



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Post Office Box 1306  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/R2/ES-TE/054766

DEC 20 2013

Dr. Patrick Burchfield  
Executive Director, Gladys Porter Zoo  
500 Ringgold Street  
Brownsville, Texas 78520-7998

Dear Dr. Burchfield:

I regret to inform you the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) must reduce funding for the Mexico/U.S. Binational Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) Population Restoration Project (Project), contract number 20181-A-J819, from previous Fiscal Year (FY) levels to \$50,000 in FY 2014 (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014). Continued financial support will likely not be possible in FY 2015 and beyond, as discretionary funding is anticipated to continue to decline. Under section V.A.1 of the contract, the Service reserved the right to option up to four years. The life of the agreement is five years and includes one base year plus four years. The period of performance is from October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2014.

The Budget Control Act (Act) of 2011 has impacted all Service programs. Across-the-board budget cuts in the Act and other budget cuts will significantly reduce discretionary spending in FY 2014 and beyond. The Service was able to fund the Project through 2013; however, the additive effects of budget cuts scheduled in FY 2014 and beyond are too great to continue funding the Project at previous levels.

I want to thank you for your efforts to protect and monitor Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle nests, eggs and hatchlings in northern Mexico. The partnership we have forged has been significant and has resulted in important conservation for the species.

Please note that during FY 2014, all reporting, delivery requirements and provisions apply. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project, please contact me at 505-248-6283 or Michelle Shaughnessy, Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, at 505-248-6671.

Sincerely,

**ACTING**   
Regional Director

Dr. Patrick Burchfield

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cc: Marilyn White, CFO, 500 Ringgold Street, Brownsville, TX 76520-7998  
Assistant Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Albuquerque,  
New Mexico  
Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, Corpus Christi, Texas