

# E1-1581  
DAW



## United States Department of the Interior

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**  
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200  
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

June 30, 2005

Mr. William Mullins  
Baker & Miller PLLC  
2401 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20037

Re: Railroad Abandonment; Travelers Rest  
STB Docket No. AB-490 (Sub-No. 1X)  
Greenville County, South Carolina  
FWS Log No: 4-6-05-T-438

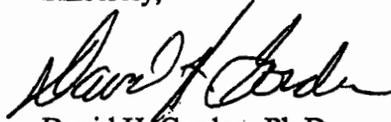
Dear Mr. Mullins:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed your May 27, 2005, letter requesting review of the above-referenced project. The proposed project would involve abandonment of approximately 11.8 miles of rail line and discontinued service over 3.29 miles of line. The proposed project is to take place in Travelers Rest and East Greenville, Greenville County, South Carolina. The following comments are provided in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543).

Based on our review of the Heritage Trust Database and information provided, the Service has identified listed species in close proximity to the proposed project. Known populations of the endangered bunched arrowhead (*Sagittaria fasciculata*) and threatened dwarf-flowered heartleaf (*Hexastylis naniflora*) occur in wetland and seep habitats near the railroad right-of-way in Travelers Rest, SC. Soil disturbance or changes in hydrology could negatively impact the aforementioned species. Prior to any abandonment activities, we request a survey be conducted to determine presence of listed species. Surveys should be done by qualified personnel and conducted during the appropriate time of day and or year (i.e. flowering time for plants) to ensure confidence in survey results. As the Service is the lead agency for threatened and endangered species, please notify this office with the results of any surveys for listed species and an analysis of the "effects of the action," as defined by 50 CFR 402.02 including consideration of direct, indirect, and cumulative effects.

Your interest in ensuring the protection of endangered species is appreciated. If you have further questions or require additional information, please contact Lora Zimmerman of this office at (843) 727-4707 ext. 226. In future correspondence concerning this project, please reference FWS Log No. 4-6-05-T-438.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David H. Gordon".

David H. Gordon, Ph.D.  
Acting Field Supervisor

DHG/LLZ