



IN REPLY REFER TO:
MBHP/MBSP

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181



JAN 27 2005

Mike Crouse, Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Mr. Crouse:

We would like to request Endangered Species Act, Section 7 (a)(2) consultation for proposed actions described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for *Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation of Juvenile Salmonids in the Columbia River Estuary*. A biological assessment addressing proposed actions at Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Washington; Fern Ridge Lake, Oregon; and San Francisco Bay, California is enclosed. Management actions are also proposed at two additional locations, Summer Lake and Crump Lake, Oregon, in this FEIS but do not have listed species under NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction and thus, are not included in the enclosed biological assessment. The Action Agencies for the proposed actions include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and could also include the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to the extent BPA implements the FEIS.

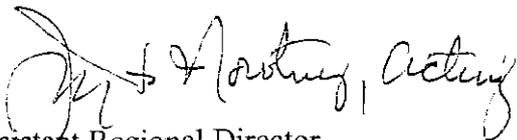
We are requesting formal consultation, due to unavoidable adverse effects, for the following evolutionary significant units (ESUs): Puget Sound Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), Upper Willamette River Chinook salmon, Central California Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Central Valley steelhead, Central Valley spring-run Chinook, Sacramento River winter-run Chinook, and Central California coast coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). We have determined that the proposed action will have no effect on the Upper Willamette River steelhead ESU.

Additionally, we are requesting consultation under section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for managed species with designated essential fish habitat that may be adversely affected by the proposed action. Please refer to Table 1 in the enclosed essential fish habitat assessment for a list of these species.

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A court mediated settlement agreement (National Audubon Society et al. v. Colonel Randall J. Butler et al.) requires the completion of this FEIS and a Record of Decision by February 28, 2005. We appreciate any efforts you can make to expedite this process so that we may comply with our court appointed deadlines. Please refer any questions to Nanette Seto, Division of Migratory Birds and Habitat Programs, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181.

Thank you in advance for your assistance on this matter.



Assistant Regional Director
Migratory Birds and State Programs



Chief, Environmental Resources Branch
Portland District
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

Enclosure