



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
North Florida Ecological Services
7915 BAYMEADOWS WAY, SUITE 200
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32256-7517



FWS Log No. 04EF1000-2020-F-0507

March 6, 2020

John P. Fellows
Team Leader, Mining Team
Tampa Permits Section
Department of Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
10117 Princess Palm Avenue, Suite 120
Tampa, Florida 33610

Dear Mr. Fellows:

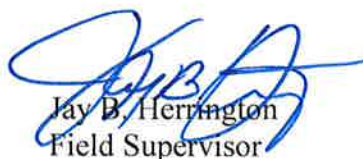
This letter acknowledges that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is in receipt of your January 30, 2020 letter requesting initiation of formal section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, for the proposed Trail Ridge Mine, located in Clay County, Florida. The Service concurs with your determination of May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect for eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*) and Not Likely to Affect for the Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) and red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*).

All information required to initiate consultation was either included with your letter or is otherwise accessible for our consideration and reference. We have assigned log number 04EF1000-2020-F-0507 to this consultation. Please refer to that number in future correspondence on this consultation.

Section 7 allows the Service up to 90 calendar days to conclude formal consultation with your agency and an additional 45 calendar days to prepare our biological opinion (unless we mutually agree to an extension). Therefore, we expect to provide you with our biological opinion no later than June 19, 2020.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Zakia Williams (zakia_williams@fws.gov) of my staff at the address on the letterhead, or by calling (904) 731-3119.

Sincerely,


Jay B. Herrington
Field Supervisor