



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

SUBJECT: Alligator Land Exchange, Coahoma County, Mississippi
EAXX-202-00-B4P-1783424863

PUBLIC NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern:

A draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), along with the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Alligator Land Exchange is enclosed for your review and comment. This project proposes to exchange 124 acres of United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) owned property northwest of the city of Alligator in Coahoma County, MS for 276 acres of land north of Redwood in Warren County, MS. Please provide comments by 16 August 2026, to the above address, ATTN: CEMVN-PDN-UDP.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the draft FONSI or draft report, please contact Mr. David Wimmer of this office by telephone 601-634-2091 or email mark.d.wimmer@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ALLIGATOR LAND EXCHANGE
ALLIGATOR, COAHOMA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Introduction: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District (CEMVK) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)(EAXX-202-00-B4P-1783424863) dated July 17, 2026 assesses potential environmental and cultural impacts associated with exchanging the 124 acre Coahoma County Tract for 276 acres in Warren County Mississippi. The project would strictly involve releasing the property from USACE ownership.

Authority for the Action: 33 U.S. Code (USC) 558b: Exchange of land or property warrants that in any case in which it may be necessary or advisable in the execution of an authorized work of river and harbor improvement to exchange land or other property of the Government for private lands or property required for such project, the Secretary of the Army may, upon the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, authorize such exchange upon terms and conditions deemed appropriate by him, and any conveyance of Government land or interests therein necessary to effect such exchange may be executed by the Secretary of the Army: Provided further, that the authority granted to the Secretary of the Army shall not extend to or include lands held or acquired by the Tennessee Valley Authority pursuant to the terms of the Tennessee Valley Authority Act [16 U.S.C. 831 et seq.]. This section shall apply to any exchanges heretofore deemed advisable in connection with the construction of the Bonneville Dam in the Columbia River. (June 20, 1938, ch. 535, §2, 52 Stat. 804 ; July 26, 1947, ch. 343, title II, §205(a), 61 Stat. 501.) This project meets the qualification requirements under 33 USC 558b: Exchange of land or property. 33 U.S.C § 558b-1 extends this authority to authorized flood control projects.

Purpose and Need: The proposed action would exchange 124 acres of USACE owned property northwest of Alligator in Coahoma County, MS for 276 acres of land north of Redwood in Warren County, MS. Upper Yazoo Project (UYP) construction is ongoing and needs additional mitigation to be purchased concurrently or prior to construction. This exchange would allow for additional lands to be credited towards UYP mitigation.

Factors Considered in Determination: In accordance with NEPA and other applicable laws and regulations, CE-MVK has assessed the impact 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	☐	☐	☒
Air quality	☐	☐	☒
Aquatic resources/wetlands	☐	☐	☒
Fish and wildlife habitat	☒	☐	☐
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	☒	☐	☐
Historic properties	☐	☐	☒
Other cultural resources	☐	☐	☒
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	☐	☐	☒
Hydrology	☐	☐	☒
Recreation	☐	☐	☒
Navigation	☐	☐	☒
Socioeconomics	☐	☐	☒
Water quality	☐	☐	☒

Compensatory Mitigation: The recommended plan will result in the loss of 124 acres of Upper Yazoo Projects mitigation lands. To mitigate for these unavoidable adverse impacts, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will acquire 276 acres as outlined in the EA. The forested portion of the 276 acres is projected to yield 679 AAFCUs fully compensating for the loss of 476 AAFCUs over the 50 year period of analysis. This will result in a net gain of 203 AAFCUs that will be counted towards UYP mitigation.

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 affect the endangered species within the vicinity of the project including the tricolored bat, alligator snapping turtle, and monarch butterfly. No critical habitat would be impacted. Coordination with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was completed through the Information for Planning and Consultation tool on December 4, 2025.

In coordination with USFWS, USACE has also made the determination of **may affect, but not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)** for pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*). USFWS, through the IPaC system, concurred with USACE's determinations.

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 historical properties to be affected.

Clean Water Act of 1972 – Section 404 and Section 401

No work is occurring within wetlands or Waters of the United States, 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 with the USACE Regulatory Branch to determine if a permit would be required. The new landowner would be responsible for obtaining any and all future permits required on the Coahoma County tract 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 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.

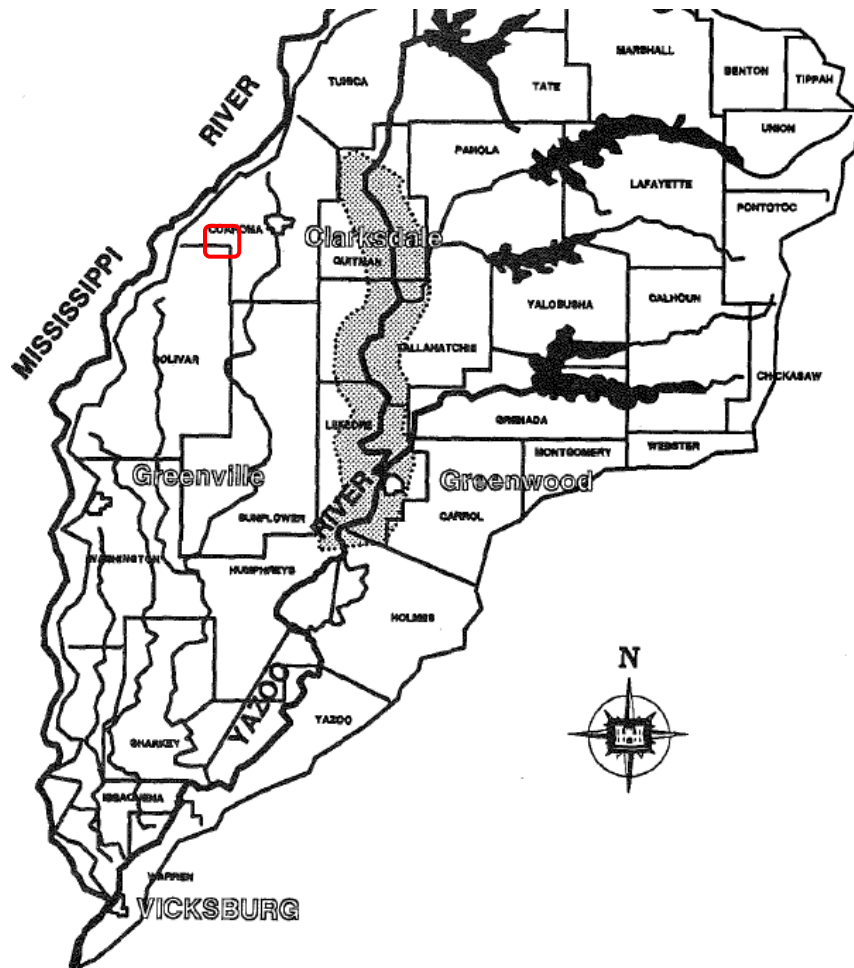
Date

Jeremiah A. Gipson
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Command

EAXX-202-00-B4P-1783424863
Alligator Land Exchange, Coahoma County, MS
July 2026

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
RPEDS
Vicksburg District

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
ALLIGATOR LAND EXCHANGE
COAHOMA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
EAXX-202-00-B4P-1783424863**



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

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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ALLIGATOR LAND EXCHANGE

COAHOMA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

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1. USFWS IPaC Species List
2. USFWS Statewide Concurrence Letter
3. USFWS Bat Determination Key Letter
4. MDFWP MNHP Letter
5. Cultural Resource Documentation
6. Hazardous Toxic and Radioactive Waste Report

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
ALLIGATOR LAND EXCHANGE
COAHOMA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
EAXX-202-00-B4P-1783424863**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) Regional Planning and Environment Division South (RPEDS), has prepared this environmental assessment (EA) for the Vicksburg District (MVK) to evaluate the reasonably foreseeable impacts associated with proposed action of exchanging 124 acres of USACE owned property northwest of Alligator in Coahoma County, MS for 276 acres of land north of Redwood in Warren County, MS.

This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (as amended in 2023) and the 30 June 2025 Department of War NEPA Implementing Procedures. This EA provides sufficient information on the reasonably foreseeable adverse and beneficial environmental effects to allow the District Commander, USACE, and 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 ACTION

The proposed action would exchange 124 acres of USACE owned property northwest of Alligator in Coahoma County, MS for 276 acres of land north of Redwood in Warren County, MS.

1.2 PURPOSE FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action would exchange 124 acres of USACE owned property northwest of Alligator in Coahoma County, MS for 276 acres of land north of Redwood in Warren County, MS. Upper Yazoo Project (UYP) construction is ongoing and needs additional mitigation to be purchased concurrently or prior to construction. This project would allow for additional lands to be credited towards UYP mitigation. At this time, it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Government to exchange these tracts in order to obtain lands with superior credits for UYP mitigation.

1.3 AUTHORITY

Authorization for this action falls under 33 U.S. Code (USC) 558b: Exchange of land or property. "In any case in which it may be necessary or advisable in the execution of an authorized work of river and harbor improvement to exchange land or other property of the Government for private lands or property required for such project, the Secretary of the Army may, upon the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, authorize such exchange upon terms and conditions deemed appropriate by him, and any conveyance of Government land or interests therein necessary to effect such exchange may be executed by the Secretary of the Army: Provided further, That the authority granted to the Secretary of the Army shall not extend to or include lands held or acquired by the Tennessee Valley Authority pursuant to the terms of the Tennessee

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Vicksburg District

Valley Authority Act [16 U.S.C. 831 et seq.].” This section shall apply to any exchanges heretofore deemed advisable in connection with the construction of the Bonneville Dam in the Columbia River. (June 20, 1938, ch. 535, §2, 52 Stat. 804 ; July 26, 1947, ch. 343, title II, §205(a), 61 Stat. 501 .) This project meets the qualification requirements under 33 USC 558b: Exchange of land or property.

2.0 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

During the environmental analysis, USACE is required to evaluate reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, and for alternatives that were eliminated from more detailed study to briefly discuss the reasons for their elimination. Reasonable alternatives include those that are technically and economically feasible and meet the purpose and need for the proposed action, rather than simply desirable from the standpoint of the applicant. Two alternatives were considered for this action: the No Action Alternative and the Alligator Land Exchange.

2.1 ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and ER 1105-2-100, require that the No Action Alternative (NAA) be included in a final array of alternatives. The NAA is assessed to determine the potential impacts of not implementing the proposed actions. Under NEPA, the NAA is used as a baseline against which all other alternatives are evaluated for environmental impacts.

Under the NAA, the 124-acre tract in Coahoma County, Mississippi would remain as mitigation lands continuing to be credited towards UYP mitigation requirements. The Alligator tract would not be exchanged for the 276 acre tract in Warren County.

2.2 ALTERNATIVE 2 – ALLIGATOR LAND EXCHANGE

Under Alternative 2, the Vicksburg District (MVK) would implement 33 U.S. Code (USC) 558b: Exchange of Land or Property and move forward with the Alligator land exchange. Alternative 2 proposes to exchange 124 acres of MVK mitigation lands in Coahoma County for 276 acres of land (124 acres of row crop land and 152 acres of 20 year old forested lands) in Warren County, MS. The Warren County tract is not only larger in acreage, but is modeled to provide improved wetland, terrestrial, and aquatic habitat as well as improved hydrological restoration due to its connectivity with the Yazoo River Floodplain. The forested portion (152 acres) of the 276 acre tract in Warren County is projected to yield 679 Average Annual Functional Capacity Units (AAFCU) compared to the 476 AAFCUs provided by the currently owned Coahoma County tract. This will result in a net gain of 203 AAFCUs that can be utilized for mitigation.

Alternative 2 is the preferred alternative for this project.

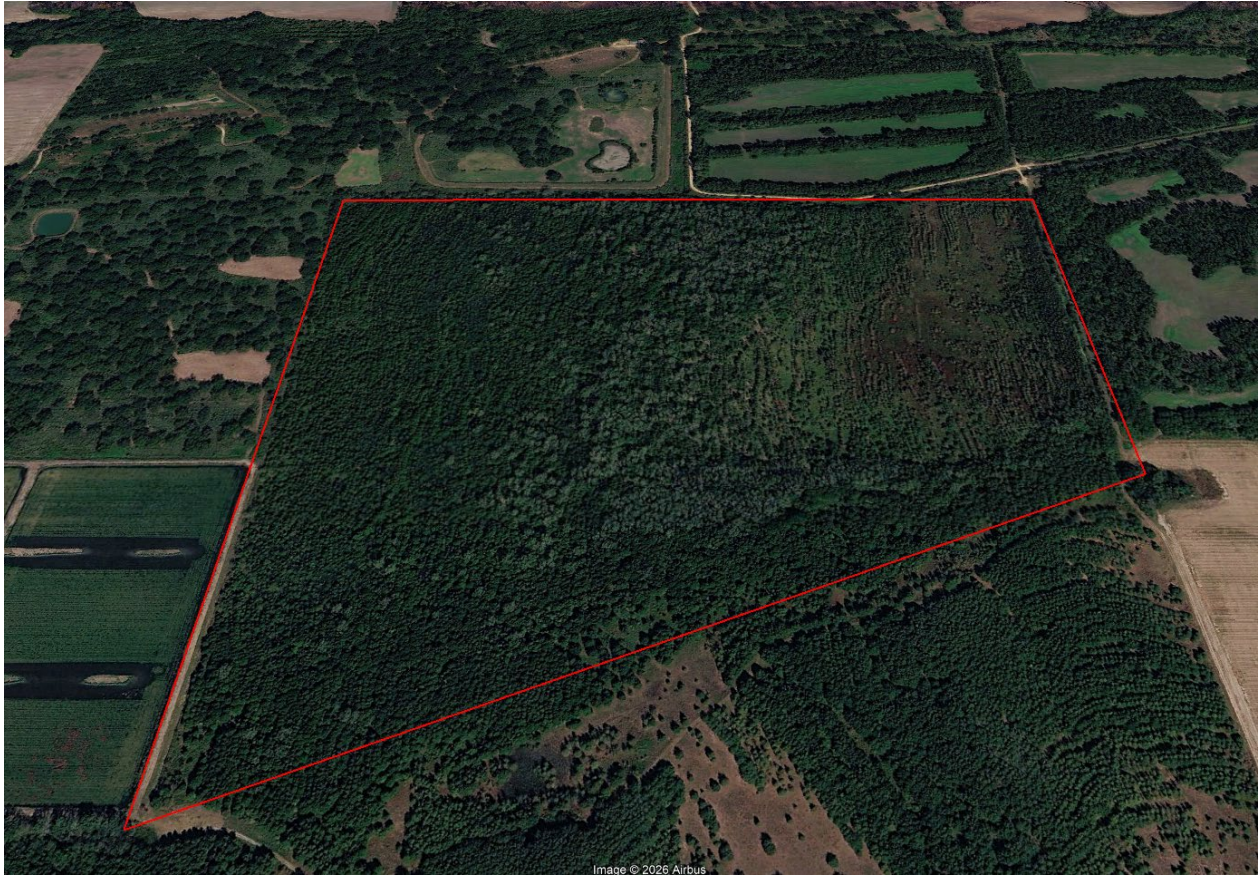


Figure 1: Map of Alligator Tract Mitigation Land Proposed for Land Exchange.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/RELEVANT RESOURCES

This section describes the relevant existing biological, physical, economic, and social conditions in the proposed project areas, which are referred to under the NEPA process as the Affected Environment.

In evaluating the significance of a project's effects, NEPA requires a consideration of both context and intensity. Context means that the significance must be analyzed in several contexts, such as the human environment, affected region, affected interests, and the local setting. The intensity of a potential impact relates to the impact's severity and includes consideration of beneficial and adverse effects, the level of controversy associated with a project's impacts on human health, whether the action establishes a precedent for future actions with significant effects, the level of uncertainty about project impacts, and whether the action threatens to violate federal, state, or local laws established for the protection of the human and natural environment.

The resources described in this section are those recognized as significant 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. Based on the ecological features present in the proposed project area and the nature of the proposed action, this EA addresses the following resources:

- Geology, Topography, and Soils
- Water Quality
- Wetlands
- Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW)
- Aquatic Resources and Fisheries
- Terrestrial Resources and Wildlife
- Threatened, Endangered, and Protected Species
- Cultural Resources

3.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The project would be located in Coahoma County, Mississippi approximately 11 miles from Clarksdale Mississippi.

3.2 CLIMATE

The project area is situated within the Yazoo Basin of Mississippi, which is characterized by a humid subtropical climate. This climate typically features long, hot, humid summers and short, mild winters. Average summer temperatures often exceed 90°F, while winter temperatures are generally mild, with infrequent freezing conditions. The region receives approximately 55 inches of rainfall annually, distributed throughout the year, with peaks commonly occurring in the winter and spring. This high level of precipitation, combined with the region's flat topography and clay soils, is a primary driver of local hydrology and flooding. The area is also susceptible to extreme weather events, including intense thunderstorms, tornadoes, and the inland effects of hurricanes. Figures 2 and 3 below show the mean monthly maximum and minimum temperatures and the monthly precipitation range in inches for the Yazoo Basin.

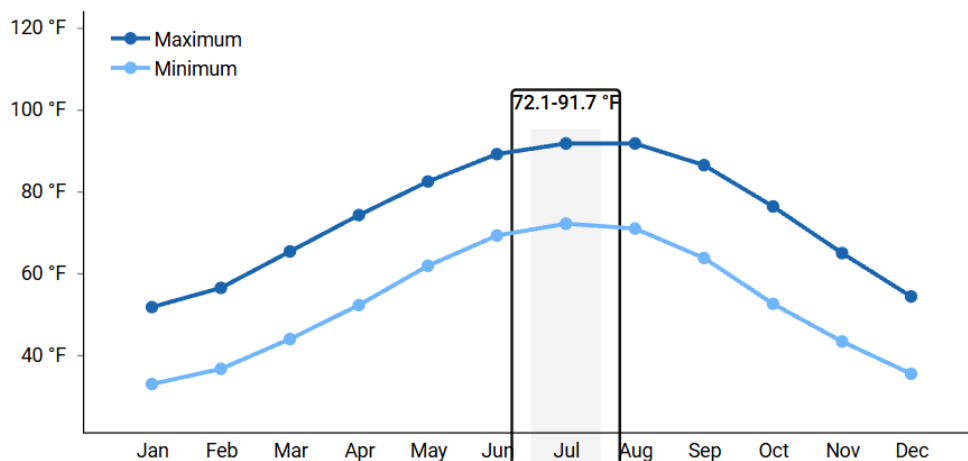


Figure 2: Mean Maximum and Minimum Monthly Temperatures in the Yazoo Basin

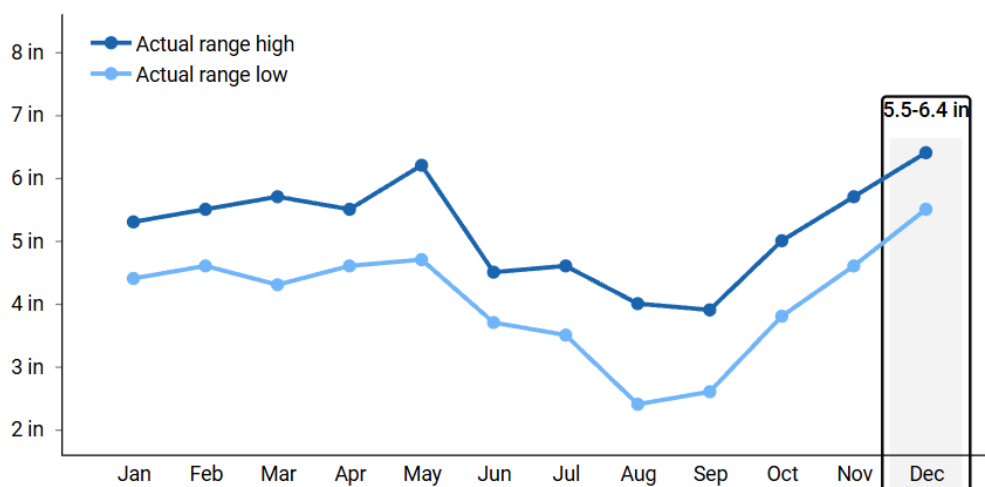


Figure 3: Monthly Precipitation Range in the Yazoo Basin

3.3 GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY, AND SOILS

The Coahoma County tract is located within the upper Yazoo Basin of the Mississippi Delta alluvial floodplain. The Mississippi river, through countless floods and past meanders, has largely shaped the natural environment within this region including but not limited to its characteristically flat topography and nutrient rich heavy clays infused with organic matter. The USDA-NRCS's Soil Web Survey (<https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>) was used to gather site specific data

The Coahoma County tract is approximately 73% Sharkey Clay and 27% Dowling Clay. These are both very poorly drained soils with very low permeability, little to no topographical slope, and frequent floods. These are hydric soils that are highly indicative of wetland presence.

3.4 RELEVANT RESOURCES

Table 1: Relevant Resources

Resource	Institutionally Important	Technically Important	Publicly Important
Cultural Resources	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, design and construction values, as well as, 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.
Wildlife/Terrestrial Resources	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.
Aquatic Resources/ Fisheries	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, as amended; Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended; Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended; and the Estuary Protection Act of 1968.	Aquatic resources/Fisheries are a critical element of many valuable freshwater and marine habitats; they are an indicator of the health of the various freshwater and marine habitats; and many species are important commercial resources.	The high priority that the public places on their esthetic, recreational, and commercial value.
Wetlands	Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended; Executive Order 11990 of 1977, Protection of Wetlands; Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended; and the Estuary Protection Act of 1968., EO 11988, and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.	Wetlands provide necessary habitat for various species of plants, fish, and wildlife; they serve as ground water recharge areas; they provide storage areas for storm and flood waters; they serve as natural water filtration areas; they provide protection from wave action, erosion, and storm damage; and they provide various consumptive and non-consumptive recreational opportunities.	The high value the public places on the functions and values that wetlands provide. Environmental organizations and the public support the preservation of marshes.

Resource	Institutionally Important	Technically Important	Publicly Important
Hydrology and Water Quality	CWA of 1972, as amended; FWCA; CZMA of 1972, and Mississippi State and Local Coastal Resources Act of 1978.	USACE, FWS, NMFS, NRCS, EPA, MDWFP, and MDNR 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.
Threatened and Endangered Species	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; FWS; National Marine Fisheries Service; NRCS; Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP); Mississippi Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; and Mississippi Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) 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.

The following resources were eliminated from further evaluation in the EA for either not being in the area of potential effect or would not be impacted by any of the alternatives. These eliminated resources include:

- Wild and Scenic Rivers (No designated wild and scenic rivers in or near the study area)
- Coastal Management Zones (No coastal areas in the project area)
- Noise
- Socioeconomic Considerations
- Prime and Unique Farmland
- Air Quality
- Navigation
- Aesthetics and Recreation

3.3.1 AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FISHERIES

Near the Coahoma County tract there are a nearby oxbow lake, manmade ditches/canals, and wetlands (most of which are bottomland hardwood forest). Surrounding lands make up a larger, contiguous, USACE owned mitigation site and conservation easements held by other entities.

The bottomland hardwood forests present on the Coahoma County tract offer spawning and foraging opportunities for various floodplain spawning species. Species documented in the upper Yazoo Basin include: the Alligator Gar (*Atractosteus spatula*), Smallmouth Buffalo (*Ictiobus bubalus*), Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), Blue Catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*), Crappies (*Pomoxis* spp.), Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), and River Carpsucker (*Carpionodes carpio*).

Aquatic invertebrates, such as the Louisiana crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*), dragonflies, freshwater mussels, copepods, rotifers and midges, also thrive in these areas.

3.3.2 WETLANDS

The Yazoo Basin forms part of the larger Mississippi alluvial system which is characterized by an average 55+ inches of precipitation, out of bank flooding, and seasonal flooding in bottomland hardwood forests and permanently flooded tupelo-cypress swamps. These wetlands provide significant environmental benefits by cycling nutrients, acting as carbon sinks, purifying water, recharging the aquifer, and providing habitat for a myriad of aquatic and terrestrial species including mammals, fish, and waterfowl. They also provide a buffer during flood events as they slow the progression of floods and act as a reservoir for water.

3.3.3 WILDLIFE AND TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

The bottomland hardwood forests of the Yazoo Basin are characterized by overstory tree species including *Quercus* spp. (Oaks), *Carya aquatica* (Hickory), *Liquidambar styraciflua* (Sweetgum), *Celtis laevigata* (Sugarberry), *Carya illinoensis* (Pecan), *Gleditsia triacanthos* (Honey locust), and *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* (Ash). Backwater areas, slackwaters, sloughs, oxbow lakes bayous, and permanently or semipermanent flooded wetlands are dominated by *Taxodium distichum* (Bald Cypress) and *Nyssa* spp. (Tupelos).

Currently, the Coahoma County tract has 20 year stands composed primarily of *Quercus phellos*, *Quercus ellipsoidalis*, *Quercus nigra*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Celtis laevigata*, with pockets of *Gleditsia triacanthos*, *Salix nigra*, *Populus deltoides*, and *Taxodium distichum* (especially on the depressional eastern section).

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) maintains the Ecosystem Dynamics Interpretive Tool (EDIT). EDIT is an online database that houses ecological site descriptions which describe and classify community dynamics and structure, climate, soil, and other general information for chosen sites. At the Coahoma County site, EDIT identifies 5 ecological sites: F131AY301MS - Yazoo - Frequently Flooded and Ponded Oxbow and Swale Forest; F131AY302MS-Yazoo-Wet Clayey Backswamp Flat Forest; F131AY304MS-Yazoo-Wet Transitional Backswamp Forest; and F131AY307MS & F131AY305MS-Yazoo-Old Levee and Meander Scroll Ridge Forests. Reports for each ecological site can be found at <https://edit.sc.egov.usda.gov/catalogs/esd>.

The site provides habitat for a myriad of wildlife species including white-tailed deer, racoons, otters, turkeys, waterfowl, beavers, mink, woodpeckers, songbirds, snakes, turtles, frogs, and birds of prey. Notably the Yazoo Basin is one of the most important stops along the Mississippi River Flyway—one of the most important migratory bird routes both on a domestic and global scale. An estimated 40% of all North America’s migrating ducks, geese and swans migrate through the Mississippi River Flyway with the Yazoo Basin being the largest in Mississippi.

3.3.3 HAZARDOUS, TOXIC, AND RADIOLOGICAL WASTE (HTRW)

To evaluate if potential HTRW concerns are present on the Coahoma County tract, a review of EPA’s EnviroMapper environmental databases of known facilities permitted to handle, treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste or underground storage sites was performed in February 2026. No archives of HTRW were listed in the databases from this records review.

A site reconnaissance of the work area was conducted in January 2026. The inspection was conducted on-foot and by off-road vehicle within the ROW. No HTRW artifacts were observed within the property, and it is determined that there is little reason to believe that HTRW will be encountered on the Coahoma County tract.

3.3.4 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

In compliance with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, an updated official list of species and critical habitats potentially occurring in the vicinity of the proposed action areas was acquired from the USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) website at (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>) on May 18, 2026. The federally listed species are as follows:

Tricolored Bat (<i>Perimyotis septentrionalis</i>)	Proposed Endangered
Pondberry (<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>)	Endangered
Alligator Snapping Turtle (<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>)	Proposed Threatened
Monarch Butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)	Proposed Threatened

USACE also completed on IPAC, May 18, 2026, the statewide determination key for Mississippi and the determination key for the tricolored bat (see attachments 2 & 3).

USACE also coordinated with Mississippi Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MDFWP) for state listed species. Table 2 lists species that MDFWP identified that may occur in the area based off MDFWP natural resource database request.

Table 2: Mississippi State Species of Concern

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	State Rank
<i>Atractosteus spatula</i>	Alligator Gar			S2
<i>Clematis catesbyana</i>	Satin-curly			S3S4
<i>Deirochelys reticularia miaria</i>	Western Chicken Turtle		C	S1
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little Blue Heron			S2B,S2N
<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Tricolored Heron			S2
<i>Eleocharis erythropoda</i>	Bald Spikerush			S1
<i>Etheostoma asprigene</i>	Mud Darter			S3
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Butternut			S2
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>	Red Milk Snake			S3
<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>	Alligator Snapping Turtle		C	S3
<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	American Ginseng			S3
<i>Schisandra glabra</i>	Bay Starvine			S3
<i>Ursus americanus luteolus</i>	Louisiana Black Bear	LE		S2

State Rank

S1 - Critically imperiled in Mississippi because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extirpation.

S2 - Imperiled in Mississippi because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extirpation.

S3 - Rare or uncommon in Mississippi (on the order of 21 to 100 occurrences).

State and Federal Status

LE Endangered - A species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

LT Threatened - A species likely to become endangered in foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

3.3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources within the Coahoma County tract, were identified based on a review of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), Mississippi Department of Archives and History's (MDAH, hereafter referred to as MS SHPO) Historical Site Management Tool (HSMT), historic aerial photography, historic map research, and a review of cultural resources survey reports. This review revealed no previously recorded cultural resources (archaeological or above-ground), nor previously conducted cultural resources surveys within the proposed Area of Potential Effect (APE). According to site data on file with MDAH, three archaeological sites are located immediately south of and adjacent to the project area's southern boundary. No above-ground resources were identified within the 1.6-km (1-mile) search radius; a cluster of circa 1900-1940 structures are located approximately 2.0-2.4 km (1.25-1.50 miles) northeast of the search radius. Additionally, only one cultural resources survey was identified within the same search radius (MDAH Report No. 04-106). It was conducted on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the proposed corridor for I-69 across the Mississippi Delta.

All three sites possess evidence of Middle-to-Late Woodland through Mississippian prehistoric periods as well as late 19th-early-20th-century house scatters. One of these resources also contained evidence of human remains and, as such, was recommended eligible for listing to the NRHP. The NRHP status of the other two archaeological sites is undetermined/unknown. Together, this information suggests that the potential for both pre-and post-contact period archaeological resources is moderate-to-high. No above-ground resources were identified within the 1.6-km (1-mile) search radius; a cluster of circa 1915-1935 structures do appear across and immediately south of the tract according to early 20th-century maps, while a small number of early 20th-century residential structures have been inventoried approximately 2.0-2.4 km (1.25-1.50 miles) northeast of the search radius.

Consultation: USACE has determined that the proposed action constitutes an Undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y). As such, USACE conducted cultural resources investigations of the APE between March and April 2026. Cultural investigative resulted in the identification of one archaeological resource (Site 22Co1024) and one Isolated Find (IF 1). Site 22Co1024 represents a mid-to-late late 19th through 20th century archaeological site, largely identified through the recovery of brick fragments (n=46 [233.0 grams]) and a small number of domestic items (glass [n=2] and coarse earthenware [n=1]). Reviews of early-to-mid 20th-century (circa 1935) USGS maps indicate the presence of two structures nearby, approximately 35 and 120 meters (115 and 394 ft.) to the east/southeast of the site. By the 1967 7.5-minute quad of this area, neither structure appears to be extant. Post-occupational agricultural activities likely account for the fragmentary and widely dispersed distribution of this historic site, strongly suggesting that the identified material has been redeposited. Given this and the lack of subsurface deposits, Site 22Co1024 is not considered ineligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A-D. Isolated Find 1 is, by definition, not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A–D. Additionally, reconnaissance efforts failed to identify any above-ground resources associated with this proposed project area.

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3.3.6 WATER QUALITY

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is a piece of environmental legislation in the United States, enacted in 1972 to address the widespread degradation of the nation's water bodies. Its primary aim is to restore and maintain the integrity of the nation's waters by regulating pollutant discharges, setting water quality standards, and ensuring the protection of aquatic ecosystems. The CWA empowers the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state agencies to enforce stringent controls over industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste, thereby safeguarding public health and preserving natural habitats.

Water quality in the area is influenced by agricultural runoff, which can carry sediment, nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), and pesticides into adjacent water bodies. Situated in the upper basin and further from a major waterbody, the Coahoma County tract is susceptible to seasonal low water levels and poor water quality—especially during Summer months.

The EPA's "How's My Waterway Tool" (<https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>) was used to assess water quality at both site locations. The site does not have a waterway that was accessed at the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 10 level.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FISHERIES

With implementation of the proposed actions, no impacts to fisheries or aquatic resources are anticipated. No construction would take place within or near any body of water.

4.2 WETLANDS

With implementation of the proposed actions, no net impacts to wetland are anticipated. USACE will increase its mitigation holdings post exchange as documented in section 5.0 MITIGATION COMPARISON of this document. This would lead to a net increase in wetland resources.

4.3 WILDLIFE AND TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

With implementation of the proposed actions, no net impacts to wildlife and terrestrial resources are anticipated. USACE would increase its mitigation holdings post exchange as documented in section 5.0 MITIGATION COMPARISON of this document. This would lead to a net increase in wildlife and terrestrial resources.

4.4 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

In compliance with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, an updated official list of species and critical habitats potentially occurring in the vicinity of the proposed action areas was acquired from the USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) website at (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>) on May 18, 2026. The federally listed species are as follows:

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Tricolored Bat (<i>Perimyotis septentrionalis</i>)	Proposed Endangered
Pondberry (<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>)	Endangered
Alligator Snapping Turtle (<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>)	Proposed Threatened
Monarch Butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)	Proposed Threatened

With implementation of the proposed actions, USACE has made the determination of no effect for the tricolored bat, alligator snapping turtle, and monarch butterfly. USFWS's tricolored bat determination key concurs with the **no effect** determination. USFWS does not currently provide a determination key for the alligator snapping turtle or the monarch butterfly; however, based on habitat assessments, USACE has made a 'no effect' determination for both species." For the Pondberry, in coordination with USFWS, USACE has also made the determination of **may affect, but not likely to adversely (NLAA)** and USFWS concurs with the NLAA determination.

Tricolored bats would not be affected as no tree clearing or disturbance to their habitat would occur.

Pondberry is a clonal species. No known colonies are present on either site, with exploratory surveys having been conducted on the Coahoma site. There would also not be any disturbance to potential pondberry habitat with the proposed action.

Alligator snapping turtles are a semi aquatic species that would not be affected by this land exchange.

Milkweed is the obligate host to monarch butterflies' caterpillars. There would be no effect to milkweed, monarch butterfly habitat or the butterflies themselves by this project.

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 and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act to protect native birds from project-related impacts. The Official Species List, Attachment 1, provides a list of birds of concern that are most likely to be present in the project area along with their breeding seasons. This information can be used to tailor and schedule future project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to migrating birds., the Official Species List states in reference to the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, "The data in this location indicates that no eagles have been observed in this area." This does not mean eagles are not present, therefore future project developers should be familiarized with the "Steps to Take When No Results Are Returned" section of the Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document, and report to the local USFWS field office if eagles are observed.

MDFWP concerns were not with the land exchange itself, but with other proposed activities in the surrounding area. These activities are or would be covered in other NEPA documents.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

With implementation of the proposed actions, the Coahoma County tract would leave federal ownership. The project, as proposed, poses no impact on historic properties. No further work is recommended. Based upon this information, USACE recommends a **No Historic Properties Affected** determination for the undertaking and no further cultural investigations are recommended. The possibility of inadvertent discoveries always remains. CEMVK remains committed to monitoring and responding to possible inadvertent discoveries of cultural deposits throughout the project areas. If such inadvertent discovery is made during the project, the resource will be evaluated, assessed for effects, and mitigated in accordance with Federal statutes and regulations (36 CFR 800.11(b)(2) and 35 CFR Part 800.6). As a result of these investigations, no further archaeological work is recommended within the Coahoma County tract.

This determination was communicated to the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office (MS SHPO), and 15 Tribal governments including: Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Caddo Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Quapaw Nation, and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana on June 1, 2026 in compliance with 36 CFR 800.

4.6 WATER QUALITY

With implementation of the proposed actions, there would be no disturbances to ambient water quality. There is no construction as part of the proposed action. There are no impaired bodies of water or wild and scenic rivers within the project area or its watershed. Therefore, there would be no reasonably foreseeable impacts to water quality with the proposed action.

4.7 SECTION 404 CONSIDERATIONS

Section 404 does not apply to the land exchange as it will not include discharge of fill material. If future actions on the property have potential to affect wetlands the grantees would be required to coordinate with the USACE's Regulatory Department and appropriate state agencies for any permits or restrictions that apply.

5.0 MITIGATION COMPARISON

The purpose of the land exchange is to acquire property with superior ecological value to serve as mitigation for the impacts of the Upper Yazoo Projects (UYP). The Alligator Land Exchange allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to exchange a smaller, less ecologically valuable tract for a larger, more strategically located tract with greater potential for habitat restoration. The comparison of mitigation value is based on the Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) model, which calculates Average Annual Functional Capacity Units (AAFCUs) to quantify wetland functions over a 50-year project life.

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- **Coahoma County Tract (Existing Mitigation Land):** This 124-acre tract of reforested wetland is projected to provide a total of **476 AAFCUs** over its project life. While it provides positive environmental benefits, its isolation from a major river floodplain limits its potential for aquatic and fishery habitat restoration.
- **Warren County Tract (Proposed Mitigation Land):** This 276-acre tract offers significantly higher mitigation value due to its larger size and its direct hydrological connectivity to the Yazoo River floodplain. The AAFCUs are derived primarily from the restoration of the agricultural land and the preservation value of the existing forest.
 - The 124 acres of agricultural land, once reforested, are projected to yield **470 AAFCUs**.
 - The 152 acres of existing forested wetland add significant ecological value contributing **679 AAFCUs** of preservation mitigation benefit.
 - The total projected mitigation value of the Warren County tract is **1,149 AAFCUs**.

Based on the analysis of the properties' current condition, 101 acres of forested land from the Fowler tract would be required to offset the removal of the 124 acre Alligator exchange parcel from the mitigation area. The 153 acre forested portion of the Fowler tract would compensate for the 124 acres of Alligator mitigation lands that would be lost. Overall, the exchange would yield an additional 203 AAFCUs for mitigation.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) classification system was used to assess whether the mitigation sites were in the same watershed as UYP impacts. At a HUC 6 basin level the sites and UYP impacts all fall within the Yazoo Basin. At the HUC 8 sub basin level the Coahoma site falls within the Big Sunflower Sub Basin and the Warren County tract falls within the Lower Yazoo Sub Basin. All impacts covered in 1994 UYP EIS, including impacts from USACE projects completed prior to 1993, are all within the HUC 6 Yazoo Basin. While HUC 8 watersheds are the preferred standard to meet the same watershed requirement, HUC 6 watersheds can be appropriate in rural areas as was the case in the 2025 Yazoo Backwater EIS. The Warren County site, Coahoma County site, and the UYP project impacts are in the broader ecosystem with the same habitat types. Both tracts provide in-kind mitigation for the UYP impacts.

6.0 COORDINATION (RELEVANT AGENCIES)

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

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
EPA, Region IV
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer
Mississippi Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

7.0 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. FWS concurrence 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;

The relationship of this conveyance to requirements of environmental laws, executive orders, memorandums, land use plans, and permits has been evaluated (see Table 3).

Table 3: Relationship of the Proposed Action to Environmental Protection Statutes and Requirements

Type	Item	Compliance
Federal Statutes	Archeological and Historic Preservation Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 469, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
	Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7401, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
	Clean Water Act, as amended (Federal Water Pollution Control Act), 33 U.S.C. 1251, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
	Coastal Zone Management Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1451, <u>et seq.</u>	Not Applicable
	Endangered Species Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
	Estuary Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 1221, <u>et seq.</u>	Not Applicable
	Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 460-1(2), <u>et seq.</u>	Not Applicable
	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, U.S.C. 661, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
	Land and Water Conservation Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 4601, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
	Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, 22 U.S.C. 1401, <u>et seq.</u>	Not Applicable
	National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470a, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
	National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
	Rivers and Harbors Act, 33 U.S.C. 401, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
	Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, 16 U.S.C. 1001, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1271, <u>et seq.</u>	Not Applicable
	Farmland Protection Policy Act	Not Applicable
	Food Security Act of 1985	Not Applicable
Executive Orders, Memorandums, etc.	Flood Plain Management (Executive Order 11988)	Full Compliance
	Protection of Wetlands (Executive Order 11990)	Not Applicable

Type	Item	Compliance
	Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions (Executive Order 12114)	Not Applicable
	Analysis of Impacts of Prime and Unique Farmlands (CEQ Memorandum, 30 August 1976)	Not Applicable
State and Local Policies	Mississippi Water Quality Standards	Full Compliance

NOTES: The compliance categories used in this table were assigned based on the following definitions:

- a. Full Compliance: All requirements of the statute, executive order, or other policy and related regulations have been met for this stage of planning.
- b. Partial Compliance: Some requirements of the statute, executive order, or other policy and related regulations remain to be met for this stage of planning.
- c. Noncompliance: None of the requirements have been met for this stage of planning.
- d. Not Applicable: Statute, executive order, or other policy not applicable.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The Warren County tract offers USACE the opportunity to acquire a tract of substantial ecological value given its location within the Yazoo River batture. As such, it maintains hydrological connectivity with the river, offering an increasingly uncommon opportunity at restoring such a location.

8.0 PREPARED BY

EA # EAXX-202-00-B4P-1783424863 and the associated FONSI were prepared by David Wimmer, Biologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, Regional Planning and Environment Division South, with relevant sections prepared by John Underwood, MVK Archeologist (Cultural Resources), and Ryan Horton, MVK Civil Engineer (HTRW). The address of the preparers is:

U.S. Army Engineer District, Vicksburg
Regional Planning and Environment Division South
ATTN: CEMVN-PDN-UDP
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435

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ACRONYMS

Acronym	Definition	Acronym	Definition
AAFCUs	Average Annual Functional Capacity Units	APE	Area of Potential Effect
BLH	Bottomland Hardwood	CEMVK	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District
CWA	Clean Water Act	EA	Environmental Assessment
EDIT	Ecosystem Dynamics Interpretive Tool	EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	ESA	Endangered Species Act
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact	HGM	Hydrogeomorphic
HTRW	Hazardous, Toxic, and Radiological Waste	HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation	MDAH	Mississippi Department of Archives and History
MDOT	Mississippi Department of Transportation	MDFWP	Mississippi Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
MS SHPO	Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer	MVD	Mississippi Valley Division
MVK	Vicksburg District	NAA	No Action Alternative
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places	RPEDS	Regional Planning and Environment Division South
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers	USC	U.S. Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture	USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey	UYP	Upper Yazoo Projects

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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:

05/18/2026 17:19:18 UTC

Project Code: 2026-0091351

Project Name: Alias & Alligator Land Exchange

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.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

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

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: 2026-0091351

Project Name: Alias & Alligator Land Exchange

Project Type: Land Exchange

Project Description: US Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District (MVK), is proposing the exchange of 124 acres of current Upper Yazoo Project mitigation lands for 368 acres--214 acres of which is active agricultural fields and the remainder is approx. 20 yr forest. The current mitigation land is located north of Alligator, MS in Coahoma County forming part of a larger mitigation site.

The parcel proposed for acquisition is located in Warren County, MS just north of Redwood, MS. It is on banks of the Yazoo River providing improved hydrological connectivity and ecological functions when compared with the current site. It is proposed that the approx. 153 acres of trees would be preserved in its current forested state while the 214 acres would be used for disposal and borrow as outlined in the 2024 Yazoo Backwater Area Water Management Project EIS. Post-construction a mitigation plan would be developed to maximize ecological output from the site and the site would be planted. Land not needed for borrow or disposal may be planted sooner for mitigation credit.

Preliminary AAFCU calculations estimate the net gain in mitigation credits over the life of the project if this project is completed.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@32.517192449999996,-90.79770931915891,14z>



Counties: Coahoma and Warren counties, Mississippi

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 4 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 Fisheries¹, 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.

-
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
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/Q53X4TJYY5F5LNCH4RGH2GFC6Y/documents/generated/7127.pdf	Proposed Endangered

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Alligator Snapping Turtle <i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/Q53X4TJYY5F5LNCH4RGH2GFC6Y/documents/generated/7127.pdf	Proposed Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/Q53X4TJYY5F5LNCH4RGH2GFC6Y/documents/generated/7127.pdf	Proposed Threatened

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Pondberry <i>Lindera melissifolia</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1279 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/Q53X4TJYY5F5LNCH4RGH2GFC6Y/documents/generated/7127.pdf	Endangered

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

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.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹. 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)

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

The data in this location indicates that no eagles have been observed in this area. This does not mean eagles are not present in your project area, especially if the area is difficult to survey. Please review the 'Steps to Take When No Results Are Returned' section of the Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document to determine if your project is in a poorly surveyed area. If it is, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if eagles may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

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 conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ 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).

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
Little Blue Heron <i>Egretta caerulea</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9477	Breeds Mar 10 to Oct 15
Prothonotary Warbler <i>Protonotaria citrea</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9439	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
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 https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478	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 (■)

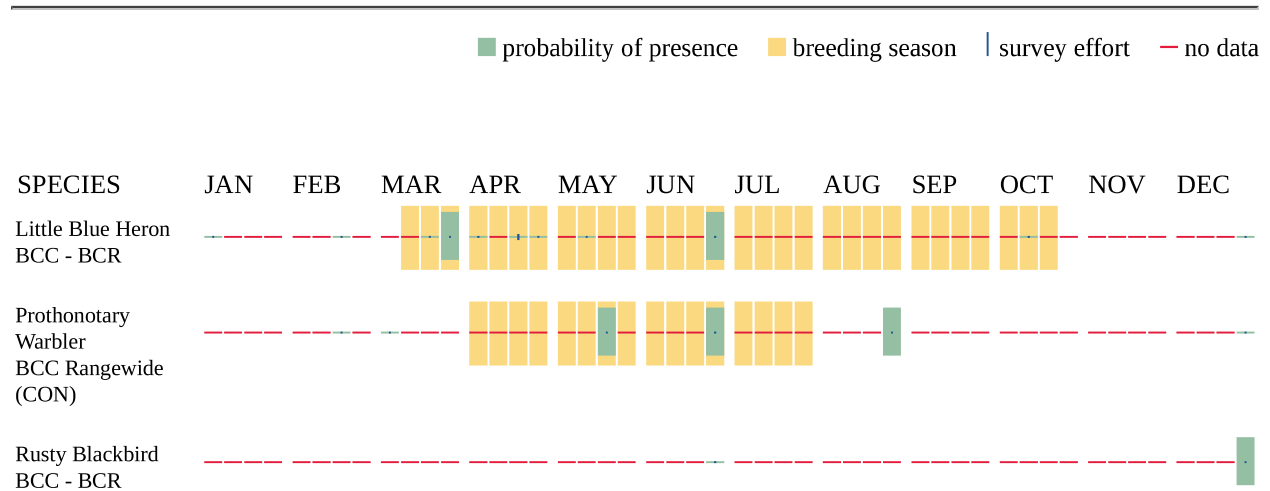
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (I)

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-incident-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>

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers
Name: Mark Wimmer
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City: Vicksburg
State: MS
Zip: 39183
Email: mark.d.wimmer@usace.army.mil
Phone: 6016342091



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:

05/18/2026 19:38:17 UTC

Project code: 2026-0091351

Project Name: Alias & Alligator Land Exchange

Subject: Concurrence verification letter for 'Alias & Alligator Land Exchange' for specified federally threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitat that may occur in your proposed project area consistent with the Mississippi Determination Key

Dear Mark Wimmer:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on May 18, 2026 , your effects determination(s) for the **Alias & Alligator Land Exchange** (the Action) using the Mississippi DKey for project review and guidance for federally listed species within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. The Service developed this system in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action, including species protective measures you confirmed will be implemented, is consistent with a determination of “no effect” and/or “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)” for the following species as outlined in the Service’s Mississippi Determination Key for project review and guidance for federally listed species.

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Pondberry (<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>)	Endangered	NLAA

Consultation Status

The Service concurs with the NLAA (may affect, but not likely to adversely affect) determination(s) for the species listed above. No further consultation for this project is required for these species.

This concurrence verification letter confirms you may rely on effect determinations provided in the Mississippi Determination Key for project review and guidance for federally listed species to

satisfy agency consultation requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.; ESA).

Other Listed Species That May Be Present in the Action Area The IPaC-assisted determination for the species of Mississippi does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Alligator Snapping Turtle *Macrochelys temminckii* Proposed Threatened
- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened
- Tricolored Bat *Perimyotis subflavus* Proposed Endangered

You may complete any other applicable determination keys and/or coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may cause prohibited take of the other animal species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that if a new species is listed that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete, additional review is recommended to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

The Service recommends that your agency contact the Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office or re-evaluate this key in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the proposed project changes, 2) new information reveals the action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat; 4) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional consultation with the Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office should take place before project changes are final or resources committed.

Additional Coordination

To request additional technical assistance or consultation, please email your request to MississippiESFO@fws.gov and include relevant site-specific information. The Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office will respond within 30 days of your submittal.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act: Bald eagles, golden eagles, and their nests are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (54 Stat. 250, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668a-d) (Eagle Act). The following resources are provided to project proponents and consulting agencies as additional information. Bald and golden eagles are not included in this section 7(a)(2) consultation and this information does not constitute a determination of effects by the Service.

If the Action may impact bald or golden eagles, additional coordination with the Service under the Eagle Act may be required. For more information on eagles and conducting activities in the vicinity of an eagle nest, please visit our [regional eagle website](#). In addition, the Service developed the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines \(May 2007\)](#) to assist landowners in avoiding the disturbance of bald eagles.

If the recommendations detailed in the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines cannot be followed, you may apply for a permit to authorize removal or relocation of an eagle nest in certain instances via [Eagle Incidental Take Permit](#).

Action Description

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

1. Name

Alias & Alligator Land Exchange

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Alias & Alligator Land Exchange':

US Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District (MVK), is proposing the exchange of 124 acres of current Upper Yazoo Project mitigation lands for 368 acres--214 acres of which is active agricultural fields and the remainder is approx. 20 yr forest. The current mitigation land is located north of Alligator, MS in Coahoma County forming part of a larger mitigation site.

The parcel proposed for acquisition is located in Warren County, MS just north of Redwood, MS. It is on banks of the Yazoo River providing improved hydrological connectivity and ecological functions when compared with the current site. It is proposed that the approx. 153 acres of trees would be preserved in its current forested state while the 214 acres would be used for disposal and borrow as outlined in the 2024 Yazoo Backwater Area Water Management Project EIS. Post-construction a mitigation plan would be developed to maximize ecological output from the site and the site would be planted. Land not needed for borrow or disposal may be planted sooner for mitigation credit.

Preliminary AAFCU calculations estimate the net gain in mitigation credits over the life of the project if this project is completed.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@32.517191800000006,-90.79770972887732,14z>



DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

1. Is the proposed project or action authorized, funded, or carried out by a Federal agency?

Yes

2. Choose the agency or affiliation you represent in this consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

C. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

3. Is the proposed action solely disbursement of Federal funds to salary?

No

4. Is the proposed action solely of operations and maintenance of an existing structure with no temporary or permanent change in habitat conditions (e.g., does not increase sediment in a stream) and no increase in footprint?

No

5. Does the proposed project include only actions that will be conducted in urbanized areas?

No

6. Have you made an effects determination of "no effect" for all species in the area of the project? A "no effect" determination means the project will have no beneficial effect, no short-term adverse effects, and no long-term adverse effects on any of the species on the IPaC-generated species list for the proposed project or those species habitat. A project with effects that cannot be meaningfully measured, detected or evaluated, effects that are extremely unlikely to occur, or entirely beneficial effects should not have a "no effect" determination. If you are unsure of the "no effect" determination, answer NO to this question.

Note: The action agency assumes all consultation responsibility for "no effect" determinations as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not review, comment, or concur with "no effect" determinations through the interagency consultation process.

No

7. Is the project a solar farm or solar energy facility?

Note: The Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office has developed a siting tool for solar projects that can be accessed on the project mapper page in IPaC.

No

8. Does the project intersect federal lands?

Yes

9. Will the action area include suitable pondberry habitat (i.e. seasonally flooded [bottomland hardwood](#) stand or forested hardwood-dominated wetland depression; with a closed canopy and minimal shrub layer)?

Yes

10. Will the project remove or alter hardwood forests with a closed canopy?

No

11. Will the project include herbicide application?

No

12. Will the project alter the hydrology, water flow, flooding, or ponding of water on the site?

No

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers
Name: Mark Wimmer
Address: 4155 Clay St, Vicksburg, MS 39183
City: Vicksburg
State: MS
Zip: 39183
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United States Department of the Interior

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



In Reply Refer To:

05/18/2026 19:32:53 UTC

Project code: 2026-0091351

Project Name: Alias & Alligator Land Exchange

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

Subject: Record of project representative's no effect determination for 'Alias & Alligator Land Exchange'

Dear Mark Wimmer:

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 May 18, 2026, for 'Alias & Alligator Land Exchange' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2026-0091351 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter.**

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. *Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid.*

Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and/or Tricolored Bat

Based upon your IPaC submission and a standing analysis, your project has reached the following effect determinations:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
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Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*)Proposed
Endangered

No effect

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.

To make a no effect determination, the full scope of the proposed project implementation (action) should not have any effects (either positive or negative), to a federally listed species or designated critical habitat. Effects of the action are all consequences to listed species or critical habitat that are caused by the proposed action, including the consequences of other activities that are caused by the proposed action. A consequence is caused by the proposed action if it would not occur but for the proposed action and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the action. (See § 402.17).

Under Section 7 of the ESA, if a federal action agency makes a no effect determination, no consultation with the Service is required (ESA §7). If a proposed Federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, formal consultation is required except when the Service concurs, in writing, that a proposed action "is not likely to adversely affect" listed species or designated critical habitat [50 CFR §402.02, 50 CFR§402.13].

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:

- Alligator Snapping Turtle *Macrochelys temminckii* Proposed Threatened
- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened
- Pondberry *Lindera melissifolia* Endangered

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the animal species listed above and, if so, how they may be affected.

Next Steps

If there are no updates on listed species, no further consultation/coordination for this project is required with respect to the species covered by this key. However, the Service recommends that project proponents re-evaluate the Project in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location

of the Project changes (includes any project changes or amendments); 2) new information reveals the Project may impact (positively or negatively) federally listed species or designated critical habitat; or 3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional coordination with the Service should take place to ensure compliance with the Act.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2026-0091351 associated with this Project.

Action Description

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

1. Name

Alias & Alligator Land Exchange

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Alias & Alligator Land Exchange':

US Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District (MVK), is proposing the exchange of 124 acres of current Upper Yazoo Project mitigation lands for 368 acres--214 acres of which is active agricultural fields and the remainder is approx. 20 yr forest. The current mitigation land is located north of Alligator, MS in Coahoma County forming part of a larger mitigation site.

The parcel proposed for acquisition is located in Warren County, MS just north of Redwood, MS. It is on banks of the Yazoo River providing improved hydrological connectivity and ecological functions when compared with the current site. It is proposed that the approx. 153 acres of trees would be preserved in its current forested state while the 214 acres would be used for disposal and borrow as outlined in the 2024 Yazoo Backwater Area Water Management Project EIS. Post-construction a mitigation plan would be developed to maximize ecological output from the site and the site would be planted. Land not needed for borrow or disposal may be planted sooner for mitigation credit.

Preliminary AAFCU calculations estimate the net gain in mitigation credits over the life of the project if this project is completed.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@32.517191800000006,-90.79770972887732,14z>



DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the information you provided, you have determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on the species covered by this determination key. Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is required for those species.

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

No

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

Automatically answered

Yes

4. Your project overlaps with an area where northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present and roosting in trees year-round.

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

Yes

5. 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.

No

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

Note for projects in Pennsylvania: Projects requiring authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act would be considered as having a federal nexus. Since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has issued the Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit (PASPGP), which may be verified by the PA Department of Environmental Protection or certain Conservation Districts, the need to receive a Corps authorization to perform the work under the PASPGP serves as a federal nexus. As such, if proposing to use the PASPGP, you would answer 'yes' to this question.

Yes

7. 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

8. 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

9. 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

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

No

11. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum or winter roost? 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

12. 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

13. 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

14. Is the action located in New England (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, or VT)?

No

15. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

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

No

16. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

No

17. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area? **Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in the USFWS' [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Yes

18. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or building-like structure? **Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

No

19. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made building-like structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats?**

No

20. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

21. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average night-time traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads? **Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

22. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

23. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

Note: For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

No

24. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

No

25. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

No

26. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use at night)?

No

27. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

No

28. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season? Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining. **Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in the USFWS' [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines](#).

No

29. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable forested northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat? **Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in the USFWS' [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines](#).

No

30. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

No

31. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

Note: If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

No

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

Automatically answered

Yes

33. Is the action area located within 0.5-mile of radius of an entrance/opening to any known tricolored bat hibernacula or winter roost?

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

34. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats? **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

35. Your project overlaps with an area where tricolored bats may be present and roosting in trees year-round.

Has a presence/probable absence survey for the tricolored bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area? If unsure, answer "No."

No

36. Your project overlaps with an area where tricolored bats may be present and roosting in trees year-round. Is suitable tricolored bat habitat present within 1000 feet of project activities? Note: If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer "Yes." Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in the USFWS' [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Yes

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

No

PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers
Name: Mark Wimmer
Address: 4155 Clay St, Vicksburg, MS 39183
City: Vicksburg
State: MS
Zip: 39183
Email: mark.d.wimmer@usace.army.mil
Phone: 6016342091



Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

Sam Polles, Ph.D.
Executive Director

June 08, 2026

US Army Corps of Engineers
4155 Clay St
Vicksburg, MS 39183

Re: Alias & Alligator
Land Exchange
Coahoma County,
MS

Project #
Internal Id 37857

To David Wimmer:

In response to your request for information dated **May 19, 2026**, we have searched our database for occurrences of state or federally listed species and species of special concern that occur within 2 miles of the site of the proposed project. Please find our concerns and recommendations below.

The following species of concern may occur within 2 miles of the proposed project area:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	State Rank
<i>Atractosteus spatula</i>	Alligator Gar			S2
<i>Clematis catesbyana</i>	Satin-curly			S3S4
<i>Deirochelys reticularia miaria</i>	Western Chicken Turtle		C	S1
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little Blue Heron			S2B,S2N
<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Tricolored Heron			S2
<i>Eleocharis erythropoda</i>	Bald Spikerush			S1
<i>Etheostoma asprigene</i>	Mud Darter			S3
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Butternut			S2

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	State Rank
Lampropeltis triangulum	Red Milk Snake			S3
Macrochelys temminckii	Alligator Snapping Turtle	C		S3
Panax quinquefolius	American Ginseng			S3
Schisandra glabra	Bay Starvine			S3
Ursus americanus luteolus	Louisiana Black Bear		LE	S2

State Rank

S1 - Critically imperiled in Mississippi because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extirpation.

S2 - Imperiled in Mississippi because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extirpation.

S3 - Rare or uncommon in Mississippi (on the order of 21 to 100 occurrences).

State and Federal Status

LE Endangered - A species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

LT Threatened - A species likely to become endangered in foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Recommendations:

As listed above, there are 13 species of concern in our database within a 2-mile radius of the proposed 'Alias & Alligator Land Exchange' project set to take place in Warren County, MS (32.5180553, -90.7993676), as described in your request. It should be noted that the species list above is only for the parcel proposed for acquisition in Warren County, MS. Of the species listed above, the Louisiana Black Bear is listed as state endangered. The Western Chicken Turtle is currently under review for state listing, and the Alligator Snapping Turtle is currently under review for federal listing. It has been noted that the proposed parcel will occur adjacent to the Yazoo River. Many of the state's species are on the decline because of degradation or destruction of essential habitat needed to support them. Our main concern for this project is the possibility of sediment deposition, turbidity, exhaust runoff from roads, increased herbicide and pesticide load, and other unintentional introduction of pollutants being introduced to surrounding properties and nearby waterbodies, such as the Yazoo River, as well as the potential for construction-related destabilization of the stream channel. Activities that modify the landscape can be detrimental because they can adversely affect water quality by increasing herbicide and pesticide load, silt load, exhaust runoff from roads, and other unintentional pollutants. These factors may negatively impact habitat conditions by detrimentally affecting respiration, feeding, and reproduction of amphibians, bats, birds, crayfishes, fishes, insects, mussels, turtles, and vegetation. Furthermore, maintenance of natural floodplain vegetation and hydrology are important factors contributing to the survival of these species. Efforts should be made to preserve Louisiana Black Bear habitat, especially bottomland hardwoods along major river systems. Bears benefit from forest management practices that promote diverse, productive habitats that contain blackberries, hardwoods, and other food plants; shrubs and fallen logs for escape cover; and brush piles and large trees that can serve as den sites. Forest management activities should include leaving some large, old-growth timber as denning sites for females. Construction/Development projects that are proposed to cross known black bear habitats should take care not to negatively impact denning trees, specifically cypress and tupelo trees that are ≥ 36 inches DBH, large trees that are compromised or show signs of cavities, and that occur near sloughs or other waterways. They will use their den site from December to May. Alligator Snapping Turtles use woody debris to hide under in waterbodies of all sizes. Because they mature slowly, have a low reproduction rate, egg predation, habitat alteration, and intentional and unintentional harvest, their population recovery has been much slower than anticipated. Should any impacts to the stream or wetlands occur as a result of the proposed project, we ask that serious consideration be given to the cumulative impacts of stream and wetland disturbance and elimination, and that appropriate, in-kind mitigation be provided.

Please feel free to contact us if we can provide any additional information, resources, or assistance that will help minimize negative impacts to the species and/or ecological communities identified in this review. We are happy to work with you to ensure that our state's precious natural heritage is conserved and preserved for future Mississippians.

Completed by Marinee Humphries

The Mississippi Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) has compiled a database that is the most complete source of information about Mississippi's rare, threatened, and endangered plants, animals, and ecological communities. The quantity and quality of data collected by MNHP are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations. In many cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; most natural areas in Mississippi have not been thoroughly surveyed and new occurrences of plant and animal species are often discovered. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known to the MNHP at the time of the request and cannot always be considered a definitive statement on the presence, absence or condition of biological elements on a particular site.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources within the area of potential effect (APE), here defined as the entirety of the Alligator Tract, were identified based on a review of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), Mississippi Department of Archives and History's (MDAH, hereafter referred to as MS SHPO) Historical Site Management Tool (HSMT), historic aerial photography, historic map research, and a review of cultural resources survey reports. This review revealed no previously recorded cultural resources (archaeological or above-ground), nor previously conducted cultural resources surveys within the proposed APE. According to site data on file with MDAH, three archaeological sites are located immediately south of and adjacent to the project area's southern boundary. No above-ground resources were identified within the 1.6-km (1-mile) search radius; a cluster of circa 1900-1940 structures are located approximately 2.0-2.4 km (1.25-1.50 miles) northeast of the search radius. Additionally, only one cultural resources survey was identified within the same search radius (MDAH Report No. 04-106). It was conducted on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the proposed corridor for I-69 across the Mississippi Delta.

All three sites possess evidence of Middle-to-Late Woodland through Mississippian prehistoric periods () as well as late 19th-early-20th-century house scatters. One of these resources also contained evidence of human remains and, as such, was recommended eligible for listing to the NRHP. The NRHP status of the other two archaeological sites is undetermined/unknown. Together, this information suggests that the potential for both pre- and post-contact period archaeological resources is moderate-to-high. No above-ground resources were identified within the 1.6-km (1-mile) search radius; a cluster of circa 1915-1935 structures do appear across and immediately south of the tract according to early 20th-century maps, while a small number of early 20th-century residential structures have been inventoried approximately 2.0-2.4 km (1.25-1.50 miles) northeast of the search radius.

Consultation: USACE has determined that the proposed action constitutes an Undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y). As such, USACE conducted cultural resources investigations of the APE between March and April 2026. Cultural investigative resulted in the identification of one archaeological resource (Site 22Co1024) and one Isolated Find (IF 1). Site 22Co1024 represents a mid-to-late late 19th through 20th century archaeological site, largely identified through the recovery of brick fragments (n=46 [233.0 grams]) and a small number of domestic items (glass [n=2] and coarse earthenware [n=1]). Reviews of early-to-mid 20th-century (circa 1935) USGS maps indicate the presence of two structures nearby, approximately 35 and 120 meters (115 and 394 ft.) to the east/southeast of the site.

By the 1967 7.5-minute quad of this area, neither structure appears to be extant. Post-occupational agricultural activities likely account for the fragmentary and widely dispersed distribution of this historic site, strongly suggesting that the identified material has been redeposited. Given this and the lack of subsurface deposits, Site 22Co1024 is not considered ineligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A-D. Isolated Find 1 is, by definition, not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A–D. Additionally, reconnaissance efforts failed to identify any above-ground resources associated with this proposed project area.

The project, as proposed, poses no impact on historic properties. No further work is recommended. Based upon this information, USACE recommends a **No Historic Properties Affected** determination for the undertaking and no further cultural investigations are recommended. The possibility of inadvertent discoveries always remains. CEMVK remains committed to monitoring and responding to possible inadvertent discoveries of cultural deposits throughout the project areas. If such inadvertent discovery is made during the project, the resource will be evaluated, assessed for effects, and mitigated in accordance with Federal statutes and regulations (36 CFR 800.11(b)(2) and 35 CFR Part 800.6). As a result of these investigations, no further archaeological work is recommended within the APE.

This determination was communicated to the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office (MS SHPO), and 15 Tribal governments including: Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Caddo Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Quapaw Nation, and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana on June 1, 2026 in compliance with 36 CFR 800.

Attn: CEMVK-RE (White)

SUBJECT: Alligator Mitigation Property, Coahoma County, Mississippi, Request for HTRW Assessment

1. Reference 3 February 2026 Memorandum from Mr. Patrick White requesting subject environmental assessment for a potential USACE mitigation property located near Clarksdale, MS.
2. A review of the EPA's EnviroMapper Query System and UST Finder was conducted on 10 February 2026 to look for records of any previous hazardous activity or underground storage tanks that may present an HTRW concern. No archives of HTRW were listed in the databases from this records review.
3. A site reconnaissance was conducted on 15 January 2026 by Ryan Horton and John Hogue. This was conducted on foot and by off road vehicle within the right of way area. No HTRW artifacts were observed within the property during the site visit.
4. It is determined that there is little reason to believe that HTRW will be encountered on the subject property.
5. Please address any questions regarding this assessment to Ryan Horton at 601-862-9820.

Cory Winders, P.E.
Chief, Hydraulics Branch