



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/IR2&4/ NWRS/Plan/074912

June 2, 2021

PD-Louisiana
Bayou Sauvage NWR
Approvals-Compliance

Jeffrey W. Roesel, Executive Director
Regional Planning Commission
10 Veterans Memorial Blvd
New Orleans, Louisiana 70124

Dear Mr. Roesel:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is pleased to provide you with an advance copy of the Draft Decision Report and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Minor Acquisition Boundary Modification of Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) for your review and comment. The Service is proposing to modify the refuge's Approved Acquisition Boundary (AAB) by removing 900 acres from the current AAB and adding 2,220 acres. The purpose of this project is to remove land that is no longer available and/or compatible with the mission and goals of the refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System and add land that contains valuable habitat suitable for threatened, endangered, and other priority species. The Minor Boundary Modification (MBM) would also enable the refuge to expand its public use program and acquire land that is critical to flood mitigation on refuge lands and neighboring private lands.

The proposal and EA were developed by the Service responding to changing environmental conditions and land acquisition opportunities. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Native American Policy, Secretarial Order 3206 (American Indian Tribal Rights, Federal-Trust Responsibilities, and the Endangered Species Act), and Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments), we are seeking your comments and input on the Draft LPP/EA.

Copies of the Draft Decision Report and EA will be distributed to the public in the near future, and the comment period will extend for 30 days. All comments and concerns received regarding the proposed boundary modification will be addressed while preparing the final decision document. The Service believes that the preferred alternative is a positive step in implementing strategic habitat conservation for the protection of the assemblage of wildlife habitats representative of coastal Louisiana while providing for increased public access for nearby communities and visitors.

Mr. Roesel

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We ask for your review and comments on the proposal within 30 days of receipt of this request. Please send your comments and direct your questions to Neil LaLonde, Project Leader, Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, neil_lalonde@fws.gov or call 843-527-8069. All comments become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, Service, and Department of Interior policies and procedures.

Sincerely,



Leopoldo Miranda-Castro
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc:

Neil LaLonde, Project Leader, Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Richard Kanaski, Regional Historic Preservation Officer, National Wildlife Refuge System

Timothy Binzen, Tribal Coordinator, National Wildlife Refuge System