



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

SEP 18 2013

Ms. Cynthia K. Dohner
Authorized Official
United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Dear Ms. Dohner:

Cindy

Thank you for your letter of August 22, 2013, inviting the U.S. Department of Agriculture to participate as a cooperating agency in the Department of Interior's preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for early restoration (Early Restoration PEIS) related to the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill. We understand that as a cooperating agency we would engage in the following activities:

1. Participate in the development of the Early Restoration PEIS.
2. Provide special expertise on environmental issues associated with early restoration and the DWH oil spill.
3. Provide special expertise on environmental issues that fall under a cooperating agency's jurisdictional responsibilities.
4. Review preliminary documents and provide comments to the lead agency in accordance with specified timelines.
5. Provide the lead agency with timely identification of significant issues, the range of potential Early Restoration PEIS alternatives, and mitigation measures for the lead agency to consider for inclusion in the Early Restoration PEIS based on each cooperating agency's special expertise on environmental issues and jurisdiction by law.

We accept your invitation and designate Ms. Michele Laur, as the primary point of contact. Ms. Laur can be reached by telephone at 202-579-0585 or by email at michele.laur@wdc.usda.gov
We look forward to working with the Department of Interior on this project.

Sincerely,

Ann C. Mills
Deputy Under Secretary for
Natural Resources & Environment

Cc:

The Honorable Robert Bonnie, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment
Jason A. Weller, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Dr. Homer Wilkes, USDA/NRCS, Director Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Restoration Team
Ms. Michele Laur, USDA/NRCS, Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Restoration Team