



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-1345

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 "Perdido River Land Acquisition Molphus Tract", 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 would acquire approximately 1,391 acres of coastal habitat on the Perdido River contiguous with the Perdido Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources would own and manage the land as part of the Perdido WMA. The project would also include recreational improvements including a canoe/kayak launch that would link the property to the Perdido River Canoe Trail and provide an additional point of access to the river for the public.

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 wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). This project will ensure that important habitats for these species are protected in perpetuity, 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