BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY

JIMMY L. ANTHONY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

September 13, 2013

Mr. Martin S. Mayer, Chief
Regulatory Branch
New Orleans District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

RE: Banking Instrument – Ponderosa Ranch of Pointe Coupee Mitigation Bank

Dear Mr. Mayer:

The professional staff of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has reviewed the final Mitigation Banking Instrument (MBI) for Ponderosa Ranch of Pointe Coupee Mitigation Bank. The sponsor proposes to re-establish, rehabilitate and enhance approximately 324 acres of bottomland hardwood forest in Pointe Coupee Parish.

Based upon the review of the MBI, a site inspection and after coordinating with the natural resource agencies of the Interagency Review Team, LDWF has concluded that it will support use of the proposed mitigation bank as compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands.

Additionally, the proposed mitigation bank will also provide valuable habitat for the federally listed Louisiana black bear. The restoration of forested wetlands in Pointe Coupee Parish will assist in the overall recovery and long-term success of this species.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries submits this recommendation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.). Please do not hesitate to contact Kyle Balkum at 225-765-2819 should you need further assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Barham
Secretary

kb

cc: EPA, Dallas, TX
USFWS, Lafayette, LA