

Metadata:

- https://maps.indiana.edu/metadata/Geology/Petroleum_Wells.html
- https://maps.indiana.edu/metadata/Geology/Seismic_Earthquake_Liquefaction_Potential.html
- https://maps.indiana.edu/metadata/Geology/Industrial_Minerals_Sand_Gravel_Resources.html
- https://maps.indiana.edu/metadata/Hydrology/Floodplains_FIRM.html
- https://maps.indiana.edu/metadata/Geology/Bedrock_Geology.html

Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council



October 30, 2020

Ashley Taylor
INDOT
Environmental Manager II
5333 Hatfield Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Re: Early Coordination
DES 1800156 Bridge Project over Rock Creek on SR 218
Location: Wells County

Dear Ms. Taylor:

Members of our staff reviewed your letter and report, dated October 19, 2020, concerning the Early Coordination of the Bridge project over Rock Creek on SR 218. The NIRCC staff has the following comments relating to the early coordination phase of the environmental review process with this project, see below.

- The project is within or near a floodplain.
- There are 2 oil/gas mines located near the project. The permit numbers are "161705" and "171470". Both have the status "Prsmd Plggd(I)"
- Rock Creek is considered a wetland stream.
- Rock Creek is an impaired waterway. It has 2 impairments which include Ecoli and IBC.
- The Bridge over Rock Creek is identified in the Indiana State Historic Architectural and Archaeological Research Database (SHAARD) database. It is rated as "Contributing" and has a survey site ID 179-056-20066.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Stacey Gorsuch'.

Stacey Gorsuch
Principal Transportation Planner

November 16, 2020

Ashely Taylor
INDOT – Fort Wayne District
5333 Hatfield Road
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46808

Dear Ms. Taylor:

The proposed project to make bridge improvements along State Road 218 over Rock Creek in Wells County, Indiana (Des. No. 1800156), as referred to in your letter received October 19, 2020, will cause a conversion of prime farmland.

The attached packet of information is for your use competing Parts VI and VII of the AD-1006. After completion, the federal funding agency needs to forward one copy to NRCS for our records.

If you need additional information, please contact John Allen at 317-295-5859.

Sincerely,

RICHARD
NEILSON

Digitally signed by
RICHARD NEILSON
Date: 2020.11.17
08:14:51 -05'00'

RICK NEILSON
State Soil Scientist

Enclosures





INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

Fort Wayne District
5333 Hatfield Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

PHONE: (260) 484-9541
FAX: (260) 471-1039

Eric Holcomb, Governor
Joe McGuinness, Commissioner

November 18, 2020

Mr. Richard Neilson
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
6013 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46278

Re: Des. No.: 1800156, Bridge Project on SR 218 over Rock Creek, 2.16 Miles West of SR 1, Wells County, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Neilson,

Enclosed please find the completed NRCS-CPA-106 form for your records. The total points received for the project were less than 160. The site will not be given further consideration for protection and no additional sites need to be evaluated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you in advance for your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashley Taylor".

Ashley Taylor, Environmental Manager II
Capital Program Management
INDOT- Fort Wayne District

Attachment: NRCS-CPA-106, Dated 11/18/2020

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)	3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 10/19/20	4. Sheet 1 of <u> </u> of <u> </u>
---	--	--------------------------------------

1. Name of Project Des No 1800156: SR218 over Rock Creek	5. Federal Agency Involved Federal Highway Administration
2. Type of Project Bridge Project	6. County and State Wells County, Indiana

PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		1. Date Request Received by NRCS 10/19/20	2. Person Completing Form JRA
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated Average Farm Size 387 Ac	
5. Major Crop(s) Corn	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 233,733 % 99	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 225,946 % 95	
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used LESA	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 11/16/20	

PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Alternative Corridor For Segment :			
	Corridor 1	Corridor 2	Corridor 3	Corridor 4
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	0.58			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services				
C. Total Acres In Corridor	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information	
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	0.58
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	0.00
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	<0.001
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	96.0

PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)	71
--	-----------

PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))	Maximum Points				
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	15			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	20			
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	0			
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	0			
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0			
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5			
8. On-Farm Investments	20	5			
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0			
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	0			
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	55	0	0	0

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	71			
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	55	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260	126	0	0	0

1. Corridor Selected: Corridor 1	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project: 0.58	3. Date Of Selection: 11/18/20	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--	--	--	---

5. Reason For Selection:
Since the project was determined to have a total point assessment of 126 points, there will be no significant impacts to farmland.

Signature of Person Completing this Part: Ashley Taylor, INDOT-Fort Wayne District	DATE 11/18/20
--	-------------------------

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

Taylor, Ashley

From: McCloskey, Elizabeth <elizabeth_mccloskey@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Taylor, Ashley
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Des. No. 1800156 Early Coordination Letter

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

**** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. ****

Good morning, because the proposed project will have minor impacts on natural resources, and no Federally endangered species are known to be present, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will not be providing a comment letter.

Elizabeth McCloskey
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Northern Indiana Suboffice
Ecological Services
Chesterton, Indiana

From: Taylor, Ashley <ATaylor@indot.IN.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 1:55 PM
To: McCloskey, Elizabeth <elizabeth_mccloskey@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Des. No. 1800156 Early Coordination Letter

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good Afternoon!
Please see the Early Coordination letter attached for the scheduled Indiana Department of Transportation project. Please let me know if you need any further information to make your determination.
Project name: Des. No. 1800156 Bridge Project
Location description: SR 218 over Rock Creek, 2.16 miles west of SR 1, Wells County, Indiana
Best Regards,

Ashley Taylor
Environmental Manager II
5333 Hatfield Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46808
Office: (260) 969-8262
Email: ataylor@indot.in.gov





United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Indiana Ecological Services Field Office

620 South Walker Street

Bloomington, IN 47403-2121

Phone: (812) 334-4261 Fax: (812) 334-4273

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/section7/s7process/step1.html>

In Reply Refer To:

February 17, 2021

Consultation code: 03E12000-2021-I-0781

Event Code: 03E12000-2021-E-03775

Project Name: Des. No. 1800156, SR 218 over Rock Creek, Bridge Project, Wells County

Subject: Concurrence verification letter for the 'Des. No. 1800156, SR 218 over Rock Creek, Bridge Project, Wells County' project under the revised February 5, 2018, FHWA, FRA, FTA Programmatic Biological Opinion for Transportation Projects within the Range of the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat.

To whom it may concern:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received your request to verify that the **Des. No. 1800156, SR 218 over Rock Creek, Bridge Project, Wells County** (Proposed Action) may rely on the concurrence provided in the February 5, 2018, FHWA, FRA, FTA Programmatic Biological Opinion for Transportation Projects within the Range of the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat (PBO) to satisfy requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C 1531 *et seq.*).

Based on the information you provided (Project Description shown below), you have determined that the Proposed Action is within the scope and adheres to the criteria of the PBO, including the adoption of applicable avoidance and minimization measures, and may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and/or the threatened Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*).

The Service has 14 calendar days to notify the lead Federal action agency or designated non-federal representative if we determine that the Proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a NLAA determination under the PBO. If we do not notify the lead Federal action agency or designated non-federal representative within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Proposed Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided in the PBO. This verification period allows Service Field Offices to apply local knowledge to implementation of the PBO, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that were unanticipated. In such instances, Service Field Offices may request additional information that is necessary to verify inclusion of the proposed action under the PBO.

For Proposed Actions that include bridge/structure removal, replacement, and/or maintenance activities: If your initial bridge/structure assessments failed to detect Indiana bats, but you later detect bats during construction, please submit the Post Assessment Discovery of Bats at Bridge/Structure Form (User Guide Appendix E) to this Service Office. In these instances, potential incidental take of Indiana bats may be exempted provided that the take is reported to the Service.

If the Proposed Action is modified, or new information reveals that it may affect the Indiana bat and/or Northern long-eared bat in a manner or to an extent not considered in the PBO, further review to conclude the requirements of ESA Section 7(a)(2) may be required. If the Proposed Action may affect any other federally-listed or proposed species, and/or any designated critical habitat, additional consultation between the lead Federal action agency and this Service Office is required. If the proposed action has the potential to take bald or golden eagles, additional coordination with the Service under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act may also be required. In either of these circumstances, please contact this Service Office.

Project Description

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

Name

Des. No. 1800156, SR 218 over Rock Creek, Bridge Project, Wells County

Description

This project is located on SR 218, 2.16 miles west of SR 1 in Wells County, Indiana. This section of SR 218 is a two lane Rural Major Collector. The existing SR 218 approach cross section consists of two 12' lanes bordered by 4' shoulders in each direction. The existing bridge is a single-span, reinforced-concrete arch bridge built in 1933. The proposed project will replace the existing structure (Structure No. (218)118-90-01488) with a one span (32'-0") three sided box structure with a rise of 15'-5" and a skew of 30 degrees to orient the end bents with respect to the alignment of Rock Creek. The existing shoulder width of 3'-0" is being increased by 1'-0" on each side of the roadway. Riprap will be placed on the east and west spill slopes. Guardrail will be installed in all four quadrants. Additionally, four (4) pipes under field entrances and one (1) pipe located approximately midway within the legal drain may be removed and/or replaced as indicated in the Stage 1 plans. These structures are all located on the south side of the roadway. Additionally, the legal drain shall be shifted to the south as indicated in the attached plan sheet. Other riprap side ditches and V-ditches shall be graded/installed as indicated in the attached plan sheets. The grade of the road shall be adjusted as necessary to create a smoother ride (including raising the road approximately 8-in. in some spots to level out various areas).

There is suitable summer habitat associated with the riparian corridor of Rock Creek on the south side of the roadway. Approximately 0.03 acre of trees will be removed from the south side of the roadway adjacent to the bridge. This area is within 100 feet of the existing roadway. Dominant trees in this area include three dead species (unable to identify), box elder (*Acer negundo*), walnut (*Juglans nigra*), hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), and mulberry (*Morus alba*). The trees and brush shall be removed during the bat inactive season. The project will require approximately 0.66 acre of permanent right-of-way. No temporary right-of-way is anticipated to be required. Temporary lighting may be used as necessary during construction; however, no permanent lighting shall be installed. A bat inspection was conducted on June 24, 2020 for the structure listed above and did not indicate the presence of bats. Note the four field entrance pipes were inspected during the same visit and did not indicate the presence of bats. The additional pipe located approximately midway within the legal drain was not inspected as no end was found during the site visit. The BIAS Bridge Inspection Report dated April 2, 2020 for the structure listed above did not indicate the presence of bats. A review of the USFWS database on January 22, 2020 did not indicate the presence of endangered bat species in or within 0.5 miles of the project area. The preferred method of traffic maintenance is a full road closure with an official state detour. The suggested detour route is SR 1, SR 18, and SR 3. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2023.

Determination Key Result

Based on your answers provided, this project(s) may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the endangered Indiana bat and/or the threatened Northern long-eared bat, therefore, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is required. However, also based on your answers provided, this project may rely on the concurrence provided in the revised February 5, 2018, FHWA, FRA, FTA Programmatic Biological Opinion for Transportation Projects within the Range of the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat.

Qualification Interview

1. Is the project within the range of the Indiana bat^[1]?

[1] See [Indiana bat species profile](#)

Automatically answered

Yes

2. Is the project within the range of the Northern long-eared bat^[1]?

[1] See [Northern long-eared bat species profile](#)

Automatically answered

Yes

3. Which Federal Agency is the lead for the action?

A) *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)*

4. Are *all* project activities limited to non-construction^[1] activities only? (examples of non-construction activities include: bridge/abandoned structure assessments, surveys, planning and technical studies, property inspections, and property sales)

[1] Construction refers to activities involving ground disturbance, percussive noise, and/or lighting.

No

5. Does the project include *any* activities that are **greater than** 300 feet from existing road/rail surfaces^[1]?

[1] Road surface is defined as the actively used [e.g. motorized vehicles] driving surface and shoulders [may be pavement, gravel, etc.] and rail surface is defined as the edge of the actively used rail ballast.

No

6. Does the project include *any* activities **within** 0.5 miles of a known Indiana bat and/or NLEB hibernaculum^[1]?

[1] For the purpose of this consultation, a hibernaculum is a site, most often a cave or mine, where bats hibernate during the winter (see suitable habitat), but could also include bridges and structures if bats are found to be hibernating there during the winter.

No

7. Is the project located **within** a karst area?

No

8. Is there *any* suitable^[1] summer habitat for Indiana Bat or NLEB **within** the project action area^[2]? (includes any trees suitable for maternity, roosting, foraging, or travelling habitat)

[1] See the Service's [summer survey guidance](#) for our current definitions of suitable habitat.

[2] The action area is defined as all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action (50 CFR Section 402.02). Further clarification is provided by the [national consultation FAQs](#).

Yes

9. Will the project remove *any* suitable summer habitat^[1] and/or remove/trim any existing trees **within** suitable summer habitat?

[1] See the Service's [summer survey guidance](#) for our current definitions of suitable habitat.

Yes

10. Will the project clear more than 20 acres of suitable habitat per 5-mile section of road/rail?
No

11. Have presence/probable absence (P/A) summer surveys^{[1][2]} been conducted^{[3][4]} **within** the suitable habitat located within your project action area?

[1] See the Service's [summer survey guidance](#) for our current definitions of suitable habitat.

[2] Presence/probable absence summer surveys conducted within the fall swarming/spring emergence home range of a documented Indiana bat hibernaculum (contact local Service Field Office for appropriate distance from hibernacula) that result in a negative finding requires additional consultation with the local Service Field Office to determine if clearing of forested habitat is appropriate and/or if seasonal clearing restrictions are needed to avoid and minimize potential adverse effects on fall swarming and spring emerging Indiana bats.

[3] For projects within the range of either the Indiana bat or NLEB in which suitable habitat is present, and no bat surveys have been conducted, the transportation agency will assume presence of the appropriate species. This assumption of presence should be based upon the presence of suitable habitat and the capability of bats to occupy it because of their mobility.

[4] Negative presence/probable absence survey results obtained using the [summer survey guidance](#) are valid for a minimum of two years from the completion of the survey unless new information (e.g., other nearby surveys) suggest otherwise.

No

12. Does the project include activities **within documented Indiana bat habitat**^{[1][2]}?

[1] Documented roosting or foraging habitat – for the purposes of this consultation, we are considering documented habitat as that where Indiana bats and/or NLEB have actually been captured and tracked using (1) radio telemetry to roosts; (2) radio telemetry biangulation/triangulation to estimate foraging areas; or (3) foraging areas with repeated use documented using acoustics. Documented roosting habitat is also considered as suitable summer habitat within 0.25 miles of documented roosts.)

[2] For the purposes of this key, we are considering documented corridors as that where Indiana bats and/or NLEB have actually been captured and tracked to using (1) radio telemetry; or (2) treed corridors located directly between documented roosting and foraging habitat.

No

13. Will the removal or trimming of habitat or trees occur **within** suitable but **undocumented Indiana bat** roosting/foraging habitat or travel corridors?

Yes

14. What time of year will the removal or trimming of habitat or trees **within** suitable but **undocumented Indiana bat** roosting/foraging habitat or travel corridors occur^[1]?

[1] Coordinate with the local Service Field Office for appropriate dates.

B) During the inactive season

15. Does the project include activities **within documented NLEB habitat**^{[1][2]}?

[1] Documented roosting or foraging habitat – for the purposes of this consultation, we are considering documented habitat as that where Indiana bats and/or NLEB have actually been captured and tracked using (1) radio telemetry to roosts; (2) radio telemetry biangulation/triangulation to estimate foraging areas; or (3) foraging areas with repeated use documented using acoustics. Documented roosting habitat is also considered as suitable summer habitat within 0.25 miles of documented roosts.)

[2] For the purposes of this key, we are considering documented corridors as that where Indiana bats and/or NLEB have actually been captured and tracked to using (1) radio telemetry; or (2) treed corridors located directly between documented roosting and foraging habitat.

No

16. Will the removal or trimming of habitat or trees occur **within** suitable but **undocumented NLEB** roosting/foraging habitat or travel corridors?

Yes

17. What time of year will the removal or trimming of habitat or trees **within** suitable but **undocumented NLEB** roosting/foraging habitat or travel corridors occur?

B) During the inactive season

18. Will *any* tree trimming or removal occur **within** 100 feet of existing road/rail surfaces?

Yes

19. Will *any* tree trimming or removal occur **between** 100-300 feet of existing road/rail surfaces?

No

20. Are *all* trees that are being removed clearly demarcated?
Yes
21. Will the removal of habitat or the removal/trimming of trees include installing new or replacing existing **permanent** lighting?
No
22. Does the project include wetland or stream protection activities associated with compensatory wetland mitigation?
No
23. Does the project include slash pile burning?
No
24. Does the project include *any* bridge removal, replacement, and/or maintenance activities (e.g., any bridge repair, retrofit, maintenance, and/or rehabilitation work)?
Yes
25. Is there *any* suitable habitat^[1] for Indiana bat or NLEB **within** 1,000 feet of the bridge? (includes any trees suitable for maternity, roosting, foraging, or travelling habitat)

[1] See the Service's current [summer survey guidance](#) for our current definitions of suitable habitat.

Yes

26. Has a bridge assessment^[1] been conducted **within** the last 24 months^[2] to determine if the bridge is being used by bats?

[1] See [User Guide Appendix D](#) for bridge/structure assessment guidance

[2] Assessments must be completed no more than 2 years prior to conducting any work below the deck surface on all bridges that meet the physical characteristics described in the Programmatic Consultation, regardless of whether assessments have been conducted in the past. Due to the transitory nature of bat use, a negative result in one year does not guarantee that bats will not use that bridge/structure in subsequent years.

Yes

SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS

- 1800156 Bat Inspection Form 06.24.2020.pdf <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/project/JAEDYHVRR5FC3N5VHYOHFXX3S4/projectDocuments/23932397>
- 1800156 Bat Inspection Form - 4 Pipes - 06.24.2020.pdf <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/project/JAEDYHVRR5FC3N5VHYOHFXX3S4/projectDocuments/99374861>
- 1800156_BIAS Bridge Inspection_218-118-90-01488.pdf <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/project/JAEDYHVRR5FC3N5VHYOHFXX3S4/projectDocuments/23932474>

27. Did the bridge assessment detect *any* signs of Indiana bats and/or NLEBs roosting in/under the bridge (bats, guano, etc.)^[1]?

[1] If bridge assessment detects signs of *any* species of bats, coordination with the local FWS office is needed to identify potential threatened or endangered bat species. Additional studies may be undertaken to try to identify which bat species may be utilizing the bridge prior to allowing *any* work to proceed.

Note: There is a small chance bridge assessments for bat occupancy do not detect bats. Should a small number of bats be observed roosting on a bridge just prior to or during construction, such that take is likely to occur or does occur in the form of harassment, injury or death, the PBO requires the action agency to report the take. Report all unanticipated take within 2 working days of the incident to the USFWS. Construction activities may continue without delay provided the take is reported to the USFWS and is limited to 5 bats per project.

No

28. Will the bridge removal, replacement, and/or maintenance activities include installing new or replacing existing **permanent** lighting?

No

29. Does the project include the removal, replacement, and/or maintenance of *any* structure other than a bridge? (e.g., rest areas, offices, sheds, outbuildings, barns, parking garages, etc.)

No

30. Will the project involve the use of **temporary** lighting *during* the active season?

Yes

31. Is there *any* suitable habitat **within** 1,000 feet of the location(s) where **temporary** lighting will be used?

Yes

32. Will the project install new or replace existing **permanent** lighting?

No

33. Does the project include percussives or other activities (**not including tree removal/trimming or bridge/structure work**) that will increase noise levels above existing traffic/background levels?

No

34. Are *all* project activities that are **not associated with** habitat removal, tree removal/trimming, bridge and/or structure activities, temporary or permanent lighting, or use of percussives, limited to actions that DO NOT cause any additional stressors to the bat species?

Examples: lining roadways, unlighted signage, rail road crossing signals, signal lighting, and minor road repair such as asphalt fill of potholes, etc.

Yes

35. Will the project raise the road profile **above the tree canopy**?

No

36. Are the project activities that are not associated with habitat removal, tree removal/trimming, bridge and/or structure activities, temporary or permanent lighting, or use of percussives consistent with a No Effect determination in this key?

Automatically answered

Yes, other project activities are limited to actions that DO NOT cause any additional stressors to the bat species as described in the BA/BO

37. Is the habitat removal portion of this project consistent with a Not Likely to Adversely Affect determination in this key?

Automatically answered

Yes, because the tree removal/trimming that occurs outside of the Indiana bat's active season occurs greater than 0.5 miles from the nearest hibernaculum, is less than 100 feet from the existing road/rail surface, includes clear demarcation of the trees that are to be removed, and does not alter documented roosts and/or surrounding summer habitat within 0.25 miles of a documented roost.

38. Is the habitat removal portion of this project consistent with a Not Likely to Adversely Affect determination in this key?

Automatically answered

Yes, because the tree removal/trimming that occurs outside of the NLEB's active season occurs greater than 0.5 miles from the nearest hibernaculum, is less than 100 feet from the existing road/rail surface, includes clear demarcation of the trees that are to be removed, and does not alter documented roosts and/or surrounding summer habitat within 0.25 miles of a documented roost.

39. Is the bridge removal, replacement, or maintenance activities portion of this project consistent with a No Effect determination in this key?

Automatically answered

Yes, because the bridge has been assessed using the criteria documented in the BA and no signs of bats were detected

40. **General AMM 1**

Will the project ensure *all* operators, employees, and contractors working in areas of known or presumed bat habitat are aware of *all* FHWA/FRA/FTA (Transportation Agencies) environmental commitments, including all applicable Avoidance and Minimization Measures?

Yes

41. Tree Removal AMM 1

Can *all* phases/aspects of the project (e.g., temporary work areas, alignments) be modified, to the extent practicable, to avoid tree removal^[1] in excess of what is required to implement the project safely?

Note: Tree Removal AMM 1 is a minimization measure, the full implementation of which may not always be practicable. Projects may still be NLAA as long as Tree Removal AMMs 2, 3, and 4 are implemented and LAA as long as Tree Removal AMMs 3, 5, 6, and 7 are implemented.

[1] The word “trees” as used in the AMMs refers to trees that are suitable habitat for each species within their range. See the USFWS’ current summer survey guidance for our latest definitions of suitable habitat.

Yes

42. Tree Removal AMM 3

Can tree removal be limited to that specified in project plans and ensure that contractors understand clearing limits and how they are marked in the field (e.g., install bright colored flagging/fencing prior to any tree clearing to ensure contractors stay within clearing limits)?

Yes

43. Tree Removal AMM 4

Can the project avoid cutting down/removal of *all* (1) **documented**^[1] Indiana bat or NLEB roosts^[2] (that are still suitable for roosting), (2) trees **within** 0.25 miles of roosts, and (3) documented foraging habitat any time of year?

[1] The word documented means habitat where bats have actually been captured and/or tracked.

[2] Documented roosting or foraging habitat – for the purposes of this consultation, we are considering documented habitat as that where Indiana bats and/or NLEB have actually been captured and tracked using (1) radio telemetry to roosts; (2) radio telemetry biangulation/triangulation to estimate foraging areas; or (3) foraging areas with repeated use documented using acoustics. Documented roosting habitat is also considered as suitable summer habitat within 0.25 miles of documented roosts.)

Yes

44. Lighting AMM 1

Will *all* **temporary** lighting be directed away from suitable habitat during the active season?

Yes

Project Questionnaire

1. Have you made a No Effect determination for *all* other species indicated on the FWS IPaC generated species list?

N/A

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

N/A

3. How many acres^[1] of trees are proposed for removal between 0-100 feet of the existing road/rail surface?

[1] If described as number of trees, multiply by 0.09 to convert to acreage and enter that number.

0.03

4. Please describe the proposed bridge work:

The proposed project will replace the existing structure with a one span three sided box structure. Riprap will be placed on the east and west spill slopes. Guardrail will be installed in all four quadrants. Four pipes under field entrances and one pipe located approximately midway within the legal drain may be removed and/or replaced. The legal drain shall be shifted to the south.

5. Please state the timing of all proposed bridge work:

The project is scheduled to let in April 2023, but the tree removal shall take place prior to the letting during the bat inactive season.

6. Please enter the date of the bridge assessment:

June 24, 2020 & April 2, 2020

Avoidance And Minimization Measures (AMMs)

This determination key result includes the commitment to implement the following Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs):

TREE REMOVAL AMM 1

Modify all phases/aspects of the project (e.g., temporary work areas, alignments) to avoid tree removal.

LIGHTING AMM 1

Direct temporary lighting away from suitable habitat during the active season.

TREE REMOVAL AMM 2

Apply time of year restrictions for tree removal when bats are not likely to be present, or limit tree removal to 10 or fewer trees per project at any time of year within 100 feet of existing road/rail surface and **outside of documented** roosting/foraging habitat or travel corridors; visual emergence survey must be conducted with no bats observed.

TREE REMOVAL AMM 3

Ensure tree removal is limited to that specified in project plans and ensure that contractors understand clearing limits and how they are marked in the field (e.g., install bright colored flagging/fencing prior to any tree clearing to ensure contractors stay within clearing limits).

TREE REMOVAL AMM 4

Do not remove **documented** Indiana bat or NLEB roosts that are still suitable for roosting, or trees within 0.25 miles of roosts, or **documented** foraging habitat any time of year.

GENERAL AMM 1

Ensure all operators, employees, and contractors working in areas of known or presumed bat habitat are aware of all FHWA/FRA/FTA (Transportation Agencies) environmental commitments, including all applicable AMMs.

Determination Key Description: FHWA, FRA, FTA Programmatic Consultation For Transportation Projects Affecting NLEB Or Indiana Bat

This key was last updated in IPaC on December 29, 2020. Keys are subject to periodic revision.

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

This decision key should only be used to verify project applicability with the Service's [February 5, 2018, FHWA, FRA, FTA Programmatic Biological Opinion for Transportation Projects](#). The programmatic biological opinion covers limited transportation activities that may affect either bat species, and addresses situations that are both likely and not likely to adversely affect either bat species. This decision key will assist in identifying the effect of a specific project/activity and applicability of the programmatic consultation. The programmatic biological opinion is not intended to cover all types of transportation actions. Activities outside the scope of the programmatic biological opinion, or that may affect ESA-listed species other than the Indiana bat or NLEB, or any designated critical habitat, may require additional ESA Section 7 consultation.

INDOT Bridge/Small Structure Bat Pre-Construction Inspection Data Sheet (Rev 1/22/2016)

General Information		
Date of Inspection: 6/24/2020 Time of Inspection: 1:30 PM	Initial Inspection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Follow-up Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/>	Temp: 77°F Wind: WNW 8 mph Precip: 0% Sunrise: 6:09AM Sunset: 9:17PM
County: Wells	Inspected by: Ashley Taylor & Karen Novak	
GPS Northing: 40.65470 Easting: -85.19118 UTM Zone: 16	Contract Number: B-41547 Des. No.: 1800156	Anticipated Start Date for Construction: April 2023

Bridge or Culvert	Bridge or Culvert
Stream or Road Crossed: SR 218 over Rock Creek	Station: RP 70+67
Bridge/Culvert number: (218)118-90-01488	Number of Spans: One
Type of Structure: <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete box beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel beam <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete I-beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete bulb tee beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel pony truss <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete arch <input type="checkbox"/> Welded steel thru girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete box culvert <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete slab <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-plate arch <input type="checkbox"/> Corrugated steel pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list):	Material: <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> Steel <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): Shape: <input type="checkbox"/> Box Culvert <input type="checkbox"/> Pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Arch <input type="checkbox"/> Slab <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe)
Searched entire structure? If not, why not? Yes	Location of bats or signs of use (w/drawing and photos): N/A
Bats Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Seen? <input type="checkbox"/> Heard? No	
In Clusters? Number of clusters: N/A	
Number of bats in largest cluster: N/A	
Approximate total number of bats found: N/A	
Signs of previous bat use? <input type="checkbox"/> Guano <input type="checkbox"/> Staining No	

If Bats Present
Date and Time Project Supervisor was notified:
Name of Project Supervisor notified:

For bridges and culverts, provide plan, longitudinal and cross section views as appropriate.



No bats or birds were observed during the inspection.

INDOT Bridge/Small Structure Bat Pre-Construction Inspection Data Sheet (Rev 1/22/2016)

General Information		
Date of Inspection: 6/24/2020 Time of Inspection: 1:30 PM	Initial Inspection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Follow-up Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/>	Temp: 77°F Wind: WNW 8 mph Precip: 0%
County: Wells	Inspected by: Ashley Taylor & Karen Novak	Sunrise: 6:09AM Sunset: 9:17PM
GPS Northing: 40.654616 Easting: -85.192893 UTM Zone: 16	Contract Number: B-41547 Des. No.: 1800156	Anticipated Start Date for Construction: April 2023

Bridge or Culvert	Bridge or Culvert
Stream or Road Crossed: N/A	Station: N/A
Bridge/Culvert number: Pipe 1	Number of Spans: N/A
Type of Structure: <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete box beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel beam <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete I-beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete bulb tee beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel pony truss <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete arch <input type="checkbox"/> Welded steel thru girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete box culvert <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete slab <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-plate arch <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corrugated steel pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list):	Material: <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steel <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): Shape: <input type="checkbox"/> Box Culvert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Arch <input type="checkbox"/> Slab <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe)
Searched entire structure? If not, why not? Yes	Location of bats or signs of use (w/drawing and photos): N/A
Bats Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Seen? <input type="checkbox"/> Heard? No	
In Clusters? Number of clusters: N/A	
Number of bats in largest cluster: N/A	
Approximate total number of bats found: N/A	
Signs of previous bat use? <input type="checkbox"/> Guano <input type="checkbox"/> Staining No	

If Bats Present
Date and Time Project Supervisor was notified:
Name of Project Supervisor notified:

INDOT Bridge/Small Structure Bat Pre-Construction Inspection Data Sheet (Rev 1/22/2016)

General Information		
Date of Inspection: 6/24/2020 Time of Inspection: 1:30 PM	Initial Inspection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Follow-up Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/>	Temp: 77°F Wind: WNW 8 mph Precip: 0%
County: Wells	Inspected by: Ashley Taylor & Karen Novak	Sunrise: 6:09AM Sunset: 9:17PM
GPS Northing: 40.654625 Easting: -85.192669 UTM Zone: 16	Contract Number: B-41547 Des. No.: 1800156	Anticipated Start Date for Construction: April 2023

Bridge or Culvert	Bridge or Culvert
Stream or Road Crossed: UNT to Rock Creek	Station: N/A
Bridge/Culvert number: Pipe 2	Number of Spans: N/A
Type of Structure: <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete box beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel beam <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete I-beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete bulb tee beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel pony truss <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete arch <input type="checkbox"/> Welded steel thru girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete box culvert <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete slab <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-plate arch <input type="checkbox"/> Corrugated steel pipe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (list): Plastic Pipe on one end	Material: <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> Steel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): Plastic Pipe on one end Shape: <input type="checkbox"/> Box Culvert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Arch <input type="checkbox"/> Slab <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe)
Searched entire structure? If not, why not? Yes	Location of bats or signs of use (w/drawing and photos): N/A
Bats Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Seen? <input type="checkbox"/> Heard? No	
In Clusters? Number of clusters: N/A	
Number of bats in largest cluster: N/A	
Approximate total number of bats found: N/A	
Signs of previous bat use? <input type="checkbox"/> Guano <input type="checkbox"/> Staining No	

If Bats Present
Date and Time Project Supervisor was notified:
Name of Project Supervisor notified:

INDOT Bridge/Small Structure Bat Pre-Construction Inspection Data Sheet (Rev 1/22/2016)

General Information		
Date of Inspection: 6/24/2020 Time of Inspection: 1:30 PM	Initial Inspection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Follow-up Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/>	Temp: 77°F Wind: WNW 8 mph Precip: 0%
County: Wells	Inspected by: Ashley Taylor & Karen Novak	Sunrise: 6:09AM Sunset: 9:17PM
GPS Northing: 40.654625 Easting: -85.191301 UTM Zone: 16	Contract Number: B-41547 Des. No.: 1800156	Anticipated Start Date for Construction: April 2023

Bridge or Culvert	Bridge or Culvert
Stream or Road Crossed: UNT to Rock Creek	Station: N/A
Bridge/Culvert number: Pipe 3	Number of Spans: N/A
Type of Structure: <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete box beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel beam <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete I-beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete bulb tee beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel pony truss <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete arch <input type="checkbox"/> Welded steel thru girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete box culvert <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete slab <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-plate arch <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corrugated steel pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list):	Material: <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steel <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): Shape: <input type="checkbox"/> Box Culvert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Arch <input type="checkbox"/> Slab <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe)
Searched entire structure? If not, why not? Yes	Location of bats or signs of use (w/drawing and photos): N/A
Bats Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Seen? <input type="checkbox"/> Heard? No	
In Clusters? Number of clusters: N/A	
Number of bats in largest cluster: N/A	
Approximate total number of bats found: N/A	
Signs of previous bat use? <input type="checkbox"/> Guano <input type="checkbox"/> Staining No	

If Bats Present
Date and Time Project Supervisor was notified:
Name of Project Supervisor notified:

INDOT Bridge/Small Structure Bat Pre-Construction Inspection Data Sheet (Rev 1/22/2016)

General Information		
Date of Inspection: 6/24/2020 Time of Inspection: 1:30 PM	Initial Inspection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Follow-up Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/>	Temp: 77°F Wind: WNW 8 mph Precip: 0%
County: Wells	Inspected by: Ashley Taylor & Karen Novak	Sunrise: 6:09AM Sunset: 9:17PM
GPS Northing: 40.654640 Easting: -85.190829 UTM Zone: 16	Contract Number: B-41547 Des. No.: 1800156	Anticipated Start Date for Construction: April 2023

Bridge or Culvert	Bridge or Culvert
Stream or Road Crossed: N/A	Station: N/A
Bridge/Culvert number: Pipe 4	Number of Spans: N/A
Type of Structure: <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete box beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel beam <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete I-beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete bulb tee beam <input type="checkbox"/> Steel pony truss <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete arch <input type="checkbox"/> Welded steel thru girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete girder <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete box culvert <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete slab <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-plate arch <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corrugated steel pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list):	Material: <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steel <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): Shape: <input type="checkbox"/> Box Culvert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Arch <input type="checkbox"/> Slab <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe)
Searched entire structure? If not, why not? Yes	Location of bats or signs of use (w/drawing and photos): N/A
Bats Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Seen? <input type="checkbox"/> Heard? No	
In Clusters? Number of clusters: N/A	
Number of bats in largest cluster: N/A	
Approximate total number of bats found: N/A	
Signs of previous bat use? <input type="checkbox"/> Guano <input type="checkbox"/> Staining No	

If Bats Present
Date and Time Project Supervisor was notified:
Name of Project Supervisor notified:

For bridges and culverts, provide plan, longitudinal and cross section views as appropriate.



No bats or birds were observed during the inspections for these four pipes.



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Indiana Ecological Services Field Office

620 South Walker Street

Bloomington, IN 47403-2121

Phone: (812) 334-4261 Fax: (812) 334-4273

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/section7/s7process/step1.html>

In Reply Refer To:

February 17, 2021

Consultation Code: 03E12000-2021-SLI-0781

Event Code: 03E12000-2021-E-03772

Project Name: Des. No. 1800156, SR 218 over Rock Creek, Bridge Project, Wells County

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

To Whom It May Concern:

The attached species list identifies any federally threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project or may be affected by your proposed project. The list also includes designated critical habitat if present within your proposed project area or affected by your project. This list is provided to you as the initial step of the consultation process required under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act, also referred to as Section 7 Consultation.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by Federal agencies not jeopardize federally threatened or endangered species or adversely modify designated critical habitat. To fulfill this mandate, Federal agencies (or their designated non-federal representative) must consult with the Service if they determine their project “may affect” listed species or critical habitat.

Under 50 CFR 402.12(e) (the regulations that implement Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act) the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally. You may verify the list by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/> at regular intervals during project planning and implementation and completing the same process you used to receive the attached list. As an alternative, you may contact this Ecological Services Field Office for updates.

Please use the species list provided and visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Region 3 Section 7 Technical Assistance website at - <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/section7/s7process/index.html>. This website contains step-by-step instructions which will help you determine if your project will have an adverse effect on listed species and will help lead you through the Section 7 process.

For all **wind energy projects** and **projects that include installing towers that use guy wires or are over 200 feet in height**, please contact this field office directly for assistance, even if no federally listed plants, animals or critical habitat are present within your proposed project or may be affected by your proposed project.

Although no longer protected under the Endangered Species Act, be aware that bald eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*) and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*), as are golden eagles. Projects affecting these species may require measures to avoid harming eagles or may require a permit. If your project is near an eagle nest or winter roost area, see our Eagle Permits website at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/midwestbird/EaglePermits/index.html> to help you determine if you can avoid impacting eagles or if a permit may be necessary.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. 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:

Indiana Ecological Services Field Office

620 South Walker Street
Bloomington, IN 47403-2121
(812) 334-4261

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 03E12000-2021-SLI-0781

Event Code: 03E12000-2021-E-03772

Project Name: Des. No. 1800156, SR 218 over Rock Creek, Bridge Project, Wells County

Project Type: BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE

Project Description: This project is located on SR 218, 2.16 miles west of SR 1 in Wells County, Indiana. This section of SR 218 is a two lane Rural Major Collector. The existing SR 218 approach cross section consists of two 12' lanes bordered by 4' shoulders in each direction. The existing bridge is a single-span, reinforced-concrete arch bridge built in 1933. The proposed project will replace the existing structure (Structure No. (218)118-90-01488) with a one span (32'-0") three sided box structure with a rise of 15'-5" and a skew of 30 degrees to orient the end bents with respect to the alignment of Rock Creek. The existing shoulder width of 3'-0" is being increased by 1'-0" on each side of the roadway. Riprap will be placed on the east and west spill slopes. Guardrail will be installed in all four quadrants. Additionally, four (4) pipes under field entrances and one (1) pipe located approximately midway within the legal drain may be removed and/or replaced as indicated in the Stage 1 plans. These structures are all located on the south side of the roadway. Additionally, the legal drain shall be shifted to the south as indicated in the attached plan sheet. Other riprap side ditches and V-ditches shall be graded/ installed as indicated in the attached plan sheets. The grade of the road shall be adjusted as necessary to create a smoother ride (including raising the road approximately 8-in. in some spots to level out various areas).

There is suitable summer habitat associated with the riparian corridor of Rock Creek on the south side of the roadway. Approximately 0.03 acre of trees will be removed from the south side of the roadway adjacent to the bridge. This area is within 100 feet of the existing roadway. Dominant trees in this area include three dead species (unable to identify), box elder (*Acer negundo*), walnut (*Juglans nigra*), hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), and mulberry (*Morus alba*). The trees and brush shall be removed during the bat inactive season. The project will require approximately 0.66 acre of permanent right-of-way. No temporary right-of-way is anticipated to be required. Temporary lighting may be used as necessary during construction; however, no permanent lighting shall be installed. A bat inspection was conducted on June 24, 2020 for the structure listed above and did not indicate the presence of bats. Note the four field entrance pipes were inspected during the same visit and did not indicate the presence of bats. The additional pipe located approximately midway within the legal drain was not inspected as no end was found during the site visit. The BIAS Bridge Inspection Report dated April 2, 2020 for the

structure listed above did not indicate the presence of bats. A review of the USFWS database on January 22, 2020 did not indicate the presence of endangered bat species in or within 0.5 miles of the project area. The preferred method of traffic maintenance is a full road closure with an official state detour. The suggested detour route is SR 1, SR 18, and SR 3. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2023.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@40.65462131702958,-85.1914660451636,14z>



Counties: Wells County, Indiana

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 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. Note that 1 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

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

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

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incidental take of the NLEB is not prohibited here. Federal agencies may consult using the 4(d) rule streamlined process. Transportation projects may consult using the programmatic process. See www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/index.html Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Critical habitats

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

Appendix D:
Section 106

Minor Projects PA Project Assessment Form

Date: 12/9/2020 ****UPDATED:** 8/12/2021

Project Designation Number: 1800156

Route Number: SR 218

Project Description: Bridge Replacement over Rock Creek, 2.16 miles west of SR 1

This project is located on SR 218, 2.16 miles west of SR 1 in Wells County, Indiana. This section of SR 218 is a two-lane Rural Major Collector. The existing SR 218 approach cross-section consists of two (2) 12-foot lanes bordered by 4-foot shoulders in each direction. The existing bridge is a single-span, reinforced-concrete arch bridge built in 1933. There is an agricultural ditch with well-vegetated banks located on the southwest bridge quadrant, running along SR 218 for approximately 450 feet ending at Rock Creek. The agricultural ditch is a legal drain (Lee #1 Ditch). No guardrail or other standard safety features exist at the structure. The existing 1933 plans indicate that the right-of-way extends 40 feet from the centerline of the roadway on both sides of SR 218 and the existing utility poles are located approximately 38 feet to the north of the roadway centerline.

The proposed project will replace the existing structure (Structure No. (218)118-90-01488; NBI No. 028990) with a one span (32'-0") three-sided box structure with a rise of 15 feet,-5 inches and a skew of 30 degrees to orient the endbents with respect to the alignment of Rock Creek. Type FC bridge railing is proposed for the structure. The existing shoulder width of 3'-0" is being increased by 1'-4" on each side of the roadway to accommodate the shoulder width and bridge railing offset. Riprap will be placed on the east and west spill slopes. Guardrail will be installed in all four quadrants. Additionally, four (4) pipes under field entrances and one (1) pipe located approximately midway within the legal drain may be removed and/or replaced as indicated in the Stage 1 plans.

Trees located within the proposed right-of-way (ROW) on the south side of the bridge may need to be removed. The project will require 0.58 acre of new permanent ROW. The preferred method of traffic maintenance is a full road closure with an official state detour. The suggested detour route is SR 1, SR 18, and SR 3. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2023.

**On 8/12/2021, INDOT-CRO was informed that the project scope had changed slightly. The Right of Way amount had changed from 0.58 acres to 0.66 acres.

Feature crossed (if applicable): Rock Creek

City/Township: Poneto/ Harrison and Nottingham Townships

County: Wells County

Information reviewed (please check all that apply):

- General project location map USGS map Aerial photograph Interim Report
- Written description of project area General project area photos Soil survey data
- Previously completed historic property reports Previously completed archaeology reports
- Bridge Inspection Information SHAARD SHAARD GIS Streetview Imagery

Other (please specify): Bridge Inspection Application System (BIAS); Indiana Historic Bridge Inventory; Indiana State Historic Architectural and Archaeological Research Database (SHAARD); Indiana Historic Buildings, Bridges, and Cemeteries Map (IHBBCM) website; *Wells County Interim Report*; Arc Map GIS; Wells County GIS (accessed via <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com>); online street-view imagery; MPPA application (including maps and photographs) sent by INDOT Fort Wayne District Environmental Staff dated October 9th, 2020 and on file at INDOT-CRO.

Minor Projects PA Project Assessment Form

Korzeniewski, Patricia Jo

2020 A Phase Ia Archaeological Field Reconnaissance for a Bridge Replacement on SR 218 over Rock Creek, 2.16 miles west of SR 1, in Poneto, Harrison and Nottingham Townships, Wells County, Indiana (INDOT Des. No. 1800156). Report on file, Indiana Department of Transportation, Cultural Resources Office, Indianapolis, IN.

Does the project fall under the Minor Projects PA? yes no

If yes, please specify categories and condition(s) (**conditions that are applicable are highlighted**):

B-4. Installation of new safety appurtenances, including but not limited to, guardrails, barriers, glare screens, and crash attenuators, under the following conditions [***BOTH Condition A, which pertains to Archaeological Resources, and Condition B, which pertains to Above-Ground Resources, must be satisfied***]:

Condition A (Archaeological Resources)

One of the two conditions listed below must be met (*EITHER Condition i or Condition ii must be satisfied*):

- i. Work occurs in previously disturbed soils; *OR*
- ii. Work occurs in undisturbed soils and an archaeological investigation conducted by the applicant and reviewed by INDOT Cultural Resources Office determines that no National Register-listed or potentially National Register-eligible archaeological resources are present within the project area. If the archaeological investigation locates National Register-listed or potentially National Register-eligible archaeological resources, then full Section 106 review will be required. Copies of any archaeological reports prepared for the project will be provided to the DHPA and any archaeological site form information will be entered directly into the SHAARD by the applicant. The archaeological reports will also be available for viewing (by Tribes only) on INSCOPE.

Condition B (Above-Ground Resources)

Work does not occur adjacent to or within a National Register-listed or National Register-eligible district or individual above-ground resource.

B-9. Installation, replacement, repair, lining, or extension of culverts and other drainage structures under the conditions listed below [***BOTH Condition A, which pertains to Archaeological Resources, and Condition B, which pertains to Above-Ground Resources, must be satisfied***]:

Condition A (Archaeological Resources)

One of the two conditions listed below must be met (*EITHER Condition i or Condition ii must be satisfied*):

- i. Work occurs in previously disturbed soils; *OR*
- ii. Work occurs in undisturbed soils and an archaeological investigation conducted by the applicant and reviewed by INDOT Cultural Resources Office determines that no National Register-listed or potentially National Register-eligible archaeological resources are present within the project area. If the archaeological investigation locates National Register-listed or potentially National Register-eligible archaeological resources, then full Section 106 review will be required. Copies of any archaeological reports prepared for the project will be provided to the DHPA and any archaeological site form information will be entered directly into the SHAARD by the applicant. The archaeological reports will also be available for viewing (by Tribes only) on INSCOPE.

Condition B (Above-Ground Resources)

One of the conditions below must be met (*EITHER Condition i or Condition ii must be satisfied*):

- i. Work does not involve installation of a new culvert and other drainage structure, and there are no impacts to unusual features, including but not limited to historic brick or stone sidewalks, curbs or curb ramps, stepped or elevated sidewalks and retaining walls, under one of the following conditions (*Condition a, Condition b, or Condition c must be satisfied*):
 - a. The structure exhibits no wood, stone, or brick structures or parts therein; *OR*