



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office
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IPaC Record Locator: 162-22304557

June 25, 2020

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'Robert Brothers Farm Site Assessment' for specified threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location pursuant to the Louisiana Endangered Species Act project review and guidance for other federal trust resources determination key (Louisiana DKey).

Dear Alie Nicotera:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on June 25, 2020 your effects determination(s) for the 'Robert Brothers Farm Site Assessment' (the Action) using the Louisiana DKey within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. The system was developed in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “no effect” or “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)” for the following species as outlined in the Service’s Louisiana Endangered Species Act project review and guidance for other federal trust resources key.

Threatened West Indian Manatee (<i>Trichechus manatus</i>)	NLAA
Endangered Pallid sturgeon (<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>)	NLAA

The "may affect - not likely to adversely affect" determination(s) becomes effective when the lead Federal action agency or designated non-federal representative uses it to ask the Service to rely on the Louisiana Endangered Species Act project review and guidance for other federal trust resources key to satisfy the agency's consultation requirements for this project.

Please provide this consistency letter to the lead Federal action agency or its designated non-federal representative with a request for its review, and as the agency deems appropriate, to submit for concurrence verification through the IPaC system. The lead Federal action agency or designated non-federal representative should log into IPaC using their agency email account and click "Search by record locator". They will need to enter the record locator **162-22304557**

If the action agency is unable to generate a concurrence verification letter through IPaC, please sign below verifying your species determination(s) listed above and submit your project to the Louisiana Field Office for concurrence.

Project Representative

Date

Based on the information provided in this report, as well as any pertinent correspondence and documentation saved to the project file at our office (if applicable), the Service agrees with your determination(s) for the species listed above for the proposed Federal Action:

Louisiana Ecological Services Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Date

Consultation on the proposed action is concluded when you receive signature from this office.

The Service recommends that your agency contact the Service for additional consultation if: 1) the scope or location of the proposed project is changed significantly, 2) new information reveals that the action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat; 3) the action is modified in a manner that causes effects to listed species or designated critical habitat; or 4) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated. Additional consultation as a result of any of the above conditions or for changes not covered in this consultation should occur before changes are made and or finalized.

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

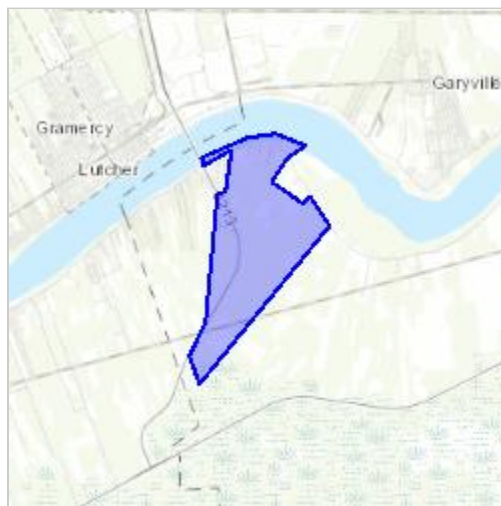
Robert Brothers Farm Site Assessment

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Robert Brothers Farm Site Assessment':

Specifically, the subject site is situated east of Highway 3213, south of the Mississippi River, and north and west of undeveloped and agriculture land in Wallace, Louisiana in St. John the Baptist Parish (general location coordinates 30.033681°, -90.656669°). The site is currently know as the Robert Brothers Farm. Project planners intend to convert this approximately 1,500 acre site from agriculture land to a grain storage and distribution facility with associated Mississippi River docks to the north for marine shipment, conveyors over the road and levee to connect the docks to the facility, and a rail loop connecting to an existing rail line to the south for railcar shipment. The site is in the initial stages of assessment, so a project timeline is not yet available, as other assessments and permitting will determine the project timeline.

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/30.024097028109992N90.6585935191982W>



Qualification Interview

1. Is this a Federal project?

No

2. Are you with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division?

No

3. Are you with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Planning Division?

No

4. [Hidden Semantic] Does the project intersect the west indian manatee AOI?

Automatically answered

Yes

5. (Semantic) Is the project located within the manatee consultation zone, excluding the Mississippi River?

Automatically answered

Yes

6. Is the water depth within the project greater than 2 feet (at mean high tide)?

Yes

7. Will the project occur during the months of June through November?

Yes

8. Will the following Standard Manatee [Conditions](#) for in-Water Activities be included within the project design?

Yes

9. [Hidden Semantic] Does the project intersect the pallid sturgeon AOI?

Automatically answered

Yes

10. Will the project result in riverine pathway obstruction (such as construction of dams, hydropower plants, etc.)?

No

11. Will the project include the addition of or modification to water intake structures?

No

12. Will the project involve modifications to existing or construction of new diversion structure or turbines?

No

13. Will the project involve dredging activities?

Yes

14. Will the project involve bucket dredging only?

No

15. Will the following cutterhead/suction dredge operational parameters be included in the **project design**? 1) The cutter head must remain completely buried in the bottom material during dredging operation. If pumping water through the cutterhead is necessary to dislodge material or to clean the pumps or cutterhead, etc., the pumping rate will be reduced to the lowest rate possible until the cutterhead is at mid-depth, where the pumping rate can then be increased. 2) During dredging, the pumping rates will be reduced to the slowest speed possible while the cutterhead is descending to the channel bottom.

Yes

16. (Semantic) Does the project intersect the Louisiana black bear Range?

Automatically answered

No

Project Questionnaire

1. How many cubic yards will be dredged as part of the action?

N/A
