



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Memphis District

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District**

U.S.C. Chapter 33, Section 408 Permission Evaluation

TITLE: Section 408 Permission Evaluation for Emergency Bridge Collapse Debris Removal, Cross County, Arkansas.

INTRODUCTION: The authority to grant permission for temporary or permanent alterations of any U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized civil works project is contained in Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and codified in 33 USC 408. ARDOT has requested a Section 408 Permission Evaluation to remove debris resulting from the Hwy. 42 bridge collapse in the St. Francis River near Coldwater, AR (Figure 1).

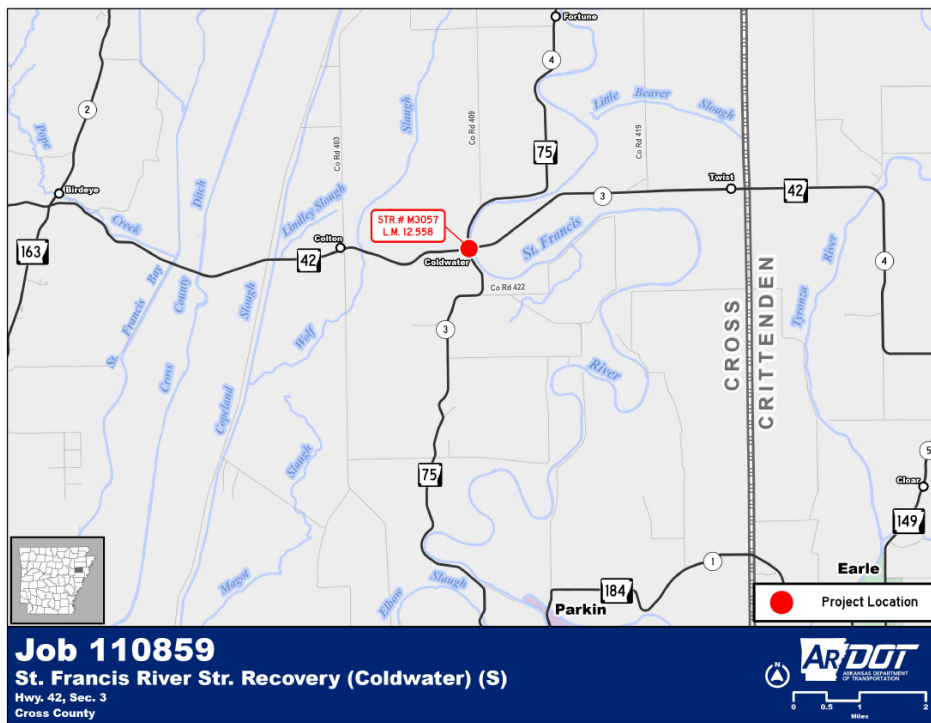


Figure 1. Project area of collapsed bridge removal, Cross County, Arkansas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Section 408 authorizes USACE to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of the project if USACE determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project. The federally authorized civil works project at this location involves maintaining the channel to manage flood risks along the St. Francis River as part of the St. Francis Basin Project and passage of these floodwaters safely into the Mississippi River. The purpose of this project is to recover the deck and pilings of the collapsed Hwy. 42 bridge from the channel of the St. Francis River at Coldwater in Cross County, AR. A large crane will be stationed on either bank and will be used to lift the collapsed deck and pilings from the river channel. Temporary fill will be placed in the river channel downstream of the bridge for a temporary work road. The area of bridge deck removal totals approximately 0.20 acres and 28 linear feet of the St. Francis River. The area of the proposed temporary work road totals approximately 0.06 acres and 20 linear feet of the St. Francis River (Figure 2). No permanent losses of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) are anticipated.



Figure 2. Collapsed bridge debris removal area, Cross County, Arkansas.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE: A decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action, and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental compliance requirements. The scope of analysis for the NEPA and environmental compliance evaluations for the Section 408 review should be limited to the area of alteration and those adjacent areas that are directly or indirectly affected by the alteration. The proposed project meets criteria set forth in Nationwide Permit 3, Maintenance, as confirmed by the USACE Little Rock Regulatory Branch. The ArDOT Environmental Division conducted an environmental review of the proposed project area, and it was discerned that no known historic properties would be affected. Furthermore, the proposed Section 408 alteration was determined to have “no effect” on Northern Long-eared Bat and Eastern Black Rail, and “may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect” Fat Pocketbook, Piping Plover, Rufa Red Knot, and pondberry pursuant to the Endangered Species Act. The United States Fish and Wildlife concurred with these determinations on July 15, 2024. The decision on this Section 408 request is being analyzed in accordance with NEPA and is limited to the Section 408 boundaries described herein.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties. Comments received within 15 days of this publication will be used in the evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed action on important resources. All comments will be considered in preparing environmental documentation pursuant to NEPA. USACE has jurisdiction under 33 USC 408 only over the specific activities that have the potential to alter existing USACE projects.

Please limit comments to the area of the alteration and those adjacent areas that are directly or indirectly affected by the alteration to the federally authorized civil works project described herein. **Comments may be submitted to jennifer.hiltonsmith@usace.army.mil and should be received by October 14, 2024.**

Sincerely,



Mark R. Smith
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Division South