



United States Department of the Interior



Fish and Wildlife Service
RG Stephens, Jr. Federal Building
355 East Hancock Avenue, Room 320
Athens, Georgia 30601

West Georgia Sub Office
P.O. Box 52560
Ft. Benning, Georgia 31995-2560

Coastal Sub Office
4980 Wildlife Drive
Townsend, Georgia 31331

August 2, 2018

Steven V. Metivier
Acting Chief, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District
1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200
Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter (date May 29th, 2018) in reference to the continued effort and coordination in developing the documents entitled Effects Determination Guidance for Endangered and Threatened Species (EDGES). We and our region remain committed to develop streamlined processes to address the various regulatory workloads associated with your agency, our agency, and other agencies. In particular, our goal is to reduce the workload associated with otherwise “uneventful” ESA consultations (eg. “no effect” determinations), and the 12 EDGES documents are a great first step in achieving this goal.

With this in mind, we fully concur with your proposal to apply the EDGES documents for the next year; and, in coordination with COE, we will continue to evaluate the progress and identify needed improvements in application of the EDGES documents. Our office, and our region, remains committed to effective conservation and regulatory compliance as well as minimizing the associated work by agencies and applicants. Thank you for your commitment to this endeavor, we look forward to our continued progress in the development and advancement of EDGES.

Sincerely,

Donald W. Imm, PhD.
Field Supervisor, Georgia