



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

911 NE. 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

IN REPLY REFER TO:

ARW/MBHP

November 13, 1996

Ms. Emily Roth
Metro Regional Parks and Greenspace
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Ms. Roth,

The Fish and Wildlife Service is in support of the Smith-Bybee Lakes restoration. There is a history of avian botulism at this location, however this die-off was relatively minor. Reports of avian cholera are rare in the Pacific Northwest, however die-offs of more than 30,000 birds are periodically encountered in California and Nevada.

If resource agencies were to change long-term management strategies to eliminate the potential for avian cholera, the resulting loss of habitat would be far more detrimental to avian populations than this disease. Botulism is a density dependent disease, and the habitat provided by your project would serve to better distribute birds in the Lower Columbia River area, thus reducing potential for avian loss to botulism.

Sincerely,

Carey S. Smith
Acting Chief, Migratory Birds
and Habitat Programs