



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mississippi Field Office  
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A  
Jackson, Mississippi 39213



July 7, 2023

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
2023-0088963

Benjamin Frater  
Department of the Interior  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service - Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road  
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mississippi Ecological Services Office (Mississippi ES Office) has reviewed your email dated June 5, 2023, and Biological Evaluation Form, requesting section 7 consultation for the Jourdan River Boardwalk Project. The project location is in Hancock County, Mississippi. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

The Mississippi ES Office concurs with the effects determinations you have made for species and critical habitat areas outlined in the Biological Evaluation Form (BEF) for this project. Additionally, we concur with the conditions and protective measures outlined in the BEF to minimize impacts to species and habitats found within the project area. Further, our office supports the proposed project, and its intent to improve public access and viewing of the local estuarine environment. The proposed boardwalk in this unique site will offer recreational viewing and educational opportunities of diverse habitats such as freshwater forested wetlands, estuarine and marine wetlands, and associated wildlife.

Consultation should be reinitiated with our office if the scope of the proposed work changes, or new information reveals that the effects of the proposed action may affect listed species in a manner or to an extent not considered, or a new species or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the proposed action. This concludes consultation on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Ncaise in our office, telephone: (228) 493-6631.

Sincerely,

James Austin  
Field Supervisor