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*The mission of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division is to manage, protect, conserve, and enhance the wildlife and aquatic resources of Alabama for the sustainable benefit of the people of Alabama.*

FRED R. HARDERS  
 ASST. DIRECTOR

October 1, 2008

Kimberly Bose, Secretary  
 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
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 Ericha Nix, Wildlife Biologist  
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MARTIN DAM PROJECT (P-349-150)

Dear Ms. Bose,

With reference to the Scoping Document the following are comments from Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources regarding the Martin Project P-349-150. Eight packages of supporting documentation are included with a bibliography contained at the end of this correspondence. I have also referenced websites with further information pertaining to the project. I was unable to retrieve original copies of most research documents as this is what I had access to.

Comments are as followed:

**MIG 1: Study Plan 7 - Wildlife Study Plan for APCo Project Lands**

- Develop a viable Wildlife Management Plan for Project lands to include the conservation, restoration and / or management of Longleaf Pine Ecosystems that will provide habitat diversity among project lands native vegetation and wildlife.
- A generic narrative management plan is not acceptable or realistic for accomplishing desirable wildlife management objectives on the project site.
- Plan should incorporate proper silvicultural prescriptions and timelines for implementing and accomplishing sound wildlife management objectives on-the-ground for individual forest stands.
- Management strategies should be developed to enhance the wildlife resources, protect priority 1 and 2, rare, threatened, or endangered (PRTE) species and offset potential impacts associated with development around the project.

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- The Wildlife Management plan for the project will contain the following structure at a minimum.
- Introduction
  - Purpose of the Plan
  - Wildlife Management Objectives
  - Waterfowl Management Actions (if applicable)
  - RTE Management Actions (red-cockaded woodpecker, bald eagle, etc.)
  - Priority 1 and 2 species management (refer to Alabama's Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy)
  - Habitat and timber management and the use of proper silvicultural systems for individual forest stands including prescribed burning, herbicides, controlling non-native invasive plant species, thinning, etc. If prescribed burning is not an option a clear alternative should be stated such as the use of herbicides.
  - Adjacent Lands – Management Agreements (if applicable)
  - Wildlife Openings
  - Handicapped Hunting Areas (if applicable)
  - Plan will contain management implementation timeline schedules and provisions to monitor and measure on-the-ground management productivity
  - Developed Best Management Practices (BMPs) to afford adequate protection to the watershed with implementation of silvicultural practices.

**MIG 4: Study Plan 13 – Shoreline Management Plan**

Determine protective measures needed to lessen negative impacts to terrestrial, herptefauna and aquatic wildlife species associated with the riparian and shoreline areas of the project when development is permitted. This would include the establishment of a minimum natural buffer zone for the project site and development of BMPs with penalty provisions that mandate proper implementation. If adequate protective measures can not be reached by participating parties, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Alabama Power Company and others, then an onsite study should be conducted to determine the best course of action.


**MIG 5: Study Plan 14 – Recreation Plan**


Provide public access to Lake Martin through APCo properties for fishing, camping, and other recreational opportunities.

Increase Public hunting opportunities. The Alabama Power Company at one time provided public access to its properties associated with the project for hunting at no cost.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

  
Rick Claybrook  
Supervising Wildlife Biologist

  
Ericha Nix  
Wildlife Biologist

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*Managing the Forest and the Trees: A private landowners guide to conservation management of longleaf pine.* By: The Nature Conservancy, The Longleaf Alliance and Southern Group of State Foresters.

3<sup>rd</sup> Montane Longleaf Conference. March 11-12, 2008. School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University.

Websites:

Recreation Plan-

<http://www.outdooralabama.com/about/SMART/Wildlife%20and%20Freshwater%20Fisheries-Capital%20Outlay%20SMART%20Plan%20FY07.pdf>

Non-game books-

<http://www.outdooralabama.com/watchable-wildlife/WLBooks.cfm>

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy-

<http://www.outdooralabama.com/research-mgmt/State%20Wildlife%20Grants/>

*Natural Resource Conservation Service Planning and Design Manual*, NRCS Buffer zone chapter-

<http://www.abe.msstate.edu/csd/NRCS-BMPs/pdf/streams/bank/riparianzone.pdf>

Longleaf Pine Growth and Yield

Longleaf Pine Growth and Yield Literature

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