



United States Department of the Interior




FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office
341 Greeno Road North, Suite A
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R4/DH NRDAR

Memorandum

July 23, 2019

To: Field Supervisor, Panama City Ecological Services Field Office, Panama City, FL

From: Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager, *Deepwater Horizon* Gulf Restoration Office 

Subject: Informal Consultation Notification for Navarre Beach Marine Park Addition (land acquisition) project in Florida

Overview

This project is being evaluated as a potential restoration project to restore natural resources in Florida that were injured as a result of the *Deepwater Horizon (DWH)* oil spill. We have reviewed this project in accordance with Section 7 of the ESA. We have made a No Effect determination for this project and are providing this memo as a notification. A brief description of the project is provided below and additional project detail can be found in the biological evaluation (BE) form included with this letter.

Project Description

This project is a land acquisition project that involves acquiring an approximately 4.75-acre private inholding within the existing Navarre Beach Marine Park. The primary goal of the project is to enhance the public's access to the surrounding natural resources and increase recreational opportunities. The proposed action, implementation of the Navarre Beach Marine Park Addition, includes the acquisition of an approximately 4.75-acre undeveloped parcel on the north side of Santa Rosa Island in Santa Rosa County, Florida. The parcel is a private inholding within the existing park.

The property deed will include restrictions on future use and designate that the land be continually used as a public park to maintain public access to natural resources. Further, the property will be managed in accordance with the applicable federal and state laws, as a public park for passive outdoor recreation. The parcel's natural resources and habitat will be conserved for the benefit of wildlife using the area for foraging, shelter, and burrowing. Existing dune habitat will be protected using sand fencing and/or kiosks with informational signage to educate

visitors about the wildlife in the area such as shorebirds and beach mice.

Background

After the *DWH* oil spill, federal and state natural resource trustee agencies (Trustees) came together to assess the effects of the spill and plan for the restoration of injured natural resources. As part of the legal settlement reached with BP in 2016, the Trustees prepared a Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Final PDARP/PEIS), to provide the framework for *DWH* oil spill restoration across the Gulf.

The Final PDARP/PEIS established Trustee Implementation Groups (TIGs) that develop plans for, choose, and implement specific restoration actions under the Final PDARP/PEIS. The Florida Trustee Implementation Group (TIG) includes two Florida state trustee agencies and four federal trustee agencies: the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP); the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC); the United States Department of Commerce, represented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); the United States Department of the Interior (USDOI), represented by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Park Service (NPS); the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The FL TIG has evaluated this project as a potential restoration project under the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Florida Trustee Implementation Group Draft Phase V.3 Florida Coastal Access Project Restoration Plan and Supplemental Environmental Assessment, which was released for public review and comment on June 25, 2019.

We reviewed the Navarre Beach Marine Park Addition restoration project for compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.S 1531 et seq.). We have made a No Effect determination for any listed species within the potential project action area. We have summarized our analysis in the attached BE form.

Within the BE form, we have also reviewed the proposed projects for impacts to bald eagles in accordance with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) of 1940 (16 U.S.C. 668-668c) and we determined take would be avoided.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this request, please contact Erin Chandler, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at 470-361-3153 or erin_chandler@fws.gov.

Attachments (1)

- BE form including project maps