RD Instruction 1970 Subpart N Exhibit B Attachment B-2

Informal Consultation and Concurrence Request Template

[Insert Date]

[Insert address of

FWS Ecological Services Field Office or

NMFS Office for State]

Re: USDA RUS [Insert the project name or designation] Project:

Request for Informal Consultation and Concurrence of Not Likely to Adversely Affect Finding

Dear [FWS/NMFS Staff]:

[Insert Name of Applicant] [“is seeking” or “plans to seek”] financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) under its ReCnnect Program for [Insert the project name or designation]. [Include brief description of project]. The proposed project is located in [city, county, state] and involves [describe area of impact, adjacent area, ground disturbance, tree removal, impact to streams, wetlands, equipment involved, etc.]. Construction of this project is anticipated to start on/around [date] and conclude by [date].

Based on [results from FWS’s IPaC planning tool and/or correspondence with the NMFS state office] (attached) obtained on [insert date of IPaC search], the following species and/or habitat may be present in the action area:

[Modify table as needed or reference and attach Special Status Plant and Wildlife Species Table; include all T&E species and habitat, including proposed.]

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Species** | **Critical Habitat** | **Status** | **Notes** | **ESA Determination** |
| Species 1 | None | Threatened | No suitable habitat present. | No effect |
| Species 2 | None | Endangered | Suitable habitat present. Survey conducted on [date]: negative. | May affect, not likely to adversely affect |
| Species 3 | Proposed | Proposed | Design changes to avoid impact. | No adverse modification |

[Add a paragraph explaining conclusions reached above, including any project design considerations, conservation or mitigation measures. If any surveys, habitat evaluations, etc., were conducted to support the finding, briefly describe and attach.]

Based on the above analysis, we conclude that financial assistance for this project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect any listed or proposed species or result in the adverse modification of any designated or proposed critical habitat. With this letter, we request your participation in informal consultation per Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and seek your concurrence with our finding. We respectfully request a response within

30 days.

Should you have any questions, please contact [Insert Applicant or consultant contact name]. You may also contact RUS directly. If you wish to do so, please submit your request to ReConnectEnvironmental@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

[Applicant]

cc: RUS Environmental [via email ReConnectEnvironmental@usda.gov]

Attachments

1. IPaC / NMFS Species List
2. Project Sketch/Map/Site Plan
3. Special Status Plant and Wildlife Species Table
4. Any other pertinent information to support our determination (such as presence/absence surveys, biological assessment, literature reviews, etc.)