



United States Department of the Interior

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2012-I-0151

OCT 21 2015

Memorandum

To: Deputy Case Manager, *Deepwater Horizon* Department of the Interior Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR)

From: Field Supervisor, Alabama Ecological Services Field Office *William J. Pearson*

Subject: Informal Consultation and Conference for the Proposed Alabama Dune Restoration Cooperative Project Corrective Action Veteran's Road Dune Walk-Overs, Baldwin County

This memorandum acknowledges our receipt of your memorandum on September 16, 2015. This response is in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA). We have reviewed your proposed project and concur with your September 16, 2015 determinations for endangered and threatened species, their critical habitat, and at-risk species (should they become listed). We based our concurrence on the justification below. Where more than one justification was applicable, multiple boxes are checked and additional comments are added.

- Species-specific surveys were conducted and there are no endangered, threatened, or at-risk species or designated critical habitat on site. Comments: _____
- Endangered, threatened, and at-risk species are not known from and are not expected to occur within the vicinity of the proposed project. Comments: Gopher tortoise and eastern indigo snake are not known to occur in the action area.
- Appropriate avoidance and minimization measures have been included within the project description to ensure that any effects to listed species (or at-risk species should they become listed) are insignificant or discountable. Comments: Prior to any sand disturbance, the area will be surveyed for evidence of Alabama beach mouse (ABM) and all avoidance and minimization measures will be followed. All activities will occur outside of sea turtle and bird nesting season.

Critical habitat is not present on site and does not occur within the vicinity of the proposed project. Comments: _____

Appropriate avoidance and minimization measures have been included within the project description to ensure PCEs and/or critical habitat will not be adversely modified or destroyed. Comments: Prior to any sand disturbance , the area will be surveyed for evidence of Alabama beach mouse (ABM) and all avoidance and minimization measures will be followed. All activities will occur outside of sea turtle nesting season and any disturbed sand habitat will be replanted in sea oats from local seed banks.

The proposed project is completely beneficial to the listed or at-risk species and/or critical habitat considered. Comments: _____

Unless the project description 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, no further action pursuant to the ESA is necessary.

If you have questions, please contact Shannon Holbrook at 251-441-5871 or email Shannon_holbrook@fws.gov.