UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

FEB 6 2014

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE: Environmental Assessment (EA) for William Brooks Park Boardwalk Extension and Bird Observation Tower

LOCATION: Chickasaw, Alabama

SUMMARY: Under Section 306A of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management proposes to provide financial assistance to the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program, to construct improvements at William Brooks Park, in the City of Chickasaw, Alabama. The funds would enable construction of a two-level, roofed bird observation tower above Chickasaw Creek, a few feet from adjacent wetlands, and a 450-foot extension of the current boardwalk system that would connect it to the observation tower. NOAA's evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed action indicates that it would have minimal adverse environmental impacts in the short term and a number of minor beneficial impacts in the long term. Neither the construction nor the operation of the improvements would have significant adverse impacts on resources in their vicinity. Over the long-term, there would be beneficial impacts to the environment, accessibility, and the recreational opportunities available to visitors.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Margaret A. Davidson
Acting Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
1305 East-West Hwy, N/ORM
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 713-3155

The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. A copy of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) including the supporting EA is enclosed for your information.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed EA/FONSI, we will consider any comments submitted that would assist us in preparing future NEPA documents. Please submit any written comments to the responsible official named above.

Sincerely,

for Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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