United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R4/DH NRDAR

MAR 26 2014

Memorandum

To: Field Supervisor, Panama City Ecological Services Office

From: Deputy Deepwater Horizon, Department of the Interior Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR), Case Manager Deborah L McQ.

Subject: Informal Consultation and Conference Request for the Proposed Project Developing Enhanced Recreational Opportunities on the Escribano Point Portion of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area, Florida

As you are no doubt aware, on or about April 20, 2010, the mobile offshore drilling unit *Deepwater Horizon* experienced an explosion, leading to a fire and its subsequent sinking in the Gulf of Mexico (the Gulf). These events resulted in the discharge of millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf over a period of 87 days. In addition, various response actions were undertaken in an attempt to minimize impacts from spilled oil. These events are hereafter collectively referred to as the Oil Spill.

The Department of the Interior (DOI), acting through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service) and other Bureaus, is a designated natural resource trustee agency authorized by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) and other applicable federal laws to assess and assert a natural resource damages claim for this Oil Spill. DOI is only one of several Trustees, including agencies of the State of Florida, so authorized. Consistent with their federal and state authorities, the Trustees are investigating the resource injuries and losses that occurred as a result of the Oil Spill and have initiated restoration planning to identify the actions that will be needed or appropriate to restore injured resources and to make the public whole for the injuries and losses that occurred. This process is known as a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA).

On April 20, 2011, DOI, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Trustees for the five Gulf states affected by the Oil Spill entered into an agreement with BP, a responsible party for the Oil Spill, under which BP agreed to provide $1 billion for early restoration projects in the Gulf to address injuries to natural resources caused by the Oil Spill. The subject project is being evaluated by the Trustees as a potential early restoration project. The early restoration project has been proposed in a draft early restoration plan that was released for public comment and review on December 6, 2013. If the Trustees select the project after consideration of public comment and a stipulated agreement is reached with BP, the early restoration project will be implemented by the State of Florida. DOI, acting through the Service, will be a co-Trustee for the project, if it is selected and implemented.

The above facts lead us to the conclusion that consultation and conference under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), is required for the

proposed project and we wish to engage in such consultation. Accordingly, we have reviewed the proposed project, Developing Enhanced Recreational Opportunities on the Escribano Point Portion of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area, Florida, for potential impacts to listed, candidate, and proposed species and designated and proposed critical habitats in accordance with Section 7 of the ESA. We determined the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, red-cockaded woodpecker, eastern indigo snake, and reticulated flatwoods salamander and have provided our analysis in the attached Biological Evaluation. We also determined that a suite of candidate (gopher tortoise) and at-risk species (specifically, panhandle lily and Gulf sweet pitcherplant) are not likely to be adversely affected if listed. We have reviewed the proposed project for impacts to bald eagles and migratory birds in accordance with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) of 1940 (16 U.S.C. 668-668c) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703–712), respectively. All work is above the mean high water line; therefore consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service and reviews under Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1461 *et seq.*) are not necessary.

We request your review of and concurrence with the attached intra-Service Section 7 Biological Evaluation form describing the proposed project, potential effects, conservation measures and justifications for our determinations. If you have questions or concerns regarding this request for consultation, please contact Holly Herod, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at 404-679-7089 or holly_herod@fws.gov.

Attachment

SOUTHEAST REGION
INTRA-SERVICE SECTION 7
BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION FORM

Originating Person: Holly Herod; prepared by David Mills (representing the State of Florida Natural Resource Trustees – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)
Telephone Number: Holly Herod: 404-679-7089; Dave Mills 303 381 8248
E-Mail: holly_herod@fws.gov; dmills@stratusconsulting.com
Date: March 25, 2014

PROJECT NAME (Grant Title/Number): Developing Enhanced Recreational Opportunities on the Escribano Point Portion of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area

I. **Service Program:**
- _X__ **NRDAR**
- ___ **Ecological Services**
- ___ **Federal Aid**
  - ___ **Clean Vessel Act**
  - ___ **Coastal Wetlands**
  - ___ **Endangered Species Section 6**
  - ___ **Partners for Fish and Wildlife**
  - ___ **Sport Fish Restoration**
  - ___ **Wildlife Restoration**
- ___ **Fisheries**
- ___ **Migratory Birds**
- ___ **Refuges/Wildlife**

II. **State/Agency:** Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

III. **Station Name:** DOI Deepwater Horizon Case Management Team, USFWS Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia 30345

IV. **Location (attach map):** See Figure 1 at the end of this document for a map indicating the general location of the proposed project area and Figure 2 for a detail of the proposed area of activity.

A. **Ecoregion Number and Name:** Southeast Region

B. **County and State:** Santa Rosa County, Florida

C. **Section, township, and range (or latitude and longitude):** See Figure 1

D. **Distance (miles) and direction to nearest town:** see map (Figure 1)

V. Description of Proposed Action (attach additional pages as needed):

The proposed Escribano Point project will begin with surveying and mapping of the project site that will, among other things, include natural communities mapping, developing inventories of rare and exotic plants, and conducting a herpetofauna survey. At the same time, initial pre-construction work will include developing a hydrological assessment and water control plans for the area that incorporates possible improvements to unpaved access roads.

Based on the results of these mapping and surveying efforts and the results of the hydrological assessment, a final land management plan detailing restoration and access-related activities will be developed for the area. Generally, the land management plan will seek to restore natural hydrologic systems in the area and attempt to reintroduce critical elements that help shape these types of natural systems, for example the use of prescribed fire. Additional elements of this envisioned plan include: hurricane debris removal along the shore near Escribano Point; completing repairs/renovations to existing roads, but not paving them; constructing an entrance kiosk, information facilities, parking facilities, an interpretive fishing facility, interpretive picnicking facilities, primitive camping sites, wildlife viewing trails, a site-support workshop, and a wildlife viewing structure. The surveying and mapping area will help inform placement of the kiosk, facilities, camping sites, wildlife viewing areas, and hydrologic restoration.

Additional details with respect to the proposed construction activities include the following:

- Constructing an entrance kiosk, information station, and parking lot with support facilities. While, the design and exact location for each of these elements is not yet known, the maximum footprint needed for the sum of all the projects is expected to be approximately 1 to 1.5 acres. The preference is to construct these elements on an existing disturbed site adjacent to an existing silviculture road. Figure 3 shows a prototypical design of a typical entrance package including a kiosk and sign. Signage in this kiosk could include information on interacting with sensitive species as well as guidelines for activities such as driving in the area (e.g., stay on formal roads). The proposed parking lot would be unpaved.
- Constructing a picnic area with unpaved parking lot. While the exact location for these features is not known it is expected they would be located in a previously disturbed coastal oak hammock area that would be accessible by an existing silviculture road and a new unpaved road developed as part of this project. The total footprint of all disturbances associated with this work is expected to be less than 1 acre. Figure 4 shows the design of a prototypical picnicking facility, and Figure 5 shows a typical interpretive sign as seen at other Florida Wildlife Management Areas.
- Constructing five primitive campsites with bear-proof trash containers in existing clearings. Each campsite is expected to be approximately 400 square feet with a fire ring and bear-proof container. Figure 6 shows an example of a typical bear-proof container used. Campsites would be maintained by underbrushing and mowing but would not require ground disturbance.
- Constructing wildlife viewing trails and an elevated wildlife viewing structure. The final location for these structures would be determined based upon a wildlife viewing analysis

of the site and the location of the other public access facilities. The proposed structure and trails are expected to disturb approximately 0.2 acre with the proposed trails being worked into the habitat connecting the site to one of the proposed parking areas. Figure 7 shows an example of a wildlife viewing trail.

- Constructing a shop support facility consisting of a compound with a metal building and fencing. Utilities would be provided by an on-site power generator since no existing utilities serve the site. Total project footprint for this facility is expected to be less than 2 acres. Figure 8 shows a typical shop.

This proposed work will be limited to the area above mean high water in the project parcel. Long-term monitoring and maintenance of the improved facilities will be completed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) as part of their regular public facilities maintenance activities.

VI. Description of the Project Area (attach additional pages as needed):

The general project location and more detailed definition of the area of potential activity for the project are identified in Figures 1 and 2 respectively.

Escribano Point is located along the East and Blackwater Bays, of which East Bay connects to Pensacola Bay to the southwest (see Figure 1). The project area generally includes basin swamp, baygall, and floodplain forest. The project area also includes a number of former logging access roads and an unimproved "Jeep" roads used to access the shoreline point shown in Figure 2 (the westernmost part of the land in Figure 2). The project area also contains areas that are tidally influenced as well as areas with freshwater and brackish streams.

More specifically, the Escribano Point parcels encompass 2,708-acres within the Grassy Point Area in the southwestern tip of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The WMA is located fourteen miles northeast of Pensacola (across Pensacola Bay), and six miles southeast of Milton. The northernmost parcel is bordered on the east by Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), on the south by Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD)-owned lands within the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area, and on the west and north by wetlands along Blackwater Bay, including Catfish Basin and the Weaver River, which flows into the Yellow River. The southern parcels are bordered by Eglin AFB East Bay. The northern parcel is an expanse of black needlerush marsh surrounding Catfish Creek and tidal creeks that grade into pine forest at higher elevations. The southern parcels consist of basin swamp, maritime hammock and scrubby pine forest. Large portions of the parcels have previously been logged when the land was in active silviculture. These parcels protect some of the last undeveloped waterfront tracts in the county. They are part of a network of publicly owned conservation lands that provide habitat for rare plants and animals such as the white-topped pitcher plant, Gulf sturgeon and Florida black bear and help safeguard the water quality in Blackwater Bay, East Bay and the Yellow River.

VII. Species and Habitat:

A. Complete the following table:

Table 1, provided at the end of this document, provides a summary of the different species that were identified and initially considered for the project's potential impacts. The information in this table was adopted from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Panama City office website: http://www.fws.gov/panamacity/specieslist.html which provides a county-based list of federal threatened, endangered, and other species of concern likely to occur in the Florida Panhandle.

VIII. Determination of Effects:

A. Explanation of effects of the action on species and critical habitats in item VII. A (attach additional pages as needed):

Table 2 presents a summary of the potential species/critical habitat that could be impacted from the proposed Escribano Point project. The species/critical habitat in Table 2 were identified after considering where there was potential overlap from information on identified natural communities in Table 1 with the potential locations where the project could be implemented and areas adjacent to the immediate project locations.

Table 2. Potential Impacts to Species/Critical Habitats

The project will occur in an area with diverse habitats including large pine forest stands and swamp areas. We are not currently aware of any listed, proposed, or candidate species that may be using the site; however, habitats are likely suitable for a suite of these species. The presence of these species would be determined as part of the initial work to map natural communities, develop inventories of rare and exotic plants, and conduct a herpetofauna survey.

SPECIES/CRITICAL HABITAT	SPECIES/CRITICAL HABITAT IMPACTS
Red-cockaded woodpecker	The site has supported recent logging activity and while the project site contains planted pine, no mature long leaf or loblolly pine stands are expected to be present. Therefore, red-cockaded woodpeckers are not expected to be present on site. We have included conservation measures in the event that suitable habitat for this species is discovered during site surveys. Because of the low likelihood of presence and the additional conservation measures if individuals are present, we anticipate that any potential effects can be minimized such that they are insignificant or discountable.
Eastern indigo snake	Eastern indigo snake may be present on site and could be startled, harassed, or potentially killed through construction and management activities. The conservation measures below will minimize any potential impacts to the Eastern indigo snake such that effects are insignificant and discountable.
Reticulated flatwoods salamander	The on-site wetland areas will be identified in the initial mapping and surveying and specifically avoided during construction activity (for kiosks, camp sites, trails, etc). However, hydrologic restoration may occur to connect wetlands. Hydrologic restoration would ultimately be expected to benefit any salamanders on site; however, during restoration salamanders could be startled, harassed, or potentially killed. The conservation measures below will minimize any potential impacts to the reticulated flatwoods salamander such that effects are insignificant and

SPECIES/CRITICAL	SPECIES/CRITICAL HABITAT IMPACTS
	discountable.
Gopher tortoise	Gopher tortoise is a candidate species and may be present on site. If present the individuals could be startled, harassed, or potentially killed through construction and management activities. The conservation measures below should avoid or minimize potential impacts to the tortoise to an insignificant and discountable level (if listed).
Panhandle lily and Gulf sweet pitcherplant	These species are not listed under the ESA; however, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been petitioned to list these species. Both are known to occur in the general project vicinity and could be destroyed by heavy equipment use or land management techniques, if present on site. Conservation measures below are expected to minimize impacts to these species if found on site.
Other Species	There are a variety of at-risk species (amphibians, reptiles, birds, Florida black bear, and many plant species – see Table 1) that could be within the project area. The project goal is to improve habitat and support minor recreational activities. Short-term impacts to species and their habitats from construction and management could occur. Conservation measures below are expected to minimize impacts to any of the species found on site.

B. Explanation of actions (Conservation Measures) to be implemented to reduce adverse effects:

C.

Table 3. Conservation Measures to Minimize Impacts to species

SPECIES	CONSERVATION MEASURES TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS
Red-cockaded woodpecker	If suitable habitat is discovered within the project area during site surveys, the suitable habitat will be avoided by all construction and management activities by an adequate buffer as determined by the Panama City Ecological Services Field Office. If avoidance is not possible or management activities in suitable habitat are desired, standard surveys will be conducted to determine if the habitat is supporting any red-cockaded woodpeckers or presence can be assumed. If red-cockaded woodpeckers are present (or assumed to be), no habitat trees will be removed. In addition, the Panama City Field Office will be contacted for other avoidance and minimization measures to ensure any potential effects are insignificant and discountable. If no such avoidance and minimization measures are practicable, this consultation will be reinitiated to address potential effects.
Eastern indigo snake	If suitable habitat or other evidence of Eastern indigo snake is discovered within the project area during site surveys, the most recent version of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake" will be implemented. The current version is available at: http://www.fws.gov/verobeach/ReptilesPDFs/20130812_EIS%20Standard%20Protection%20Measures_final.pdf
Reticulated flatwoods salamander	Suitable habitat will be avoided during all construction activities. If suitable habitat may be impacted during hydrological restoration the following conservation measures will be implemented: standardized surveys to determine if salamanders are actually present or presence can be assumed; if the species is present (or assumed to be present) hydrologic restoration will occur after the breeding season has ended and salamanders have left breeding habitat; no currently connected wetland habitats will be isolated from each other due to changes in hydrological regimes or road maintenance.

SPECIES	CONSERVATION MEASURES TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS
Gopher tortoise	Surveys will identify any gopher tortoise burrows. If burrows are within the construction zone or area for hydrologic restoration and cannot be avoided through establishing a protective buffer (size determined by Panama City Field Office (PCFO) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission), standard procedures (obtained from PCFO) will be implemented to relocate the tortoise within the project site but away from the areas of construction or restoration.
Panhandle lily and Gulf sweet pitcherplant	Conduct species specific surveys to identify any occurrences of either species on the project site. If found on site, contact the Panama City Ecological Services Field Office and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to determine if avoidance or minimization measures may be appropriate.
Other Species	Survey for other at-risk species including, but not limited to: gopher frog, Florida pine snake, birds, and plant species. If found on site, contact the Panama City Ecological Services Field Office and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to determine if avoidance or minimization measures may be appropriate.
All	A land management plan detailing restoration and access-related activities will be developed for the area. This plan will be provided to the Panama City Field Office for review. If the Field Office determines that species may be adversely affected the plan will be revised to minimize impacts to an insignificant and discountable level or this consultation will be reinitiated so that the potential effects from the plan can be evaluated and formal consultation completed if necessary.

VIIII. Effect Determination and Response Requested:

[1]DETERMINATION/ RESPONSE REQUESTED:

Table 4. Effect Determination

Species	Species Impacts					Response Requested
	NE	NLAA	MAA	JP	JC	
Red-cockaded woodpecker		X				Concurrence
Eastern indigo snake		X				Concurrence
Reticulated flatwoods salamander		X				Concurrence
Gopher tortoise		X				Conference
Panhandle lily, Gulf sweet pitcherplant, Other Species		X				Conference

X. Bald Eagles

Are bald eagles present in the action area? _X __No ____Yes

If "Yes," can you implement the conservation measures below? ____Yes ____ No

1. If bald eagle breeding or nesting behaviors are observed or a nest is discovered or known, all activities (walking, camping, cleanup, use of a UTV, ATV, or boat) should avoid the nest by a minimum of 660 feet. If the nest is protected by a vegetated buffer where there is *no* line of sight to the nest, then the minimum avoidance distance is 330 feet. This avoidance distance shall be maintained from the onset of breeding/courtship behaviors until any eggs have hatched and eaglets have fledged (approximately 6 months).
2. If a similar activity (like driving on a roadway) is closer than 660 feet to a nest, then you may maintain a distance buffer as close to the nest as the existing tolerated activity.
3. If a vegetated buffer is present and there is no line of sight to the nest and a similar activity is closer than 330 feet to a nest, then you may maintain a distance buffer as close to the nest as the existing tolerated activity.
4. In some instances activities conducted within 660 feet of a nest may result in disturbance, particularly for the eagles occupying the Mississippi barrier islands. If an activity appears to cause initial disturbance, the activity shall stop and all individuals and equipment will be moved away until the eagles are no longer displaying disturbance behaviors.

If not, contact the Service's Migratory Bird Permit Office to determine how to avoid impacts or if a permit may be needed.

XI. Migratory Birds

A. Identify the species anticipated in the project area and behaviors (breeding, roosting, foraging) anticipated during project implementation.

Table 5. Potential Impacts to Species/ Habitats for Migratory Birds

SPECIES	BEHAVIOR	SPECIES/HABITAT IMPACTS
Passerines and near-passerines	Nesting, foraging, resting	A variety of birds likely use the project site to complete routine activities and as such these species behaviors could be interrupted during construction, hydrologic restoration, and visitor use.

B. If species or habitat impacts could occur, identify avoidance and minimization measures to prevent incidental take. Incidental take of Migratory Birds cannot be authorized.

Table 6. Conservation Measures to Minimize Impacts to Migratory Birds

SPECIES/SPECIES GROUP	CONSERVATION MEASURES TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS
Passerines and near-passerines	We expect noise from construction and restoration to be short-term during implementation and noise from visitor use should be short-term and sporadic. We expect any birds that are disturbed during feeding or resting behaviors to move to nearby areas on the project site as only a small portion of the site will be affected at any given time. If trees or shrubbery must be removed, these areas will be cleared outside of nesting season or inspected for active nests. If no active nests are found, vegetation may be removed. If active nests are found, vegetation can be removed after the nest successfully fledges.

XII. Signatures from the station preparing the Intra-Service Biological Evaluation:

/s/ Holly N. Blalock-Herod March 26, 2014
Signature (originating station - preparer) **date**

Title

Deborah L McCl 3/26/14
Signature (originating station) **date**
Deputy Case Manager

This analysis resulted in a determination that no "take" of a federally listed species would occur. If any of the following occur, then there must be reinitiation on this action:

(1) any unforeseen circumstances arise or incidental take occurs
(2) new information reveals effects of the Service's action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered in this opinion;
(3) the Service's action is later modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat not considered in this opinion; or
(4) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action.

In instances where any incidental take occurs, the operations causing such take must cease until reinitiation. If reinitiation is required, contact the Panama City Ecological Services Field Office **about the action.**

US Fish and Wildlife Service
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, FL 32405
Tel: 850-769-0552

XIII. Reviewing Ecological Services Office Evaluation:

A. Concurrence ✓ **Nonconcurrence** _____

B. Formal consultation required _____

C. Conference required _____

D. Informal conference required _____

E. Remarks (attach additional pages as needed):

RECEIVED 4/12/14

Donald — 4/2/14

Signature **date**

DONALD IMM — PCFO

Field Supervisor **office**

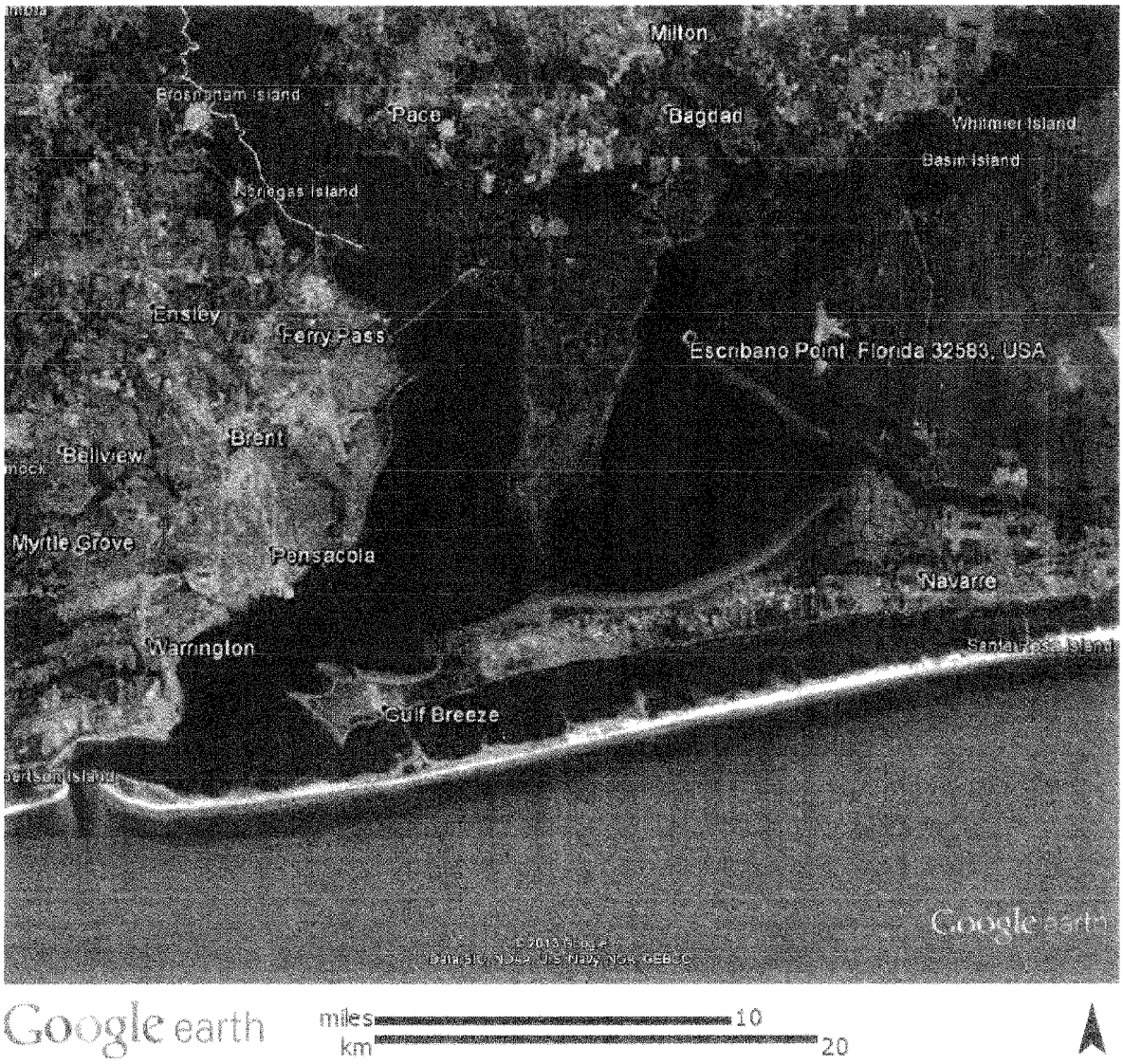

Figure 1. General location of the Escribano Point Project

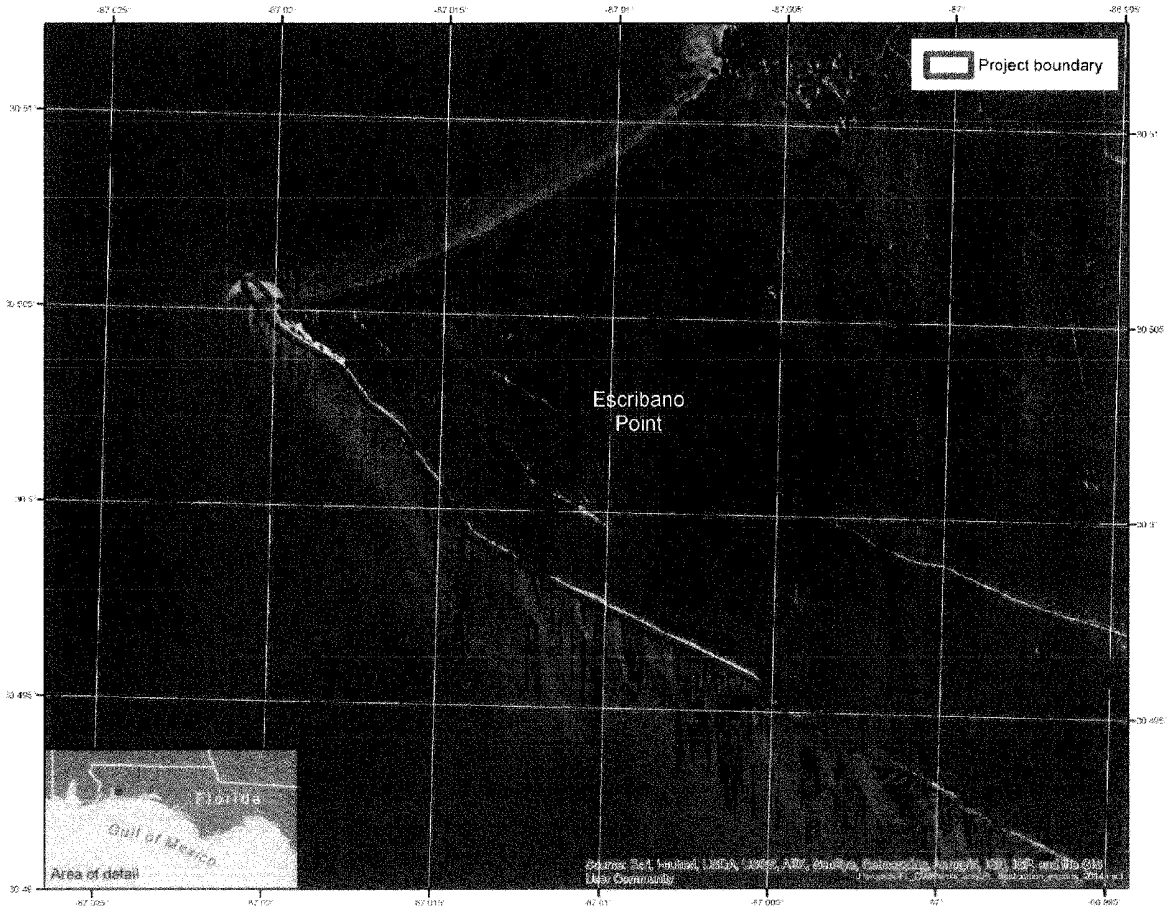

Figure2. Detail of area of activity for proposed Escribano Point Project.

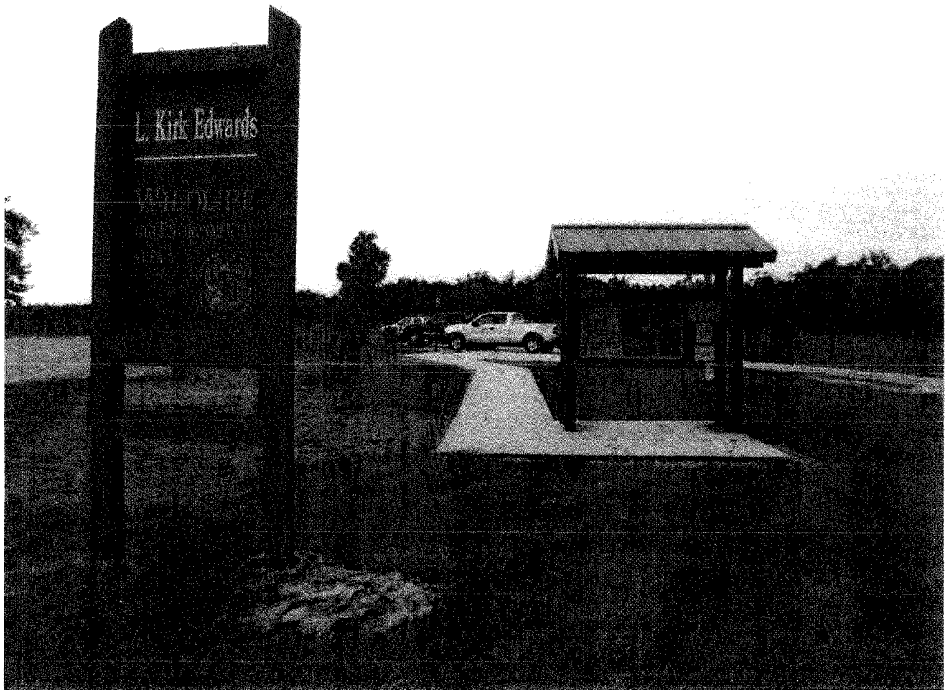

Figure 3. Entrance package example.

Figure 4. Picnicking facility example.

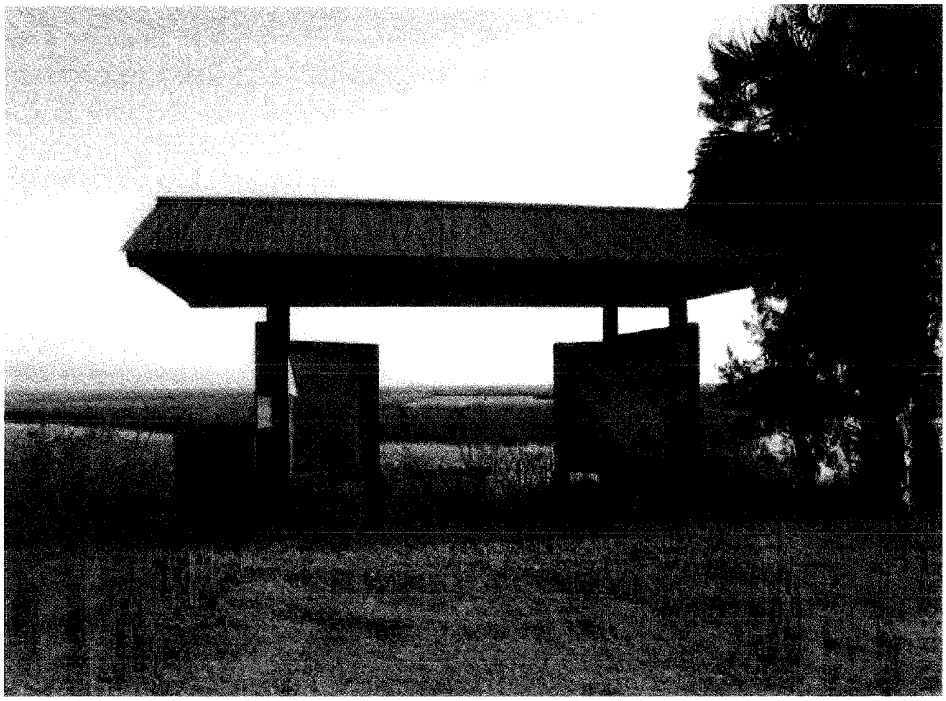

Figure 5. Interpretive signs example.

Figure 6. Bear-proof container example.

Figure 7. Wildlife viewing trail example.

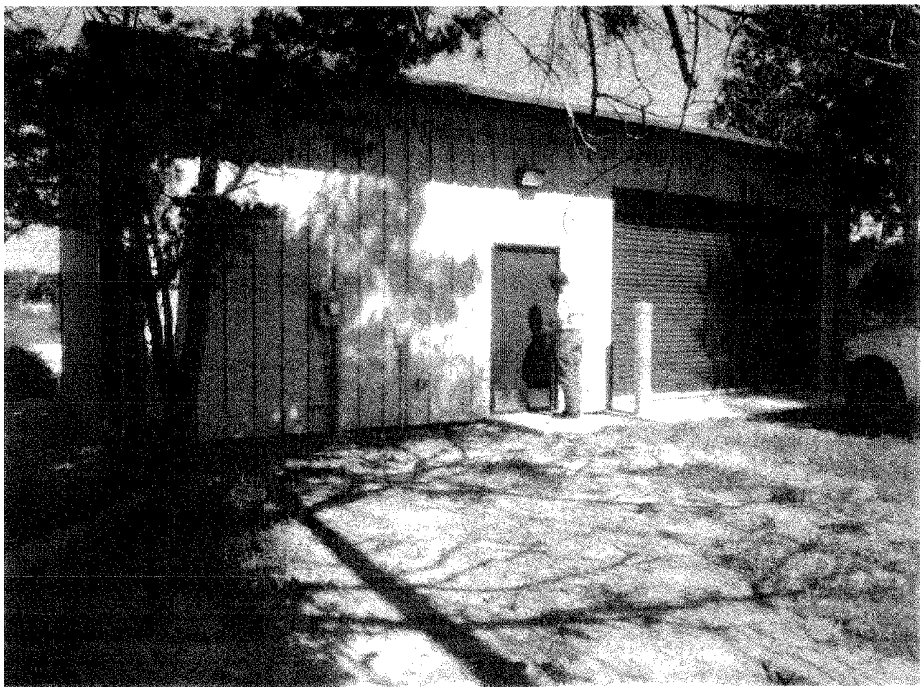

Figure 8. Support shop facility example.

Table 1. Federally listed species in Santa Rosa County, Florida						
Resource category	**Common name**	**FWS status**	**State status**	**Natural communities**	**Species impacts (NE, NLAA, MAA)**	**Justification**
Amphibians	Florida bog frog	SSC	ce	Palustrine: seepage slope, baygall Riverine: seepage slope, seepage stream. Headwaters and open boggy areas along flowing streams	NE	Habitat is degraded and bog frogs are not anticipated.
Amphibians	Gopher frog	SSC	ce	Terrestrial: sandhill, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, xeric hammock (reproduces in ephemeral wetlands within these communities).	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Amphibians	Reticulated flatwoods salamander	E (CH)		Palustrine: wet Flatwoods, dome swamp, basin swamp, Terrestrial: mesic flatwoods (reproduces in ephemeral wetlands within this community).	NLAA	See Table 2, 3, and 4
Birds	Arctic peregrine falcon	ce	E	Terrestrial: various, ruderal; winters along coasts.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Birds	Bald eagle	BGEPA		Estuarine: marsh edges, tidal swamp, open water Lacustrine: swamp lakes, edges Palustrine: swamp, floodplain Riverine: shoreline, open water Terrestrial: pine and hardwood forests, clearings.	NE	No nests are known in the project area
Birds	Least tern		T	Terrestrial: beach dune, ruderal. Nests common on rooftops.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Birds	Piping plover	T (CH)	T	Estuarine: exposed unconsolidated substrate Marine: exposed unconsolidated substrate Terrestrial: dunes, sandy beaches, and inlet areas. Mostly wintering and migrants.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat

Table 1. Federally listed species in Santa Rosa County, Florida						
Resource category	**Common name**	**FWS status**	**State status**	**Natural communities**	**Species impacts (NE, NLAA, MAA)**	**Justification**
Birds	Red knot	P		Estuarine: exposed unconsolidated substrate Marine: exposed unconsolidated substrate Terrestrial: dunes, sandy beaches, and inlet areas. Mostly wintering and migrants.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Birds	Red-cockaded woodpecker	E		Terrestrial: mature pine forests.	NLAA	See Table 2, 3, and 4
Birds	Southeastern kestrel	ce	T	Terrestrial: open pine forests, clearings, ruderal, various.	NE	See Table 2, and 3 (Other Species)
Birds	Southeastern snowy plover	ce	T	Estuarine: exposed unconsolidated substrate Marine: exposed unconsolidated substrate Terrestrial: dunes, sandy beaches, and inlet areas.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Birds	Stoddard's yellow-throated warbler	ce		Terrestrial: wooded habitats with Spanish moss, various.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Birds	Wood stork	E	E	Estuarine: marshes Lacustrine: floodplain lakes, marshes (feeding), various Palustrine: marshes, swamps, various.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Fish	Crystal darter	ce	T	Riverine: alluvial stream.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Fish	Gulf sturgeon	T (CH)	SSC	Estuarine and Marine: sandy sediments for foraging and resting; Riverine: alluvial and blackwater streams.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Fish	Saltmarsh topminnow	C	T	Small, interconnected dendritic intertidal creeks linking the mid and high salt marshes	NE	Intertidal creeks or salt marsh habitat will generally be avoided to reduce the chance of impacts.

Table 1. Federally listed species in Santa Rosa County, Florida						
Resource category	**Common name**	**FWS status**	**State status**	**Natural communities**	**Species impacts (NE, NLAA, MAA)**	**Justification**
Mammals	Florida black bear	ce	T	Palustrine: titi swamps, floodplains Terrestrial: pine and hardwood forests.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Mammals	Santa Rosa beach mouse	ce		Terrestrial: beach dune, coastal scrub.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Mammals	West Indian manatee	E	E	Estuarine: submerged vegetation, open water Marine: open water, submerged vegetation Riverine: alluvial stream, blackwater stream, spring-run stream.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Mussels	Choctaw bean	E (CH)		Riverine: Small to large creeks and rivers in sand to silty-sand substrates with moderate current. Panhandle drainages: Escambia, Yellow, and Choctawhatchee Rivers.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Mussels	Fuzzy pigtoe	T (CH)		Riverine: small to medium-sized creeks and rivers with slow to moderate currents in sand and sand with some silt. Panhandle drainages: Escambia, Yellow, and Choctawhatchee Rivers.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Mussels	Narrow pigtoe	T (CH)		Riverine: small to medium-sized creeks and rivers in stable substrates of sand, sand and gravel, or silty sand, with slow to moderate current. Panhandle drainages: Escambia and Yellow Rivers.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Mussels	Round ebonyshell	E (CH)		Riverine: medium-size drivers in stable substrates of sand, small gravel, or sandy mud in slow to moderate current. Panhandle drainages: restricted to the main channel of the Escambia River.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat

Table 1. Federally listed species in Santa Rosa County, Florida						
Resource category	**Common name**	**FWS status**	**State status**	**Natural communities**	**Species impacts (NE, NLAA, MAA)**	**Justification**
Mussels	Southern sandshell	T (CH)		Riverine: found in small to medium-sized creeks and rivers in sandy substrates sometimes with some silt in slow to moderate current. Panhandle drainages: Escambia, Yellow, and Choctawhatchee Rivers.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Plants	Ashe's magnolia		E	Terrestrial: slope and upland hardwood forest, ravines.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Plants	Baltzell's sedge	ce	T	Terrestrial: slope forest, moist sandy loam; moist sandy loam.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Plants	Chapman's butterwort	ce	T	Palustrine: wet flatwoods, seepage slopes, bog, dome swamp, ditches; in water.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Cruise's golden-aster	ce	E	Terrestrial: coastal dunes, coastal strand, coastal grassland; openings and blowouts.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Plants	Curtiss' sandgrass	ce	T	Palustrine: mesic and wet flatwoods, wet prairie, depression marsh Terrestrial: mesic flatwoods.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Decumbant pitcher plant		T	Palustrine: Bogs.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Florida anise		T	Palustrine: floodplain forest, baygall Riverine: seepage stream bank Terrestrial: slope forest, seepage slope.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Florida pondweed	ce		Riverine: blackwater stream.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat

Table 1. Federally listed species in Santa Rosa County, Florida						
Resource category	**Common name**	**FWS status**	**State status**	**Natural communities**	**Species impacts (NE, NLAA, MAA)**	**Justification**
Plants	Gulf coast lupine	ce	T	Terrestrial: beach dune, scrub, disturbed areas, roadsides, blowouts in dunes.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Plants	Heartleaf		T	Riverine: seepage stream bank Terrestrial: slope forest.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Plants	Hummingbird flower		E	Palustrine: seepage slope, dome swamp edges, floodplain swamps Riverine: seepage stream banks Terrestrial: seepage slopes.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Indian cucumber-root		E	Palustrine: bottomland forest Terrestrial: bottomland forest.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Plants	Large-leaved jointweed	ce	T	Terrestrial: scrub, sandpine/oak scrub ridges.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Mountain laurel		T	Riverine: seepage stream bank Terrestrial: slope forest, seepage stream banks.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Orange azalea		E	Palustrine: bottomland forest Riverine: seepage stream bank Terrestrial: slope forest, upland mixed forest.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Plants	Panhandle lily	ce	E	Palustrine: baygall, dome swamp edges, mucky soil, seepage slope, edges of titi bogs, Riverine: banks.	NLAA	See Table 2, 3, and 4.
Plants	Gulf Sweet pitcherplant	ce		Terrestrial: sandy springhead bogs, headwaters of small streams or margins of small ponds, slow creeks, and rivers. Year-round inundation and full sunlight.	NLAA	See Table 2, 3, and 4.

Table 1. Federally listed species in Santa Rosa County, Florida						
Resource category	**Common name**	**FWS status**	**State status**	**Natural communities**	**Species impacts (NE, NLAA, MAA)**	**Justification**
Plants	Parrot pitcher plant		T	Palustrine: wet flatwoods, wet prairie, seepage slope.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Perforate reindeer lichen	E	E	Terrestrial: coastal strand, rosemary scrub; full sun. Sites: Eglin AFB Santa Rosa/Okaloosa Island.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Plants	Primrose-flower butterwort		E	Palustrine: bogs, pond margins, margins of spring runs.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Pyramid magnolia		E	Terrestrial: slope forest.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Plants	Red-flowered pitcher plant		T	Palustrine: bog, wet prairie, seepage slope, wet flatwoods Riverine: seepage stream banks.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Silky camellia		E	Palustrine: baygall Palustrine: slope forest, upland mixed forest, Terrestrial: slope forest, upland mixed forest; acid soils.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Plants	Southern red lily		T	Palustrine: wet prairie, wet flatwoods, seepage slope Terrestrial: mesic flatwoods, seepage slope; usually with grasses.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Spoon-leaved sundew		T	Lacustrine: sinkhole lake edges Palustrine: seepage slope, wet flatwoods, depression marsh Riverine: seepage stream banks, drainage ditches.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Sweet shrub		E	Terrestrial: upland hardwood forest, slope forest, bluffs Palustrine: bottomland forest, stream banks, floodplains.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat

Table 1. Federally listed species in Santa Rosa County, Florida						
Resource category	**Common name**	**FWS status**	**State status**	**Natural communities**	**Species impacts (NE, NLAA, MAA)**	**Justification**
Plants	Trailing arbutus		E	Terrestrial: bluff, slope forest, mixed hardwood forest.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Plants	West Florida cow-lily	ce		Riverine: shallow, clear, or tannic-acid tinted (blackwater) waters, often rooted in sandy substrate.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Plants	White-top pitcher plant	ce	E	Palustrine: wet prairie, seepage slope, baygall edges, ditches.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Yellow fringed orchid		T	Palustrine: bogs, wet flatwoods Terrestrial: Bluff.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Yellow fringeless orchid	ce	E	Palustrine: wet prairie, seepage slope Terrestrial: mesic flatwoods.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Plants	Yellow-root		E	Riverine: seepage stream; sandy banks.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Reptiles	Alligator snapping turtle	ce	SSC	Estuarine: tidal marsh Lacustrine: river floodplain lake, swamp lake Riverine: alluvial stream, blackwater stream.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Reptiles	Eastern indigo snake	T	T	Estuarine: tidal swamp Palustrine: hydric hammock, wet Flatwoods Terrestrial: mesic flatwoods, upland pine forest, sand hills, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, rockland hammock, ruderal.	NLAA	See Table 2, 3, and 4
Reptiles	Florida pine snake	ce	SSC	Lacustrine: ruderal, sandhill upland lake Terrestrial: flatwoods, xeric hammock, ruderal.	NE	See Table 2 and 3 (Other Species)
Reptiles	Gopher tortoise	C	SSC	Terrestrial: sandhills, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, xeric hammocks, coastal strand, ruderal.	NLAA	See Table 2, 3, and 4

Table 1. Federally listed species in Santa Rosa County, Florida						
Resource category	**Common name**	**FWS status**	**State status**	**Natural communities**	**Species impacts (NE, NLAA, MAA)**	**Justification**
Reptiles	Green turtle	E	E	Marine: open water; Terrestrial: sandy beaches; nesting.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Reptiles	Hawksbill turtle	E	E	Marine: open water; no nesting.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Reptiles	Kemp's ridley turtle	E	E	Marine: open water; Terrestrial: sandy beaches; nesting.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Reptiles	Leatherback turtle	E	E	Marine: open water; Terrestrial: sandy beaches; nesting.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat
Reptiles	Loggerhead turtle	T	T	Marine: open water; Terrestrial: sandy beaches; nesting.	NE	Listed natural community is inconsistent with the project habitat

BGEPA = Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, C = candidate, ce = consideration encouraged, CH = critical habitat, E = endangered, SSC = species of special concern, T = threatened.

Source: This table reflects the information available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Panama City office website: http://www.fws.gov/panamacity/specieslist.html which provides a county-based list of federal threatened, endangered, and other species of concern likely to occur in the Florida Panhandle. Information downloaded March 13, 2013.

NRDA ROUTING SLIP

Comments: _____

_____ Date:

	Received	Due	
Imm, Don			
Phillips, Catherine			
Ambrose, Lydia			
Kelly, Patty piping plovers	2/11/14	Patty Kelly	Concur NLAA.
Lehnhoff, Lisa			
Mitchell, Harold			Am Concur
Negron-Ortiz, Vivian	2/10/14	→	see attached information please include - Vivian Negron 2/11/2014
Pursifull, Sandy			
Yanchis, Kristi			

Comments added and new Sect 7 eval form sent 3/26/14 received 4/2/14

Based on page 3, bullet 1, it is prudent to consider the following plant species at risk (see table below). The Service received a formal request to list these species. The Service completed a 90-day finding indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. At present we are in the process of assessing the status of these species. While not currently protected under the Act, conserving these species now may prevent the need to list them in the future. Where appropriate habitat is present, we recommend surveying and avoiding potential project effects on these plants.

Scientific Name	**Common name**	**Florida**	**Distance to proposed impact**
Lilium iridollae	Panhandle Lily	Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton	4.2 miles
Sarracenia rubra ssp. *gulfensis*	Gulf Sweet Pitcherplant	Santa Rosa , Walton, Washington	4.4 miles