

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Proposal Name: Draft Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for the City of Eudora Area, Arkansas

NRCS WFPO Unique ID Number: OPR.NW00.05.7006

CEQ Unique ID Number: EAXX-005-53-000-1726840394

Agency Name: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) **Unit Name:** Arkansas

Documentation Informing the FONSI

This Finding of No Significant Impact incorporates the Environmental Assessment and relies on documentation in the associated proposal record.

Activities Approved

I have decided to approve Alternative 7A: Combined Sites NBS-Focused Drainage Improvements as described in the [“Proposal Information”](#) section of the Environmental Assessment.

Table 1 identifies the specific resources for which mitigation measures and BMPs shall be applied, including construction-phase controls, permitting requirements, post-construction monitoring, and any agency coordination or consultation that must be completed prior to or during implementation of the Proposed Action.

Table 1. Summary of Required Mitigation Measures and BMPs

Resource	Mitigation Measures and BMPs
General Construction	During construction, site mitigation measures would include erosion and sediment control, dust control, and other practices identified during the design process and as outlined in the stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP). Best management practices (BMPs) during construction would be implemented to minimize the mobilization of the sediment into stream systems. Additionally, proper construction phasing and ingress/egress points would be utilized to reduce soil compaction during construction. Typical BMPs include silt fencing, bank stabilization, construction entrances, sediment storage, matting, and grassing/vegetative cover.
Air Quality	The Project shall comply with all general air quality rules and regulations for Arkansas as part of the Arkansas State Implementation Plan (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2024c), as well as any other local air quality regulations. Fugitive dust control will be required to minimize the impact of fugitive dust beyond site limits. Appropriate mitigation, such as sprinkling or utilizing dust suppression techniques, shall be implemented during construction.
Noise	All construction activities must abide by local (city/county) noise ordinances. Construction activity will occur during daylight hours, at times when increased

Resource	Mitigation Measures and BMPs
	noise levels are more tolerable. Machinery used on site will have all working noise abatement measures in working order. A City of Eudora representative will be available to respond to any noise complaints from the surrounding community.
WOTUS	The Project must obtain Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permits prior to construction and must comply with all requirements of the permit. It is not anticipated that implementation of the Project will result in adverse impacts to the aquatic function of any Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) that would require mitigation offsets, as described in Section 5.3.4.
Water Quality	An Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Short Term Activity Authorization (STAA), Section 401 Water Quality Certification, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) permit must be obtained for construction. To apply for the permit, a SWPPP must be prepared and maintained to prevent and limit soil erosion during construction activities. The Project must follow all conditions of the permit and any BMP requirements from the Arkansas DEQ. To ensure that accidental spills do not enter waters, the storage of petroleum-based fuels and other hazardous materials and the refueling of construction machinery shall not occur outside of approved designated staging areas. Furthermore, the Project would comply with Federal and State water quality standards and toxic effluent standards to minimize any potential adverse impacts from discharges to WOTUS or wetlands.
Floodplains	The City of Eudora will coordinate all required permits with the floodplain administrator prior to the undertaking of construction activities and will maintain all noted permit conditions. No increases in flood levels will occur due to the construction of the Preferred Alternative, and the undertaking of the Preferred Alternative will not negatively impact the surrounding community.
Migratory Birds	To prevent harm or disruption to active migratory bird nests that may occur in the Project limits, clearing and grubbing of vegetation should be conducted prior to March 1 or after August 31, to the maximum extent possible, to avoid the period when most local bird species nest and breed. If vegetation removal must be conducted between March 1 and August 31, the SLOs must employ a qualified biologist to survey the area slated for disturbance no more than 5–10 days preceding clearing and grubbing. Active bird nests should be protected from disturbance until the young have fledged or until the nest is no longer active, as determined by the qualified biologist.
Invasive Species	The Project shall follow standard Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT) invasive species construction BMPs.
Cultural Resources	The Project shall comply with the statewide NRCS Arkansas Programmatic Agreement (PA) for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (executed August 4, 2025). In accordance with the PA and implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800, NRCS shall define the Area of Potential Effect (APE), conduct phased identification and evaluation of historic properties, and consult with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP)/State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) (if participating), and the Federally Recognized Tribes identified in the PA. Findings of effect, avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures shall be documented consistent with 36 CFR 800.4–800.6 and the procedures in the PA. If previously unknown archaeological or cultural materials are discovered during construction, work shall cease in the immediate vicinity of the find and NRCS shall follow the unanticipated-discovery

Resource	Mitigation Measures and BMPs
	procedures established in the PA in coordination with the SHPO and consulting Tribes before resuming work.

Determination of No Significant Impacts

I have determined no significant impacts are anticipated for the activities approved based on the discussion provided under the [“NEPA: Consideration of Significant Impacts”](#) section, and as informed by other analysis and determinations provided in the [“Environmental Review”](#) section of the Environmental Assessment.

Tradeoffs of Short- and Long-Term Adverse Impacts vs. No Action

The responsible official weighed the No Action/FWOFI Alternative, which would leave all six Project Sites in Eudora in their present condition, with continued flooding at frequencies as often as the 5-year event, against the short-term construction impacts and long-term benefits of the Preferred Alternative (7A, Combined Sites NBS-Focused Drainage Improvements). Under No Action, flood damages would continue to reduce local economic productivity, increase Federal disaster and NFIP costs, endanger public health and safety, and allow continued degradation of riparian, forested, and natural areas, with these adverse effects compounding over time as infrastructure and structures continued to flood. By contrast, the Preferred Alternative would involve short-term, temporary adverse effects during construction (e.g., minor vegetation and forest removal, temporary consultation-related effects on cultural resources), all of which are limited in duration and largely offset by planned mitigation and restoration (e.g., approximately 23.7 acres of riparian reforestation). These short-term impacts are substantially outweighed by long-term beneficial consequences: reduced flood risk to homes, businesses, and infrastructure; improved public health and safety; net gains in natural and riparian area coverage; and a positive net economic benefit (BCR = 2.53). Because the long-term benefits of action clearly exceed both the short-term construction impacts and the long-term costs of continued inaction, the responsible official determined that implementing the Proposed Action, rather than taking no action, best serves the Purpose and Need while minimizing net adverse effects to the human environment.

Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

The responsible official also considered that the Proposed Action would result in the irretrievable commitment of construction materials, energy, labor, and fossil fuels, most of which cannot be recovered once used (with limited exceptions for materials salvaged during decommissioning of existing streets and structures as part of buyouts). Financial resources expended for installation are similarly irretrievable in the short term. No irreversible effects were identified as resulting from the Project. The responsible official determined that this short-term, irretrievable commitment of materials, energy, and funding does not contribute to any loss of long-term productivity of the human environment; rather, the investment is expected to increase long-term productivity by reducing recurring flood risk to homes, businesses, roads, and other critical

infrastructure in the City of Eudora. The limited irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources, weighed against the substantial long-term protective and economic benefits, supported the decision to proceed with the Proposed Action.

Anticipated Implementation of Authorized Activities

I intend to implement the approved activities dependent upon funding received for the design phase and construction phase. Construction phase funds will be requested after the design phase is completed. Design phase is 2 years and construction phase is 3 years.

Signature and Authorization Date

Amanda J. Mathis

State Conservationist

8/20/2026

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