DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION
1400 WALNUT STREET
VICKSBURG MS 39180-3262

CEMVD-PDP 31 May 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Attn: Mr. Troy Constance, CEMVN-PD)

SUBJECT: Regional Use Approval of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) Model

1. References:
   a. Engineer Circular 1105-2-412: Assuring Quality of Planning Models, 31 March 2011.

   b. US Army Corps of Engineers. Assuring Quality of Planning Models - Model Certification/Approval Process: Standard Operating Procedures. Feb 2012.

   c. Memorandum to Directors of National Planning Centers of Expertise – Subject: Modification of the Model Certification Process and Delegation of Model Approval for Use, 04 December 2017.

   d. Memorandum from the Director of Civil Works to MSC Commanders – Subject: Delegation of Model Certification, 11 May 2018.

   e. Memorandum to Director of the Ecosystem Restoration Planning Center of Expertise - Subject: Recommend Regional Use Approval of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) Model, 15 May 2023.

2. An independent review team managed by the Ecosystem Restoration Planning Center of Expertise evaluated the subject model. The model was found to be technically sound, computationally correct, usable for Civil Works planning, and policy compliant using appropriate functional assessment procedures.

3. The Red Cockaded Woodpecker HSI Model is approved for regional use in open pine ecosystems within the range of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker in the southeastern United States. Independent technical review is complete and the model meets the criteria contained in References 1.a. and 1.b. There are no unresolved issues stemming from the review.

4. Appropriate Use and Quality Control. The appropriateness of the model and its variables must be checked by experienced modeler(s) and biologist(s) before each application of the model. The application of the model will also be described in the Review Plan for studies or similar decision-making efforts. The Review Plan will identify District Quality Control and technical review requirements for the model and its application, per current review guidance. Regarding the individuals who apply the

model, Districts are entrusted to confirm that the modeler(s) and biologist(s) who are using the model have the experience needed to apply the model correctly and interpret the model outputs. In addition, if the modeler(s) have any uncertainties with the application and/or interpretation of the model then he/she should engage the ECO-PCX.

5. This approval expires 31 May 2030.

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Signing For:
Kelly J. Keefe, PhD
Chief, MVD Planning and Policy and
Director, Ecosystem Restoration
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CEMVD-PDP (Lawton, Mallard, Mickal)
CEMVP-PD-P (Hill, Runyon)
CEMVN-PD (Constance, Smith, Meyers, Stiles)
CEERD-EEE (Jung)