



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, Mississippi 39213
Phone: (601)965-4900 Fax: (601)965-4340

March 20, 2017

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2017-CPA-033

Ms. Debora McClain
DOI DH NRDAR Case Manager
134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, Colorado, 80228

Dear Ms. McClain:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the information in your letter dated March 11, 2017 regarding the proposed Graveline Bay Land Acquisition and Management Project in Jackson County, Mississippi. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.),

The proposed project includes the acquisition and preservation of up to 1,400 acres of habitat within and adjacent to the Graveline Bay Coastal Preserve (CP), and restoration and management activities on up to 2,185 acres of existing CP land and newly acquired parcels in the vicinity of the CP. Project objectives include: acquisition of properties that have a high threat of development, preserving a buffer to keep adjacent marsh habitat intact, and reducing habitat fragmentation. Proposed restoration measures and management activities include: access restriction, invasive species management, debris removal, road removal/repair, and culvert replacement.

A portion of the proposed project is located within the John H. Chaffee Coastal Barrier Resource System (Belle Fontaine Point Unit, R01A), which limits new federal expenditures and financial assistance unless the activities qualify for exception under Section 6 of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. §3505). Since the proposed project is for the management, protection, and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources and habitat, we concur with your determination that the proposed project meets the exceptions listed under Section 6 of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act and is consistent with the purposes of the Act.

If you have any questions, please contact David Felder in this office, telephone (601) 321-1131.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen Ricks", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Stephen M. Ricks
Field Supervisor
Mississippi Field Office