



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Florida Ecological Services Field Office



In Reply Refer To:

March 15, 2024

2024-0055401 Bond Farm Hydrologic Enhancement Southwest Discharge Structure (Planning)
2024-0055418 Bond Farm Hydrologic Enhancement Impoundment
2024-0055427 Choctawhatchee Bay Unpaved Roads Initiative
2024-0055436 Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Hydrologic Restoration Phase 2
2024-0055445 Pensacola Bay Unpaved Roads Initiative Phase 2 (Planning)
2024-0055454 Pensacola and Perdido Bay Watersheds Microbial Source Tracking (Planning)
2024-0055460 Telogia Creek Watershed Water Quality Improvements

Memorandum

To: Compliance Supervisor, Gulf Restoration Office, Fairhope, AL

From: Division Supervisor, Environmental Review

Subject: Informal Consultation for the proposed projects: in-field surveys located in Charlotte County, FL (2024-0055401), construction of a hydrologic enhancement impoundment in Charlotte County, FL (2024-0055418), pave roadways, construct sodded and concrete ditches, replace or place culverts, and install riprap or a combination of these actions in Walton and Holmes counties, FL (2024-0055427), in-field surveys in Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge, Dixie and Levy counties (2024-0055436), in-field surveys in Escambia, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa counties (2024-0055445), in-field surveys in Pensacola and Perdido Watersheds, Escambia and Santa Rosa counties (2024-0055454), and in-field surveys and water quality sampling in Telogia Creek subbasin, Lower Ochlocknee River, Gadsden and Liberty counties (2024-0055460).

This memorandum acknowledges our receipt of your biological evaluations on March 13, 2024. 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 March 13, 2024, determinations for endangered, threatened, and proposed species and their critical habitat. We based our concurrence on the proposed project submissions and 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.
- Endangered, threatened, and at-risk species are not known to be present and are not expected to occur within the vicinity of the proposed project.
- Appropriate avoidance and minimization measures have been included within the project description to ensure that any effects to listed species (or proposed species should they become listed) are insignificant or discountable.

Applicant has agreed to the following:

- USFWS Standard Manatee In-Water Conditions will be followed.
 - Erosion control measures (silt screens, turbidity curtains, etc.) will be implemented.
 - Avoidance buffers will be implemented for sessile faunal and floral ESA-listed species.
- Critical habitat is not present on site and does not occur within the vicinity of the proposed project.
- Appropriate avoidance and minimization measures have been included within the project description to ensure primary constituent element(s) (PCE[s]) and/or critical habitat will not be adversely modified or destroyed.
- The proposed project is completely beneficial to the listed or at-risk species and/or critical habitat considered.

As provided in 50 CFR 402.16, consultation must be reinitiated if (1) take occurs, or (2) new information reveals effects of the action not previously considered, or (3) if the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, or (4) if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Laura Wright, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at laura_wright@fws.gov or (352) 448-9151.