



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, VICKSBURG DISTRICT  
4155 CLAY STREET  
VICKSBURG, MS 39183-3435

**SUBJECT:** Section 592 City of Gautier Sewer and Water Repairs, Gautier, Jackson County, Mississippi

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

To Whom It May Concern:

A draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), along with the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Section 592, City of Gautier, Jackson County, Mississippi project is enclosed for your review and comment. This project involves repairing and improving the City of Gautier's water and sewer systems. Please provide comments by 10 July 2025, to the above address, ATTN: CEMVN-PDN-UDP.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the draft FONSI or EA, please contact Sara McDaniel of this office by email at [sara.k.mcdaniel@usace.army.mil](mailto:sara.k.mcdaniel@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

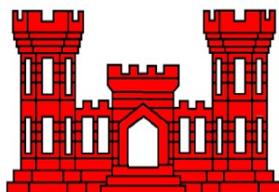
Mark Smith  
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch  
Regional Planning and Environment Division South

Enclosure

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
SECTION 592  
WATER AND SEWER IMPROVEMENTS  
GAUTIER, JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI



EA #122



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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Vicksburg District  
Regional Planning and Environment Division South  
Vicksburg Planning Branch



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regional Planning and Environmental Division South

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## DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### SECTION 592 WATER AND SEWER IMPROVEMENTS GAUTIER, JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mississippi River Valley Division, Regional Planning and Environment Division South (RPEDS), has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Vicksburg District (MVK) to evaluate the potential impacts of repairing and improving the current water, pipes, manholes, sanitary sewer and drainage systems in the City of Gautier, Mississippi.

This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations (40 CFR §1500-1508), as reflected in the USACE Engineering Regulation 200-2-2. This EA provides sufficient information on potential adverse and beneficial environmental effects to allow the District Commander, USACE, MVK, to make an informed decision on the appropriateness of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

#### 1.1 PROPOSED ACTIONS

The proposed action in the city of Gautier is to improve and repair Bucks Road lift station, chemical building copper pipes, Southeast Gautier infiltration and inflow, West Park Drive drainage and Singing River Mall infrastructure.

##### Bucks Road Lift Station (Figure 2):

- The current lift station has reached the end of its useful life cycle and is no longer able to properly pump stormwater and sanitary sewage. Improving the lift station by replacing most of its components would alleviate infiltration issues. Each significant rainfall event in Gautier releases harmful stormwater into the environment which is caused by infiltration. It is impossible to eliminate infiltration without completely replacing the entire lift station.

##### Chemical Building Copper Pipes Replacement (Figure 2):

- The Chemical Building copper piping fresh water supply replacement would prevent corrosion, safety concerns, and failures. Construction options include replacing fixtures and valves such as the hot water heater, (2) safety showers and a mixing valve.

West Park Drive Drainage (Figure 2):

- The limited capacity of the West Park Drive storm water drainage system causes major flooding in the area it services. The proposed action would allow stormwater to move efficiently through the neighborhood and surrounding roads.

Singing River Mall Infrastructure Improvements (figure 2):

- The proposed actions at the Singing River Mall would improve the existing water, sewer system, distribution system and sanitary sewer systems.

Southeast Gautier Infiltration and Inflow Improvements (Figure 1):

- The Southeast Gautier main gravity sewer that transports wastewater has reached its maximum life and needs to be replaced. The proposed action is to replace the dilapidated pipe with small PVC to decrease flow while also decreasing maintenance requirements on the older pipes.

## 1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of this work would be to improve Bucks Road lift station, southeast Gautier infiltration and inflow, West Park Drive drainage, Singing River Mall Infrastructure, and replace chemical building copper pipes (see Figures 1 and 2). These improvements around the city of Gautier are needed due to the negative impacts on human health, the environment, and flood risk reduction caused by the infiltration of pipes and overflow of stormwater during heavy rains. There are safety, hazard, flooding, and sanitary concerns due to these issues. The city would greatly benefit from the proposed action.

## 1.3 AUTHORITY

Public Law 106-53 of 1999, Section 592, authorizes design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in Mississippi, including projects for wastewater treatment and related facilities, elimination or control of combined sewer overflows, water supply and related facilities, environmental restoration, and surface water protection and development. This project meets the qualification requirements under Section 592.

## 1.4 PUBLIC CONCERN

There are health and safety concerns for the contaminated wastewater and corroded copper pipes. The current lift station in Gautier poses numerous threats to the health, safety, and welfare of area residents primarily through sanitary sewer system overflow occurrences. The underperforming drains in West Park Drive are causing this neighborhood to flood. In Southeast Gautier, the main gravity sanitary sewer system that transports wastewater has reached its full capacity. There are both residential and commercial properties in this area that could be affected by the dilapidated pipes causing additional flow to the plant downstream and to the sinkholes at manholes and areas along Gautier – Vancleave Road. Lastly, the sanitary sewer system at the Singing River Mall has reached its full capacity. The cracks in the system indicate that improvements are needed to avoid health and sanitary concerns.

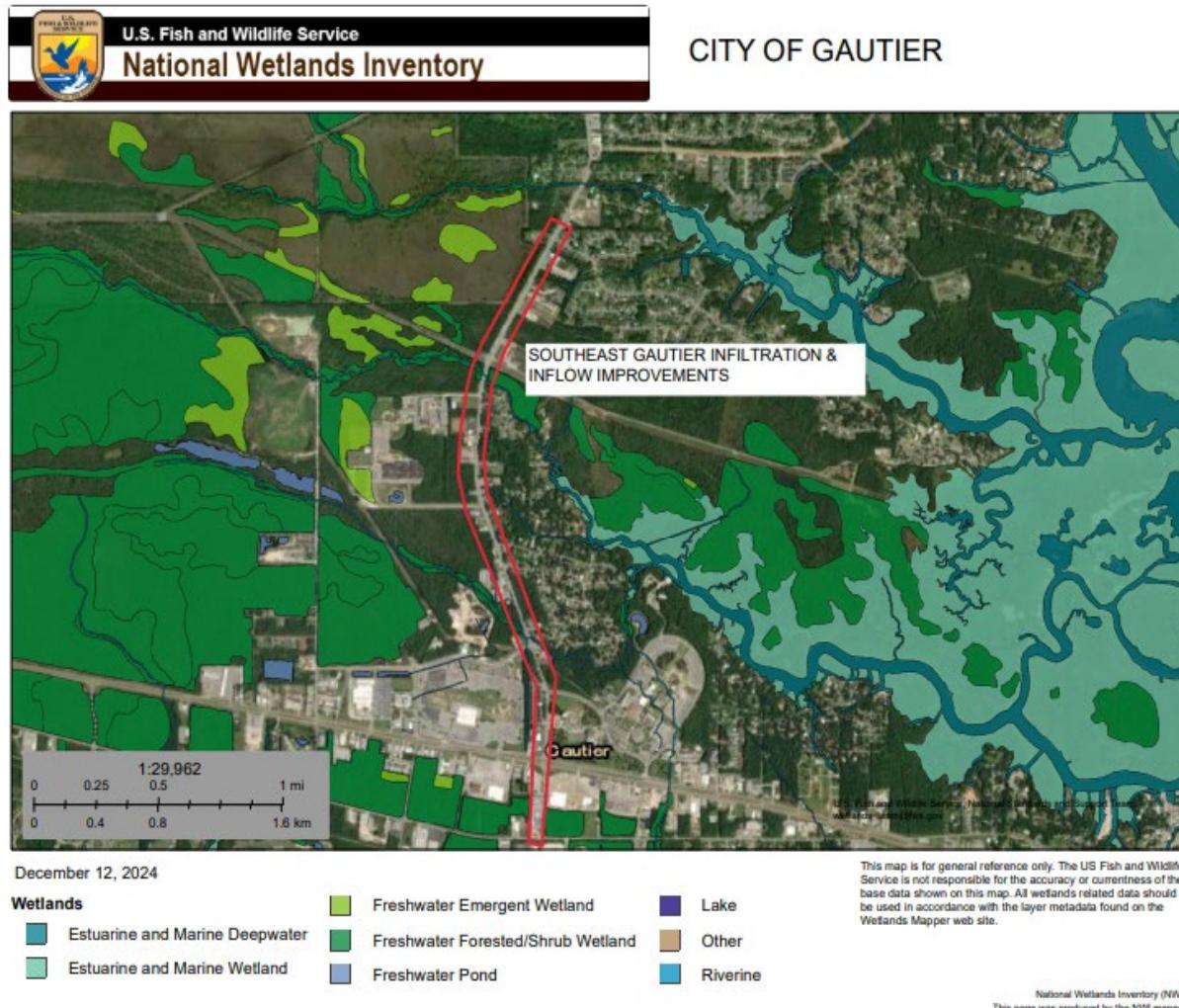
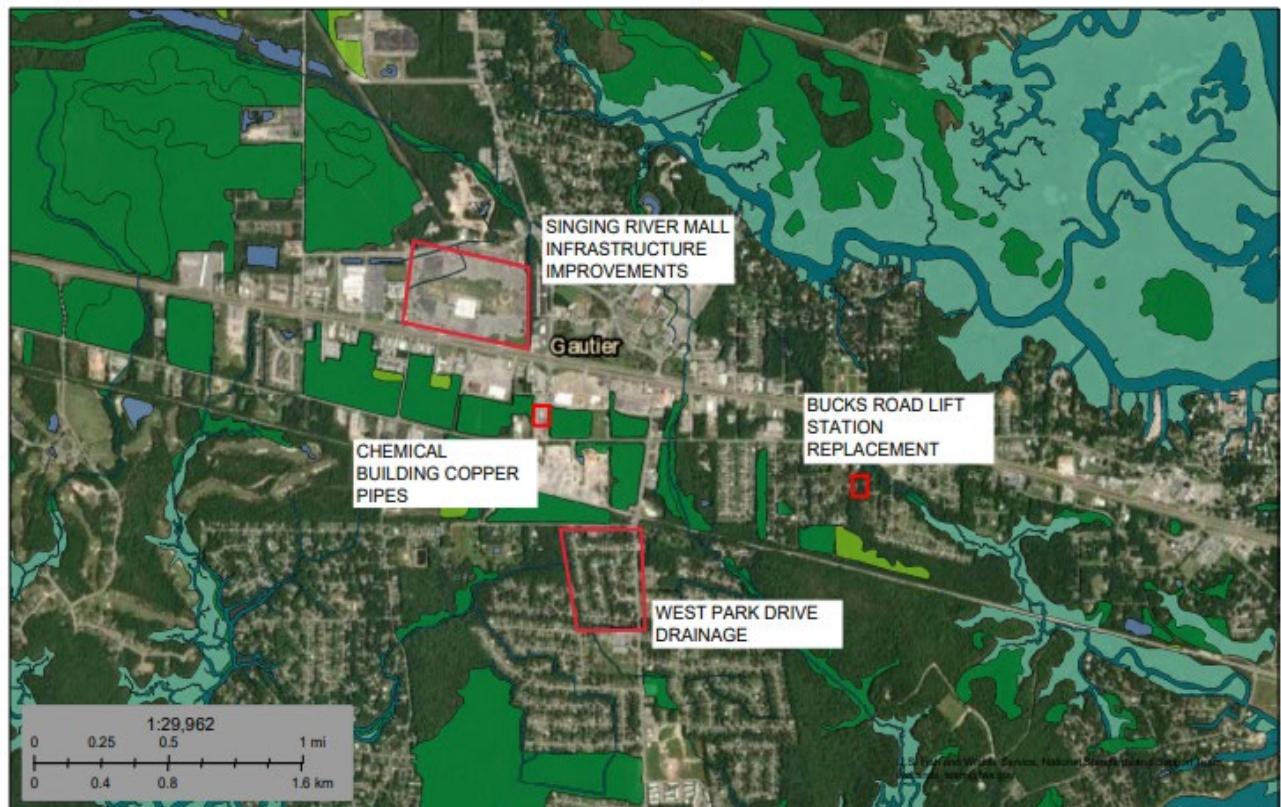


Figure 1: site map of proposed Southeast Gautier Infiltration and Inflow improvements in the city of Gautier, MS

## CITY OF GAUTIER 2



December 12, 2024

### Wetlands

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond

Lake
Other
Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)  
 This page was produced by the NWI mapper

*Figure 2: Site map of proposed Singing River Mall Infrastructure, Chemical Building, Bucks Lift Station and West Park Infrastructure Improvements.*

## 2.0 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Two alternatives including the proposed action were considered:

Alternative 1- No Action

Alternative 2- Improvements and Replacements for the City of Gautier

Normally, additional alternatives would be considered as part of the scoping process. However, due to the nature of the program, where the law provides grant money to nonfederal sponsor cities, the city proposes a plan to the USACE, and the USACE provides subsequent regulatory compliance.

## 2.1 ALTERNATIVE 1 No Action Condition

Under the No Action Alternative, no project would occur, and wastewater contamination would continue to occur during heavy rainfall events in the city of Gautier.

The copper water supply piping at the Public Works Chemical Building would continue to experience corrosion and failure at the joints. If no action were to take place it would completely fail.

The current lift station has reached the end of its useful life cycle. If this lift station is not replaced, it would cause safety and health hazards in the area as well as cause infiltration issues.

The West Park Drive and the surrounding roads would continue to experience major flooding due to the stormwater drainage system continuing to rely on street gutters that convey stormwater runoff to three drainage structures that are unable to handle the volume.

The Singing River Mall would continue to develop cracks in the existing stormwater and sanitary sewer system allowing more infiltration and inflow leading to overwhelming the systems downstream. The dilapidated stormwater and sanitary sewer systems would continue to cause concerns for this area.

The Southeast gravity sewer main that transports wastewater has reached its maximum life and become dilapidated. Infiltration and inflow would continue to be a substantial issue resulting in additional flow to the plant downstream and sinkholes at manholes and areas along Gautier-Vancleave Road.

The No Action Alternative would have negative impacts to the city of Gautier and those who reside in this area.

## 2.2 ALTERNATIVE 2 Improvements and Replacements for the City of Gautier

Alternative 2 proposes to repair damages and improve the water and sewer systems in the city of Gautier through the following actions:

Replacing the copper pipe inside the Chemical Building with CPVC (chlorinated polyvinyl chloride) pipe to prevent corrosion in the future. Construction options include replacing fixtures and valves such as the hot water heater, two safety showers and mixing valve. The work would take place inside of the existing building.

Replacing the lift station to enable the use of full capacity, which would reduce the health, safety and welfare concerns for the residents in the area and would fix the infiltration issues.

On West Park Drive, removing the existing 36" RCP and 58"x 36" at outfall and replacing it with two 42" RCP. Twenty-eight new drainage structures and 4,000 LF of supporting pipe would be added to West Park Drive drainage to move flooding runoff to outfall. This would allow the water to move out of the area without any flooding issues to residents in this area.

The improvements in the Singing River Mall would include the abatement of the existing utilities at the property and a redesign that would better serve the area. This would include design for a new gravity sewer line and water line that would allow for cost attributed to the existing aging system to be decreased for the city while providing new opportunities with a newly designed system and layout.

Installing CIPP lining in the Southeast Gautier sewer system. The gravity sewer that severs as the main transportation of wastewater has reached its maximum lifespan leading to infiltration and inflow issues that result in additional flow to the plant downstream and cause sinkholes at manholes and areas along Gautier- Vancleave Road. CCTV investigations would be used to determine which areas require CIPP lining.

### **3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

The proposed project is located within the city limits of Gautier, Mississippi. Gautier is in Jackson County, Mississippi, which is in the Fourth U.S Congressional District. This project area includes multiple mixed-use developments such as residential structures and commercial buildings.

#### **3.1 CLIMATE**

Climate in this area is mild, generally warm, and temperate. The city of Gautier experiences a significant amount of rainfall, even during months with low precipitation levels. The average annual temperature is 68.4°F. Summer temperatures have an average low of 52.5°F with highs averaging around 81.5°F. The annual precipitation in the location is approximately 57.6 inches.

#### **3.2 GEOLOGY**

The project area (which occurs in the city of Gautier, Mississippi, Jackson County) is comprised of several major soil types which include Troup, Benndale, Harleston, and Atmore. The Troup series consists of well-drained, nearly level to gently sloping soils on uplands. Native vegetation consists of scrub oak, scattered longleaf or loblolly pine, and dogwood. The Benndale series consists of well-drained soils on uplands. The Harleston series consists of moderately well-drained soils. This series formed in marine or stream deposits consisting of thick beds of sandy loam. This series is prevalent on terraces and uplands of the Southern Coastal Plain. The Atmore series consists of deep, poorly drained, moderately slowly permeable soils that formed in loamy marine sediments. These soils are on slight depressions and gently sloping interstream divides of the coastal plain.

### 3.3 RELEVANT RESOURCES

This section contains a description of relevant resources that could be impacted by the project. The relevant resources (Table 1) described in this section are those recognized by laws, executive orders, regulations, and other standards of national, state, or regional agencies and organizations; technical or scientific agencies, groups, or individuals; and the general public.

The following resources have also been considered and found to not be affected by any alternative under consideration: Wetlands, Aquatic Resources/Fisheries, Air Quality, Essential Fish Habitat, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Recreation, Prime or Unique Farmland, Gulf Water Bottoms, Public Use of Lands, Unique or Rare Wildlife Habitat, Indian Trust Resources, and Soundscapes/Noise.

*Table 1: Relevant Resources*

Resource	Institutionally Important	Technically Important	Publicly Important
<b>Wildlife/Terrestrial</b>	FWCA of 1958, as amended and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.	Wildlife is a critical element of many valuable aquatic and terrestrial habitats; are an indicator of the health of various aquatic and terrestrial habitats; and many species are important commercial resources.	The high priority that the public places on their esthetic, recreational, and commercial value.
<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b>	The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972; and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.	USACE; United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); NRCS; Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) cooperate to protect these species. The status of such species provides an indication of the overall health of an ecosystem.	The public supports the preservation of rare or declining species and their habitats.
<b>Hydrology and Water Quality</b>	Clean Water Act of 1977, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, and MS State & Local Coastal Resources Act of 1978.	USACE, USFWS, NMFS, Natural Resources Conservation Service, EPA, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and MDWFP recognize value of fisheries and good water quality. The national and state standards established to assess water quality.	Environmental organizations and the public support the preservation of water quality and fishery resources and the desire for clean drinking water.
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	NHPA of 1966, as amended; the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990; and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.	State and Federal agencies document and protect sites. Their association or linkage to past events, historically important persons, and design and construction values and for their ability to yield important information about prehistory and history.	Preservation groups, Native American tribes, and private individuals support protection and enhancement of historical resources.

## 4.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

### 4.1 COASTAL ZONE

The United States congress recognized the importance of meeting the challenge of continued growth in the coastal zone by passing the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) in 1972. This act, administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, provides for the management of the nation's coastal resources, including the Great Lakes. The goal is to "preserve, protect, develop and where possible, restore or enhance the resources of the nation's coastal zone". The CMZA requires that Federal actions that are reasonably likely to affect any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone be consistent with enforceable policies of a State's federally – approved coastal management program.

The coast of Gautier, MS is located within Mississippi Sound, the primary body of water off the Mississippi Coast that extends 70 miles west from Lake Borgne, Louisiana, to Mobile Bay, and between the mainland to the south barrier islands, Cat, Ship, Horn, Petit Bois, and Dauphin Islands. The Mississippi Sound varies in width from 4.5 miles to 14 miles and encompasses an estuary of 113 square miles (sq mi) that includes 17 sq mi of tidal marsh within a watershed of 100 sq mi. Average tidal range is 1.96 ft average mean sea level (AMSL), with local water depth and surface level fluctuations largely affected by wind.

Estuarine natural areas along the immediate coastline consist mostly of brackish and salt-tolerant scrub/shrub and herbaceous salt marsh that grades into open marine waters. The rich diversity of the estuary in Mississippi Sound includes sporadic dense seagrass beds and oyster reefs that provide habitat for game fish, wading birds, manatee, and shorebirds.

### 4.2 WILDLIFE / TERRESTRIAL

Gautier, MS boasts a diverse ecosystem shaped by its coastal location. Longleaf and slash pine forests dominate the uplands, while magnolias, live oaks, and palmettos add to the lush vegetation. Cypress trees thrive in swampy areas, and various marsh grasses and sea oats stabilize the coastline. Common wildlife includes white-tailed deer, raccoons, opossums, and alligators, alongside a wide array of birds like brown pelicans, herons, and ospreys. Snakes, frogs, and toads are abundant, while the waterways teem with fish, crabs, and shrimp, creating a rich and varied tapestry of plant and animal life adapted to the humid subtropical climate and coastal environment.

### 4.3 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

According to the results obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) tool on 10 February 2025 there are a total of nine threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species listed in Mississippi that could inhabit the immediate project area (Attachment 1). The federally listed species that could occur in the project area are as follows:

Table 2: Threatened and Endangered Species in the City of Gautier

Alligator Snapping Turtle <i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>	Proposed Threatened
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Proposed Endangered
West Indian Manatee <i>Trichechus manatus</i>	Threatened
Eastern Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i> ssp. <i>Jamaicensis</i>	Threatened
Mississippi Sandhill Crane <i>Antigone canadensis pulla</i>	Endangered
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melanotos</i>	Threatened
Rufa Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	Threatened
Alabama Red – Bellied Turtle <i>Pseudemys alabamensis</i>	Endangered
Gopher Tortoise <i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Threatened
Dusky Gopher Frog <i>Rana sevosa</i>	Endangered
Gulf Sturgeon <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>	Threatened
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Proposed Threatened

The Mississippi Gopher Frog or Dusky Gopher Frog (*Lithobates sevostus*) is a rare species of true frog. It is endemic to the southern United States, and its natural habitats are temperate, coastal forests and intermittent freshwater marshes. This secretive frog is on average 3 in (8 cm) long, with a dark brown or black dorsal surface covered in warts. This North American species was historically found from southeastern Louisiana through southern Mississippi to southwestern Alabama; but it is now only found in two localities in Harrison and Jackson counties, Mississippi. The Dusky Gopher Frog is most known for its use of two distinct habitats – burrows made by gopher tortoises, small mammals, or dead trees during the non-breeding season and ephemeral ponds during the winter breeding season.

Alabama Red Bellied Turtle (*Pseudemys alabamensis*) is a large (20 to 25 centimeters or 8 to 10 inches carapace length) freshwater turtle, normally with an orange to reddish plastron and a prominent notch at the tip of the upper jaw, bordered on either side by a toothlike cusp. The elongated carapace is highly arched and elevated along the midline; its highest point is often anterior to the midbody where the carapace is widest. The carapace is brown to olive, with yellow, orange, or reddish streaks and mottling that form distinct, light vertical bars on the pleural scutes. The skin is olive to black with yellow to light orange stripes. The Alabama red-bellied turtle seems to feed almost entirely on aquatic plants

The Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) is a robin-sized shorebird and a master of long-distance aviation. On wingspans of 20 inches, some rufa red knots fly more than 9,300 miles from south to north every spring, and repeat the trip in reverse every autumn, making this bird one of the longest-distance migrants in the animal kingdom. The rufa red knot's unique and impressive life history depends on suitable habitat, food, and weather conditions across a network of far-flung sites throughout the Western Hemisphere, from the extreme south of Tierra del Fuego to the far north of the central Canadian Arctic.

The Piping Plover (*Charadrius melanotos*) is a small, stocky, sandy-colored bird resembling a sandpiper. The adult has yellow-orange legs, a black band across the forehead from eye to eye, and a black ring around the base of its neck. Like other plovers, it runs in short starts and stops. When still, the piping plover blends into the pale background of open, sandy habitat on outer beaches where it feeds and nests. The bird's name derives from its call notes, plaintive bell-like whistles which are often heard before the birds are seen.

Mississippi Sandhill Cranes (*Antigone canadensis pulla*) resemble great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*). A major distinguishing characteristic is that cranes are completely gray. Great blue herons usually have white on their heads and dark colored underparts. When standing erect, cranes are about 4 feet tall. Male and female cranes are similar in appearance. All cranes have long necks, and adult cranes possess a bald red forehead. The species vocalizations are loud and clattering. Cranes are also unique in that they require separate nesting, foraging, and roosting habitats.

The West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) is a large herbivorous (plant-eating) marine mammal. Manatees are large marine mammals with two flippers and a large, paddle-shaped tail. The flippers are used to steer and hold vegetation. Their powerful tails are used for swimming, helping them reach speeds of 15 miles per hour for very short periods. The Florida manatee is a subspecies of manatee commonly found off of coastal areas of Mississippi. Manatees live in marine, brackish, and freshwater systems in coastal and riverine areas throughout their range. Preferred habitats include areas near the shore featuring submerged aquatic vegetation like seagrass and eelgrass. They feed along grass bed margins with access to deep water channels, where they may flee when threatened. Manatees cannot tolerate temperatures below 68 degrees Fahrenheit for extended periods of time, and during the winter months, cold temperatures keep the population concentrated mostly near peninsular Florida. To keep warm in cooler months, many manatees rely on the warm water from natural springs, power plant outfalls, and passive thermal basins.

The Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) is proposed to be listed as endangered and is one of the largest freshwater turtles in the world, with adults sometimes exceeding two feet in shell length and a weight that can reach nearly 250 pounds. The back of the shell is distinctly jagged, and the top of the shell (carapace) has three rows of "spikes" or knobs running lengthwise along the entire length of the shell. Alligator snapping turtles spend almost their entire lives in water, normally venturing onto land only to lay eggs. While beneath the water's surface, these turtles can use their unique worm-like appendage located on the bottom of their mouth to lure in potential prey.

The Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) is a threatened species of tortoise native to the southeastern United States. The gopher tortoise is seen as a keystone species because it digs burrows that provide shelter for at least 360 other animal species. These species include gopher frogs (*Rana capito*), several species of snakes, such as the Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), small invertebrates, and burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*). Several species associated with Gopher Tortoise burrows are listed as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern by the USFWS. Therefore, conservation efforts focused on the Gopher Tortoise aid these species as well. The Gopher Tortoise is threatened by predation and habitat destruction.

Eastern Black Rails (*Laterallus jamaicensis* ssp. *Jamaicensis*) are a tiny marsh bird, no bigger than a sparrow. They are extremely secretive and are rarely seen in flight. Adults are gray-black in coloration, with white speckled upperparts, and have a grayish crown, a chestnut-colored nape of the neck, and a short tail, as described by Cornell University in 2019. These birds also have red eyes, black bills, and dusty pink or wine-colored legs. Eastern Black Rail habitat can be tidally or non-tidally influenced, and range in salinity from salt to brackish to fresh. They also require dense vegetative cover that allows movement underneath the canopy.

In 1991, Gulf Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*) were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act after their population was greatly reduced or eliminated throughout much of their range due to overfishing, dam construction, and habitat degradation. The Gulf sturgeon is a sub-species of the Atlantic sturgeon that can be found from Lake Pontchartrain and the Pearl River system in Louisiana and Mississippi to the Suwannee River in Florida. Hatched in the freshwater of rivers, Gulf sturgeon head out to sea as juveniles, and return to the rivers to over summer or spawn when they reach adulthood. The Gulf sturgeon has five rows of bony plates known as scutes that run along its body and a snout with four barbels (slender, whisker-like, soft tissue projections) in front of its mouth. Like sharks, Gulf sturgeon have tails where one side, or lobe, is larger than the other. All these features give the fish its unique look.

The Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*) is a proposed threatened insect species, thus there are no section 7 requirements for this species, but conservation is strongly encouraged by the USFWS and others of conservation interest. Adult monarch butterflies are large and conspicuous, with bright orange wings surrounded by a black border and covered with black veins. During the breeding season, monarchs lay their eggs on their obligate milkweed host plant (primarily *Asclepias spp.*), and larvae emerge after two to five days. There are multiple generations of monarchs produced during the breeding season, with most adult butterflies living approximately two to five weeks. Individual monarchs in temperate climates, such as eastern and western North America, undergo long-distance migration, and live for an extended period of time. In the fall, in both eastern and western North America, monarchs begin migrating to their respective overwintering sites. In early spring (February-March), surviving monarchs break diapause and mate at the overwintering sites before dispersing.

The Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) is one of the smallest bats native to North America. The once common species is wide ranging across the eastern and central United States and portions of southern Canada, Mexico and Central America. During the winter, tricolored bats are found in caves and mines, although in the southern United States, where caves are sparse, tricolored bats are often found roosting in road-associated culverts. During the spring, summer and fall, tricolored bats are found in forested habitats where they roost in trees, primarily among leaves. As its name suggests, the tricolored bat is distinguished by its unique tricolored fur that appears dark at the base, lighter in the middle and dark at the tip.

#### 4.4 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Section 303(d) of the clean Water Act requires states to identify water bodies that are considered impaired due to not meeting one or more applicable water quality standards. According to MDEQ, impaired bodies of water in this area are east Pascagoula River and west Pascagoula River. They are both impaired due to the contamination of mercury. Most of the locations that need improvements do not meet the applicable water quality standards.

##### Bucks Road Lift Station:

- There is harmful wastewater that is released into the environment after a significant rain.

##### West Park Drive:

- Major flooding in this neighborhood from runoff due to the lack of drainage structures.

##### Singing River Mall:

- The existing water and sewer systems are dilapidated. The sanitary sewer has cracks in the system, which is overwhelming the system downstream. The existing water distribution system has reached the end of its life span.

#### Southeast Gautier Infiltration and Inflow:

- The main gravity sewer that transports wastewater is dilapidated. This is causing additional flow to the plant downstream and sinkholes at manholes and other areas along Gautier-Vancleave Road.

#### 4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Background and literature review was conducted by a USACE archaeologist. Historic properties in the project vicinity were identified based on a review of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), Mississippi Cultural Resources Map (MDAH Website), historic aerial photography, historic map research, and a review of cultural resources survey reports. The background and literature review revealed 6 cultural resources surveys (09-0173, 09- 0175, 09-0318, 10-0137, 13-0570, and 16-0129) within the proposed project area. No historic properties are located within the proposed project right-of-way (ROW). The proposed work would include in-kind replacement of a lift station at Buck's Road, replacement of potable water copper pipes at the Public Works Chemical Building, RCP and drainage improvements at West Park Drive, and the abatement and redesign of existing utilities at the Singing River Mall.

Project construction for this undertaking would be limited to previous construction ROWs. Heavy disturbance from previous construction and development suggests a very low potential for intact cultural deposits. The proposed undertaking consists of preventative maintenance and preservation activities that do not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties. USACE has determined the undertaking has No Potential to Cause Effects to Historic Properties and therefore, per 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1), no consultation for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is necessary. USACE would still require the NHPA Standard Conditions related to changes in the Scope of Work, Inadvertent Discoveries, and encountering Unmarked Human Burials (NHPA Standard Conditions).

**National Historic Preservation Act Standard Conditions:** The requester is responsible for the actions of his contractors, subcontractors, and agents. a) **Discovery of Previously Unknown Archaeological Remains and Artifacts.** If you discover any previously unknown historic, cultural, or archeological remains (e.g., pot sherds, arrow points, historic foundations, broad collections of historic ceramics, etc.) while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permission, you must immediately notify your Operations Division (OD) contacts at USACE, who would in turn contact the Regional Environment and Planning Division, South (RPEDS) staff. The requester would not proceed with work in the area of the discovery until USACE RPEDS completes consultation with the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer, and others, as appropriate. b) **Discovery of Human Burial Sites.** Upon discovery of human bone or unmarked grave(s), the requester or their agent shall notify the local law enforcement agency within twenty-four hours of the discovery. The Requester or their agent shall also notify USACE and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Division of Archaeology within seventy-two hours of the

discovery. Discoveries of unmarked graves, burials, human remains, or items of cultural patrimony on Federal or Tribal lands shall be subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. USACE RPEDS would complete the necessary consultation to allow the activity that is receiving the permission to proceed.



Figure 3: Proposed water and sewer improvements in Gautier, MS (shown in pink)

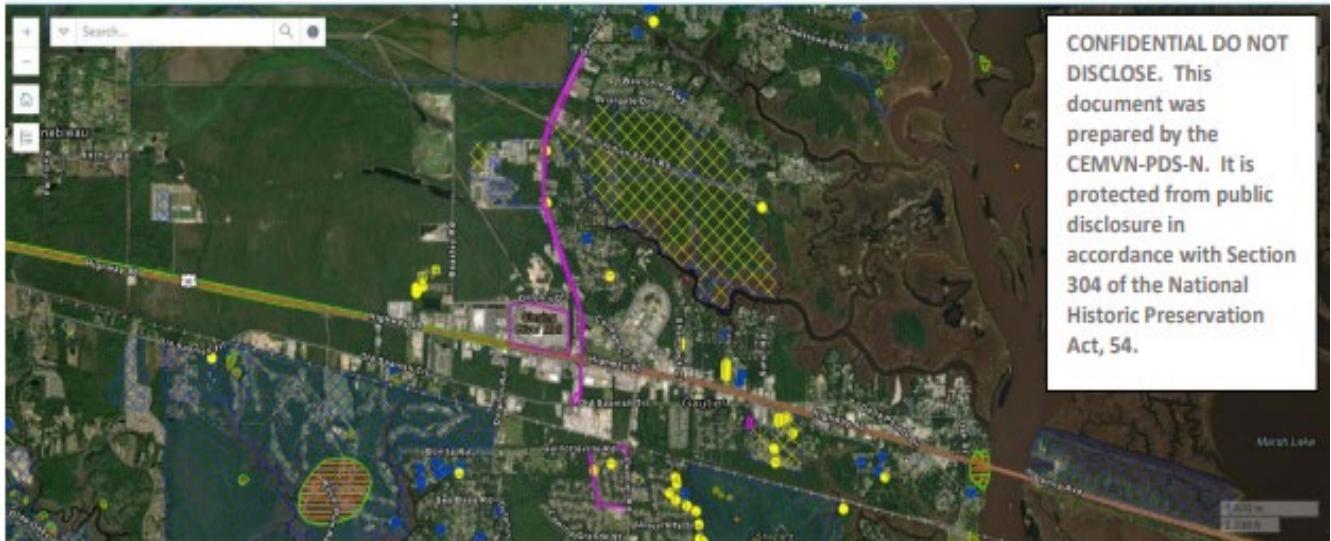


Figure 4: Gautier water and sewer improvement locations, MDAH Cultural resource data base (shown in pink)

#### 4.6 HAZARDOUS, TOXIC, AND RADIOLOGICAL WASTE (HTRW)

USACE is obligated under Engineer Regulation (ER) 1165-2-132 to assume responsibility for the reasonable identification and evaluation of all Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) contamination within the vicinity of proposed actions. ER 1165-2-132 identifies that HTRW policy is to avoid the use of project funds for HTRW removal and remediation activities. A review of the EPA's EnviroMapper Query System is ongoing and would be completed prior to the signing of the FONSI. A site visit would also be conducted.

#### 4.7 SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS

NEPA allows for the consideration of socioeconomic consequences caused by federal actions to be included in environmental assessments including those that have a disproportionately high effect on communities of color and/or people/households with incomes below the federal poverty line.

According to US Census tracts tool, the project area has sites within 3 distinct census tracts: 28059041001, 28059041101, and 28059041102, also referred to as the footprint. The demographic data shows there is a population of about 8,441 that is relative to the footprint. Within the footprint about 18.95 percent of the population are experiencing poverty in the area. There is a high education rate at 86.8 percent for high school graduates for people 25 and older. The average income per capita is \$34,349 per year. The project would benefit all members of the local population by providing needed improvements. The project is not anticipated to have any significant negative direct or indirect impacts on socioeconomic resources.

## 5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

### 5.1 COASTAL ZONE

#### Future Conditions with No Action

Without implementation of the proposed actions, no direct or indirect impacts to coastal zone resources would occur.

#### Future Conditions with the Proposed Action

Any permits or requirements under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 would be the responsibility of the City of Gautier. With implementation of the proposed actions, any impact to coastal zone resources would be minor and localized.

### 5.2 WILDLIFE / TERRESTRIAL

#### Future Conditions with No Action

Without implementation of the proposed action, no direct or indirect impacts to wildlife or terrestrial resources would occur.

#### Future Conditions with the Proposed Action

The proposed work activities would cause adverse, short-term direct and indirect impacts to wildlife species within the work areas during construction, but these impacts would be minor and temporary and should not adversely or significantly impact area wildlife over the long-term. Direct impacts would be the temporary displacement of wildlife species from the area caused by project construction noise. However, the temporary disturbance from construction activities would not adversely impact the general population of wildlife species within the region, due to the existing and extensive urban development already present in the project area. The proposed action would have indirect beneficial impacts due to the improved quality of surface water near the areas and features proposed for improvements. No effect would be expected to terrestrial resources.

### 5.3 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

#### Future Conditions with No Action

Without implementation of the proposed action, no direct or indirect impacts to threatened and endangered species would occur.

#### Future Conditions with the Proposed Action

With implementation of the proposed action, there would be little reason to expect any adverse effects to threatened or endangered species. USACE completed Section 7 consultation on 11 February 2025, through USFWS's IPAC website. The proposed project intersects slightly with the Mississippi sandhill crane's habitat. However, due to the urban nature of the project area and the fact that all work would be conducted within an existing utility ROW, USACE has made the determination of "no effect" for the Mississippi sandhill crane, see USFWS correspondence 11 February 2025 (Appendix A). A No Effect determination was made for the other endangered or threatened species including the Alligator Snapping Turtle, Tricolored Bat, West Indian Manatee, Eastern Black Rail, Piping Plover, Rufa Red Knot, Alabama Red- Bellied Turtle, Gopher Tortoise, Dust Gopher Frog, Gulf Sturgeon, Mississippi Sandhill Crane and Monarch Butterfly.

### 5.4 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

#### Future Conditions with No Action

Without implementation of the proposed action harmful wastewater, major flooding, dilapidated water and sewer system, downstream overflow, water distribution, wastewater, developing sinkholes and manhole issues would continue.

#### Future Conditions with the Proposed Action

With implementation of the proposed action, adverse direct and indirect impacts to water quality are expected to be minor and short-term. A stormwater pollution prevention plan would be developed to minimize any potential effects to water quality during construction and repair activities. The city or its contractors would be required to follow local state and federal regulations and obtain any permits if necessary.

### 5.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

#### Future Conditions with No Action

Without implementation of the proposed action, the conditions would remain largely the same as present; therefore, there would be no direct effect to historic properties.

#### Future Conditions with the Proposed Action

A determination of No Potential to Cause Effect to Historic Properties was made for this undertaking and per 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1), and no consultation for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is necessary. USACE would still require the NHPA Standard Conditions related to changes in the Scope of Work, Inadvertent Discoveries, and encountering Unmarked Human Burials (NHPA Standard Conditions) as described in section 4.5.

## 5.6 HAZARDOUS, TOXIC, AND RADIOLOGICAL WASTE (HTRW)

### Future Conditions with No Action

Without implementation of the proposed action, no direct or indirect HTRW impacts would occur.

### Future Conditions with the Proposed Action

A review of the EPA's EnviroMapper Query System is ongoing and would be completed prior to the signing of the FONSI. A site visit would also be conducted and completed prior to the signing of the FONSI.

## 5.7 SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS

### Future Conditions with No Action

Without implementation of the proposed action the environment, wastewater infrastructure would continue to decline. Residences and businesses would be affected without action.

### Future Conditions with the Proposed Action

With implementation of the proposed actions, the city would benefit from the improvements to the water, sewer and drainage systems. Flooding events would happen less due to the system upgrades. The system would be able to function at a higher quality given it is no longer overwhelmed during high rainfall events and infiltration. The project is not anticipated to have any significant adverse direct or indirect impacts on socioeconomic resources.

## 5.8 SECTION 404 CONSIDERATION

No permit is required pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. However, any changes in project scoping or construction activities would need to be reassessed to determine if a permit would be required. The City of Gautier would be responsible for obtaining any and all permits required for this project.

## 5.9 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

NEPA of 1969, as amended, defines cumulative effects as "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions." Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

The City of Gautier is planning future construction and infrastructure improvements after this project is complete. These additional projects are likely to have similar impacts as the project described in this EA. However, these impacts would likely be minor and temporary and would not cumulatively cause adverse effects.

The construction-related increases in truck traffic, noise and vibration, and vehicle and equipment emissions would likely cause wildlife to disperse from the project area. However, these species are expected to return after construction is complete. Construction activities would be limited to daylight hours, minimizing residential and commercial disruptions. Therefore, the analysis set forth in this report indicates that no significant adverse impacts to the various resources within the project area are anticipated under the future with-project conditions scenarios; therefore, the proposed action, coupled with other known projects, are not expected to result in significant cumulative impacts and would prove beneficial to the Gautier community.

## 6.0 MITIGATION

The appropriate application of mitigation is to formulate an alternative that first avoids adverse impacts, then minimizes adverse impacts, and lastly, compensates for unavoidable impacts. The proposed project would be constructed within the existing stormwater system right-of-way and would have no impacts to wetlands or woodlands. Also, no significant impacts to aquatic or terrestrial resources would occur. Therefore, no mitigation would be required for the proposed project.

## 7.0 COORDINATION (RELEVANT AGENCIES)

Preparation of this EA and FONSI was coordinated with appropriate congressional, federal, state, and local interests, Native American Indian tribes, and other interested parties, including:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. National Park Service  
EPA, Region IV  
Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks  
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer

## 8.0 COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Compliance with environmental laws and regulations consists of the following actions:

- A. Coordination of this EA and FONSI with appropriate agencies, organizations, and individuals for review and comment.
- B. USFWS confirmation that the proposed action would not likely adversely affect any threatened or endangered species.

C. Mississippi SHPO's concurrence with the Determination of No Effect on cultural resources.

## 9.0 CONCLUSION

The proposed project involves actions in the city of Gautier that would improve and repair Bucks Road lift station, chemical building copper pipes, Southeast Gautier infiltration and inflow, West Park Drive drainage and Singing River Mall infrastructure. These Improvements and repairs include replacing the lift station to enable the use of full capacity doing away with health, safety and welfare issues of the residents in the area. The replacement of the copper pipe inside the Chemical Building with CPVC (chlorinated polyvinyl chloride) pipe to prevent corrosion in the future. Adding 28 new drainage structures and 4,000 LF of supporting pipe to West Park Drive drainage would move flooding runoff to outfall. The improvements in the Singing River Mall would include the abatement of the existing utilities at the property and a redesign that would better serve the area. In Southeast Gautier, replace the dilapidated pipe and replaced it with small PVC to decreased flow while decreasing maintenance requirements on the older pipes. The MVK has assessed the environmental impacts of the proposed action and has determined that the proposed action would have no adverse impacts upon cultural resources and minimal to no impacts to air quality; terrestrial, aquatic, waterfowl, and wetland resources; recreation and aesthetics; HTRW concerns; water quality; threatened and endangered species; cultural concerns; flood plains; coastal resources. There are minimal cumulative impacts, adverse or beneficial, associated with the proposed action. USACE has determined that there would be no significant environmental impacts associated with this proposed action. The implementation of this project would aid in a positive impact to the environment, health and infrastructure to city of Gautier.

## 10.0 PREPARED BY

EA No. EA #122 for the Gautier Section 592 project and the associated FONSI were prepared by Sara McDaniel, RPEDS biologist, with relevant sections prepared by Ashley Fedoroff, RPEDS Archeologist. The address of the preparers is:

U.S. Army Engineer District, Vicksburg  
Regional Planning and Environment Division South  
ATTN: CEMVN-PDN  
4155 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183

## 11.0 APPENDICES

Appendix A: External Agency Correspondence, IPaC, HTRW, and Cultural Write up

# Appendix A



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office  
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A  
Jackson, MS 39213-7856  
Phone: (601) 965-4900

In Reply Refer To:

02/10/2025 19:45:44 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0054133

Project Name: Gautier 592

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

**Migratory Birds:** In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office. Please email consultation requests to [MSFOSection7Consultation@fws.gov](mailto:MSFOSection7Consultation@fws.gov).

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Marine Mammals

## **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office**  
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A  
Jackson, MS 39213-7856  
(601) 965-4900

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0054133  
Project Name: Gautier 592  
Project Type: Utility Infrastructure Maintenance  
Project Description: The proposed action in the city of Gautier is to improve the city's sewer drainage, wastewater, and chemical treatment systems. This includes updates to copper pipes in the city chemical building, the Bucks Road lift station, the city sewage collection system, and the city's stormwater collection system. Specifically, failing pipes and manholes will be replaced with either cast in place pipe (CIPP) or PVC, copper pipes in the chemical plant will be replaced, the lift station will be almost entirely replaced, underground stormwater pipes will be installed to supplement and increase the stormwater drainage capacity provided by the existing gutter system and make additional minor point repairs as needed.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@30.401665,-88.64839979040292,14z>



Counties: Jackson County, Mississippi

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 12 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
<p>Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i></p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.</p> <p>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515</a></p> <p>General project design guidelines:</p> <p><a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a></p>	Proposed Endangered
<p>West Indian Manatee <i>Trichechus manatus</i></p> <p>There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.</p> <p><b>This species is also protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and may have additional consultation requirements.</b></p> <p>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469</a></p> <p>General project design guidelines:</p> <p><a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a></p>	Threatened

## BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
<p>Eastern Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i> ssp. <i>jamaicensis</i></p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.</p> <p>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477</a></p> <p>General project design guidelines:</p> <p><a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a></p>	Threatened
<p>Mississippi Sandhill Crane <i>Antigone canadensis pulla</i></p> <p>There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat.</p> <p>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1222">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1222</a></p> <p>General project design guidelines:</p> <p><a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a></p>	Endangered
<p>Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melanotos</i></p> <p>Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered.</p> <p>There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.</p> <p>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039</a></p> <p>General project design guidelines:</p> <p><a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a></p>	Threatened
<p>Rufa Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i></p> <p>There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.</p> <p>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864</a></p> <p>General project design guidelines:</p>	Threatened

NAME	STATUS
<a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a>	

## REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Alabama Red-bellied Turtle <i>Pseudemys alabamensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1494">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1494</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a>	Endangered
Alligator Snapping Turtle <i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a>	Proposed Threatened
Gopher Tortoise <i>Gopherus polyphemus</i> Population: Western DPS No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6994">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6994</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a>	Threatened

## AMPHIBIANS

NAME	STATUS
Dusky Gopher Frog <i>Rana sevosa</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5600">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5600</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a>	Endangered

## FISHES

NAME	STATUS
Gulf Sturgeon <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i> (= <i>oxyrhynchus</i> ) <i>desotoi</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/651">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/651</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a>	Threatened

## INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a>	Proposed Threatened

## CRITICAL HABITATS

There is 1 critical habitat wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME	STATUS
Mississippi Sandhill Crane <i>Antigone canadensis pulla</i> <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1222#crithab">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1222#crithab</a>	Final

## USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

The following FWS National Wildlife Refuge Lands and Fish Hatcheries lie fully or partially within your project area:

FACILITY NAME	ACRES
MISSISSIPPI SANDHILL CRANE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE <a href="https://www.fws.gov/our-facilities?Keywords=%5C%22MISSISSIPPI+SANDHILL+CRANE+NATIONAL+WILDLIFE+REFUGE%5C%22">https://www.fws.gov/our-facilities?Keywords=%5C%22MISSISSIPPI+SANDHILL+CRANE+NATIONAL+WILDLIFE+REFUGE%5C%22</a>	18,434.825

## BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <sup>2</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) <sup>1</sup>. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

### Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

### Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a>	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31

## PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#), specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper

"Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

### Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

### Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

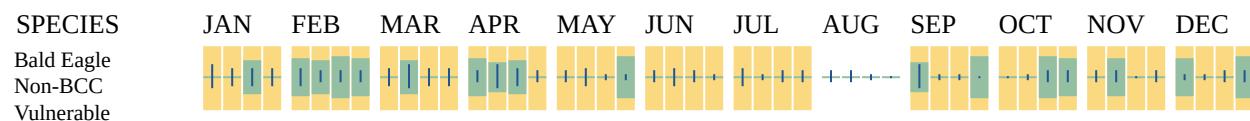
### Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

### No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

■ probability of presence ■ breeding season | survey effort — no data



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)<sup>1</sup> prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The incidental take of migratory

birds is the injury or death of birds that results from, but is not the purpose, of an activity. The Service interprets the MBTA to prohibit incidental take.

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius paulus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587</a>	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 31
Bachman's Sparrow <i>Peucaea aestivalis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6177">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6177</a>	Breeds May 1 to Sep 30
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a>	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31
Black Skimmer <i>Rynchops niger</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5234">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5234</a>	Breeds May 20 to Sep 15
Brown-headed Nuthatch <i>Sitta pusilla</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9427">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9427</a>	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelasgica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406</a>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Chuck-will's-widow <i>Antrostomus carolinensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9604">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9604</a>	Breeds May 10 to Jul 10

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Coastal (waynes) Black-throated Green Warbler <i>Setophaga virens waynei</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11879">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11879</a>	Breeds May 1 to Aug 15
Eastern Whip-poor-will <i>Antrostomus vociferus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678</a>	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20
Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8329">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8329</a>	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 20
Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9501">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9501</a>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Henslow's Sparrow <i>Centronyx henslowii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3941">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3941</a>	Breeds elsewhere
King Rail <i>Rallus elegans</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8936">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8936</a>	Breeds May 1 to Sep 5
Le Conte's Sparrow <i>Ammospiza leconteii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9469">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9469</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Least Tern <i>Sternula antillarum antillarum</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11919">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11919</a>	Breeds Apr 25 to Sep 5
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Painted Bunting <i>Passerina ciris</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9511">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9511</a>	Breeds Apr 25 to Aug 15

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Prairie Warbler <i>Setophaga discolor</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9513">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9513</a>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Prothonotary Warbler <i>Protonotaria citrea</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9439">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9439</a>	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398</a>	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres morinella</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10633">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10633</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Semipalmated Sandpiper <i>Calidris pusilla</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9603">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9603</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Swallow-tailed Kite <i>Elanoides forficatus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8938">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8938</a>	Breeds Mar 10 to Jun 30
Willet <i>Tringa semipalmata</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10669">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10669</a>	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 5

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431</a>	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31
Yellow Rail <i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9476">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9476</a>	Breeds elsewhere

## PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#), specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

## Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

## Breeding Season (■)

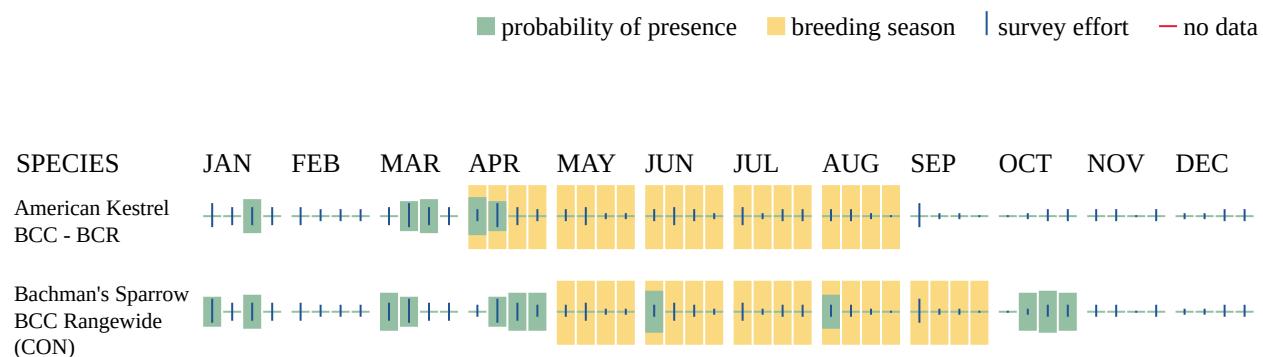
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

## Survey Effort (|)

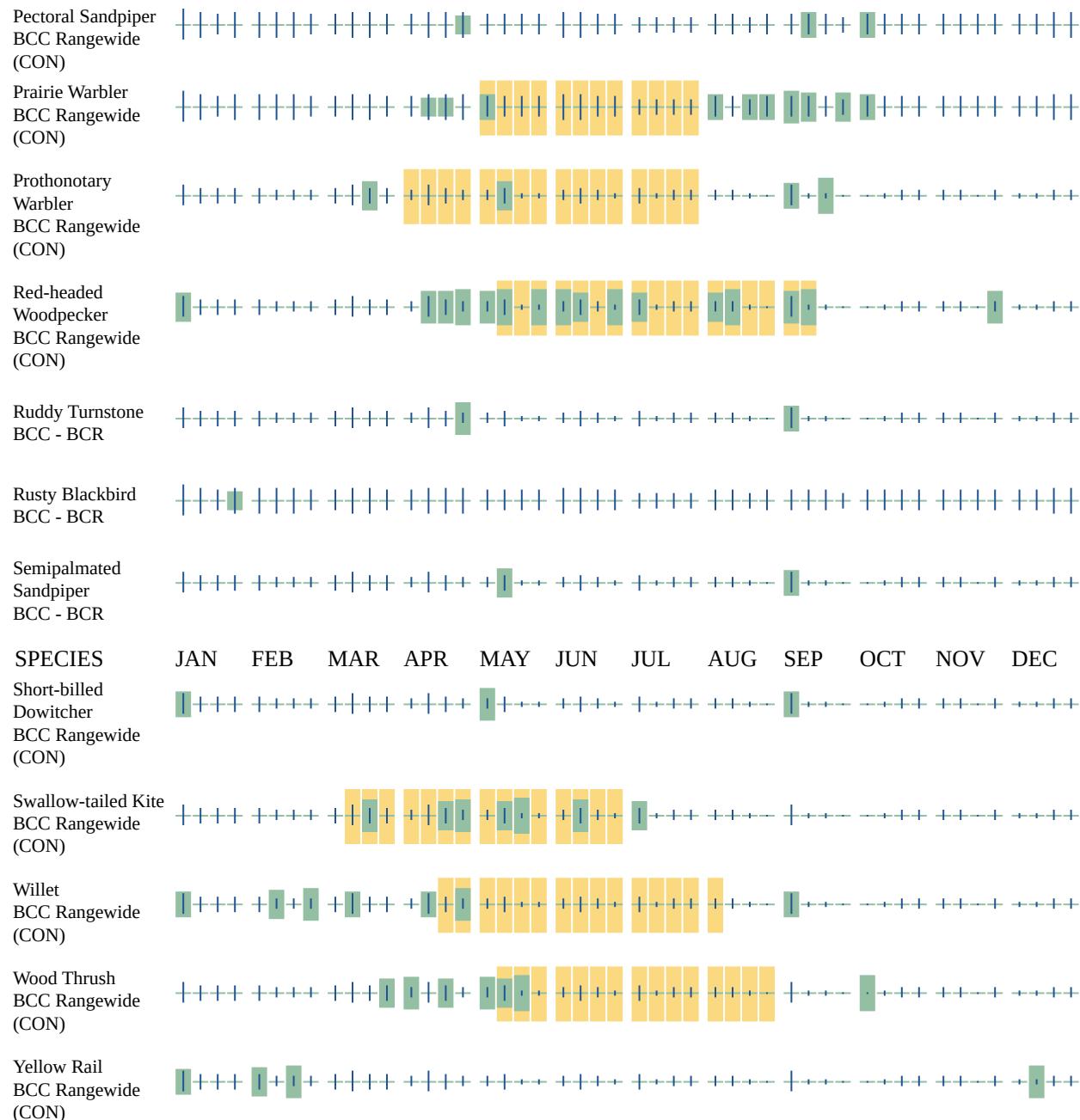
Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.







Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds

- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

## MARINE MAMMALS

Marine mammals are protected under the [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#). Some are also protected under the Endangered Species Act<sup>1</sup> and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora<sup>2</sup>.

The responsibilities for the protection, conservation, and management of marine mammals are shared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [responsible for otters, walruses, polar bears, manatees, and dugongs] and NOAA Fisheries<sup>3</sup> [responsible for seals, sea lions, whales, dolphins, and porpoises]. Marine mammals under the responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list; for additional information on those species please visit the [Marine Mammals](#) page of the NOAA Fisheries website.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the take of marine mammals and further coordination may be necessary for project evaluation. Please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office shown.

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1. The [Endangered Species Act](#) (ESA) of 1973.
2. The [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) (CITES) is a treaty to ensure that international trade in plants and animals does not threaten their survival in the wild.
3. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

NAME

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West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus*

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469>

## IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Department of Defense  
Name: sara mcdaniel  
Address: 4155 Clay Street  
City: Vicksburg  
State: MS  
Zip: 39180  
Email: sara.k.mcdaniel@usace.army.mil  
Phone: 6016315008



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office  
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A  
Jackson, MS 39213-7856  
Phone: (601) 965-4900

In Reply Refer To:

02/10/2025 20:40:46 UTC

Project code: 2025-0054133

Project Name: Gautier 592

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Department of Defense

**Subject:** Technical assistance for 'Gautier 592'

Dear sara mcdaniel:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on February 10, 2025, for 'Gautier 592' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0054133 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements are not complete.**

## Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project. **Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter.**

## Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed Endangered	May affect

## Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Alabama Red-bellied Turtle *Pseudemys alabamensis* Endangered
- Alligator Snapping Turtle *Macrochelys temminckii* Proposed Threatened
- Dusky Gopher Frog *Rana sevosa* Endangered
- Eastern Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis* ssp. *jamaicensis* Threatened
- Gopher Tortoise *Gopherus polyphemus* Threatened
- Gulf Sturgeon *Acipenser oxyrinchus* (= *oxyrhynchus*) *desotoi* Threatened
- Mississippi Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis pulla* Endangered
- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened
- Piping Plover *Charadrius melanotos* Threatened
- Rufa Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa* Threatened
- West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus* Threatened

#### Critical Habitats:

- Mississippi Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis pulla* Endangered

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may cause prohibited take of the species listed above.

#### Conclusion

Consultation with the Service is not complete. Further consultation or coordination with the Service is necessary for those species or designated critical habitats with a determination of “May Affect.” A “May Affect” determination in this key indicates that the project, as entered, is not consistent with the questions in the key. Not all projects that reach a “May Affect” determination are anticipated to result in adverse impacts to listed species. These projects may result in a “No Effect”, “May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect”, or “May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect” determination depending on the details of the project. Please contact our Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office to discuss methods to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to those species or designated critical habitats.

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate. Projects that receive a may affect determination for tricolored bat

through the key, should contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office if they want to conference on this species.

## Action Description

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

### 1. Name

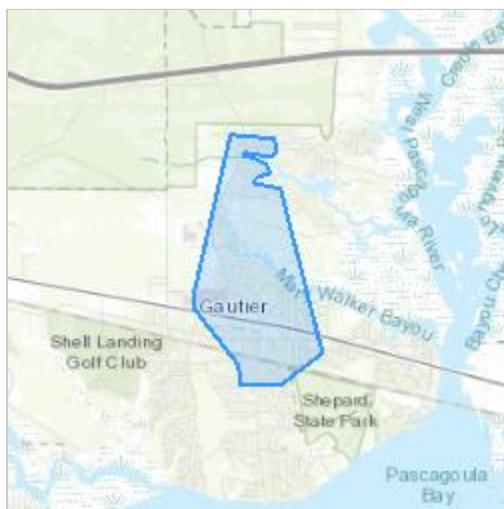
Gautier 592

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Gautier 592':

The proposed action in the city of Gautier is to improve the city's sewer drainage, wastewater, and chemical treatment systems. This includes updates to copper pipes in the city chemical building, the Bucks Road lift station, the city sewage collection system, and the city's stormwater collection system. Specifically, failing pipes and manholes will be replaced with either cast in place pipe (CIPP) or PVC, copper pipes in the chemical plant will be replaced, the lift station will be almost entirely replaced, underground stormwater pipes will be installed to supplement and increase the stormwater drainage capacity provided by the existing gutter system and make additional minor point repairs as needed.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@30.401665,-88.64839979040292,14z>



# DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

3. Your project overlaps with Zone 2 of the area where northern long-eared bats and tricolored bats may be present and roosting in trees year-round.

Do you understand that your project may impact bats at any time during the year?

*Yes*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*Yes*

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

*Yes*

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

*No*

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

11. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

*No*

12. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

*No*

13. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

*Yes*

14. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

15. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

*No*

## PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Department of Defense  
Name: sara mcdaniel  
Address: 4155 Clay Street  
City: Vicksburg  
State: MS  
Zip: 39180  
Email: sara.k.mcdaniel@usace.army.mil  
Phone: 6016315008

**592: Mississippi Environmental Infrastructure and Resource Protection and Development Program: Design and Construction Assistance for Water and Sewer Improvements for Gautier, Mississippi in Jackson County.**

**Undertaking: Gautier Water and Sewer Improvements Project.**

**Reviewer: Ashley Fedoroff**

**Date: 17 MAR 2025**

**Project Description:** The Gautier Water and Sewer Improvement Project is located in Gautier, Mississippi in Jackson County. The proposed water, sewer, and drainage project will include, but not be limited to, the design and construction of a project to address overflow issues in the sanitary sewer collection system, replace failing pipes and manholes, install cast in place pipes (CIPP), and make additional point repairs as needed. This project is not an increment of a larger project. The project duration is estimated to be 18 months after design initiation and EA completion.

**Authority:** Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53)

**Cultural Identification, Assessment, & Determination:** Background and literature review was conducted by a USACE archaeologist. Historic properties in the project vicinity were identified based on a review of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), *Mississippi Cultural Resources Map* (MDAH Website), historic aerial photography, historic map research, and a review of cultural resources survey reports. The background and literature review revealed 6 cultural resources surveys (09-0173, 09-0175, 09-0318, 10-0137, 13-0570, and 16-0129) within the proposed project area. No historic properties are located within the proposed project right-of-way (ROW). The proposed work will include in-kind replacement of a lift station at Buck's Road, replacement of potable water copper pipes at the Public Works Chemical Building, RCP and drainage improvements at West Park Drive, and the abatement and redesign of existing utilities at the Singing River Mall.

Project construction for this undertaking will be limited to previous construction ROWs. Heavy disturbance from previous construction and development suggests a very low potential for intact cultural deposits. The proposed undertaking consists of preventative maintenance and preservation activities that do not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties. USACE has determined the undertaking has **No Potential to Cause Effects to Historic Properties** and therefore, per 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1), no consultation for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is necessary. USACE will still require the NHPA Standard Conditions related to changes in the Scope of Work, Inadvertent Discoveries, and encountering Unmarked Human Burials (NHPA Standard Conditions).

**National Historic Preservation Act Standard Conditions:** The requester is responsible for the actions of his contractors, subcontractors, and agents.

- a) **Discovery of Previously Unknown Archaeological Remains and Artifacts.** If you discover any previously unknown historic, cultural, or archeological remains (e.g.,

pot sherds, arrow points, historic foundations, broad collections of historic ceramics, etc.) while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permission, you must immediately notify your Operations Division (OD) contacts at USACE, who will in turn contact the Regional Environment and Planning Division, South (RPEDS) staff. The requester will not proceed with work in the area of the discovery until USACE RPEDS completes consultation with the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer, and others, as appropriate.

b) **Discovery of Human Burial Sites.** Upon discovery of human bone or unmarked grave(s), the requester or their agent shall notify the local law enforcement agency within twenty-four hours of the discovery. The Requester or their agent shall also notify USACE and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Division of Archaeology within seventy-two hours of the discovery. Discoveries of unmarked graves, burials, human remains, or items of cultural patrimony on Federal or Tribal lands shall be subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. USACE RPEDS will complete the necessary consultation to allow the activity that is receiving the permission to proceed.

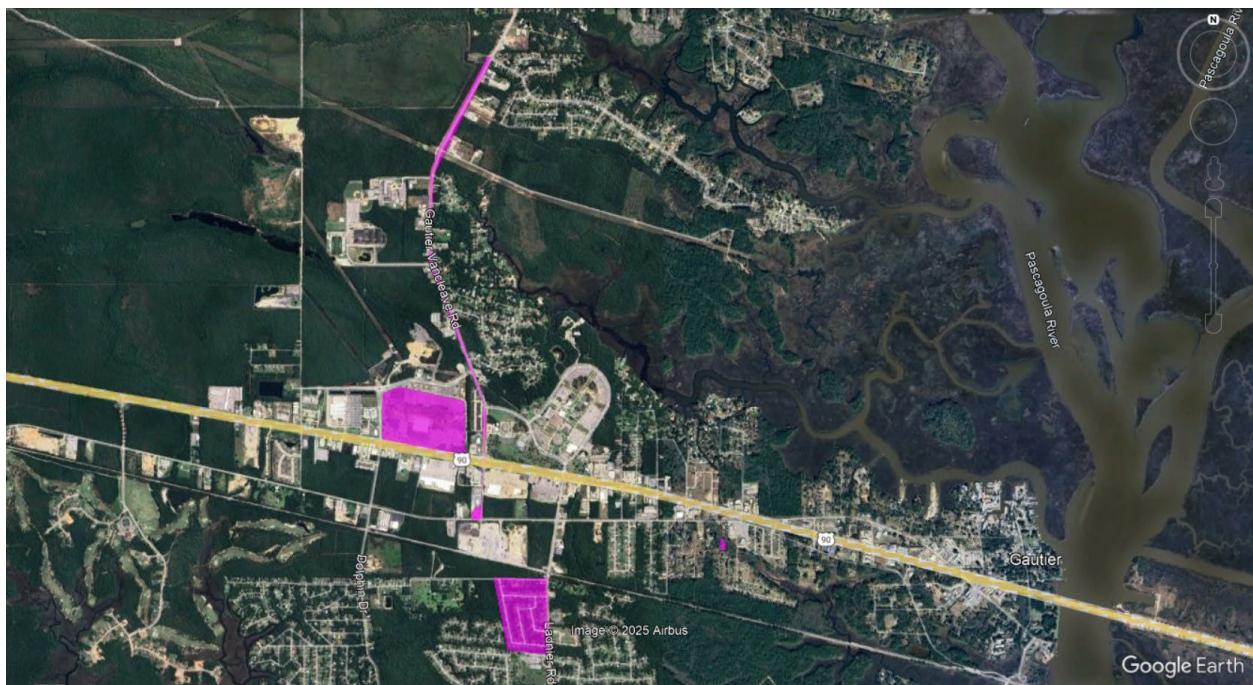


Figure 1. Proposed Water and Sewer Improvement locations in Gautier, MS (shown in pink).

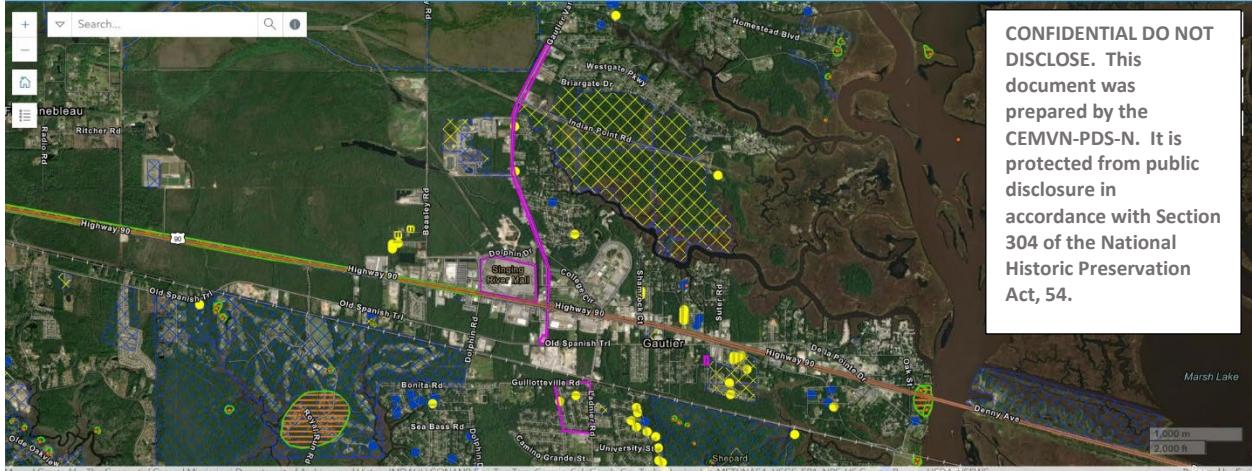


Figure 2. Gautier Water and Sewer Improvement locations, MDAH cultural resources database.

**From:** [Felder, David](#)  
**To:** [McDaniel, Sara K CIV USARMY \(USA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Wimmer, Mark D Jr \(David\) CIV USARMY CEMVN \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] FW: [EXTERNAL] Project Code: 2025-0054133 section 7 consultation USACE  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 3:30:59 PM

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Hey Sara,

1. MS Sandhill Cranes - No concerns if work will be within the existing mowed ROW or if very little tree removal will be required. We would not expect cranes to be using areas that close to the existing ROW. Same for critical habitat, I assume you are referencing that small portion near Indian Point Pkwy across from the Dollar General? If there is extensive work planned along Gautier Vancleave Road north of I-10, then we may need to discuss further as that's near our Refuge office and they would want to know if any tree removal is planned. The trees in that area act as a screen between the road and areas of the refuge that cranes use.
2. No concerns with the stream crossing, it looks from Google earth that there is an existing sewer line that goes over the creek. Provided there is not significant instream activity, which I doubt with a sewer project, then no concerns. It says Pascagoula River on the map, but it's actually Mary Walker Bayou I believe. No known species from that specific area but Alabama red-bellied turtles can be found downstream of this crossing.

Provided this is a fairly routine sewer line project within existing ROW, then I would think a no effect/NLAA determination would be accurate.

Thanks

David

David Felder  
Supervisory Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office  
6578 Dogwood View Parkway  
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**From:** MSFOSection7Consultation, FW4 <[msfosection7consultation@fws.gov](mailto:msfosection7consultation@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 2:48 PM  
**To:** Felder, David <[david\\_felder@fws.gov](mailto:david_felder@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Project Code: 2025-0054133 section 7 consultation USACE

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**From:** McDaniel, Sara K CIV USARMY (USA) <[Sara.K.Mcdaniel@usace.army.mil](mailto:Sara.K.Mcdaniel@usace.army.mil)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2025 4:21 PM  
**To:** MSFOSection7Consultation, FW4 <[msfosection7consultation@fws.gov](mailto:msfosection7consultation@fws.gov)>; Wimmer, Mark D Jr (David) CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <[Mark.D.Wimmer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Mark.D.Wimmer@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Project Code: 2025-0054133 section 7 consultation USACE

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good Afternoon,

My name is Sara McDaniel. I'm with Environmental Compliance for USACE out of Vicksburg. I work under Dan Moore.

We are working on a federal funded (cost share) utility project with the City of Gautier, MS and have a few questions based off the results of the IPAC. The city is doing maintenance to existing sewers, drainage, stormwater, and other related public water utilities improvements in the area.

First question, a very small portion of the critical habitat for the Mississippi Sandhill Crane intersects Gautier Vancleave RD. All the work on this stretch will be within the existing ROW and within an urban setting. Will you concur with a no impact or if additional consolation will be necessary?

Second, the project footprint also overlaps with a bridge on Gautier Vancleave RD over the Pascagoula River near the Indian Point Pkwy. The Dkey came back with a determination of may affect and required us to contact you to complete coordination. I will confirm with the sponsor that they are for sure replacing the sewer line/and or storm water system around the bridge (It appears from our photos to just go over 2 culverts), but tentatively we don't think it's likely to affect. Of course, we will ask the city to have their follow the contractors follow the guidelines for the species in question

Please let us know what else we have to do to complete consultation and if you need anything else from us or concur with our no affect/not likely to affect determination. Please also include one of our other Biologists, David Wimmer, who's also on this email chain in any future correspondence.

Thanks,

*Sara McDaniel*

*Biologist*

*Regional Planning and Environment Division, South  
New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office  
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A  
Jackson, MS 39213-7856  
Phone: (601) 965-4900



In Reply Refer To:

06/23/2025 15:10:19 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0054133

Project Name: Gautier 592

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

**Migratory Birds:** In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office. Please email consultation requests to [MSFOSection7Consultation@fws.gov](mailto:MSFOSection7Consultation@fws.gov).

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Marine Mammals
- Wetlands

## OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office**  
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A  
Jackson, MS 39213-7856  
(601) 965-4900

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0054133  
Project Name: Gautier 592  
Project Type: Utility Infrastructure Maintenance  
Project Description: The proposed action in the city of Gautier is to improve the city's sewer drainage, wastewater, and chemical treatment systems. This includes updates to copper pipes in the city chemical building, the Bucks Road lift station, the city sewage collection system, and the city's stormwater collection system. Specifically, failing pipes and manholes will be replaced with either cast in place pipe (CIPP) or PVC, copper pipes in the chemical plant will be replaced, the lift station will be almost entirely replaced, underground stormwater pipes will be installed to supplement and increase the stormwater drainage capacity provided by the existing gutter system and make additional minor point repairs as needed.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@30.40314775,-88.64843083370567,14z>



Counties: Jackson County, Mississippi

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 12 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
<p>Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i></p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.</p> <p>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515</a></p> <p>General project design guidelines:</p> <p><a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a></p>	Proposed Endangered
<p>West Indian Manatee <i>Trichechus manatus</i></p> <p>There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.</p> <p><b>This species is also protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and may have additional consultation requirements.</b></p> <p>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469</a></p> <p>General project design guidelines:</p> <p><a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a></p>	Threatened

## BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
<p>Eastern Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i> ssp. <i>jamaicensis</i></p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.</p> <p>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477</a></p> <p>General project design guidelines:</p> <p><a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a></p>	Threatened
<p>Mississippi Sandhill Crane <i>Antigone canadensis pulla</i></p> <p>There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat.</p> <p>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1222">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1222</a></p> <p>General project design guidelines:</p> <p><a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a></p>	Endangered
<p>Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melanotos</i></p> <p>Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered.</p> <p>There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.</p> <p>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039</a></p> <p>General project design guidelines:</p> <p><a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVIUHQJJZHYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a></p>	Threatened
<p>Rufa Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i></p> <p>There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.</p> <p>Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864</a></p> <p>General project design guidelines:</p>	Threatened

NAME	STATUS
<a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a>	

## REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Alabama Red-bellied Turtle <i>Pseudemys alabamensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1494">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1494</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a>	Endangered
Alligator Snapping Turtle <i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a>	Proposed Threatened
Gopher Tortoise <i>Gopherus polyphemus</i> Population: Western DPS No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6994">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6994</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a>	Threatened

## AMPHIBIANS

NAME	STATUS
Dusky Gopher Frog <i>Rana sevosa</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5600">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5600</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a>	Endangered

## FISHES

NAME	STATUS
Gulf Sturgeon <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i> (= <i>oxyrhynchus</i> ) <i>desotoi</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/651">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/651</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JH VUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a>	Threatened

## INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a> General project design guidelines: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/3JHVUHQJJHZYZJEP72L3E3B22M/documents/generated/7127.pdf</a>	Proposed Threatened

## CRITICAL HABITATS

There is 1 critical habitat wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME	STATUS
Mississippi Sandhill Crane <i>Antigone canadensis pulla</i> <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1222#crithab">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1222#crithab</a>	Final

## USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

The following FWS National Wildlife Refuge Lands and Fish Hatcheries lie fully or partially within your project area:

FACILITY NAME	ACRES
MISSISSIPPI SANDHILL CRANE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE <a href="https://www.fws.gov/our-facilities?keywords=%5C%22MISSISSIPPI+SANDHILL+CRANE+NATIONAL+WILDLIFE+REFUGE%5C%22">https://www.fws.gov/our-facilities?keywords=%5C%22MISSISSIPPI+SANDHILL+CRANE+NATIONAL+WILDLIFE+REFUGE%5C%22</a>	18,434.825

## BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <sup>2</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) <sup>1</sup>. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

### Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

### Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a>	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31

## PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#), specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper

"Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

### Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

### Breeding Season (■)

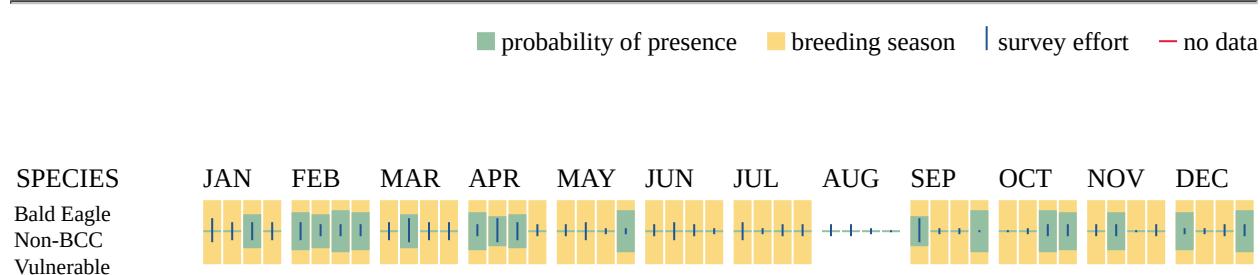
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

### Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

### No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)<sup>1</sup> prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

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1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius paulus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587</a>	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 31
Bachman's Sparrow <i>Peucaea aestivalis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6177">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6177</a>	Breeds May 1 to Sep 30
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a>	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31
Black Skimmer <i>Rynchops niger</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5234">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5234</a>	Breeds May 20 to Sep 15
Brown-headed Nuthatch <i>Sitta pusilla</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9427">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9427</a>	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406</a>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Chuck-will's-widow <i>Antrostomus carolinensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9604">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9604</a>	Breeds May 10 to Jul 10
Coastal (waynes) Black-throated Green Warbler <i>Setophaga virens waynei</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11879">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11879</a>	Breeds May 1 to Aug 15

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Eastern Whip-poor-will <i>Antrostomus vociferus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678</a>	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20
Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8329">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8329</a>	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 20
Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9501">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9501</a>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Henslow's Sparrow <i>Centronyx henslowii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3941">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3941</a>	Breeds elsewhere
King Rail <i>Rallus elegans</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8936">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8936</a>	Breeds May 1 to Sep 5
Le Conte's Sparrow <i>Ammospiza leconteii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9469">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9469</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Least Tern <i>Sternula antillarum antillarum</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11919">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11919</a>	Breeds Apr 25 to Sep 5
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Painted Bunting <i>Passerina ciris</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9511">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9511</a>	Breeds Apr 25 to Aug 15
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561</a>	Breeds elsewhere

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Prairie Warbler <i>Setophaga discolor</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9513">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9513</a>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Prothonotary Warbler <i>Protonotaria citrea</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9439">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9439</a>	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398</a>	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres morinella</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10633">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10633</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Semipalmated Sandpiper <i>Calidris pusilla</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9603">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9603</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480</a>	Breeds elsewhere
Swallow-tailed Kite <i>Elanoides forficatus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8938">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8938</a>	Breeds Mar 10 to Jun 30
Willet <i>Tringa semipalmata</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10669">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10669</a>	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 5
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431</a>	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Yellow Rail <i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9476">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9476</a>	Breeds elsewhere

## PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

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### Breeding Season (■)

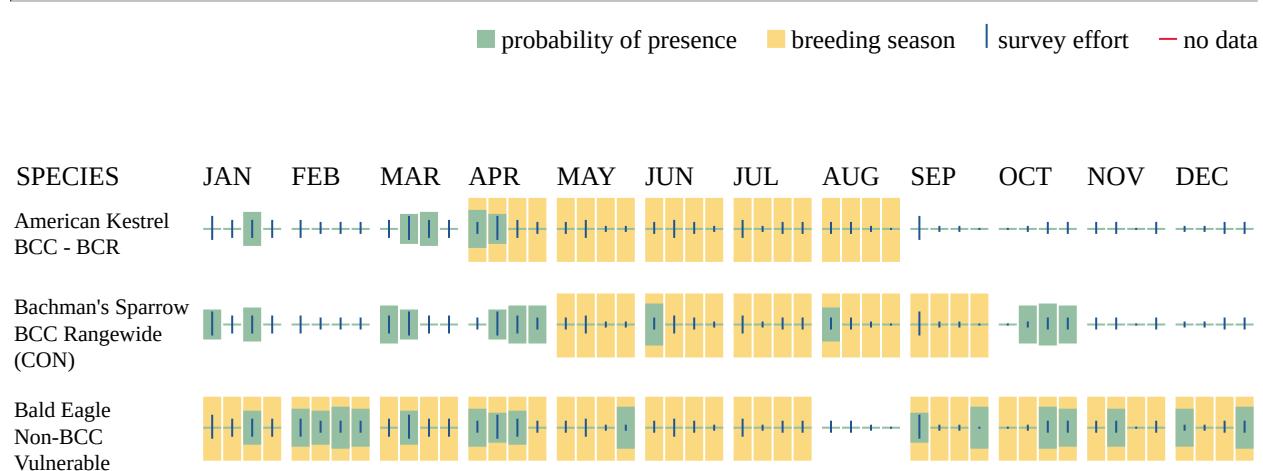
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

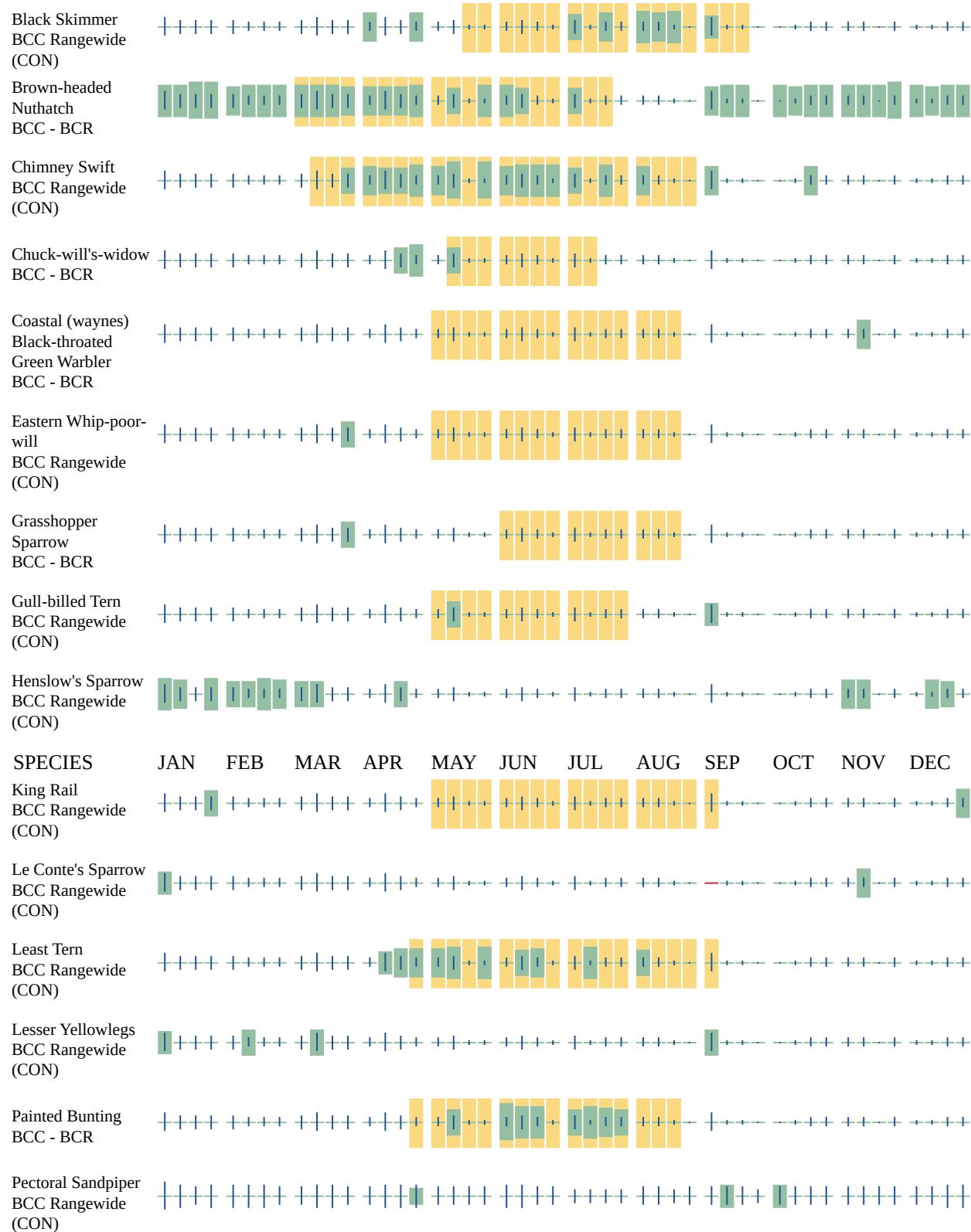
### Survey Effort (|)

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## MARINE MAMMALS

Marine mammals are protected under the [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#). Some are also protected under the Endangered Species Act<sup>1</sup> and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora<sup>2</sup>.

The responsibilities for the protection, conservation, and management of marine mammals are shared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [responsible for otters, walruses, polar bears, manatees, and dugongs] and NOAA Fisheries<sup>3</sup> [responsible for seals, sea lions, whales, dolphins, and porpoises]. Marine mammals under the responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list; for additional information on those species please visit the [Marine Mammals](#) page of the NOAA Fisheries website.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the take of marine mammals and further coordination may be necessary for project evaluation. Please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office shown.

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1. The [Endangered Species Act](#) (ESA) of 1973.
2. The [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) (CITES) is a treaty to ensure that international trade in plants and animals does not threaten their survival in the wild.
3. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

NAME

West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus*

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469>

## WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

RIVERINE

- R2UBH
- R5UBH

- R4SBCx
- R1UBV
- R2UBHx
- R4SBC

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PFO4R
- PFO1/4B
- PFO1/3C
- PFO1R
- PSS1B
- PFO4B
- PFO4Bd
- PFO4/EM1B
- PFO1C
- PFO4/SS1B

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1/SS3B
- PEM1C
- PEM1B
- PEM1Bd

ESTUARINE AND MARINE DEEPWATER

- E1UBL
- E1UBLx

ESTUARINE AND MARINE WETLAND

- E2EM1Pd
- E2EM1P

FRESHWATER POND

- PUBHh
- PUBFx
- PUBHx

## IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

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## DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### SECTION 592 WATER AND SEWER IMPROVEMENTS GAUTIER, JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**Introduction:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Vicksburg District (CEMVK), has prepared Environmental Assessment (EA) #122 in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. The EA assesses potential environmental and cultural impacts associated with correcting overflow issues in the sanitary sewer collection system. The project would involve replacing failing pipes and manholes, installing cast in place pipe (CIPP), and making additional point repairs as needed.

On June 27, 2025, the USACE released Draft EA #122 for a 15-day public review period and received critical feedback from Federal and State agencies, the public, and non-governmental organizations.

**Authority for the Action:** Public Law 106-53 of 1999, Section 592, authorizes design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in Mississippi, including projects for wastewater treatment and related facilities, elimination or control of combined sewer overflows, water supply and related facilities, environmental restoration, and surface water protection and development. This project meets the qualification requirements under Section 592.

**Purpose and Need for the Action:** The purpose of this work will be to improve Bucks Road lift station, infiltration and inflow, West Park Drive drainage, Singing River Mall Infrastructure and replace chemical building copper pipes. These improvements around the city of Gautier are needed due to the negative impacts that are causing human health, the environment, and flood risk mitigation. There are safety, hazard, flooding and sanitary concerns due to these issues. The city would greatly benefit from the proposed action.

The current lift station has reached the end of its useful life cycle and is no longer able to properly pump stormwater and sanitary sewage. Improving the lift station by replacing most of its components would alleviate infiltration issues. Each significant rainfall event in Gautier releases harmful stormwater into the environment which is caused by infiltration. It is impossible to eliminate infiltration without completely replacing the entire lift station. The Chemical Building copper piping replacement will prevent corrosion, safety concerns and failures. Construction options include (1) replacing fixtures and valves such as the hot water heater, (2) safety showers and mixing valve. West Park Drive Drainage system is currently experiencing major flooding due to the capacity of this outfall and volume. The new proposed action will allow water to move efficiently through the neighborhood and surrounding roads. The improvements in the Singing River Mall will provide an efficient water and main sewer system. Also, the new gravity sewer line and water design will decrease the existing cost for the city. The Southeast Gautier sewer system, which is 2.5 miles long, has reached its maximum life span. Improvements include rectifying these issues by means of CCTV investigation and recommendations for CIPP lining. There will not be

any digging conducted on this part of the project. There are both residential and commercial properties that will be affected by this dilapidated pipe.

There is a need to protect the agricultural, urban, and human life interests in the neighboring communities. Without said action, without implementation of the proposed action the environment, health and infrastructure would continue to decline. Residence and business would be affected without action. It is also necessary to meet the USACE mandate of providing 100 yr. flood protections to the community.

**Factors Considered in Determination:** In accordance with NEPA and other applicable laws and regulations, CEMVK has assessed the impacts of the proposed action and the No Action alternative. All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the proposed action. A summary of the potential effects is listed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Relevant resources and their impact status, both adverse and beneficial.**

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:**

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.

**Endangered Species Act of 1973:** Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the USACE has determined that the Proposed Action would not likely adversely affect the endangered species within the vicinity of the project, or any critical habitat. IPAC was completed with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on February 10, 2025 with determinations of may affect. Further coordination was issued with USFW and the determination was no affect on February 11, 2025.

**National Historic Preservation Act of 1966:** Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the recommended plan has no effect on historic properties.

**Clean Water Act of 1972 – Section 404 and Section 401**

No work is occurring within wetlands or waters of the US and no fill is being placed, therefore, no permit is required pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. However, any changes in project scoping or construction activities would need to be reassessed to determine if a permit would be required. The City of Gautier would be responsible for obtaining any and all permits required for this project.

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:**

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials was completed prior to signing of FONSI.

**FINDING**

Technical, environmental, and cost effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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Date

**Jeremiah A. Gipson**  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander