



## LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

*The voice of Louisiana's wildlife and natural resources since 1940.*

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The White House  
Office of Management and Budget  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20500  
via: [www.whitehouse.gov/contact](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact)

Dear Mr. President and Ms. Young,

I am writing to ask the White House Office of Management and Budget not to support funding for Alternative "C" in a flood management project on the Pearl River in Jackson, Mississippi described in a 2018 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) now under review by Mike Connor, the Army Secretary for Civil Works: Pearl River Basin Mississippi Federal Flood Risk Management Project, Hinds & Rankin Counties, MS.

Alternative "C" is a lake dredging plan, a.k.a. "Pearl River One Lake Plan". U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has, in their 2018 official comments, described it as the "most environmentally damaging" alternative. A 2020 Agency Technical Review report by the Corps states that the lake alternative contradicts Corps plan formulation policy and Executive Order 11988 (1977) discouraging development in floodplains.

Reductions to downstream flow of freshwater through the Pearl River would jeopardize water quality, the productivity of seafood, hundreds of millions of dollars of coastal restoration projects, and degrade or destroy critical habitat for vulnerable species like the federally-protected Gulf sturgeon and the Ringed Sawback Turtle.

Five Mississippi Counties, two Louisiana Parishes, towns in both states, and the Louisiana Legislature all passed resolutions opposing Alternative "C". On an already dammed, regulated river, dredging another lake carries the most risk to habitat and wetlands in the project area and to channel stability. USGS researchers at the Lower Mississippi Gulf Water Science Center are now modeling downstream and estuary sensitivities to flow alterations upstream on dammed Gulf-drainage rivers, including the Pearl. The RESTORE Act funds this modeling. Basic research questions still need answers. Jackson, MS needs better flood protection, but creating another lake on the Pearl River with Alternative "C" is the worst approach.

Sincerely,

Stacy Ortego  
Coastal Policy Manager