



## Exhibit 17 - Endangered Species Report

BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

ROBERT J. BARHAM  
SECRETARY  
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY

**Date** October 18, 2011

**Name** Roy C Holleman  
**Company** Holleman Companies  
**Street Address** P.O. Box 9216  
**City, State, Zip** New Iberia, LA 70562-9216

**Project** Patterson Airport  
**Project ID** 5502011  
**Invoice Number** 11101803

Personnel of the Habitat Section of the Coastal & Nongame Resources Division have reviewed the preliminary data for the captioned project.

The Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*) may occur in your general project area. It is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Louisiana black bear utilizes a variety of habitat types, including forested wetlands, marsh, spoil banks, and upland forests. The primary threats to the species are continued loss of bottomland hardwoods, fragmentation of remaining forested tracts, and human-caused mortality. Louisiana black bears, particularly pregnant females, normally den from December through April. Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and tupelo gum (*Nyssa aquatica*) with visible cavities, having a diameter at breast height of 36 inches or greater, and occurring in or along rivers, lakes, streams, bayous, sloughs, or other water bodies have legal protection as candidate or actual den trees. If construction is to be performed during the denning season or if bald cypress or tupelo gum with diameters at breast height of 36 inches or greater will be removed or destroyed, further consultation with this office will be necessary. We strongly urge workers and contractors to avoid bears, particularly if work is to be conducted during the non-denning season (April through December). Employees should be cautioned to not leave food or garbage in the field, as bears can become attracted and accustomed to human food easily. In addition, we recommend the use of bear proof garbage containers on site. If you have any questions please call Maria Davidson at 337-948-0255.

After careful review of our database, no other impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the proposed project. No state or federal parks, wildlife refuges, scenic streams, or wildlife management areas are known at the specified site within Louisiana's boundaries.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) has compiled data on rare, endangered, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, plant communities, and other natural features throughout the state of Louisiana. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known at the time of the request regarding the location in question. The quantity and quality of data collected by the LNHP are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals. In most cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; many natural areas in Louisiana have not been surveyed. This report does not address the occurrence of wetlands at the site in question. Heritage reports should not be considered final statements on the biological elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. LNHP requires that this office be acknowledged in all reports as the

source of all data provided here. If at any time Heritage tracked species are encountered within the project area, please contact the LNHP Data Manager at 225-765-2643. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please call 225-765-2357.

Sincerely,



Amity Bass, Coordinator  
Natural Heritage Program