



IN REPLY REFER TO.

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
110 S. Amity Road, Suite 300
Conway, Arkansas 72032
Tel.: 501/513-4470 Fax: 501/513-4480

Chris	
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September 5, 2014

Bryan Dalton
RiverBank Savings and Loan
P.O. Box 397
Pocahontas, AR 72455

Dear Mr. Dalton:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received a request for concurrence from RiverBank Savings and Loan on September 3, 2014 regarding the construction of four poultry houses for S & B Family Farms near the City of Pocahontas, Randolph County, Arkansas. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA; 16 U.S.C. 661-667e) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The Service concurs with your determination that the proposed construction of poultry houses may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Pink Mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*), Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*), Scaleshell (*Leptodea leptodon*), Rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*), Ozark Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi*), and proposed endangered Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*).

Please be aware Bald Eagle is not protected under the ESA. Bald Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.). The Service concurs the proposed project will not affect Bald Eagle.

We appreciate your interest in the conservation of endangered species. If you have any questions, please contact the Arkansas Ecological Services Staff at (501) 513-4487.

Sincerely,


Jim Boggs
Project Leader

Concerns

1. 2 ac of brush removed.

Is Brush = trees? According to map + Google Earth, it looks like the pads will overlap trees. Concern for NLEB + Indiana Bat.

2. The GPS coordinate is 124' from Straight Branch, which is a trib of the Spring. Pink mucket is ~6 miles down stream of site. Straight Br is an intermittent stream.

I assume the slope < 15%, so 100' would be adequate, but the FSA letter says that the proj will disturb ~4 ac. Could part of the proj site be w/in 100' of Straight Br? The letter says there are no creeks + streams w/in 150 yd (450'). I question this. Are they considering Straight Br.?

