



**METRO**

July 18, 2003

Mary J. Headley  
Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 2946  
Portland, OR 97208-2946

Dear Mary,

I received your voice mail regarding Corps permit #200200175, asking if I knew whether an environmental assessment (EA) had been done by USFWS or NOAA Fisheries for the Smith-Bybee water control structure project. I called Carey Smith, former Pacific Coast Joint Venture Coordinator, at USFWS in early May with the same question. He faxed the enclosed pages to me; the cover memo and EA memorandum appear to indicate that USFWS categorically excluded this project. The North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) funding for the Smith-Bybee water control structure was secured before I became wildlife area manager several years ago. It is my understanding that the NAWCA grant went to the Columbia Land Trust for the Lower Columbia Ecosystem Restoration project, which includes a number of activities such as land acquisition and revegetation work, as well as fish-friendly water control structures. Nearly half of the Smith-Bybee structure's funding is from NAWCA funds the Columbia Land Trust is passing through to Ducks Unlimited. Carey Smith was the Joint Venture Coordinator at the time the grant was received and could provide better details than I can; his phone number is (360) 696-7630.

Please contact me at (503) 797-1515 or [stewart@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:stewart@metro.dst.or.us) if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine".

Elaine M. Stewart  
Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area Manager

Enc.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
911 NE 11th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
Memorandum

MAR 6 2001

To: Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington, D.C.

From: **ACTING** Regional Director, Region 1  
Portland, OR (ARW/MBHP)

Subject: Determination of Categorical Exclusion for the Lower Columbia River Ecoregion  
Restoration Project-Phase III

**ACTION:** North American Wetland and Waterfowl Office

We have attached the subject Determination of Categorical Exclusion in the form of an Environmental Action Memorandum. This action satisfies a requirement for funding of the subject project through a North American Wetland Conservation Act grant. If you have any questions, please contact Carey Smith, Pacific Coast Joint Venture Coordinator, in Vancouver, Washington at (360) 892-6821.

Attachment

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION MEMORANDUM

Within the spirit and intent of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other statutes or policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record. I have determined that the Lower Columbia Ecosystem Restoration project is a categorical exclusion as provided by 516DM2, Appendix 1. No further documentation will be made.

The objectives to be attained by this proposed project include acquisition, restoration and enhancement of wetland habitats and associated uplands. The project area includes natural flood plain depressions that were wetlands prior to the excavation of drainage ditches. The project will create habitat for waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds.

The Chinook River acquisition will enable partners to initiate a major estuarine restoration in an area valuable to anadromous fish and will require a higher level of NEPA compliance. This restoration is in the early planning stages and will not require North American Wetland Conservation Act funds. NEPA compliance for this restoration will be pursued through the normal project permitting procedure.

The project goals will be accomplished through the following standard habitat management practices:

1. Constructing fish-friendly water control structures;
2. Blocking drainage ditches;
3. Replanting native vegetation;
4. Protection of wetland and associated upland habitats through fee title or easement acquisition.

We believe that these goals, objectives, and the associated project fall specifically under the following categorical exclusions (516 DM6, Appendix 1):

1.4B. Resource Management. (3): The construction of new, or the addition of, small structures or improvements, including structures and improvements for the restoration of wetland, riparian, or native habitats, which result in only minor changes in the use of the affected local area.

1.4E. Financial Assistance. (2): Grants for categorically excluded actions in paragraphs A, B, and C; and categorically excluded actions in Appendix 1 of 516 DM 2.

  
Project Leader

3/3/00  
Date: