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CBRA for Deepwater Horizon Florida Seagrass project

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To: Catherine Phillips <catherine_phillips@fws.gov>
Cc: Ashley Mills <ashley_mills@fws.gov>

Fri, Jul 17, 2015 at 9:14 AM

Catherine, attached please find the CBRA consistency determinations for the Florida Seagrass Recovery project. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Ashley Mills.

Thanks

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Dear Catherine,

The DOI Deepwater Horizon NRDA Case Management Office is continuing to move the proposed Early Restoration projects forward through the various environmental compliance consultations. First, we would like to thank you for all your efforts in the Intra-Service ESA Section 7 consultations your office conducted for the currently proposed projects. We are now working on the Coastal Barrier Resources Act consistency determinations. There is one project in Florida that is being evaluated by the Natural Resource Trustees for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill as a potential early restoration project. The early restoration project was proposed in the draft early restoration plan that was released for public review and comment on May 20, 2015. 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 National Park Service.

We used the Coastal Barrier Resources System mapper – Beta (<http://www.fws.gov/cbra/Maps/Mapper.html> [accessed June 24, 2015]) to determine if proposed projects were located within an Otherwise Protected Area or within a Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit. If the proposed project will occur in an Otherwise Protected Area or outside of a System Unit, no additional analysis was developed.

Seagrass Recovery Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District

The Seagrass Recovery Project is proposed by DOI-National Park Service (NPS) for implementation in the shallow seagrass beds of Santa Rosa Sound just south of the Naval Live Oaks (NLO) Unit of Gulf Islands National Seashore's Florida District (GUIS). It would restore 0.02 acres of seagrass injured by propeller scars, blow holes and human foot traffic, primarily in turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*). Project activities would include harvesting and transplanting seagrass, installing bird stakes to condition sediments to promote seagrass survival, and installing signage to educate visitors about the restoration project and the ecological importance of seagrass.

Consistency Analysis

The proposed Seagrass Recovery Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District occurs entirely within FL-98P. We have determined that CBRA does not apply because this is an Otherwise Protected Area and the only prohibition is Federal Flood Insurance.

If there is anything else we need to capture for CBRA please let me know.



Figure 1. Seagrass Recovery Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District. Corner coordinates of 30.366981 -87.11745, 30.367925 -87.117667, 30.355992 -87.153778, 30.357056 -87.154125