



I-49 South Implementation Proposal

APPENDIX A

FEIS Wax Lake Outlet to Berwick (Section 3) Section 4.11.3 Mitigation Measures, Threatened and Endangered Species



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4.11.3 Mitigation Measures, Threatened and Endangered Species

Should the proposed project encroach within 3,000 feet of any active bald eagle nest during the nesting season, further consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) would be necessary.

To mitigate impacts to the Louisiana black bear, the following was determined by the Biological Opinion.

The non-discretionary Terms and Conditions direct FHWA to do the following:

1. Install at least six bear crossing signs (three in each direction) on the facility immediately following the completion of construction.
2. Exhibit a graphic display advising and educating motorists of the presence of Louisiana Black Bears and the potential for collision for at least one month (November) each year for at least the first five years following the completion of the facility.
3. Consider, in consultation with USFWS, during the design phase of the project, the installation of fences and reducing posted speed limits for at-grade portions of the facility.
4. Contact the USFWS Lafayette Field Office at least once per year following the completion of the facility to obtain information about bear mortality rates due to collisions. This bear mortality monitoring will occur for at least nineteen years after the completion of the project.
5. Consult USFWS to evaluate habitat restoration efforts and determine the need and potential for additional bear conservation measures before initiating the design phase of the project.

The discretionary Conservation Recommendations propose that FHWA and LDOTD consider the following in consultation with USFWS:

1. The installation of large mammal/bear crossings where there is the probability of the persistence of suitable bear habitat and landowner and public acceptance.
2. If crossings are installed, fences directing bear movements to the crossings should be installed.
3. Replace suitable bear habitat lost by direct project impact at a ratio of restored to lost acreage of not less than 1 to 1.

In addition to following the direction of these Terms and Conditions, FHWA and LDOTD will consider the Conservation Recommendations and will undertake public involvement during the design phase regarding bear crossings

4.12 Geology, Topography, and Soils

4.12.1 No-build Alternate; Geology, Topography, and Soils

The no-build alternate would involve no property takings. No impacts to Prime Farmlands would occur. The no-build alternate would involve no disturbance of existing soils, underlying geologic features, or the topographic character of the project area.



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