



# 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

**July 25, 2018**

Coastal Sub Office  
4980 Wildlife Drive  
Townsend, Georgia 31331

Kirk W. Ticknor, Chief  
Department of the Army  
Installation Management Agency  
5751 Constitution Loop, Suite 500  
Fort Benning Army Installation  
Fort Benning, GA 31905

RE: FWS Log # 04EG1000-2018-I-2499

Dear Mr. Ticknor:

The Service has received and reviewed the Habitat Impact Assessment Report for the Oscar Range Complex, as required under the Terms and Conditions of the Fort Benning 2007 Transformation/Base Realignment and Closure and 2009 Maneuver Center of Excellence Biological Opinions. The Service provides the following comments in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) relative to the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (*Leuconotopicus borealis*).

After reviewing the Habitat Impact Assessment Plan, the Service acknowledges the fulfillment of the Term and Condition as required under the Fort Benning 2007 Transformation/Base Realignment and Closure and 2009 Maneuver Center of Excellence Biological Opinions, in relation to the Oscar Range Complex small munition berm analysis. We understand all future monitoring will follow the protocol as implemented on all red-cockaded woodpecker habitat and/or clusters on Fort Benning.

If you have any questions, comments or require additional information regarding this letter, please contact John Doresky at (706) 544-6030.

Sincerely,



Per: Donald Imm  
Field Supervisor



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND**  
**ATLANTIC REGION**  
**HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON**  
**1 KARKER STREET, MCGINNIS-WICKAM HALL**  
**FORT BENNING, GEORGIA 31905-5000**

25 July, 2018

Natural Resources Management Branch

Dr. Donald Imm  
Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
West Park Center  
105 West Park Drive, Suite D  
Athens, GA 30605

Dear Dr. Imm:

The Fort Benning 2007 Transformation/Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and 2009 Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) Biological Opinions each specified as a term and condition, for the preparation of a red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) Habitat Impact Assessment Plan (Bermed vs. non-Bermed). Completed in July 2009, this plan addressed procedures designed to assess and monitor the potential impacts to down-range RCW clusters and habitat resulting from small arms munitions training in the newly constructed Oscar Range Complex (ORC). The monitoring specifically assessed the accuracy of the line of sight analyses that were used as the basis for estimating limits of munitions damage to down-range habitat (beaten areas), as well as the effectiveness of full and partial earthen toe berms that were strategically located and constructed on some ranges to protect down-range, active RCW groups and their habitat.

The enclosed Final Report on the Habitat Impact Assessment Plan summarizes over five years of down-range monitoring that was conducted in the ORC and serves as the basis for validating the minimization efforts and evaluations that have been completed.

Fort Benning requests your review and acceptance of this Final Report as fulfillment of the terms and conditions for this action in the above referenced Biological Opinions. The point of contact is Mr. Tim Marston at 706-544-7069 or [timothy.g.marston.civ@mail.mil](mailto:timothy.g.marston.civ@mail.mil). A copy of this letter has been provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - West Georgia Field Office.

Sincerely,

PARKER.JAMES.MAS  
ONJR.1266217087

Digitally signed by  
PARKER.JAMES.MASON.JR.12662  
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Date: 2018.07.25 07:51:40 -04'00'

James M. Parker  
Chief, Natural Resources Management  
Branch

Enclosure