

## SECTION 7 EVALUATION

REGION: 4

PROGRAM(S): Information and Recreation

LOCATION: Mathew's Brake National Wildlife Refuge,  
Leflore County, Mississippi

## LISTED SPECIES OR CRITICAL HABITATS CONSIDERED:

American alligator  
Southern bald eagle  
Peregrine falcon

## NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

Opening Mathew's Brake NWR to Waterfowl and Resident Game Hunting: it is proposed to open Mathew's Brake NWR to the sport hunting of migratory waterfowl and the following resident game species - white-tailed deer, gray and fox squirrel, opossum, raccoon, cottontail and swamp rabbit, and beaver. Seasons will be within the framework set forth by the State of Mississippi.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION:

To enable the Service to conduct a sound, effective wildlife management program on Mathew's Brake NWR.

To provide substantial outdoor recreational opportunities to the public in a region where sport hunting is a principle recreational pursuit.

## EXPLANATION OF IMPACT ON LISTED SPECIES OR CRITICAL HABITAT:

Disturbance to endangered animals, should any occur, is expected to be minimal due to the spatial and temporal zoning of the hunt. Endangered species are expected to receive greater protection under FWS managed hunts than in other areas of Mathew's Brake. It has been demonstrated that crippled waterfowl provide an important food source to migrant and wintering bald eagles. The inevitable crippled waterfowl resulting from the refuge hunt will provide a highly vulnerable food source for migrating or wintering eagles. Raccoons are known to be important alligator nest predators. To the extent that refuge hunting exerts control on raccoon numbers, it would enhance the potential for alligator nesting success.

## CONCLUSION (CROSS OUT ONE):

A. ~~MAY AFFECT~~

B. WILL NOT AFFECT

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RECOMMENDATION:

PROJECT LEADER George Chandler DATE 2/4/81

Acting  
AREA MANAGER Dennis B. Jordan DATE 3/3/81

COMMENTS: I concur with the "no effect" determination.

ARD- \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:

ARD-FA \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:

REGIONAL DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: