
Subject: STB FD 36652: Green Eagle Railroad EIS and Section 7 Consultation

From: Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 2:38 PM

Subject: Re: [External] STB FD 36652: Green Eagle Railroad EIS and Section 7 Consultation

Here are some minor comments for the Green Eagle RR DEIS below:

Have you decided to go informal or formal? If you decide to go formal for the mussel species, you will have to change those effect determinations in the EIS as well to reflect that choice. For example, 3.11 - You can say, "the Service has met with the applicant in coordination of the BA, and as part of that coordination, the Service has identified the option to pursue a conference opinion on Mexican Fawnsfoot".

On page 3-61 - Fifth paragraph - "With these measures in place, OEA determined that the Southern Rail Alternative may affect, is not likely to adversely affect the Texas hornshell and is not likely to jeopardize the ~~Texas~~ Mexican fawnsfoot. OEA did not find the Texas hornshell or suitable habitat for it during the mussel survey. The ~~Texas~~ Mexican fawnsfoot has been observed in the study area. With USFWS measures in place, potential impacts would not be such as to appreciably reduce the likelihood of the species' survival and recovery. OEA has also determined that the Southern Rail Alternative would not adversely modify the proposed critical habitat for the Texas hornshell and Mexican fawnsfoot because they would not result in a direct or indirect alteration that appreciably diminishes the value of the critical habitat for both the survival and recovery of these proposed species".

We appreciate the continued coordination on this project.

Ernesto Reyes

Fish and Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Texas Coastal and Central Plains Ecological Service

Alamo Sub-Office

3325 Green Jay Rd

Alamo, Texas 78516

O - 956-307-5132

C - 361-533-6057
