

I hope this email finds you well and getting ready for the holiday season ©

**From:** Schmidt, Cassie P.

**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2019 3:58 PM

To: Matt McNair
Cc: McAbee, William C.

**Subject:** RE: Affected 6f Parks - SW Trail

Attachments: SWT- Trail Alignment - Lonsdale Park.pdf; SWT Trail Alignment - Interstate Park.pdf

**Categories:** Filed by Newforma

Hi Matt,

I'm so sorry for my great delay in getting this to you. Please find attached the preliminary plans for the SWT through the City of Lonsdale Park and Interstate Park, both of which are under your/6(f) jurisdiction. Funding is not known at this time and due to a lake of funding information, no construction schedule is known yet.

We have obtained written responses from both of the local sponsors for these affected parks confirming they are in favor of the SWT's alignment through the parks.

Please reply (email or written) to confirm you've received this and please let me know if you need anything else to finalize 6f coordination at this point.

Sincerely,

#### **Cassie Schmidt**

Garver 479-287-4673

From: Matt McNair <matt.mcnair@arkansas.gov> Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 3:12 PM

To: Schmidt, Cassie P. < CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com>

Subject: RE: Affected Parks - SW Trail

Howdy, Cassie. I am indeed ready for the holiday season, and hope you've laid suitable plans as well.

Per our conversation today (12/13/2018), it's my opinion that no action regarding 6(f)(3) compliance is required at this time. With regard to 6(f)(3)-encumbered parks, the project under consideration will enhance public outdoor recreation within the boundaries of affected sites, and are therefore allowable under 6(f)(3) guidelines. Construction within these parks (staging, construction, site rehabilitation, etc.) should be completed as quickly as possible, and such activities might need to be documented with the National Park Service; those documents, if necessary, will be submitted by our office. Local sponsors of affected parks, of course, must be willing participants in any such enhancements.

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In addition to submitting this project to the Clearinghouse, it will be helpful for you to contact me any time the project reaches a phase that might affect one of the 6(f)(3) parks we have already discussed, as any unforeseen issues are easier

handled before dirt is turned. And, again, our agency is in support of the Southwest Trail, and this project is one very much in keeping with the goals of the LWCF and related provisions, so notwithstanding rejection by stakeholders, any conflicts should be easily resolved.

Okay, hope this helps. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any assistance, and do have a bang-up Yuletide.

Cheers,

Matt McNair
Project Officer / Environmental Review Coordinator
Arkansas Dept. of Parks & Tourism, Outdoor Recreation Grants Program
1 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201
501.682.1227
matt.mcnair@arkansas.gov

From: Schmidt, Cassie P. [mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 13, 2018 1:00 PM **To:** Matt McNair < <u>matt.mcnair@arkansas.gov</u>>

Subject: RE: Affected Parks - SW Trail

Hi Matt,

I hope this email finds you well and getting ready for the holiday season ©

We'd like to start "formal" coordination (is that a thing?) on 4(f) and 6(f) parks. Attached is a Google Earth KMZ that shows the trail's alignment (with some alternative options) and the 5 parks within the project's footprint. Only 2 of the parks you listed below (in your August email) will be impacted by the project. Additionally, there are 4 other areas/parks (I'm not sure their names) that appear to be parks due to their on-site features(such as baseball fields & pavilions) and/or they are owned by the City and parcel data suggested they may be set aside for public use.

Anyway, so how do we start official 4f & 6f coordination? Feel free to call if you want to discuss.

Oh, and I got to meet Mike Sprague at the Southwest Trail public meeting! ① It was nice to put a face to the name.

Sincerely,

#### **Cassie Schmidt**

Garver 479-287-4673

From: Matt McNair < matt.mcnair@arkansas.gov >

Sent: Thursday, August 9, 2018 2:42 PM

To: Schmidt, Cassie P. < <a href="mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com">CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com</a>

Subject: Affected Parks - SW Trail

Howdy, Cassie. There are five parks in the SW Trail footprint; three of them are LWCF. I made some rough slides for illustration, and attached them here. They go from east (Little Rock) to west (Hot Springs).

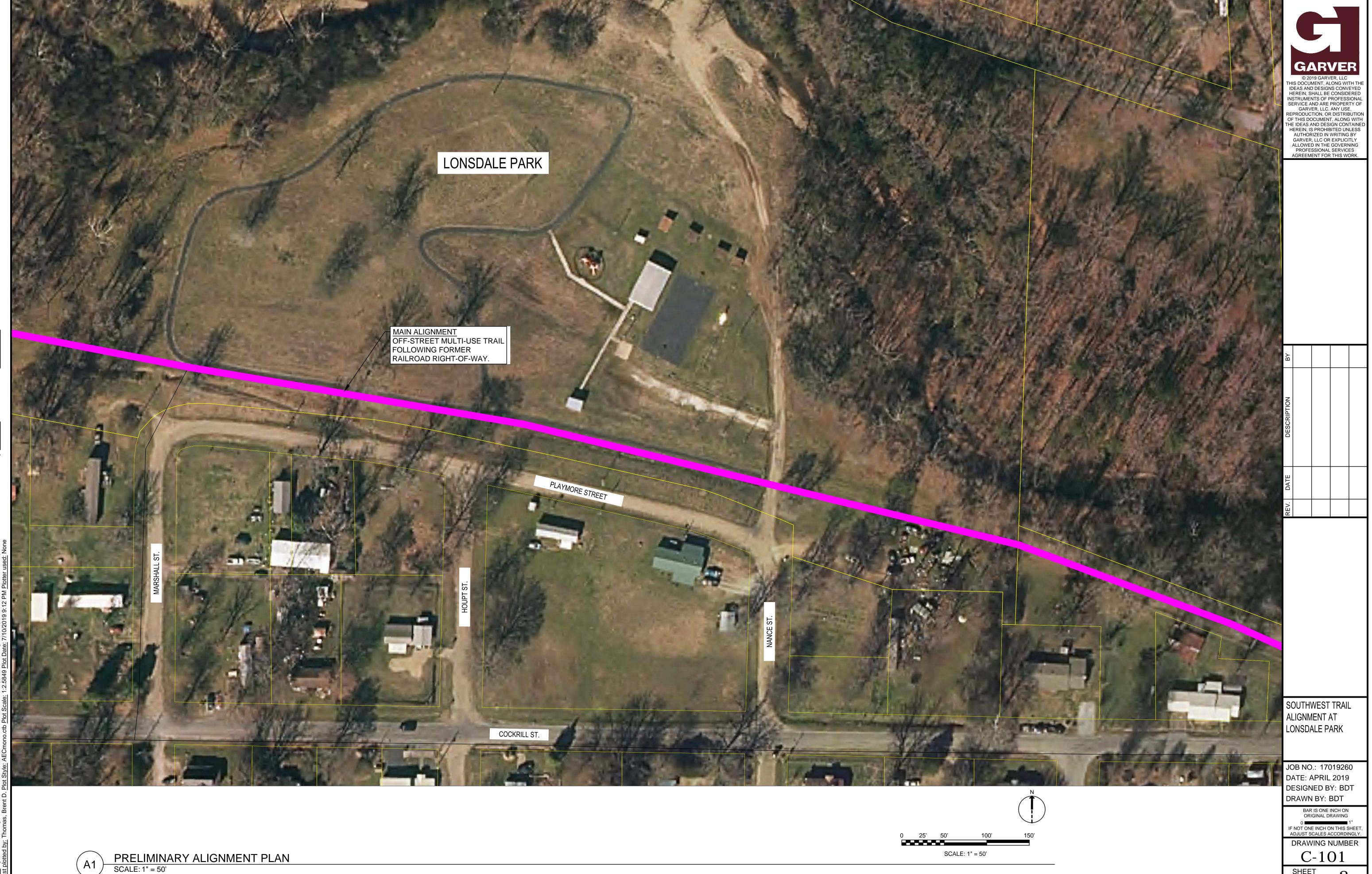
- 1. Interstate Park. This is an LWCF-funded park near the I-30/630/530 interchange.
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- 3. Ralph Bunche Park (Benton). LWCF-funded.
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Okay, hope this helps. If any of these parks are disturbed by construction activity, I'll need to comment, but again, the ADPT is in favor of this trail, so I don't anticipate a problem. Ditto the NPS; as long as existing, used facilities within the LWCF boundary are not being demolished, installing a public trail will not be an issue. As to that, though, the one place where that might occur is Ralph Bunche Park. It's pretty busy, development-wise, and so might present a construction problem. That being said, I'm not overly familiar with it, so there might well be more room than I'm remembering.

Okay, hope this helps. Let me know if you need anything else.

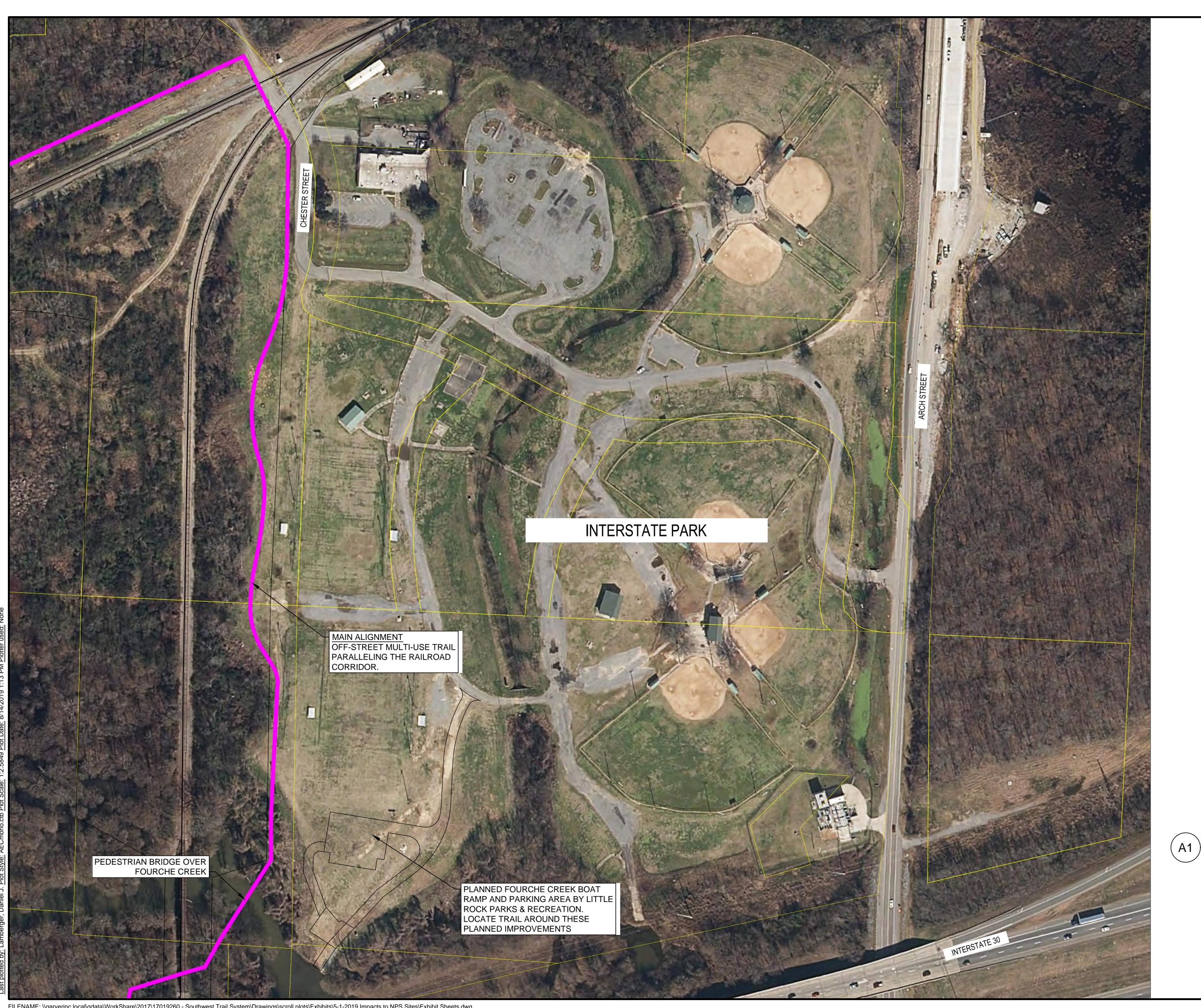
Cheers,

Matt McNair
Project Officer / Environmental Review Coordinator
Arkansas Dept. of Parks & Tourism, Outdoor Recreation Grants Program
1 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201
501.682.1227
matt.mcnair@arkansas.gov



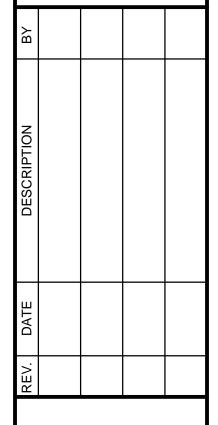
FILENAME: \garverinc.local\gdata\WorkShare\2017\17019260 - Southwest Trail System\Drawings\scroll plots\Exhibits\5-1-2019 Impacts to NPS Sites\Exhibit Sheets.dwg
PLOT DATE: 10-Jul-19 LAST SAVED: BDTHOMAS FORMAT: AUTOCAD 2013

SHEET NUMBER





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AGREEMENT FOR THIS WORK.



PRELIMINARY ALIGNMENT PLAN
SCALE: 1" = 100'

SCALE: 1" = 100'

SOUTHWEST TRAIL ALIGNMENT AT INTERSTATE PARK

JOB NO.: 17019260 DATE: APRIL 2019 DESIGNED BY: BDT DRAWN BY: BDT

BAR IS ONE INCH ON ORIGINAL DRAWING

IF NOT ONE INCH ON THIS SHEET, ADJUST SCALES ACCORDINGLY.

DRAWING NUMBER C-100

SHEET NUMBER

FILENAME: \\garverinc.local\\gdata\\WorkShare\2017\17019260 - Southwest Trail System\Drawings\scroll plots\Exhibits\5-1-2019 Impacts to NPS Sites\Exhibit Sheets.dwg
PLOT DATE: 14-Aug-19 LAST SAVED: DJLAMBERGER FORMAT: AUTOCAD 2013



Asa Hutchinson Governor

> Stacy Hurst Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars **Cultural Center** 

Old State House Museum





1100 North Street Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880 fax: (501) 324-9184 tdd: 711

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org website: www.arkansaspreservation.com

An Equal Opportunity Employer

June 12, 2018

Mr. Bill McAbee Garver, LLC 4701 Northshore Drive North Little Rock, AR 72118

Garland, Saline and Pulaski Counties - General RE:

Section 106 Review - FHWA

Proposed Undertaking: Southwest Trail Between Hot Springs and Little Rock, Arkansas Garland, Saline, and Pulaski Counties, Arkansas ArDOT Number Job No. 061562, Federal Aid Project ("FAP") No.

FLAP-FLAP (16) – Southwest Trail AHPP Tracking Number: 101214

Dear Mr. McAbee:

This letter is in response to your inquiry regarding properties of archeological, historical, or architectural significance in the area of the proposed referenced project. The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has reviewed records pertaining to the area in question.

The records check found several previously recorded eligible cultural resources, historic districts, and other areas of cultural concern located within the proposed area of potential effect (APE). Due to this, we recommend that a cultural resources survey be conducted within both the direct and indirect APEs prior to any ground disturbance. Until a final route is chosen and these various studies are completed, a determination of effect to historic properties cannot be made.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this undertaking. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number listed above in all correspondence. If you have any questions, please call Tim Dodson of my staff at 501-324-9784.

Sincerely,

Director, AHPP

Mr. Randall Looney, Federal Highway Administration cc:

Mr. John Fleming, ArDOT

Dr. Ann Early, Arkansas Archeological Survey



Asa Hutchinson Governor

> Stacy Hurst Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

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July 27, 2018

Mr. Bill McAbee Garver, LLC 4701 Northshore Drive North Little Rock, AR 72118

RE: Garland, Saline and Pulaski Counties - General

Section 106 Review – FHWA

Proposed Undertaking: Southwest Trail Between Hot Springs and Little Rock, Arkansas Garland, Saline, and Pulaski Counties, Arkansas ArDOT Number Job No. 061562, Federal Aid Project ("FAP") No. FLAP-FLAP (16) – Southwest Trail – ADDITIONAL STUDY AREA

AHPP Tracking Number: 101214.01

Dear Mr. McAbee:

This letter is in response to the additional information submitted regarding properties of archeological, historical, or architectural significance in the area of the proposed referenced project. The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has reviewed records pertaining to the area in question.

As with the previous submission, a records check found several previously recorded eligible cultural resources, historic districts, and other areas of cultural concern located within the proposed area of potential effect (APE). Due to this, we recommend that a cultural resources survey be conducted within both the direct and indirect APEs prior to any ground disturbance. Until a final route is chosen and these various studies are completed, a determination of effect to historic properties cannot be made.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this undertaking. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number listed above in all correspondence. If you have any questions, please call Tim Dodson of my staff at 501-324-9784.

Sincerely,

Scott Kaufman Director, AHPP

cc: Mr. Randall Looney, Federal Highway Administration

Mr. John Fleming, ArDOT

Dr. Ann Early, Arkansas Archeological Survey

TD:tr



Asa Hutchinson Governor

> Stacy Hurst Director

Date: July 26, 2018

Subject: Southwest Trail between Hot Springs and Little Rock, AR

ARDOTJob NO. 061562

FAP No. FLAP-FLAP (16) – Southwest Trail

ANHC No.: P-CF..-18-058

Mr. Bill McAbee Garver LLC 4701 Northshore Drive North Little Rock, AR 72118

Dear Mr. McAbee:

Staff members of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission have reviewed our files for records indicating the occurrence of rare plants and animals, outstanding natural communities, natural or scenic rivers, or other elements of special concern within or near the study corridor for the proposed Southwest Trail between Hot Springs and Little Rock, Arkansas. The purpose of the project is to develop a 63-mile long recreational and alternative transportation resource trail spanning the area between Hot Springs National Park in Garland County and the Arkansas River Trail and the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site in Pulaski County, Arkansas. We have included the 1.7 mile extension to the north end of the trail as requested in your letter of July 25, 2018 in the review. This area includes the new office building for the Department of Arkansas Heritage. The results of our review are provided as Geographic Information System (GIS) shapefiles. Documentation is included to help you interpret the information in the shapefiles (Attachment A).

Our records indicate the occurrence of seventeen species of state conservation concern within the study corridor. A list of these species with brief habitat information is attached for your reference (Attachment B). Approximate locations are depicted in the GIS shapefiles.

The study corridor includes at least seven streams known to support aquatic species of conservation concern (provided as a GIS shapefile). Two of these streams also have special designations for reaches in the study area:

- Saline River
  - Extraordinary Resource Water Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (Regulation 2)
  - Ecologically Sensitive Waterbody Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (Regulation 2)
  - o Nationwide Rivers Inventory (National Park Service)
  - o State Registry of Natural and Scenic River (Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission)
- Ten Mile Creek
  - Ecologically Sensitive Waterbody Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (Regulation 2)

Trail design should seek to avoid and limit impacts to these streams.

Arkansas Arts Council

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Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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Arkansas State Archives

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**Delta Cultural Center** 

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Historic Arkansas Museum

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Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

\*

Old State House Museum





1100 North Street Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9619 fax: (501) 324-9618 tdd: 711

e-mail:

info@naturalheritage.com website:

www.naturalheritage.com

Other significant habitat types occur in the project area including seepage wetland and glade habitat. These are significant and declining habitat types that frequently support rare species. Seepage wetlands (seeps) often occur along the lower slopes of smaller valleys where water seeps out of the hillsides and in the riparian zones of creeks. They are characterized by poorly drained soils, permanently saturated by groundwater. They can support a variety of rare and unusual species. Forested seeps can often be identified by lush growth of fern species including cinnamon fern, royal fern, lady fern and netted chain fern. Glades occur where the bedrock is at or near the surface. They are characterized by areas of bare rock, expanses with grasses and forbs, and, where the soil is deeper, often cedar trees. In the past, these areas were subject to wildfires, which maintained an open character and reduced the number of cedar trees. Glades are often more biologically diverse than surrounding forests, support rare species, and provide important wildlife habitat. We contracted with The Central Hardwoods Joint Venture to map glades by interpreting aerial images using GIS. This GIS layer identifies glades in the study area, and is available on-line at the following website:

https://gcpolcc.databasin.org/datasets/a817fa247dd3440e814282f3063c51d0

These are fragile habitat types and efforts should be made to avoiding routing the trail through these habitats.

We are aware of at least two projects in the study area that may be relevant to project planning. A wetland mitigation bank is currently under development along Little Fourche Creek in Little Rock near the northern end of the study corridor. I've attached a copy of the public notice issued in 2016 by the Little Rock District Corps of Engineers on the project for your reference (Attachment C). Also, Entergy is currently considering routes for a Potential 500 KV Electric Transmission Line from the Jones Mill vicinity in Hot Spring County to their substation in West Little Rock in Pulaski County (Happy Valley to Hot Springs EHV Transmission Project). Information and maps for this project are available at the following website:

http://www.entergy-arkansas.com/transmission/happy valley.aspx

A list of elements known to occur within a five mile radius of the study corridor is enclosed for your reference (Attachment D). Represented on this list are elements for which we have records in our database. The list has been annotated to indicate those elements falling within a one-mile radius of the study area. A legend is enclosed to help you interpret the codes used on this list (Attachment E).

Please keep in mind that the project area may contain important natural features of which we are unaware. Staff members of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission have not conducted a field survey of the study corridor. Our review is based on data available to the program at the time of the request. It should not be regarded as a final statement on the elements or areas under consideration. Because our files are updated constantly, you may want to check with us again at a later time.

Thank you for consulting us. It has been a pleasure to work with you on this study.

Sincerely,

Cindy Osborne

Cindy Osborne

Data Manager/Environmental Review Coordinator

Enclosures: GIS shapefiles (ANHCDATA, SensitiveStreams)

Documentation for shapefiles (Attachment A)

Element list with Habitat Information (Attachment B)

Public Notice for Central Arkansas Mitigation Bank (Attachment C)

Element list within 5-mile radius (Attachment D)

Legend (Attachment E)

Data Agreement

Invoice

Attachment A

#### Documentation

## **ANHCDATA**

#### **Shapefile**



**Tags** 

Rare species, thretened species, endangered species, Southwest Trail

## **Summary**

This shapefile was created in response to an information request from the Garver, LLC. The data will be used to assist in the development of the Southwest Trail between Hot Springs and Little Rock.

#### **Description**

#### Description of Data:

Occurrence data entered into the Natural Diversity Database represent known locations of elements, which the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) currently tracks. These elements include species considered either endangered, threatened, rare, peripheral or status undetermined as well as outstanding examples of natural communities (terrestrial, palustrine and aquatic), geologic features, and colonial bird nesting sites. Generally speaking, the basic requirement for entering an occurrence into the natural diversity database is that the place marked as an occurrence must contribute to the survival of the element. The specific criterion used for each type of element depends on the basic biology of the element. Data has been "summarized" into 20-acre hexagons.

Contact Information:

Cindy Osborne, Data Manager

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

1100 North Street

Little Rock, AR 72201

Phone: 501-324-9762

Fax: 501-324-9618

e-mail: Cindy.Osborne@Arkansas.gov

#### Source of Data:

Data entered into the database have been collected from literature sources, herbaria, museums, Universities and field surveys by staff biologists.

## Mapping Information:

All mappable occurrence data entered into the natural diversity database are mapped on 7.5'

likelihood of rediscovery.

GNR = Unranked. The global rank not yet assessed.

GNA = Not Applicable. A conservation status rank is not applicable.

T-RANKS= T subranks are given to global ranks when a subspecies, variety, or race is considered at the state level. The subrank is made up of a "T" plus a number or letter (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, H, U, X) with the same ranking rules as a full species.

Q = A "Q" in the global rank indicates the element's taxonomic classification as a species is a matter of conjecture among scientists.

RANGES= Ranges are used temporarily until a final rank decision can be made.

? = A question mark is used temporarily when there is some indecision regarding the rank assignment or when an element has not been ranked.

B = Breeding status

N = Non-breeding status

#### **SRANK**

State Rank. This is a conservation rank used by State Heritage Programs and The Nature Conservancy. The rank indicates the relative rarity of an element throughout Arkansas. The following codes are used:

S1 = Critically imperiled in the state due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations), very steep declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.

S2 = Imperiled in the state due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.

S3 = Vulnerable in the state due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.

S4 = Apparently secure in the state. Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern

due to declines or other factors.

S5 = Secure in the state. Common, widespread and abundant.

SH = Of historical occurrence, with some possibility of rediscovery. Its presence may not have been verified in the past 20-40 years. A species may be assigned this rank without the 20-40

year delay if the only known occurrences were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully sought.

SU = Unrankable. Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.

SX = Presumed extirpated from the state. Not located despite intensive searches and virtually no likelihood of rediscovery.

SNR = Unranked. The state rank not yet assessed.

SNA = Not Applicable. A conservation status rank is not applicable.

#### **USESA**

U.S. Endangered Species Act status. This field provides information on whether the species is listed as Endangered or Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A blank indicates the element has no federal listing. The following codes are used:

C = Candidate species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has enough scientific information to warrant proposing these species for listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

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.

PE = Proposed Endangered; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed these species for listing as endangered.

PT = Proposed Threatened; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed these species for listing as threatened.

T/SA = Threatened (or Endangered) because of similarity of appearance.

E/SA

#### **STATESTAT**

State Status Code. At present, Arkansas does not have a law providing special state protection to species considered endangered or threatened in Arkansas. However, lists of species of special concern have been developed by this program in cooperation with other government agencies, and professionals. Species appearing on these lists are believed to be rare in the state and are presently being inventoried by this agency. The following codes have been used in this field:

INV = Inventory Element; The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission is currently conducting

active inventory work on these elements. Available data suggests these elements are of conservation concern. These elements may include outstanding examples of Natural Communities, colonial bird nesting sites, outstanding scenic and geologic features as well as plants and animals which, according to current information, may be rare, peripheral, or of an undetermined status in the state. The ANHC is gathering detailed location information on these elements.

SE = State Endangered; this term is applied differently for plants and animals

Animals - These species are afforded protection under Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) Regulation. The AGFC states that it is unlawful to import, transport, sell, purchase, hunt, harrass or possess any threatend or endangered species of wildlife or parts. The AGFC lists as endangered any wildlife species or subspecies endangered or threatened with extinction, listed or proposed as a candidate for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or any native species or subspecies listed as endangered by the Commission.

Plants - These species have been recognized by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission as being in danger of being extirpated from the state. This is an administrative designation with no regulatory authority.

ST = State Threatened; These species have been recognized by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission as being likely to become endangered in Arkansas in the foreseeable future, based on current inventory information. This is an administrative designation with no regulatory authority.

#### **LASTOBS**

Last Observed Date. The most recent date that the occurrence was last observed and recorded as extant within the hexagon shape.

#### **FIRSTOBS**

First Observed Date. The date of the earliest observation record falling within the hexagon shape.

CNT\_of\_OBS

Count of Observations. This is a count of the number of observation records falling within the hexagon shape.

#### COUNTYCODE

County Code. A four digit code for the county(s) in which the occurrence falls. The code is in the following format:

1st 4 letters of county name

Example: GARL = Garland County

#### SITE

Site Name. This is a short site name for the area in which the occurrence falls. Not all records will have a site name associated with them. This is listed for quick reference.

#### **PRECISION**

Precision of mapped location. All mappable occurrence data entered into the natural diversity database are mapped on topographic quadrangles and are assigned a township, range and section as well as latitude and longitude coordinates. In some cases the actual mapped location represents a "best guess" based on the information available. Careful attention should be paid to the precision code assignments to distinguish these "best guesses" from confirmed locations. The location given represents the centrum of the occurrence. The following codes are used:

S = Element is specifically mapped (within a three second radius, ~100 feet).

M = Element mapped to within one minute radius (1.5 mile).

G = Element is mapped to a general region identified by a geographic name on a U.S.G.S. quadrangle.

blank = This is a new "observation" record for which a precision code has not been assigned.

#### QUADNAME

Quadrangle Name. The name of the 7.5' topographic quadrangle(s) on which the occurrence falls.

**TRS** 

The Township/Range/Section of the record of the most recent record within the hexagon shape.

#### **DIRECTIONS**

Directions to the most recent record within the hexagon shape

## **GENDESC**

General Description of the location/habitat of the most recent record within the hexagon shape.

#### **FODATA**

Element Occurrence Data (size, number of individuals, vigor, etc...) for the most recent record within the hexagon shape.

#### **BESTSOURCE**

Best Source of information used for the most recent record in the hexagon shape.

#### **EOCODE**

Element Occurrence Code. A unique identifier for the occurrence. This number identifies the most recent occurrence of a given species within the hexagon shape.

## LATNUM

Latitude. The latitude of the centrum of the occurrence in decimal degrees.

#### LONGNUM

Longitude. The longitude of the centrum of the occurrence in decimal degrees.

#### SHAPE\_ID

A unique identifier for the element within the shape. This number should be used when requesting or supplying data on an occurrence to the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission.

#### **SHAPECODE**

An arbitrary number assigned to the shape.

#### **Credits**

This data was compiled by the Arkanas Natural Heritage Commission, an agency of the Department of Arkanas Heritage, Little Rock, AR.

#### **Use limitations**

Reproduction and/or distribution of the complete electronic data set or subsets thereof to any parties other than Garver, LLC is strictly prohibited.

#### **Extent**

West -92.965866 East -92.276601 North 34.710875 South 34.506169

#### **Scale Range**

**Maximum (zoomed in)** 1:5,000 **Minimum (zoomed out)** 1:150,000,000

## **Documentation**

## Sensitive\_Streams

#### **Shapefile**



**Tags** 

streams, rare speices, endangered species, threatened species

#### **Summary**

This shapefile was developed to help identify those streams supporting rare species.

#### **Description**

## Description of Data:

Using the USGS Streams shapefile, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission Staff's developed a layer of streams in the state that are known to support rare species. Listing in this shapefile does not imply any legal designation or regulatory authority. The file was developed for information purposes only.

**Contact Information:** 

Cindy Osborne, Data Manager

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

1100 North Street

Little Rock, AR 72201

Phone: 501-324-9762

Fax: 501-324-9618

e-mail: Cindy.Osborne@Arkansas.Gov

#### Source of Data:

Streams were selected using the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission's sensitive species database. Those streams having database records for G1-G3 species were included.

#### Mapping Information:

The streams were derived using the USGS Streams Layer. Each stream segment was united into a single feature.

#### **Credits**

This shapefile was developed by the Arkanas Natural Heritage Commission, a division of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

### **Use limitations**

This file should not be redistributed without prior written permission from the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

## **Extent**

**West** -93.010408 **East** -92.256205 **North** 34.600201 **South** 33.919193

## **Scale Range**

Maximum (zoomed in) 1:5,000

Minimum (zoomed out) 1:150,000,000

## Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission Department of Arkansas Heritage Elements of Special Concern

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Habitat	
Animals-Invertebrates							
Alasmidonta marginata	Elktoe	-	INV	G4	S3	Small streams with good current and sand, gravel or cobble substrate	
Cyprogenia sp. cf aberti	Ouachita Fanshell	-	INV	GNR	<b>S</b> 3	Rock, gravel, and soft mud bottoms in medium sized rivers in flowing water only. Generally confined to shallow riffles and runs in predominantly clean, moderately compacted gravel-sand substrate.	
Fusconaia ozarkensis	Ozark Pigtoe	-	INV	G3G4	S3	Medium to large headwater streams, preferabley in riffle or run areas, but sometimes in glide or pools.	
Pleurobema sintoxia	Round Pigtoe	-	INV	G4G5	S3	Medium to large rivers in mixed mud, sand, and gravel.	
Ptychobranchus occidentalis	Ouachita Kidneyshell	-	INV	G3G4	S3	Upland streams in silt, sand, gravel or rocky substrates in slow to moderate currents	
Villosa lienosa	little spectaclecase	-	INV	G5	S3	Small creeks to medium-sized rivers, usually along the banks in slower currents	
Animals-Vertebrates	•						
Ambystoma annulatum	Ringed Salamander	-	INV	G4	S3	Ponds, lakes, and water holes, mesic hardwood forest, riparian, pine-oak forest, woodland, sinkhole and depression pond	
Etheostoma parvipinne	goldstripe darter	-	INV	G4G5	<b>S</b> 3	Clay- and sand-bottomed runs and pools of vegetated, spring-fed headwaters and creeks. Occurs in or near springs, in small sluggish streams, and occassionally in seepages adjacent to small streams.	
Hyla avivoca	Bird-voiced Treefrog	-	INV	G5	S3	Pools and slow runs of warm, clear, small to medium rivers with gravel substrate	
Notropis perpallidus	peppered shiner	-	INV	G3	S3	Ponds, Lakes, water holes, forested bottomlands	
Noturus lachneri	Ouachita madtom	-	INV	G2	S2	Pools, backwaters, and runs of creeks and small rivers of moderate to high gradient with clear, cool water, gravel-rubble-sand bottoms, and alternating pools and riffles.	
Percina vigil	saddleback darter	-	INV	G5	S3	Creeks and small to medium rivers in areas of moderate current over sand and gravel or gravel and rubble substrates, often at the foot of chute or riffle or near snags or logjams, sometimes in very shallow water.	
Plants-Vascular							
Carex arkansana	Arkansas sedge	-	INV	G4	S1	Wet Prairie, seasonally wet depressions in flatwoods	
Eleocharis wolfii	Wolf's spike-rush	-	INV	G3G5	S3	Wet depressions in prairie, glades, seeps, flatwoods, and barrens	
Eustoma exaltatum	catchfly prairie-gentian	-	INV	G5	S2	Riverbanks and possibly prairies	
Rhynchospora colorata	white-top sedge	-	SE	G5	S1	Seeps, wetlands and wet margins	
Rhynchospora gracilenta	a slender beaksedge	-	INV	G5	S2	Seeps, ditches, wet savannas, barrens, and flatwoods	



# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CORPS OF ENGINEERS** 

**Application Number: 2015-00221** 

Date: November 23, 2016 Comments Due: December 23, 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Comments are invited on the work described below. Please see the <u>Public Involvement</u> section for details on submitting comments.

<u>Point of Contact</u>. If additional information is desired, please contact the project manager, Jim Ellis, telephone number: (501) 324-5295, mailing address: Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, PO Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867, email address: <a href="mailto:Jim.D.Ellis@usace.army.mil">Jim.D.Ellis@usace.army.mil</a>. An electronic copy of the Little Fourche Creek Mitigation Bank (LFCMB) prospectus can be viewed on the Little Rock District, Regulatory Division webpage at <a href="http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx">http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx</a> or a hard copy can be obtained from the Corps of Engineers through the contact information listed above.

<u>Project Information</u>. Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. Code 1344), notice is hereby given that

Ms. Danielle Litaker Nall Central Arkansas Mitigation Bank, LLC 9800 Maumelle Blvd. North Little Rock, AR 72113

has submitted their LFCMB prospectus. The prospectus outlines the proposal for developing and operating the bank, which is known as the banking instrument. After public comments are received and any issues are resolved on the prospectus, Central Arkansas Mitigation Bank, LLC will submit a draft banking instrument to the District Engineer of the Little Rock District. The District Engineer will then distribute the draft banking instrument to the Interagency Review Team (IRT), which is made up of the Corps and the pertinent state and Federal resource agencies. The IRT will review the banking instrument and coordinate with Central Arkansas Mitigation Bank, LLC on any issues until a final banking instrument is completed. Finally, the District Engineer will review the final instrument and make a decision to approve or not approve.

The primary purpose of this bank is to mitigate for unavoidable impacts to streams and wetlands authorized under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The project goals are to preserve and enhance stream and wetland functions and services within the mitigation bank area.

The proposed project is located in Little Fourche Creek and associated tributaries and wetlands, in sections 5, 6, and 7, T. 1 S., R. 12 W., in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas. The mitigation bank, as proposed by the applicant's consultant, GBM<sup>c</sup> and Associates, includes three pieces of property (Sites A-C), two contiguous, and one in close proximity to the others along Little Fourche Creek, which consist of approximately 240 acres. The applicant proposes to preserve in perpetuity, through the establishment of a conservation easement, Little Fourche Creek, and its associated riparian buffer within the three properties. Little Fourche Creek is

relatively undisturbed throughout these three sites and will not require any channel alterations to maintain a stable dimension, pattern, and profile according to the applicant's consultant. One-hundred-foot-wide riparian buffers will be preserved and enhanced beyond the stream channel ordinary high water mark (OHWM), where possible, including jurisdictional wetlands located in the riparian buffer areas. Supplemental plantings of native tree/shrub and herbaceous vegetation will occur. Wetlands that are not part of the protected stream riparian buffer corridors will be preserved and enhanced (see enclosed Sheets 3 through 5 of 7). Supplemental plantings of native species will be completed to reach desired diversity and density. Where possible an upland buffer will be preserved and enhanced along the perimeter of the wetlands. Supplemental plantings of native tree/shrub species will be completed in the upland buffers to promote diversity and wildlife. Tree/shrub plantings will be in the form of seedlings.

The applicant's consultant has identified approximately 6,800 linear feet of stream channel in Site A, 5,000 linear feet in Site B, and 5,300 linear feet in site C. All streams will have some level of associated riparian buffers (most with 100-foot-wide buffers on both sides) totaling over 70 acres of protected stream corridor. The three sites total over 100 acres of wetlands. A large portion of these wetlands will be preserved as riparian buffer for the meandering stream system. Also, approximately 115 acres of wetlands will remain outside the protected stream riparian buffer corridor and be accounted for as wetland habitat. The wetlands can generally be classified as either riverine forested or riverine scrub-shrub. There are some smaller areas that are riverine emergent, mostly in historical creek channel remnants. The three sites will be monitored for a minimum of ten years to ensure hydrologic and revegetation success, and will be perpetually preserved.

Stream compensatory mitigation credits will be calculated utilizing the 2011 Little Rock District Stream Method. Credits will be calculated with the assistance of the USACE and will be approved by the IRT with the Mitigation Banking Instrument (MBI). Wetland credits will be calculated using the 2002 Charleston Method and its more recent Little Rock District addendum. Approximately 80,000 stream credits and 124 wetland credits are anticipated to be generated by the LFCMB.

The proposed bank sites lie within the Lower Arkansas-Maumelle Watershed 8-digit (11110207) hydrologic unit code (HUC) as designated by the U.S. Geological Survey. The proposed Primary Geographic Service Area for wetlands and streams includes the Lower Arkansas-Maumelle (11110207) and the Lake Conway – Point Remove (11110203) HUC. Historically, activities requiring compensatory mitigation within the White Oak Bayou Watershed (111102070401), which is part of the Lower Arkansas-Maumelle Watershed (11110207), have been mitigated within the White Oak Bayou Watershed and therefore excluded as part of any bank service area.

During the public review period, members of the IRT will conduct a site visit to the proposed mitigation bank. The location and general plan for the proposed work are shown on the enclosed sheets, 1 through 7 of 7.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>. A Corps staff archeologist will review topographic maps, the National Register of Historic Places, and other data on reported sites in the area. The District Engineer

invites responses to this public notice from Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies; historical and archeological societies; and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

<u>Endangered Species</u>. Our preliminary determination is that the proposed activity will not affect listed Endangered Species or their critical habitat. A copy of this notice is being furnished to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate state agencies and constitutes a request to those agencies for information on whether any listed or proposed-to-be-listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

<u>Floodplain</u>. We are providing copies of this notice to appropriate floodplain officials in accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Floodplain Management Regulations Criteria for Land Management and Use) and Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain Management.

<u>Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines</u>. The evaluation of activities to be authorized under this permit which involves the discharge of dredged or fill material will include application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. These guidelines are contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 230.

Public Involvement. Any interested party is invited to submit to the above-listed POC written comments or objections relative to the proposed work on or before **December 23, 2016**. Substantive comments, both favorable and unfavorable, will be accepted and made a part of the record and will receive full consideration in determining whether this work would be in the public interest. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request in writing within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision.

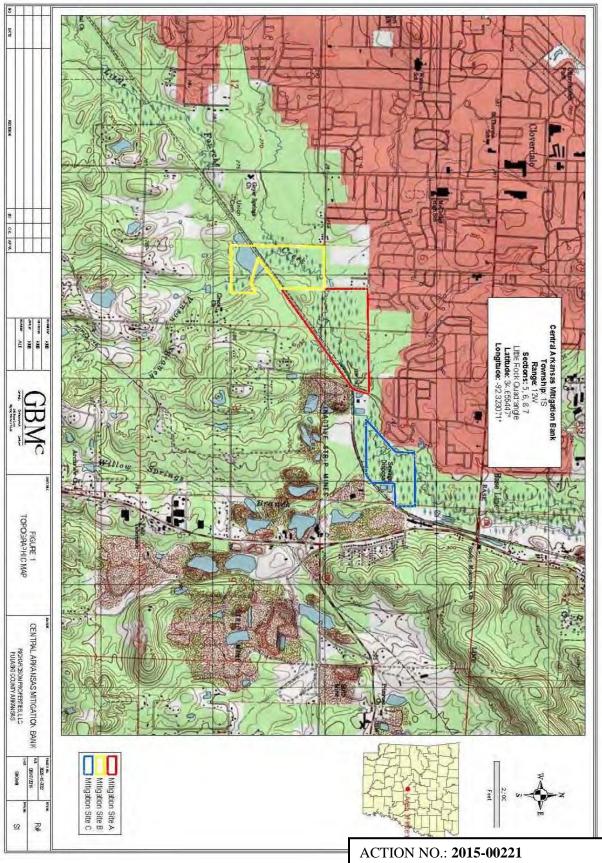
**NOTE:** The mailing list for this Public Notice is arranged by state and county(s) where the project is located, and also includes any addressees who have asked to receive copies of all public notices. Please discard notices that are not of interest to you. If you have no need for any of these notices, please advise us so that your name can be removed from the mailing list.

Enclosures

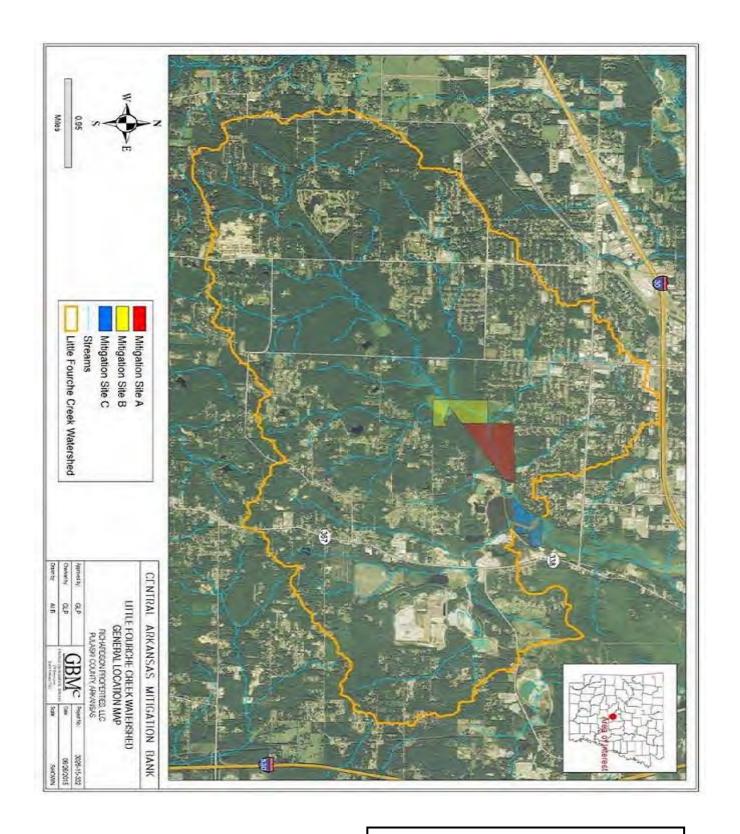
## Approximate Coordinates of Project Center

Latitude: **34.65384** Longitude: **-92.33319** 

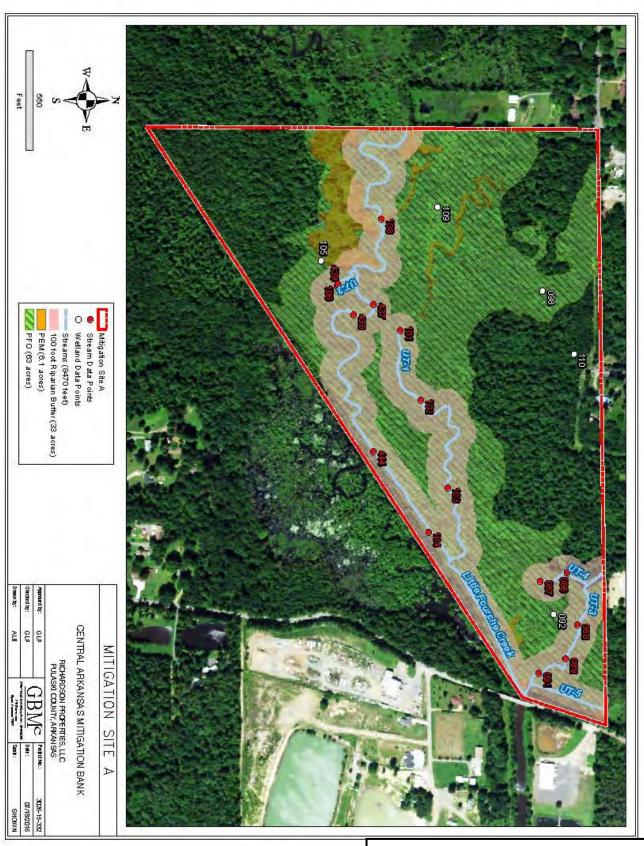
UTM Zone: 15 North: 3834858 East: 561102



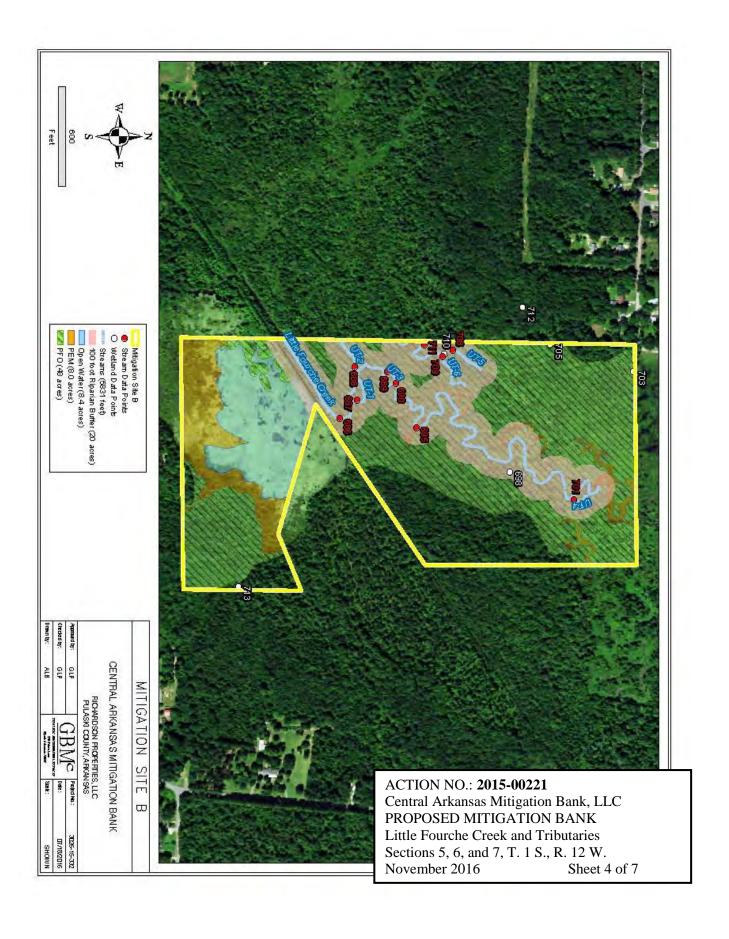
ACTION NO.: 2015-00221
Central Arkansas Mitigation Bank, LLC
PROPOSED MITIGATION BANK
Little Fourche Creek and Tributaries
Sections 5, 6, and 7, T. 1 S., R. 12 W.
November 2016
Sheet 1 of 7

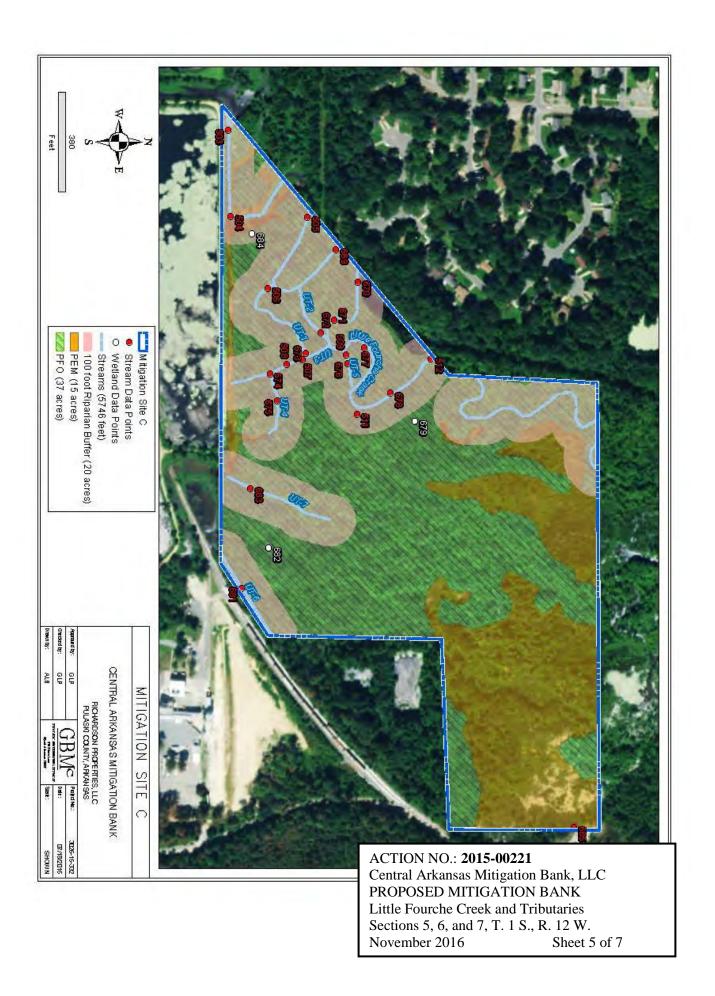


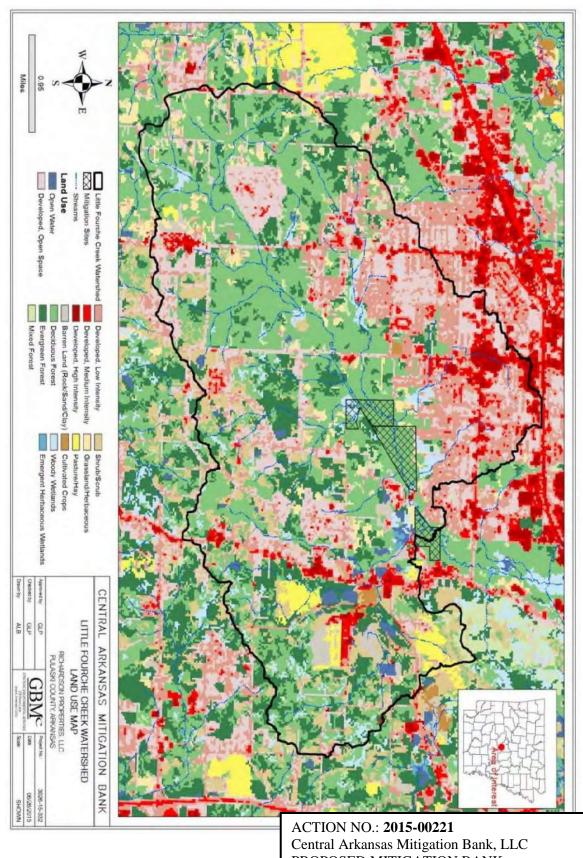
ACTION NO.: **2015-00221**Central Arkansas Mitigation Bank, LLC
PROPOSED MITIGATION BANK
Little Fourche Creek and Tributaries
Sections 5, 6, and 7, T. 1 S., R. 12 W.
November 2016
Sheet 2 of 7



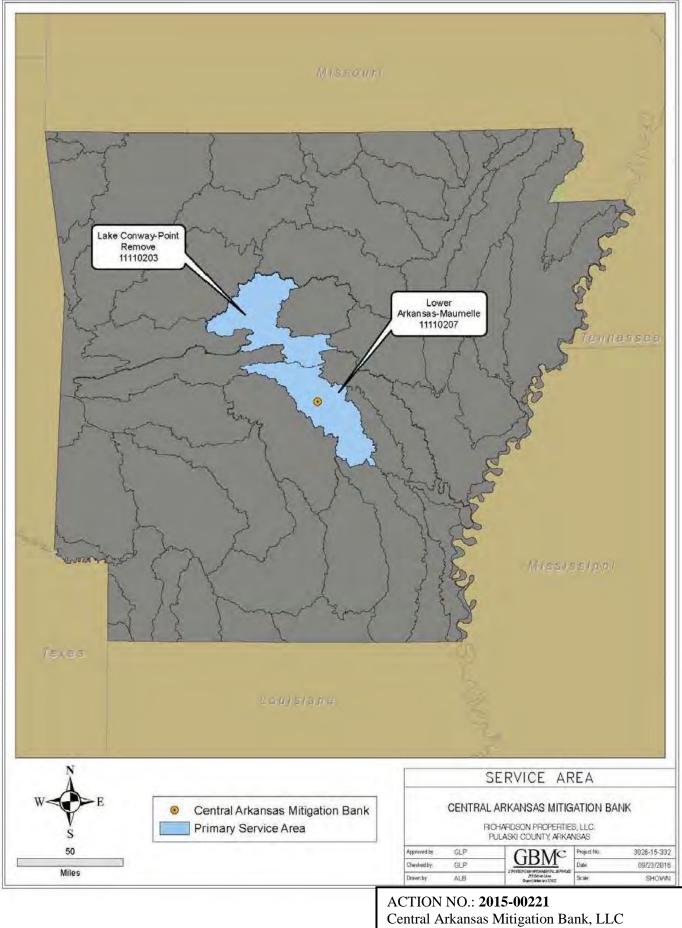
ACTION NO.: **2015-00221**Central Arkansas Mitigation Bank, LLC
PROPOSED MITIGATION BANK
Little Fourche Creek and Tributaries
Sections 5, 6, and 7, T. 1 S., R. 12 W.
November 2016 Sheet 3 of 7







Central Arkansas Mitigation Bank, LLC PROPOSED MITIGATION BANK Little Fourche Creek and Tributaries Sections 5, 6, and 7, T. 1 S., R. 12 W. November 2016 Sheet 6 of 7



Central Arkansas Mitigation Bank, LLC PROPOSED MITIGATION BANK Little Fourche Creek and Tributaries Sections 5, 6, and 7, T. 1 S., R. 12 W. November 2016 Sheet 7 of 7

# Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission Department of Arkansas Heritage Elements of Special Concern Within a 5-mile Radius of the Southwest Trail Study Corridor

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank
	Animals-Invertebrates					
*	Alasmidonta marginata	Elktoe	-	INV	G4	S3
*	Cyprogenia sp. cf aberti	Ouachita Fanshell	-	INV	GNR	S3
	Euphyes dion	Dion Skipper	-	INV	G4	S3
*	Fusconaia ozarkensis	Ozark Pigtoe	-	INV	G3G4	S3
	Hesperia leonardus	Leonard's Skipper	-	INV	G5	S3
	Lampsilis abrupta	Pink Mucket	LE	SE	G2	S2
*	Lampsilis ornata	Southern Pocketbook	-	INV	G5	S2
*	Lampsilis powellii	Arkansas Fatmucket	LT	SE	G2	S2
*	Ophiogomphus westfalli	Westfall's snaketail	-	INV	G3	S1S2
*	Pleurobema rubrum	Pyramid Pigtoe	-	INV	G2G3	S2
*	Pleurobema sintoxia	Round Pigtoe	-	INV	G4G5	S3
*	Procambarus parasimulans	Bismark burrowing crayfish	-	INV	G4	S3
*	Ptychobranchus occidentalis	Ouachita Kidneyshell	-	INV	G3G4	S3
	Speyeria diana	Diana Fritillary	-	INV	G3G4	S2S3
*	Toxolasma lividum	Purple Lilliput	-	INV	G3Q	S3
*	Toxolasma parvum	Lilliput	-	INV	G5	S3
	Truncilla donaciformis	Fawnsfoot	-	INV	G5	S3
	Uniomerus tetralasmus	Pondhorn	-	INV	G5	S2
	Venustaconcha pleasii	Bleedingtooth Mussel	-	INV	G3G4	S3
*	Villosa lienosa	little spectaclecase	-	INV	G5	S3
	Animals-Vertebrates					
	Alosa alabamae	Alabama shad	-	INV	G2G3	S1
*	Ambystoma annulatum	Ringed Salamander	-	INV	G4	S3
*	Cycleptus elongatus	blue sucker	-	INV	G3G4	S3
*	Etheostoma parvipinne	goldstripe darter	-	INV	G4G5	S3
	Eurycea paludicola	Western Dwarf Salamander	-	INV	GNR	S3
	Eurycea subfluvicola	Ouachita Streambed Salamander	-	INV	GNR	S1
	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	-	INV	G5	S3B,S4N
*	Hemidactylium scutatum	Four-toed Salamander	-	INV	G5	S2
	Hybognathus placitus	plains minnow	-	INV	G4	SH
*	Hyla avivoca	Bird-voiced Treefrog	-	INV	G5	S3
*	Lasiurus seminolus	Seminole bat	-	INV	G5	S3
*	Liodytes rigida	Glossy Swampsnake	-	INV	G5	S3
	Myotis lucifugus	little brown bat	-	INV	G3	S1
*	Myotis septentrionalis	northern long-eared bat	LT	SE	G1G2	S1S2
*	Notropis perpallidus	peppered shiner	-	INV	G3	S3
*	Noturus lachneri	Ouachita madtom	-	INV	G2	S2
*	Percina vigil Picoides borealis	saddleback darter Red-cockaded Woodpecker	- LE	INV SE	G5 G3	S3 S1
	Polyodon spathula	paddlefish	-	INV	G4	S3
	Scaphiopus hurterii	Hurter's Spadefoot	-	INV	G5	S2
*	Terrapene ornata	Ornate Box Turtle	-	INV	G5	S2

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank
Plants-Non-vascular					
Phormidium treleasei	A blue-green alga	-	INV	GNR	S2
Plants-Vascular					
Acer saccharum var. leucoderme	chalk maple	-	INV	G5T5	S2S
Amorpha ouachitensis	Ouachita indigo-bush	-	INV	G3Q	S3
Apocynum sibiricum	clasping dogbane	-	INV	GNR	S1
Aristida lanosa	woolly three-awn	-	INV	G5	S2
Asplenium pinnatifidum	lobed spleenwort	-	INV	G4	S3
Asplenium x gravesii	Graves' spleenwort	-	INV	GNA	S1
Buchnera floridana	Florida bluehearts	-	INV	GNR	S1
Camassia angusta	prairie wild hyacinth	-	INV	G5?Q	S2S
Cardamine douglassii	purple cress	-	INV	G5	S1
Carex alata	broad-wing sedge	-	INV	G5	S1
Carex arkansana	Arkansas sedge	-	INV	G4	S1
Carex atlantica ssp. atlantica	prickly bog sedge	-	INV	G5T5	S2
Carex bullata	button sedge	-	INV	G5	S1
Carex conjuncta	soft fox sedge	-	INV	G4G5	S1
Carex laevivaginata	smooth-sheath sedge	-	INV	G5	S2
Carex lupuliformis	false hop sedge	-	INV	G4	S15
Carex stricta	tussock sedge	-	INV	G5	S3
Chelone glabra	white turtlehead	-	INV	G5	S1
Clematis glaucophylla	white-leaf leather-flower	-	INV	G4?	S1
Crassula aquatica	water pygmyweed	-	INV	G5	S15
Crataegus ouachitensis	Ouachita hawthorn	-	INV	GNR	S1
Crataegus reverchonii	Reverchon's Hawthorn	_	INV	G4?	S1
Cyperus haspan	haspan flatsedge	_	INV	G5	S2
Cyperus hystricinus	bristly flatsedge	_	INV	G4	S25
Dalea lanata var. lanata	woolly prairie-clover	_	INV	G5TNR	S25
Draba aprica	open-ground whitlow-grass	_	ST	G3	S2
Eleocharis flavescens var. flavescens	yellow spike-rush	_	INV	G5T5	S15
Eleocharis wolfii	Wolf's spike-rush	_	INV	G3G5	S3
Eriocaulon koernickianum	small-head pipewort	_	SE	G2	S2
Euphorbia missurica	Missouri spurge	_	INV	G5	S2
Euphorbia ouachitana	Ouachita spurge	_	INV	GNR	S3
Eustoma exaltatum Fuirena bushii	catchfly prairie-gentian Bush's umbrella sedge	-	INV INV	G5 G5	S2 S3
Galium arkansanum var. pubiflorum	hairy-flower Arkansas bedstraw	_	INV	G5T2	S2
· ·	Browne's waterleaf	-	INV	G2 G2	S2
Hydrophyllum brownei Hypericum canadense	Canadian St. John's-wort	-	INV	G2 G5	S1
llex verticillata		-	ST	G5 G5	S2
	winterberry	-		G5 G5T5	S2 S1
Ipomoea cordatotriloba var. cordatotriloba	tie-vine morning-glory	-	INV		S2
Iris verna var. smalliana	dwarf iris	-	INV	G5T4T5	
Liatris compacta  Microphos virginionois	Ouachita blazing-star	-	INV	G3	S3
Micranthes virginiensis	early saxifrage	-	INV	G5	S18
Nemastylis nuttallii	Nuttall's pleat-leaf	-	INV	G4	S2
Opuntia nemoralis	Ouachita prickly-pear	-	INV	GNR	S2
Oxalis texana	Texas yellow wood-sorrel	-	INV	GNR	SU
Panicum rigidulum ssp. pubescens	red-top panic grass	-	INV	G5T5?	S1
Paspalum bifidum	pitchfork paspalum	-	INV	G5	SH
Photinia melanocarpa	black chokeberry	-	INV	G5	S1

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank
	Platanthera cristata	crested fringed orchid	-	INV	G5	S1S2
*	Platanthera peramoena	purple fringeless orchid	-	ST	G5	S2
	Platanthera x channellii	Channell's fringed orchid	-	INV	GNA	S1
	Ranunculus aquatilis var. diffusus	white water crowfoot	-	INV	G5T5	S2S3
*	Rhynchospora colorata	white-top sedge	-	SE	G5	S1
*	Rhynchospora gracilenta	slender beaksedge	-	INV	G5	S2
	Rhynchospora scirpoides	long-beak bald-rush	-	INV	G4	S1
	Rudbeckia maxima	great coneflower	-	INV	G4?	S3
*	Sabatia arkansana	Pelton's rose-gentian	-	INV	G1	S1
	Scleria muehlenbergii	Muhlenberg's nut-rush	-	INV	G5	S1S2
	Scleria verticillata	whorled nut-rush	-	ST	G5	S1
*	Scutellaria cardiophylla	Gulf skullcap	-	INV	G4?	S1S2
	Stachys iltisii	Ouachita hedge-nettle	-	INV	G3	S3
*	Streptanthus maculatus ssp. obtusifolius	Arkansas twistflower	-	INV	G3T3Q	S3
*	Thalictrum arkansanum	Arkansas meadow-rue	-	ST	G2Q	S2
	Tradescantia bracteata	long-bract spiderwort	-	INV	G5	S2
	Triadenum virginicum	Virginia marsh-St. John's-wort	-	INV	G5	S1
	Trifolium carolinianum	Carolina clover	-	INV	G5	S1?
	Utricularia subulata	zigzag bladderwort	-	INV	G5	S2
	Valerianella palmeri	Palmer's cornsalad	-	INV	G3	S3
	Veratrum woodii	Wood's false hellebore	-	INV	G5	S3
	Vicia ludoviciana ssp. ludoviciana	Louisiana vetch	-	INV	G5TNR	SH
*	Xyris ambigua	Coastal Plain yellow-eyed-grass	-	INV	G5	S2S3
	Special Elements-Natural Communiti	es				
	Ouachita Novaculite Glade and Woodland		-	INV	GNR	SNR
	Ouachita Shale Glade and Barrens		-	INV	GNR	SNR
*	Ozark-Ouachita Shortleaf Pine-Oak Forest		-	INV	GNR	SNR
*	Spring-Ouachita Mountains		-	INV	GNR	SNR
*	West Gulf Coastal Plain Nepheline Syenite Glade		-	INV	GNR	SNR
	Special Elements-Other					
*	Colonial nesting site, water birds		-	INV	GNR	SNR
*	Geological feature		-	INV	GNR	SNR

<sup>\* -</sup> These elements have been recorded within a one-mile radius of the study corridor

#### **LEGEND**

#### **STATUS CODES**

#### **FEDERAL STATUS CODES**

- C = Candidate species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has enough scientific information to warrant proposing this species for listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.
- LE = Listed Endangered; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed this species as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.
- LT = Listed Threatened; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed this species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.
- -PD = Proposed for Delisting; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed that this species be removed from the list of Endangered or Threatened Species.
- PE = Proposed Endangered; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed this species for listing as endangered.
- PT = Proposed Threatened; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed this species for listing as threatened.
- T/SA = Threatened (or Endangered) because of similarity of appearance. E/SA

#### **STATE STATUS CODES**

- INV = Inventory Element; The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission is currently conducting active inventory work on these elements. Available data suggests these elements are of conservation concern. These elements may include outstanding examples of Natural Communities, colonial bird nesting sites, outstanding scenic and geologic features as well as plants and animals, which, according to current information, may be rare, peripheral, or of an undetermined status in the state. The ANHC is gathering detailed location information on these elements.
- WAT = Watch List Species; The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission is not conducting active inventory work on these species, however, available information suggests they may be of conservation concern. The ANHC is gathering general information on status and trends of these elements. An "\*" indicates the status of the species will be changed to "INV" if the species is verified as occurring in the state (this typically means the agency has received a verified breeding record for the species).
- MON = Monitored Species; The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission is currently monitoring information on these species. These species do not have conservation concerns at present. They may be new species to the state, or species on which additional information is needed. The ANHC is gathering detailed location information on these elements.
- SE = State Endangered; this term is applied differently for plants and animals.

Animals – These species are afforded protection under Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) Regulation. The AGFC states that it is unlawful to import, transport, sell, purchase, hunt, harass or possess any threatened or endangered species of wildlife or parts. The AGFC lists as endangered any wildlife species or subspecies endangered or threatened with extinction, listed or proposed as a candidate for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or any native species or subspecies listed as endangered by the Commission.

Plants – These species have been recognized by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission as being in danger of being extirpated from the state. This is an administrative designation with no regulatory authority.

ST = State Threatened; These species have been recognized by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission as being likely to become endangered in Arkansas in the foreseeable future, based on current inventory information. This is an administrative designation with no regulatory authority.

### **DEFINITION OF RANKS**

Global Ranks

G1 = Critically imperiled globally. At a very high risk of extinction due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations), very steep declines, or other factors.

G2	=	Imperiled globally. At high risk of extinction due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors.				
G3	=	Vulnerable globally. At moderate risk of extinction due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors.				
G4	=	Apparently secure globally. Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.				
G5	=	Secure globally. Common, widespread and abundant.				
GH	=	Of historical occurrence, possibly extinct globally. Missing; known from only historical occurrences, but still some hope of rediscovery.				
GU	=	Unrankable. Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.				
GX	=	Presumed extinct globally. Not located despite intensive searches and virtually no likelihood of rediscovery.				
GNR	=	Unranked. The global rank not yet assessed.				
GNA	=	Not Applicable. A conservation status rank is not applicable.				
T-RANK	(S=	T subranks are given to global ranks when a subspecies, variety, or race is considered at the state level. The subrank is made up of a "T" plus a number or letter (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, H, U, X) with the same ranking rules as a full species.				
State	Ranks					
S1	=	Critically imperiled in the state due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations), very steep declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.				
S2	=	Imperiled in the state due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.				
<b>S</b> 3	=	Vulnerable in the state due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.				
S4	=	Apparently secure in the state. Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.				
S5	=	Secure in the state. Common, widespread and abundant.				
SH	=	Of historical occurrence, with some possibility of rediscovery. Its presence may not have been verified in the past 20-40 years. A species may be assigned this rank without the 20-40 year delay if the only known occurrences were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully sought.				
SU	=	Unrankable. Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.				
SX	=	Presumed extirpated from the state. Not located despite intensive searches and virtually no likelihood of rediscovery.				
SNR	=	Unranked. The state rank not yet assessed.				
SNA	=	Not Applicable. A conservation status rank is not applicable.				
General Ranking Notes						
Q	=	A "Q" in the global rank indicates the element's taxonomic classification as a species is a matter of conjecture among scientists.				
RANGES=		Ranges are used to indicate a range of uncertainty about the status of the element.				
?	=	A question mark is used to denote an inexact numeric rank.				
В	=	Refers to the breeding population of a species in the state.				
N	=	Refers to the non-breeding population of a species in the state.				

## Schmidt, Cassie P.

From: Smethurst, Julia A CIV USARMY CESWF (USA) < Julia.A.Smethurst@usace.army.mil>

**Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2019 2:55 PM

To: McAbee, William C. Cc: Schmidt, Cassie P.

**Subject:** RE: Request for Sec 408 Determination

**Categories:** Filed by Newforma

The trail potentially impacts the Fourche Bayou Basin project and MKARNS. More detailed drawings would be required to see if the project occupies/ uses either of these projects. If it is on the Fourche project, you need to have a "No Objection" letter from the city of Little Rock in order to get a Sec 408 review.

### Julia Smethurst

Little Rock District Section 408 Coordinator e-mail:julia.a.smethurst@usace.army.mil tel: 501.324.5602 fax: 501.324.5605 web: www.swl.usace.army.mil

Planning (SWF), Little Rock District US Army Corps of Engineers 700 W. Capitol P.O.Box 867 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867

----Original Message-----

From: McAbee, William C. [mailto:WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 3:29 PM

To: Smethurst, Julia A CIV USARMY CESWF (USA) <Julia.A.Smethurst@usace.army.mil>

Cc: Schmidt, Cassie P. < CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] FW: Request for Sec 408 Determination

Good Afternoon Ms. Smethurst,

I hope 2019 is being good to you so far.

Garver have a meeting next Thursday with some of the folks in the LR District to discuss the Southwest Trail. The meeting was initiated primarily for discussions related to floodplains and more importantly floodway impacts. I thought I might put this back on your radar just in case you might have some input prior to that meeting. Thanks for your time.

Bill McAbee Garver 501-537-3259 From: Schmidt, Cassie P.

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 3:21 PM

To: McAbee, William C. < WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com>

Subject: FW: Request for Sec 408 Determination

Cassie Schmidt Garver 479-287-4673

From: Schmidt, Cassie P.

Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 12:39 PM

To: 'Smethurst, Julia A CIV USARMY CESWF (US)' < Julia.A.Smethurst@usace.army.mil

<mailto:Julia.A.Smethurst@usace.army.mil> >

Cc: Mountain, Ryan C. <rcmountain@garverusa.com <mailto:rcmountain@garverusa.com > >; McAbee, William C.

<WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com <mailto:WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com> >

Subject: Request for Sec 408 Determination

Good Afternoon Julia,

Garver, LLC (Garver) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed 10-14-foot wide pedestrian/bike trail that extends from Hot Springs to Little Rock, Arkansas (see attached Site Location Maps). The trail's starting lat./long. in Garland County is 34.511668, -93.053488, and the ending lat./long. in Pulaski County is 34.752153, -92.280742. As part of the project, Garver is investigating the environmental implications and required permits/approvals related to the proposed trail.

I wanted to check in with you regarding this project to see where/if Section 408 Coordination might be required. Based on the Fourche Bayou Basin OM Manual, the east end of our project is located within the Fourche Bayou watershed.

Could you please confirm whether or not this project will not require Section 408 coordination/approval? Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cassie Schmidt

Environmental Scientist/Environmental Specialist Transportation Team

Office: 479-287-4673



## United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



Arkansas Ecological Service Field Office 110 South Amity Road, Suite 300 Conway, Arkansas 72032

July 19, 2018

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2018-SLI-1016

Mr. Bill McAbee Environmental Manager Garver, LLC 4701 Northshore Drive North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118

Dear Mr. McAbee:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed your letter and request for information in preparation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents for the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT) related to the Southwest Trail between Hot Springs and Little Rock, Arkansas, Garland, Saline, and Pulaski Counties, Arkansas, Federal Aid Project ("FAP") No. FLAP-FLAP (16) - Southwest Trail. The request for information is related to development of alternatives for ArDOT Job No. 061562 and was received on June 26, 2018.

Your letter specifically requested review of the proposed study area and to notify you of any constraints or concerns regarding the proposed project, such as unique environmental features or environmentally sensitive areas, socio-economic issues, proposed urban developments, and permit or approvals that should be obtained prior to construction of the project. The Service has reviewed the project location, along with our records, and offers the following comments.

As indicated within your letter, the Information for Planning and Consultation System (IPaC) identified a total of 9 threatened and endangered species within the vicinity of this action, along with other species of conservation concern. The list includes:

## Federally Listed Species

Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis Threatened Piping Plover Charadrius melodus Threatened Arkansas Fatmucket Lampsilis powellii Threatened Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) Lampsilis abrupta Endangered Rabbitsfoot Theliderma cylindrica Threatened Winged Mapleleaf Quadrula fragosa Endangered Harperella Ptilimnium nodosum Endangered Missouri Bladderpod Physaria filiformis Threatened Running Buffalo Clover Trifolium stoloniferum Endangered

Critical Habitats

There are no critical habitats at this location.

Mr. Bill McAbee

## Migratory Birds and Eagles

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Due to the proximity to the Saline River, its forks, and the habitat within this area, it is likely that the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) inhabits this area.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations:

- 1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
- 2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Although, each species identified will require further assessment and a determination by the action agency, the primary species that could be affected by this action, depending on the alternative, route, and design of the action, are the freshwater mussel species identified that exist and have habitats within the forks of the Saline River. These species and their habitats lie within the project vicinity identified and the potentially affected areas upstream and downstream of the proposed intersecting action. Depending on the nature and specific location of the action, this project may require consultation in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Sediment and/or nutrient transport from the proposed project location may have direct, indirect, and/or cumulative effects to mussels, fish hosts, and/or their habitat(s). The effects of sedimentation and nutrients (e.g., ammonia, etc.) on mussels, fish, and their habitats are well documented in the scientific literature. Adverse effects associated with sedimentation and nutrification from all phases of construction activities may be minimized and/or alleviated through proper implementation and maintenance of erosion control best management practices and maintaining vegetative buffers. Buffer width is dependent upon slope, vegetation type, and soil types. The Service can provide additional technical assistance on appropriate vegetative buffer widths upon request.

The comments herein are for the sole purpose of providing technical assistance to the action agency or for individual pre-project planning assistance. These comments and opinions should not be misconstrued as an "effect determination" or considered as concurrence with any proceeding determination(s) by the action agency in accordance with Section 7 of the ESA. These comments do not authorize the "take" of a threatened or endangered species, as defined under the ESA. There are mechanisms available for project proponents to receive authorization from the Service for "incidental take" (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Incidental Take Permit or a Biological Opinion with "incidental take" provisions).

The Service recommends preliminary planning, use of best management practices, and selection of alternatives that would minimize and/or avoid affects to these species. More detailed recommendations and guidance cannot be provided at this time due to the limited project

Mr. Bill McAbee

information available. We look forward to assisting you further as more details of the action become available and alternatives are selected.

For further assistance or if you have any questions, please contact Lindsey Lewis at (501) 513-4489 or lindsey\_lewis@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Melvin L. Tobin

Field Supervisor

cc: Project File Read File

Filename: C:\Users\lilewis\Documents\PROJECTS\FY2018\ARDOT\ARDOT Job Number 060562 - FAP\Comments - ARDOT Job Number 060562 - FAP - Garver - NEPA.docx



## 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: August 27, 2019

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2019-SLI-0651

Event Code: 04ER1000-2019-E-02963

Project Name: ARDOT Job No. 060562, Federal Air Project ("FAP") No. FLAP-FLAP (16) -

Southwest Trail

Subject: Updated 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.

If you determine that this project will have no effect on listed species and their habitat in any way, then you have completed Section 7 consultation with the Service and may use this letter in your project file or application.

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.

<u>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,</u>

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 <a href="http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/ProjSpec.html">http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/ProjSpec.html</a>.

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**<a href="http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/Karst.html">http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/Karst.html</a> 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.

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

## **Project Summary**

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2019-SLI-0651

Event Code: 04ER1000-2019-E-02963

Project Name: ARDOT Job No. 060562, Federal Air Project ("FAP") No. FLAP-FLAP

(16) – Southwest Trail

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: Garver Inc. is preparing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

document for the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) for this project. The purpose of the project is to develop a 63-mile long recreational and alternative transportation resource trail, centrally located and spanning the area from Hot Springs National Park in Garland County to the Arkansas River Trail and the Little Rock Central High School

National Historic Site in Pulaski County.

## Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/34.62552101421556N92.38484859560316W">https://www.google.com/maps/place/34.62552101421556N92.38484859560316W</a>



Counties: Garland, AR | Pulaski, AR | Saline, AR

## **Endangered Species Act Species**

There is a total of 11 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an
office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of
Commerce.

## **Mammals**

NAME STATUS

### Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis*

Threatened

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>

### **Birds**

NAME STATUS

### Least Tern Sterna antillarum

Endangered

Population: interior pop.

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8505">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8505</a>

## Piping Plover Charadrius melodus

Threatened

Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except

those areas where listed as endangered.

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039

## Event Code: 04ER1000-2019-E-02963

## **Clams**

NAME **STATUS** 

Arkansas Fatmucket Lampsilis powellii

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2213

Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) Lampsilis abrupta

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7829

Rabbitsfoot Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica

There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165

Winged Mapleleaf Quadrula fragosa

Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4127

**Insects** 

NAME **STATUS** 

Rattlesnake-master Borer Moth *Papaipema eryngii* 

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7863

Flowering Plants

**STATUS** NAME

Harperella Ptilimnium nodosum

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3739

Missouri Bladderpod *Physaria filiformis* 

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5361

Running Buffalo Clover Trifolium stoloniferum

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2529

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

Endangered

Threatened

Threatened

Endangered

Candidate

Endangered

Threatened

Endangered

## Schmidt, Cassie P.

Subject:

RE: [EXTERNAL] Southwest Trail - Effects Determination Concurrence

**From:** Lewis, Lindsey < lindsey\_lewis@fws.gov> **Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2019 11:17 AM

To: Schmidt, Cassie P. < CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Southwest Trail - Effects Determination Concurrence

Cassie,

Based on the habitat assessment you provided and the limited amount of information available about the action being proposed, we believe that there is insufficient information available for a determination and consultation at this time. The habitat assessment itself is adequate for providing important information for an environmental or biological assessment. However, in order to make a determination and to proceed with consultation, additional project information is necessary such as how the trail will be constructed, maintained, used, etc. More specifically, we will need additional information such as detailed maps or design plans for examining widths at critical locations and effects (shapefiles and/or kmz); how soil will be disturbed and conserved; BMP descriptions; what materials will be used; amount and type of traffic will be anticipated; maintenance chemicals or mechanical measures that will be used; exact stream crossing locations, methods, and sediment and erosion control measures; etc. Additionally, once we know the extent of the potential effects that may occur from the action, site specific surveys or other conservation actions may be necessary to make a determination and/or complete consultation. We are unable to make any recommendations or complete a biological consultation without this information and possibly further coordination.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional assistance.

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 <u>Lindsey Lewis@fws.gov</u> <u>http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/</u>

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

From: Lewis, Lindsey < lindsey lewis@fws.gov> Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 11:01 AM To: Schmidt, Cassie P. < CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com> Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Southwest Trail - Effects Determination Concurrence Cassie The Service has received the Draft EA for this action and will begin reviewing it immediately. If you would like us to provide an expedited response and concurrence/non-concurrence letter, we can do so; however, the letter would be contingent on the Final EA having no substantive changes. Alternatively we can provide you with a finalized concurrence/non-concurrence letter for the Final EA once it is approved by ArDOT and submitted to us for review and response. Regardless of how you choose to proceed, we will begin reviewing the draft so that we can provide you with our response as soon as possible. Best regards, **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

http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/

On Mon, Sep 9, 2019 at 10:18 AM Schmidt, Cassie P. < <a href="mailto:CPSchmidt@garverusa.com">CPSchmidt@garverusa.com</a>> wrote:

Good Morning Lindsey,

Please find the attached habitat assessment and effects determinations for federally listed T&E species in the vicinity of the proposed Southwest Trail project. We respectfully request your concurrence and humbly ask for an expedited review.

Sincerely,



## **Cassie Schmidt**

Environmental Scientist/Environmental Specialist *Transportation Team* 

*3* 479-287-4673

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## Schmidt, Cassie P.

From: McAbee, William C.

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2018 7:00 PM

**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P.

**Subject:** Fwd: Southwest Trail Between Hot Springs and Little Rock, Arkansas

Bill McAbee Garver 601-715-4803

## Begin forwarded message:

From: "Baldwin, William" < bbaldwin@usgs.gov>

Date: May 30, 2018 at 5:02:41 PM CDT

To: < wcmcabee@garverusa.com >

Subject: Southwest Trail Between Hot Springs and Little Rock, Arkansas

The USGS has no concerns unless it would physically impact our stream gaging stations.

Thank you

Bill Baldwin
Data Chief
U.S. Geological Survey
Lower Mississippi Gulf Water Science Center
401 Hardin Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72211
501-228-3602
https://wise.er.usgs.gov/data/ar\_data.html



## Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office

## PUZVZO ROCU RUBON

Date: August 3, 2018

RE: FHWA, ArDOT, Job 061562, Develop an approx. 63-mile long recreational and alternative

transportation resource trail, Multiple Counties, Arkansas

Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department Randal Looney 700 West Capitol Ave, Suite 3130 Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Looney,

The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office has received notification and accompanying information for the proposed project FHWA, ArDOT, Job 061562, Develop an approx. 63-mile long recreational and alternative transportation resource trail, Multiple Counties, Arkansas. The proposed undertaking's terminus at the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site is located approximately 3.5 miles southwest of the Osage Trace. Expedient graves and temporary hunting camps may be located along this trail. I understand that the cultural resources survey is scheduled to be performed in the near future. This office looks forward to reviewing the final report.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, (NHPA) [16 U.S.C. 470 §§ 470-470w-6] 1966, undertakings subject to the review process are referred to in S101 (d) (6) (A), which clarifies that historic properties may have religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes. Additionally, Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties (36 CFR Part 800) as does the National Environmental Policy Act (43 U.S.C. 4321 and 4331-35 and 40 CFR 1501.7(a) of 1969).

The Osage Nation has a vital interest in protecting its historic and ancestral cultural resources, which are protected under the NHPA, NEPA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and Osage law, and appreciates your consideration of the provided information in the planning process.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at the number listed below. Thank you for consulting with the Osage Nation on this matter.

Sincerely,

James Munkres Archaeologist

RECEIVED

File: 1718-3257AR-7

AUG 9 2018

FHWA ARKANSAS

# QUAPAW TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

P.O. Box 765 Quapaw, OK 74363-0765 (918) 542-1853 FAX (918) 542-4694

ARDOT

AUG 06 2018

August 2, 2018

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department P.O. Box 2261 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261

Re: ArDOT Job 061562 - Southwest Trail Design - Garland, Saline & Pulaski Counties, Arkansas

To whom it may concern,

The Quapaw Tribe Historic Preservation Office has received and reviewed the information provided for the proposed ArDOT Job 061562 – Southwest Trail Design – Garland, Saline & Pulaski Counties, Arkansas and concurs with your recommendations for this project conducting a cultural resources Survey.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, (NHPA) [16 U.S C. 470 §§ 470-470w-6] 1966, undertakings subject to the review process are referred to in S101 (d) (6) (A), which clarifies that historic properties may have religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes. Additionally, Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties (36 CFR Part 800) as does the National Environmental Policy Act (43 U.S.C. 4321 and 4331-35 and 40 CFR 1501.7(a) of 1969).

The Quapaw Tribe has vital interests in protecting its historic and ancestral cultural resources. We do not anticipate that this project will adversely impact any cultural resources or human remains protected under the NHPA, NEPA, or the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. If however, artifacts or human remains are discovered during project construction, we ask that work cease immediately and that you contact the Quapaw Tribe Historic Preservation Office.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at the number listed below. Thank you for consulting with the Quapaw Tribe on this matter.

Sincerely,

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Everett Band

Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma

P.O. Box 765 Quapaw, OK 74363

(w) 918-238-3100