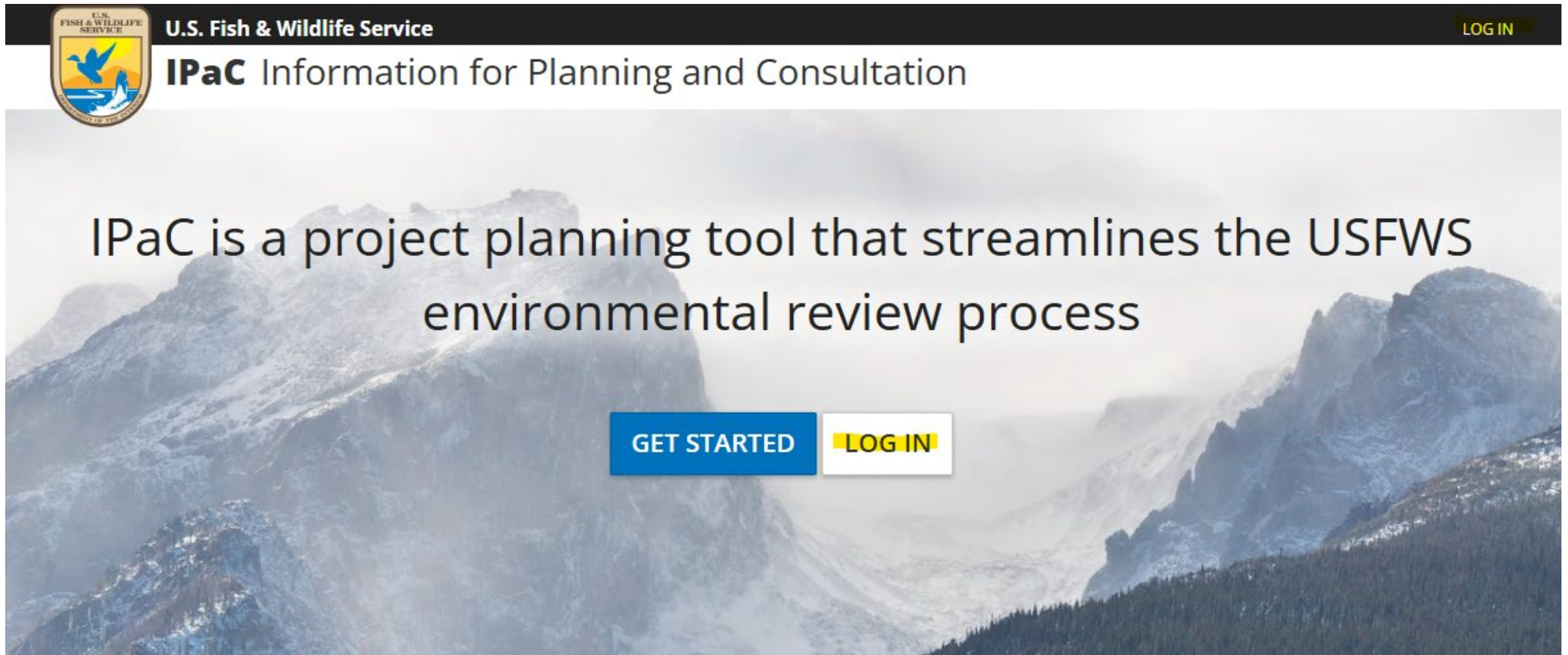


Guidance for completing
Section 7(a)(2) informal
consultation in IPaC and
Section 7(a)(4) jeopardy
determinations

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service uses an online system to provide technical assistance to project proponents and to evaluate proposed projects in accordance with section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act. Our online system is called Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC). You may access it at <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>

Select “**Log In**”.



The screenshot shows the top section of the IPaC website. At the top is a dark navigation bar with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service logo on the left, the text "U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service" in the center, and a "LOG IN" button on the right. Below this is a large banner with a background image of a mountain range. The banner contains the text "IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation" in a large, bold font. Below this text, there are two buttons: a blue "GET STARTED" button and a white "LOG IN" button with a yellow highlight.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation

LOG IN

IPaC is a project planning tool that streamlines the USFWS environmental review process

GET STARTED LOG IN

Create a free account, log into it, and select “My Projects”

Log in



LOGIN.GOV LOGIN

You can use your Login.gov profile as your IPaC account. You will need to allow IPaC to read your basic profile information.

LOG IN WITH  LOGIN.GOV

IPAC LOGIN

Why do I need an IPaC account?

An account is required to define a project or request an official species list. This is necessary to keep your projects secure. Other benefits include easier access to a list of your projects, improved project sharing, and a profile to pre-fill forms.

To create an IPaC account, you must agree to the [system use policy](#).

Notice

By logging into this agency computer system, you acknowledge and consent to the monitoring of this system. Evidence of your use, authorized or unauthorized, collected during monitoring may be used for civil, criminal, administrative, or other adverse action. Unauthorized or illegal use may subject you to prosecution.

This computer system, including all related equipment, networks, and network devices (including Internet access), is provided by the Department of the Interior (DOI) in accordance with the agency policy for official use and limited personal use.

All agency computer systems may be monitored for all lawful purposes, including but not limited to, ensuring that use is authorized, for management of the system, to facilitate protection against unauthorized access, and to verify security procedures, survivability and operational security. Any information on this computer system may be examined, recorded, copied and used for authorized purposes at any time.

All information, including personal information, placed or sent over this system may be monitored, and users of this system are reminded that such monitoring does occur. Therefore, there should be no expectation of privacy with respect to use of this system.

This is a Privacy Act System of Records. Please Review the [ECOS Privacy Act Statement](#).



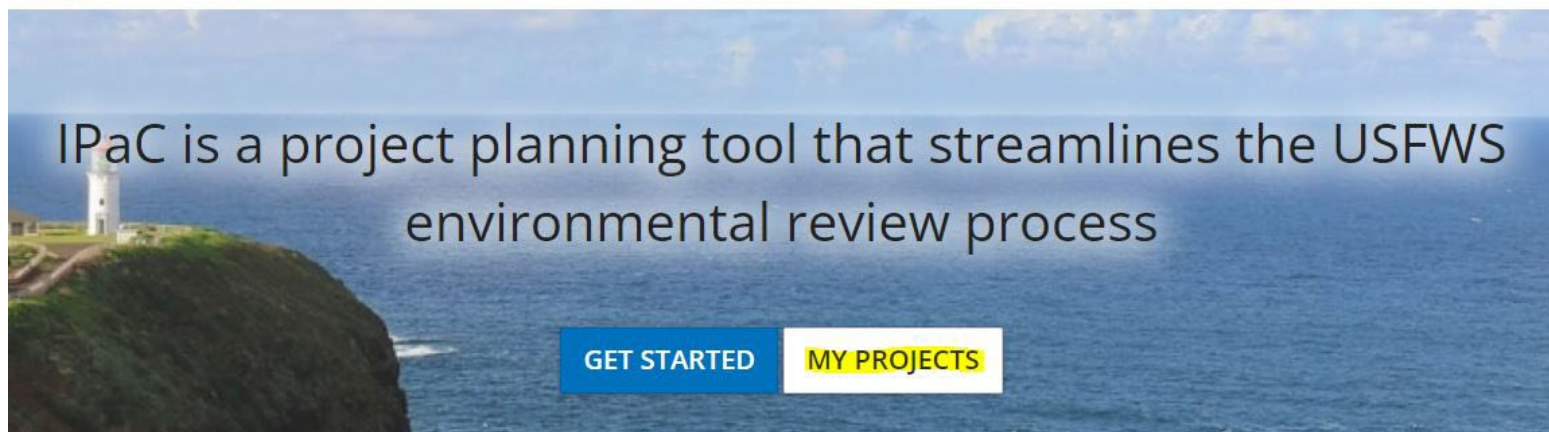
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

REBECCA PEAK ▾

IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation

Powered by ECOS - the Environmental Conservation Online System

Last login April 08, 2022 06:49 PM



On the “**My projects**” page, select “**Create New Project**” to start a new project or the project title then “**Project Home**” to view an existing project. In the example, “**ANHC RCW mgmt test**” is the title of an existing project.

IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MY PROJECTS

REBECCA PEAK

Last login November 17, 2021 09:35 AM

My projects


Projects that you create or have access to are presented in this project list. If a project is missing, you may [request access](#) if you have the original email address and consultation code.

Note: Projects or species lists generated prior to May 2015 are no longer available. You will need to [create a new project](#).

To review a project as an action agency representative, you can [search by record locator](#).

You can organize your project list by [tagging](#) or [archiving](#) individual projects.


Showing unarchived projects



Saline County grant from FEMA test

Saline County, Arkansas

Last updated 6 seconds ago



ANHC RCW mgmt test

Bradley and Drew counties, Arkansas

Last updated 6 days ago

DESCRIPTION

management activites such as inserts and mulching on Warren and Pine City Natural Areas.

CREATED

6 days ago

For new projects, identify the area where activities will occur including any laydown or staging areas using **1 “Find Location”** or **2 “Define area”**. **Note:** If you select **“Upload Geometry”** you must create a zip as specified below. If you see **“Error uploading shape”**, then follow the instructions to create a multipart polygon feature in IPaC mapper.

1

Find location

Search or zoom to find the project location

Find a place

Or skip this step and:

UPLOAD GEOMETRY


Selection by state or county is no longer available.


2


Define area

Draw the area where activities will occur

Select a drawing tool

 SKETCH

 POLYGON

 LINE

Other options:

UPLOAD GEOMETRY

Selection by state or county is no longer available.

Upload project area shape file

To upload a shape file, create a zip containing the *.shp, *.shx, *.dbf (and *.prj if it is not in Lat/Lon). You may also upload a Google Earth file (*.kml, *.kmz) or a GeoJSON Feature Collection (*.json, *.geojson).

Note: Shape files have a size limit of 2MB total and 30K vertices

Helpful Tip: Please simplify your shape file prior to uploading, especially for detailed maps such as CAD drawings.

BROWSE...

Demo: Using shape file upload for IPaC projects 1m 30s

How do I create a multipart polygon feature to use in the IPaC mapper?

OK

Upload project area shape file

To upload a shape file, create a zip containing the *.shp, *.shx, *.dbf (and *.prj if it is not in Lat/Lon).

BROWSE...

MilTrainingRoute_L.zip

Demo: Using shape file upload for IPaC projects 1m 30s

Error uploading shape:

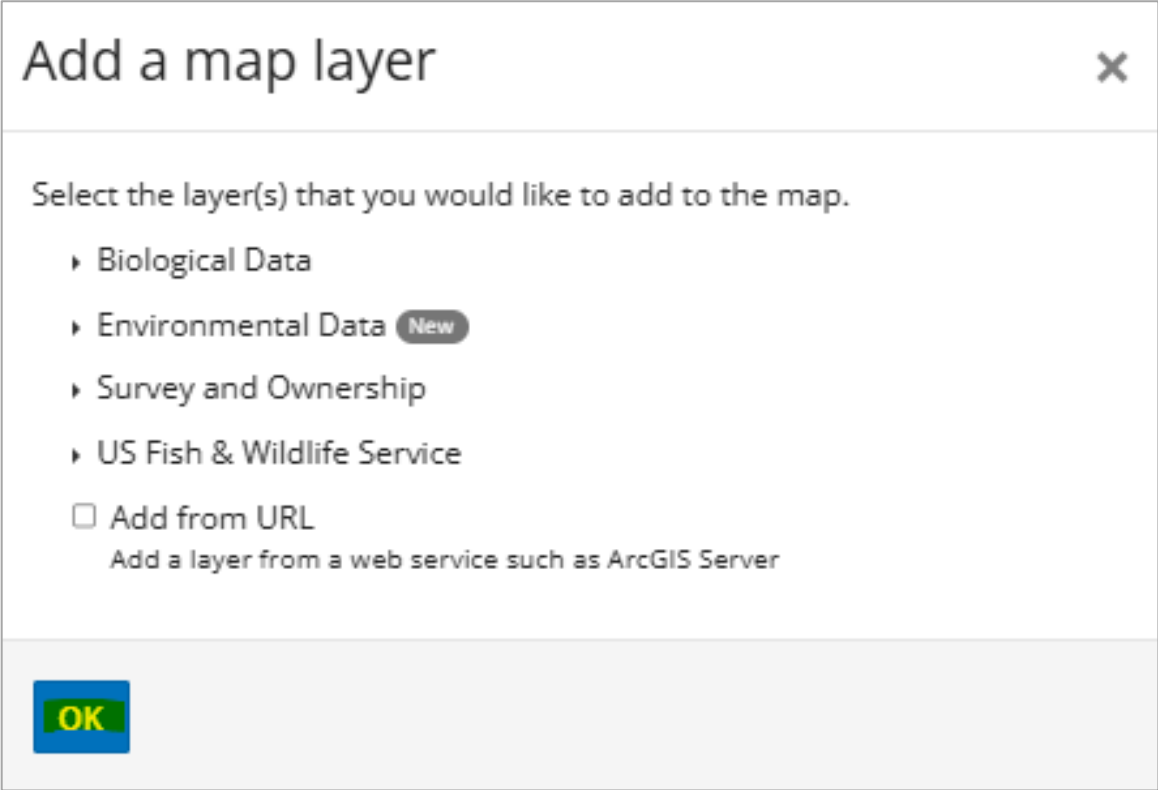
The feature in this shape file is a multi-part line, which is not supported by IPaC. If your project is made up of multiple discontinuous line segments, first buffer your line segments to polygons and upload again.

How do I create a multipart polygon feature to use in the IPaC mapper?

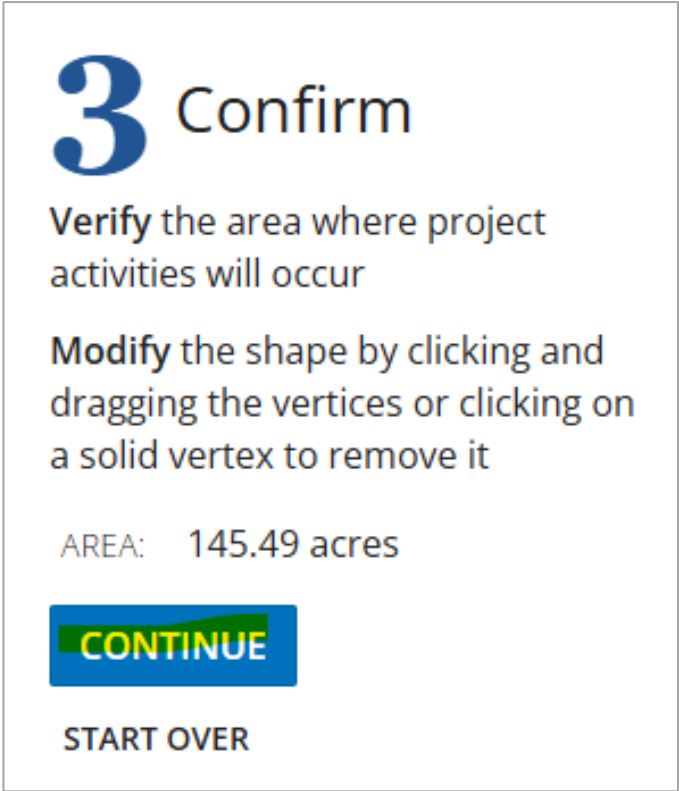
OK

Select “**Add**” on the Layers bar to browse additional layers you may want to add to the map.

When finished, select “**OK**”.



For **3** “**Confirm**” select “**Continue**” or “**Start Over**”.




IPaC does not support multi-state evaluations. If two offices are listed under “**Explore location**” or two states under “**Location**”, then select “**Change Location**” to edit the geometry you uploaded or area you defined so it does not cross a state line. If you need to evaluate the effects of your proposed project for multiple states, then you will need to complete an evaluation for each state.

IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation
MY PROJECTS

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
REBECCA PEAK ▾

Explore location

LOCAL OFFICES 2 OFFICES



LOCATION
Arkansas and
Oklahoma
CHANGE LOCATION

Resources

ENDANGERED SPECIES	28
CRITICAL HABITATS	6

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES !

MIGRATORY BIRDS !

FACILITIES

WETLANDS !

PRINT RESOURCE LIST

Endangered species

Listed species[?] and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[?]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are not shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).


Additional information on endangered species data is provided [below](#).

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

THUMBNAILS LIST


Mammals

Endangered

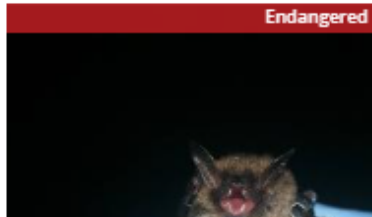


Endangered

CH



Endangered



What's next?


Define a project at this location to evaluate potential impacts, get an official species list, and make species determinations.

DEFINE PROJECT

Select “**Define Project**”, Name the project and provide a detailed description that includes proposed activities, location, size and scope, and timing. An insufficient description of the project may cause office staff to request additional information and delay the project. The project description has a 4000-character limit. Select “**Save**”.

Resources

ENDANGERED SPECIES	12
MIGRATORY BIRDS	14
FACILITIES	
WETLANDS	!

 PRINT RESOURCE LIST

What's next?

Define a project at this location to evaluate potential impacts, get an official species list, and make species determinations.

DEFINE PROJECT

Define project

Define a project at this location to evaluate potential impacts, get an official species list, and make species determinations.

Project name

Project description

Describe the location, size, scope, and timing of this project.

SAVE

CANCEL

“Arkansas” after the project name “example evaluation May 2025” indicates this project only includes Arkansas. Also, only one local office is listed for the project “Arkansas ESFO”. Select “Start Review”.

IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation
MY PROJECTS

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
REBECCA PEAK

example evaluation May 2025Arkansas

PROJECT HOMEREGULATORY REVIEWLOCAL OFFICEARKANSAS ESFO


Select the “Edit” icon to change the project name and description

Note: You can give other individuals access to the project by selecting “Member” at the bottom of the project home page and adding their email address.

Note: Documents are uploaded on the project’s home page. For this project “1 Document”, the shapefile has been uploaded. Once the official species list and transmittal letter(s) are generated they also will be uploaded here.

example evaluation May 2025

Name the project and provide a detailed description that includes proposed activities, location, size and scope, and timing. An insufficient description of the project may cause office staff to request additional information and delay the project.



LOCATION Arkansas

CREATED May 15, 2025

1 MEMBER1 DOCUMENT

What's next?

ESA REVIEW

Review this project's effects on listed species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as part of the overall regulatory review.

START REVIEW

SPECIES LIST

To request an official species list, including updated lists, please select the 'Start Review' button.

Local office

Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office

Office LEAD

(501) 513-4470

(501) 513-4480

110 South Amity Suite 300
Conway, AR 72032-8975

To learn more about Section 7 select “[Overview of Section 7](#)” otherwise select “**Continue**”.

Endangered Species Act Review

Step-by-step consultation process

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) Review in IPaC is a streamlined, step-by-step consultation process. The steps below prepare you for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or provide official documentation if consultation is not necessary.

1 Request an official species list

An official species list must be requested for projects conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by a Federal agency. Projects unaffiliated with a Federal agency may skip this step.

NOTE: Generating an official species list does not start the consultation clock for a project.

2 Evaluate determination keys

Determination Keys are up-front analyses from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that streamline the consultation process for common project types. Each determination key starts with a qualification interview to see if the key is appropriate for your project.



3 Evaluate effects to remaining species through the Consultation Package Builder

When you have listed species ¹ in your project area that have not been addressed by a determination key, IPaC's project analysis tool is used to further analyze your project. The process assists you in making effect determinations and results in a document (i.e., Biological Assessment or other environmental review document) that can be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for consultation.

4 Finalize your consultation package

Print your project documents to PDF.

Note: Step 3 is optional. Do not complete it without contacting the Arkansas Ecological Services Office first.

For more information about the consultation process, see an [overview of Section 7](#).

CONTINUE

Step 1 “Request an official species list”. You must request an official species list when projects are conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal “Action” agency. If this applies to your project select **“Yes, Request A Species List”**. If it does not, then select **“Skip/Does Not Apply”**.

Use **“Back”** and **“Exit Review”** above the progress ribbon as needed. They appear at the top of the screen throughout the review.

A progress ribbon at the top of each screen tracks your progress as you move through the steps. The step on which you are currently working is underlined in gray.

Endangered Species Act Review

◀ BACK EXIT REVIEW

1 Request an official species list

2 Evaluate Determination Keys

3 Analyze project (optional)

4 Download documentation

Step 1: Request an official species list

An official species list is a letter from the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office that assists in the evaluation of potential impacts of your project. It includes a list of species that should be considered under [Section 7](#) of the Endangered Species Act, a project tracking number, and other pertinent information from the field office.

Does this project require an official species list?

Federal agencies are required to "request of the Secretary of Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action" ([Section 7](#) of the Endangered Species Act).

This requirement applies to projects that are **conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed** by any Federal agency.

NOTE: Generating an official species list does not start the consultation clock for a project.

YES, REQUEST A SPECIES LIST SKIP / DOES NOT APPLY

If you select “**Yes, Request A Species List**”, then answer the questions and select “**Submit Official Species List**” at the bottom of the screen. If you select “**Skip/Does Not Apply**”, then select “**Next Step: Determination Keys.**”

Endangered Species Act Review

◀ BACK EXIT REVIEW

1 Request an official species list

2 Evaluate Determination Keys

3 Analyze project (optional)

4 Download documentation

Step 1: Request an official species list

An official species list is a letter from the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office that assists in the evaluation of potential impacts of your project. It includes a list of species that should be considered under [Section 7](#) of the Endangered Species Act, a project tracking number, and other pertinent information from the field office.

Does this project require an official species list?

☒ Yes, request a species list

CHANGE ANSWER

Upon submitting this form, IPaC will provide a letter from the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office containing a species list that fulfills the requirement listed above, a project tracking number, as well as other pertinent information from the local office.

The following information will be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will be part of the public record. All fields are required unless otherwise noted.

Tell us about the project and your organization or agency

Is this project being conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by a Federal agency?

☒ Yes

CHANGE ANSWER

Does your project fall under (or receive funding through) any of the following special project authorities? (select all that apply)

SUBMIT OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST REQUEST

I understand that I am providing this information so an official species list can be generated, based on data provided by my local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office for the project area that I entered.

The following authorizes the collection of the above information (5 U.S.C. 301; the Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 3101; Homeland Security Act of 2002; Public Law 107-296, 6 U.S.C. 121; and Executive Order 9373) and will be maintained in accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a).

Endangered Species Act Review

◀ BACK EXIT REVIEW

1 Request an official species list
Skipped

2 Evaluate Determination Keys

3 Analyze project (optional)

4 Download documentation

Step 1: Request an official species list

An official species list is a letter from the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office that assists in the evaluation of potential impacts of your project. It includes a list of species that should be considered under [Section 7](#) of the Endangered Species Act, a project tracking number, and other pertinent information from the field office.

Species list request skipped
You have skipped requesting an official species list.

REQUEST SPECIES LIST NEXT STEP: DETERMINATION KEYS

✔ next to **Step 1 “Request an official species list”** on the progress ribbon indicates you requested an official species list — indicates you did not.

If you requested an official species list, then you can either wait for your list to be generated and access it as a .pdf here or from the documents page located at the bottom of the project’s home page (see page 9). Move to **Step 2** by selecting **“Next Step: Determination Keys”** in blue at the bottom of either screen.

Endangered Species Act Review

◀ BACKEXIT REVIEW

✔ Request an official species list

— Evaluate Determination Keys

— 3 Analyze project (optional)

— 4 Download documentation


Step 1: Request an official species list

An official species list is a letter from the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office that assists in the evaluation of potential impacts of your project. It includes a list of species that should be considered under [Section 7](#) of the Endangered Species Act, a project tracking number, and other pertinent information from the field office.

✔ Species list request complete

This species list was generated 25 minutes ago. Species lists are considered valid for 90 days.

An official species list has been generated for the following office.

 [Species List: Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office](#)

This document is also available on the [Documents](#) page.

REQUEST UPDATED SPECIES LISTNEXT STEP: DETERMINATION KEYS

Endangered Species Act Review

◀ BACKEXIT REVIEW

— Request an official species list Skipped

— Evaluate Determination Keys

— 3 Analyze project (optional)

— 4 Download documentation

Step 1: Request an official species list

An official species list is a letter from the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office that assists in the evaluation of potential impacts of your project. It includes a list of species that should be considered under [Section 7](#) of the Endangered Species Act, a project tracking number, and other pertinent information from the field office.

— Species list request skipped

You have skipped requesting an official species list.

REQUEST SPECIES LISTNEXT STEP: DETERMINATION KEYS

Step 2 “Evaluate determination keys”. You will see at least one of these keys.

We recommend starting with the **AFO Arkansas Multi-Species Determination Key** if it is listed as an option and the project is not funded or authorized by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA). If the project is funded or authorized by one of these three agencies use the **FHWA, FRA, FTA Programmatic Consultation for Transportation Projects affecting NLEB or Indiana Bat**.

Use the **American Burying Beetle (ABB) Consultation and 4(d) rule consistency key** if it is listed as an option and ABB is the **only** species for which you are making an effects determination. The **ABB key** is included in the **AFO Arkansas Multi-Species key**, so use it if you need to make effects determinations for multiple species including ABB.

Endangered Species Act Review

◀ BACK EXIT REVIEW

✔ Request an official species list

2 Evaluate determination keys

3 Analyze project (optional)

4 Download documentation

- AFO Arkansas Multi-Species Determination Key

Release date: May 6, 2024

This decision key is intended for projects or actions funded, authorized or carried out by federal agencies to help you make effect determinations for listed species and designated critical habitat that may occur in your project area.

EVALUATE

SKIP / DOES NOT APPLY
- American Burying Beetle Consultation and 4(d) Rule Consistency

Release date: June 6, 2024

This decision key is intended to help project proponents (federal and non-federal) determine if your proposed action is consistent with activities excepted from prohibited take, as defined in the October 15, 2020 American burying beetle 4(d) rule.

EVALUATE

SKIP / DOES NOT APPLY

- FHWA, FRA, FTA Programmatic Consultation for Transportation Projects affecting NLEB or Indiana Bat

Release date: November 4, 2024

The key is intended for projects funded or authorized by FHWA, FRA, or FTA, that may affect the endangered Indiana bat and/or the endangered northern long-eared bat, which requires consultation with the USFWS under Section 7 of the ESA.

EVALUATE

SKIP / DOES NOT APPLY
- Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key

Release date: November 7, 2024

This key is intended to streamline review of projects for potential effects to the Northern Long-eared Bat and the proposed Tricolored Bat.

EVALUATE

SKIP / DOES NOT APPLY

This screen provides information about consultations with other Federal agencies the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service used to develop each respective determination key listed on the previous screen.

The information you see here is specific to the “**AFO Arkansas Multi-Species Determination Key**”. It also includes a list of species and critical habitats covered by this key.

For more information about the AFO Arkansas Multi-Species Determination Key select “**detailed overview**”.

Scroll to the bottom of the screen and select “**Check If My Project Qualifies**”.

Endangered Species Act Review

◀ BACK EXIT REVIEW

✓ Request an official species list — ② Evaluate Determination Keys — ③ Analyze project (optional) — ④ Download documentation

DETERMINATION KEY

AFO Arkansas Multi-Species Determination Key

Release date: April 24, 2025

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

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

[SLOPES with Little Rock District 2018](#)
[Farm Service Agency Statewide Programmatic Consultation 2019](#)
[USFS Ouachita National Forest Programmatic Biological Opinion 2010](#)
[USFS Ozark St. Francis National Forest Programmatic Biological Opinion 2010](#)
[Cooperative Agreement Between USFWS and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission](#)
[Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Indiana Bat Programmatic Biological Opinion 2019](#)
[Arkansas Species Determination Key Standing Analysis](#)

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

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

CHECK IF MY PROJECT QUALIFIES

SKIP / DOES NOT APPLY

Each determination key starts with a qualification interview to see if the key applies to your proposed project and provide guidance to help you make appropriate determinations for the species it covers.

If you made a "no effect" determination for all species in the project area, answer “Yes” to the first question.

Note, a project with effects that cannot be meaningfully measured, detected or evaluated, effects that are extremely unlikely to occur, or entirely beneficial should not have a “no effect” determination.

Your consultation is complete. As documentation of the "no effect" determinations print the screen and upload it as a document on the project’s home page (see page 9).

Select "Exit Review" above the progress ribbon to return to the project home page. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not concur with “no effect” determinations, so at this point you are finished.

Endangered Species Act Review

← BACK

EXIT REVIEW

➔

Request an official species list
Skipped

➔

2 Evaluate determination keys

➔

3 Analyze project (optional)

➔

4 Download documentation

EVALUATING: CONSULTATION ON EFFECTS OF PROPOSED PROJECTS TO THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN ARKANSAS

Qualification interview

The following questions will determine whether this key applies to your project and provide guidance to help you make appropriate determinations for the species covered by this key.

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

☒ Yes

CHANGE ANSWER

EVALUATION PROGRESS

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

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

CONTINUE REVIEW

If you are unsure select "**No**" for question 1.

Select the appropriate response to question 2. If the answer is "**No**" then the letter generated at the end of the interview only provides technical assistance because U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not consult under Section 7(a) 2 of the Endangered Species Act for projects that are not authorized, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency.

For question 3, the action i.e., Federal agency may designate a non-Federal representative to act on their behalf when completing a Section 7(a)(2) consultation. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service requires the action agency to formally designate the non-Federal representative to us in writing. The responsibility for Section 7 obligations remains with the action i.e., Federal agency.

For question 4, you only represent the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the consultation if you work for a program within the agency e.g., Ecological Services, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Office of Conservation Investment, or Migratory Birds programs; National Wildlife Refuge or National Fish Hatchery systems.

Endangered Species Act Review

[< BACK](#)[EXIT REVIEW](#)

➔ Request an official species list
Skipped

➔ 2 Evaluate determination keys

➔ 3 Analyze project (optional)

➔ 4 Download documentation

EVALUATING: CONSULTATION ON EFFECTS OF PROPOSED PROJECTS TO THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN ARKANSAS

Qualification interview

The following questions will determine whether this key applies to your project and provide guidance to help you make appropriate determinations for the species covered by this key.

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

☒ No

CHANGE ANSWER

2. Is the action authorized, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency?

☒ Yes

CHANGE ANSWER

3. Are you the the action agency or the designated non-federal representative?

☐ Yes

☐ No

4. Choose the agency you represent in this consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

☐ a. U.S. Forest Service

☐ b. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

☐ c. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

☐ d. Federal Highway Administration

☐ e. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (Intra-service consultation)

☐ f. Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (Intra-service consultation)

☐ g. All other federal agencies or agency designees

The qualification interview may include the following question “**Have you contacted the Arkansas Ecological Services Office to determine if a species or suitable habitat survey is recommended for [insert species name here]**”. If so, then you need to contact us and ask the question. An example is provided below.

52. Have you contacted the Arkansas Ecological Services Office to determine if a species or suitable habitat survey is recommended for the Rabbitsfoot?

☒ Yes

Once you have the additional information, you can navigate back to the project’s home page and select “**Resume Review**” then “**Evaluate determination keys**” to complete the review.

What's next?

ESA REVIEW

Review this project's effects on listed species ¹ pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as part of the overall regulatory review.

RESUME REVIEW

SPECIES LIST

You skipped requesting an official species list.

REQUEST SPECIES LIST

Endangered species

Endangered species are protected under the Endangered Species Act ¹.

12 endangered species are known to occur or may be affected by activities in this location.

Request an official species list

You skipped requesting an official species list.

Evaluate determination keys

There were 3 determination keys available for this project. You have evaluated one of them. There are 2 keys that cannot be evaluated.

Analyze project (optional)

RESUME PROJECT ANALYSIS

Download documentation

Continue through the interview until you reach the last question.

Depending on your answers, you may be able to request U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurrence for your effects determinations. If so, complete the project questionnaire by selecting the appropriate program and funding source from the dropdown menus. Select “**Continue**”.

Endangered Species Act Review

◀ BACK EXIT REVIEW

✔ Request an official species list

— Evaluate Determination Keys

— 3 Analyze project (optional)

— 4 Download documentation

Step 2: Evaluate determination keys - project survey

Please complete this project questionnaire.

AFO ARKANSAS MULTI-SPECIES DETERMINATION KEY

Choose the appropriate program below:

Choose the appropriate funding source below:

CONTINUE

Next, you can request automated concurrence for this project.

SAVE FOR LATER

If you want to submit the project for U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurrence select “**Yes, Submit To USFWS**”.

Endangered Species Act Review

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Request an official
species list
Skipped



Evaluate Determination
Keys



Analyze project (optional)



Download documentation

Determination

You have reached a determination of may affect - not likely to adversely affect based on this determination key. Review the guidance below and request USFWS concurrence for this project.

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for at least one species as outlined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Arkansas Determination Key for project review and guidance for federally listed species.

As the action agency, you may request concurrence for the determination of may affect - not likely to adversely affect for the covered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will issue an automated concurrence letter supporting your determination.

The concurrence letter will contain information about the project and the determination key result.

If you think the determination results from this key should be different based on your answers, please contact the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office.

Do you want to submit this project for USFWS concurrence?

YES, SUBMIT TO USFWS

[VIEW / CHANGE ANSWERS](#)

[CANCEL](#)

If you reach a determination of “**May affect-not likely to adversely affect**” for species with a 4(d) rule, “**No effect**”, or “**NLAA**”, then you will receive a concurrence or concurrence verification letter like the one on the left. Make sure to read the information provided below the determinations that explains the **status** of the consultation, the listed species covered by the letter, and information about other Federal trust resources on which you may need to consult that are not included in Section 7(a)(2) consultations.

Status

The Service concurs with the NLAA determination(s) for the species listed above. No further consultation for this project is required for these species. Your agency has met consultation requirements by informing the Service of your “No Effect” determinations. No consultation for this project is required for species that you determined will not be affected by this action.

This concurrence verification letter confirms you may rely on effect determinations you reached by considering the Arkansas DKey to satisfy agency consultation requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.; ESA). No further consultation for this project is required for species that you determined will not be affected by this action.

The Service recommends that your agency contact the Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office or re-evaluate this key in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the proposed project changes, 2) new information reveals the action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat; 3) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional consultation with the Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office should take place before project changes are final or resources committed.



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office
110 South Amity Suite 300
Conway, AR 72032-8975
Phone: (501) 513-4470 Fax: (501) 513-4480

In Reply Refer To:
Project code: 2023-0051214
Project Name: [REDACTED]

March 13, 2023

Subject: Concurrence verification letter for [REDACTED] for specified federally threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitat that may occur in your proposed project area consistent with the Arkansas Determination Key for project review and guidance for federally listed species (Arkansas Dkey).

Dear [REDACTED]:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on March 13, 2023 your effect determination(s) for the [REDACTED] (the Action) using the Arkansas DKey within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. The Service developed this system in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based on your answers, and the assistance in the Service’s Arkansas DKey, you made the following effect determination(s) for the proposed Action, including species protective measures that you confirmed will be implemented.

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Eastern Black Rail (<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i> ssp. <i>jamaicensis</i>)	Threatened	No effect
Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) (<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>)	Endangered	NLAA
Piping Plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)	Threatened	No effect
Pondberry (<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>)	Endangered	No effect
Rabbitsfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>)	Threatened	NLAA
Red Knot (<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>)	Threatened	No effect
Red-cockaded Woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>)	Endangered	No effect
Whooping Crane (<i>Grus americana</i>)	Experimental Population, Non-Essential	No effect
Winged Mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fraqosa</i>)	Endangered	NLAA

If the answers to the questions in the qualification interview do not result in the option to request U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurrence for the project, then you may be given the option to generate a technical assistance (formerly consistency) letter for your records by selecting “**Generate Technical Assistance Letter**”.

Endangered Species Act Review

◀ BACK

EXIT REVIEW



Determination

You have reached a determination of may affect based on this determination key. Review the guidance below and generate a technical assistance letter for your records.

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect” for at least one species as outlined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Arkansas Determination Key for project review and guidance for federally listed species. Therefore, further consultation/coordination with the Arkansas Ecological Services Office is necessary. Please contact our office at 501-513-4470, arkansas_es_clearance@fws.gov, or your agency point of contact in the Arkansas Ecological Services Office to discuss methods to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to those species.

If you think the determination results from this key should be different based on your answers, please contact the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office.

Generate a technical assistance letter for your records

GENERATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LETTER

VIEW / CHANGE ANSWERS

For example, you may be given the option to generate a technical assistance letter if you reach a determination of “**May affect**” for a species not covered by a 4(d) rule or answer “**No**” to question 2 or 3.

Be advised that the **status** of your consultation is **NOT** complete. Based on the answers you provided the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service needs more information to determine if they can concur with your effects determinations. Follow the instructions provided under “**Status**” in the letter.

Status

Further coordination with the Arkansas Ecological Services Office is recommended for those species with a determination of “may affect” listed above. Please contact our office at 501-513-4470, arkansas_es_clearance@fws.gov, or your agency point of contact in the Arkansas Ecological Services Office to discuss methods to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to those species.

The Service recommends that your agency contact the Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office or re-evaluate this key in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the proposed project changes, 2) new information reveals the action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat; 3) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional consultation with the Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office should take place before project changes are final or resources committed.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office
110 South Amity Suite 300
Conway, AR 72032-8975
Phone: (501) 513-4470 Fax: (501) 513-4480



In Reply Refer To:
Project code: 2025-0063997
Project Name: [REDACTED]

03/04/2025 21:12:52 UTC

Subject: Technical Assistance letter for [REDACTED] for specified federally threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitat that may occur in your proposed project area consistent with the Arkansas Determination Key for project review and guidance for federally listed species (Arkansas Dkey).

Dear [REDACTED]:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on **March 04, 2025** your effect determination(s) for the [REDACTED] (the Action) using the Arkansas DKey within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. The Service developed this system in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based on your answers and the assistance in the Service’s Arkansas DKey, you made the following effect determination(s) for the proposed Action:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Eastern Black Rail (<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i> ssp. <i>jamaicensis</i>)	Threatened	No effect
Indiana Bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	NLAA
Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) (<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>)	Endangered	NLAA
Piping Plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)	Threatened	No effect
Pondberry (<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>)	Endangered	May affect
Rufa Red Knot (<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>)	Threatened	No effect
Scaleshell Mussel (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>)	Endangered	NLAA
Western Fanshell (<i>Cyprogenia aberti</i>)	Threatened	NLAA

After you generate a letter 📄 next to **Step 2 “Evaluate Determination Keys”** indicates your project qualifies for other determination keys; the consultation for this project may not be complete. Select **“Continue”** to find out what other keys may need evaluated.

Endangered Species Act Review

◀ BACK

EXIT REVIEW

✓ Request an official species list — 🔄 Evaluate Determination Keys — 3 Analyze project (optional) — 4 Download documentation

Determination

You have reached a determination of may affect - not likely to adversely affect based on this determination key. Review the guidance below and request USFWS concurrence for this project.

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for at least one species as outlined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Arkansas Determination Key for project review and guidance for federally listed species.

📄 VIEW CONCURRENCE LETTER

CONTINUE

Endangered Species Act Review

◀ BACK

EXIT REVIEW

✓ Request an official species list — 🔄 Evaluate Determination Keys — 3 Analyze project (optional) — 4 Download documentation

Determination

You have reached a determination of may affect based on this determination key. Review the guidance below and generate a technical assistance letter for your records.

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect” for at least one species as outlined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Arkansas Determination Key for project review and guidance for federally listed species. Therefore, further consultation/coordination with the Arkansas Ecological Services Office is necessary. Please contact our office at 501-513-4470, arkansas_es_clearance@fws.gov, or your agency point of contact in the Arkansas Ecological Services Office to discuss methods to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to those species.

📄 VIEW TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LETTER

CONTINUE

Unlike ABB, northern long-eared and tricolored bats are not included in the “**AFO Arkansas Multi-Species Determination Key**” nor “**FHWA, FRA, FTA Programmatic Consultation for Transportation Projects**”.

If IPaC determines that your project area occurs within potential habitat for one or both bat species, then “**Evaluate**” for the **Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key** (bat d-key) will be **blue** after you select “**Continue**”. If the Federal action agency **is not** National Wildlife Refuge System, then you also need to evaluate the bat d-key for your project to complete the consultation. Select “**Evaluate**”.

If the Federal action agency **is** National Wildlife Refuge System **and** the proposed action **is not** covered under the 2024 Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO), Implementation of Forest Habitat Management Practices on National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) in the Southeast Region for Tree Roosting Bats (dated/signed October 7, 2024; Project Code: 2025-0001273), then you also may need to evaluate the bat d-key for your project to complete the consultation. Select “**Evaluate**”.

If the Federal action agency **is** National Wildlife Refuge System **and** the proposed action **is** covered under the 2024 PBO, Implementation of Forest Habitat Management Practices on NWRS in the Southeast Region for Tree Roosting Bats, then you do not evaluate the bat d-key. Reach out to the Arkansas Field Office to complete the consultation.

Endangered Species Act Review

◀ BACK EXIT REVIEW

✔ Request an official species list

🔄 Evaluate Determination Keys

3 Analyze project (optional)

4 Download documentation

Step 2: Evaluate determination keys

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has performed up-front analyses for certain project types, agencies, and species. The analyses have been compiled into *determination keys*, a simple interview process to help you arrive at a recommended determination for some species in your project area.

Any single species or critical habitat may only have a single effect determination. Once a species or critical habitat has been covered through use of a DKey, other DKeys covering that same species or critical habitat will be unavailable and greyed out.

- AFO Arkansas Multi-Species Determination Key
Release date: October 23, 2024
You completed the latest version of this key, published October 23, 2024, and reached a determination of may affect for species or critical habitats covered by the key.

VIEW / MODIFY VIEW TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LETTER
- Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key
Release date: November 6, 2024
This key is intended to streamline review of projects for potential effects to the Northern Long-eared Bat and the proposed Tricolored Bat.

EVALUATE SKIP / DOES NOT APPLY

Continue through the qualification interview for any other keys until **Step 2** for this project is complete as indicated by ✓ next to and **“Complete”** under **“Evaluate Determination Keys”** on the progress ribbon.

Endangered Species Act Review

[< BACK](#)[EXIT REVIEW](#)

✓ Request an official
species list

✓ Evaluate
Determination Keys
Complete

⊘ Analyze project (optional)

4 Download documentation

Note: Step 3 “Analyze project (optional)” appears at the bottom of the page. Do not complete it without contacting the Arkansas Ecological Services Office first. Select “Exit Review” above the progress ribbon.



Next, analyze any remaining species in your project area via the Consultation Package Builder (CPB).

An answer you provide to a question may need changed. To do so, navigate back to the project home page and select “**Resume Review**” then “**Evaluate determination keys**”.

What's next?

ESA REVIEW

Review this project's effects on listed species ¹ pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as part of the overall regulatory review.

RESUME REVIEW

SPECIES LIST

You skipped requesting an official species list.

REQUEST SPECIES LIST



Endangered species

Endangered species are protected under the Endangered Species Act ¹.

12 endangered species are known to occur or may be affected by activities in this location.



[Request an official species list](#)

You skipped requesting an official species list.



[Evaluate determination keys](#)

There were **3 determination keys** available for this project. You have evaluated one of them. There are 2 keys that cannot be evaluated.

3

[Analyze project \(optional\)](#)

RESUME PROJECT ANALYSIS

4

[Download documentation](#)

Next, select “**View/Modify**” for the appropriate key. Scroll to the bottom of the qualification interview and select “**Change Answers**”.

Step 2: Evaluate determination keys

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has performed up-front analyses for certain project types, agencies, and species. The analyses have been compiled into *determination keys*, a simple interview process to help you arrive at a recommended determination for some species in your project area.

There are 3 determination keys that may apply to your project. Each determination key starts with a qualification interview to see if the key is appropriate for your project.

- Consultation on effects of proposed projects to threatened and endangered species in Arkansas

You completed the latest version of this key, published February 5, 2020, and reached a determination of may affect - not likely to adversely affect for species or critical habitats covered by the key.

VIEW / MODIFY

VIEW CONCURRENCE LETTER

CHANGE ANSWERS

You also may need to delete the evaluation, which is located at the bottom of the qualification interview.

If you no longer wish to use this key for your project, you can delete your evaluation. This will make the `dkey.submitToTails.name.lower.determination_nlaa_concurrence` letter created as part of this evaluation no longer valid, but it will still be accessible on the [documents](#) page.

DELETE EVALUATION

RETURN TO DETERMINATION KEYS

If you would like to practice using IPaC, please use the beta version <https://ipacb.ecosphere.fws.gov/?state=BUN7Hpxk9ur83jp7ELIZHlckWY6i54>

Federal (Action) and State agencies receiving Federal funding:

The Endangered Species Act requires Federal and State agencies to consult on actions that may affect species proposed for listing and habitat with the proposed designation of critical. These species and habitats are afforded less protection than those with a final listing rule. Section 7(a)(4) of the Endangered Species Act requires these agencies to confer with the Secretary of the Interior on any action that is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat.

As of 06/04/2025 the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published proposed rules to list the following species: Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) as threatened, Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) and Salamander Mussel (*Simpsonaias ambigua*) as endangered, and Louisiana Pigtoe (*Pleurobema riddellii*), Monarch (*Danaus Plexippus*), and Western Regal Fritillary (*Argynnis idalia occidentalis*) as threatened with Section 4(d) rules. The Service also has proposed to designate critical habitat for Salamander Mussel, Louisiana Pigtoe, Monarch, Snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*), and Spectaclecase (*Cumberlandia monodonta*).

Species and habitats with proposed rules are not included in IPaC. To meet Section 7(a)(4) requirements, agencies should analyze the effects of the action on the proposed species and/or designated critical habitat to determine if the action will jeopardize its continued existence. Document the determination and your justification in writing and upload it to the documents page for the project to complete Section 7 consultation for your proposed action. Updates on species and habitats proposed for listing may be accessed on the Arkansas Ecological Service Field Office home page <https://www.fws.gov/office/arkansas-ecological-services>