



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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ROBERT BENTLEY
GOVERNOR

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COMMISSIONER

CURTIS JONES
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

February 18, 2014

Ms. Holly Herod
Department of the Interior
DWH ESA Coordinator
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

RECEIVED
2/25/14
RBY

RE: Updates to the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Dune Management Plan (DMP) for Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores, Alabama. Incidental Take Permit (ITP) Number TEO072831-2 Issued 12/27/2004, Modified 4/8/2005, Modified 12/26/2006.

Dear Ms. Herod:

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) has updated the Habitat Conservation Plan and Dune Management Plan to address comments received by the Daphne, Alabama, Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) dated January 17, 2014. The revised documents can be accessed via the FTP site located at:

User name is [REDACTED] and the password is [REDACTED]. We are also sending you two hard copies of each document for your files.

As previously stated, the remainder of the Project Enhancements at GSP will occur outside the HCP Action Area. However, we request confirmation that federally listed species will not be affected by the construction of those components which include the Trail improvements and construction of the Research Center. The Gopher Tortoise is a Candidate Species that occurs in Gulf State Park and the ADCNR staff has identified several burrows in proximity to some of the proposed Trail enhancements. Prior to construction, our staff will mark these burrows with surveyor flagging and map the locations to ensure that avoidance of Gopher Tortoises and their burrows is achieved during construction of Trail enhancements.

If you have any questions please contact Mr. Will Brantley at 334-242-5502. Thank you.

Sincerely,

N. Gunter Guy, Jr.
Commissioner

NGG/whb/bfj