



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

JAN 15 2020

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2019-I-1346

Mr. Ben Frater
Assistant Gulf Restoration Manager
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office
341 N. Greeno Road, Suite A
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled "Stewardship of Coastal Alabama Beach Nesting Bird Habitat", submitted by the Service. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project consists of five components that will reduce stressors to coastal bird populations. These project components include conducting stewardship to reduce human disturbances that contribute to nest failure, conducting predator management activities, conducting monitoring of nesting and fledgling success, deploying decoys to attract birds to suitable nesting areas, and conducting habitat and nesting area enhancements.

Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), and red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*). The project activities involve enhancing coastal habitats for rare species, therefore, the proposed action should result in beneficial effects to these species.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 441-5871.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson
Field Supervisor
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office