Environmental Compliance Readiness

Bucket 2 – Council Selected Restoration Component

PROPOSAL TITLE

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Forest Restoration and Conservation Initiative

LOCATION

Mississippi

SPONSOR(S)

USDA

TYPE OF FUNDING REQUESTED (Planning, Technical Assistance, Implementation):

Planning, Technical Assistance and Implementation

REVIEWED BY:

John Ettinger

DATE:

February11, 2015

If Planning and/or Technical Assistance

1. Does the submission identify environmental laws potentially applicable at the implementation stage:

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) N/A

Comments

A range of environmental laws could apply to the proposed activities, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Coastal Zone Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and more. The Council could consider funding the planning and technical assistance portion of this submission separately from the implementation portion. NEPA and other applicable environmental laws would need to be addressed prior to consideration by the Council of whether or not to fund the implementation portion of this submission. As discussed below, there is existing information and documentation pertaining to compliance with NEPA and other environmental laws for this submission.

If Implementation

1. Status of compliance with environmental laws applicable to a Council decision to include the submission on the Funded Priority List:

Components of this submission may be eligible for NEPA Categorical Exclusions (CEs). Further review would be needed to determine whether there may be extraordinary circumstances which may preclude use of such CEs. There are also NEPA Environmental Assessments for some portions of this submission, and there are programmatic NEPA documents which could also cover portions of the submission. Further Council review of the use of such NEPA documents is warranted. The Council would need to determine whether additional NEPA evaluation may be needed to ensure potential environmental effects are adequately assessed. There has been programmatic consultation regarding compliance with the Endangered Species Act for some components of this submission. The sponsor has also provided information regarding compliance with other applicable laws. Further Council review would be needed to ensure other applicable laws have been addressed. NEPA and other applicable environmental laws would need to be addressed prior to consideration by the Council of whether or not to fund the implementation portion of this submission.