



United States Department of the Interior

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

JAN 14 2020

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2019-I-1342

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 "Dauphin Island West End Acquisition", 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 837 acres of vitally important beach/dune habitat at the West End of Dauphin Island. Acquisition of this property would provide benefits that include habitat protection for threatened and endangered bird species, including the piping plover, and increased bird stewardship through habitat protection and preservation.

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*). This project will ensure that important habitats for these species are protected in perpetuity and would not be subject to future development, 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