MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

STATE ROUTE 101/109

WEST HOQUIAM CONNECTION

This is an agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Washington State Department of Game (WSDOG), and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to mitigate environmental impact associated with the proposed improvements between SR 109 and SR 101 in Grays Harbor County.

The Department of Transportation agrees to undertake the following actions relative to this project as replacement of habitat being covered and disturbed by the routing of a highway through natural wetland areas and wildlife habitat.

1. The impact of the barrier effect of the highway will be reduced by installing two game crossings through the fill at the drainage areas approximately 2,500 feet and 3,700 feet east of the proposed Little Hoquiam River Bridge. The crossings will be large enough to accommodate the migration of deer and elk. The location and design will be coordinated with the Department of Game. These game crossings will be used for drainage and will have either filled or natural bottoms.

2. A deer fence will be constructed along the alignment to direct animals to these crossings. The fences will extend approximately one-quarter mile in each direction from each crossing.

3. The embankment at the Little Hoquiam River Bridge ends will be constructed so that the animals can move along the bank.

4. The proposed highway alignment was developed jointly to provide the best possible cut/fill relationship and also to discourage commercial/residential development to the south of the new roadway. The fill slopes will be constructed with as steep slopes as feasible(2:1 or greater) on the south side of the roadway. Access restrictions will be placed on both sides of the roadway for the entire length of the project with maximum access restrictions implemented on the southside of the proposed highway in the wetland north of the Little Hoquiam River. This will aid in curtailing encroachment and disturbance to wildlife.

   For the purpose of the MOA, maximum access restrictions means all access will be prohibited unless it is determined unfeasible through the Access Hearing process. If prohibition of access is not feasible, the maximum access acceptable is special use access for logging purposes, as defined in WSDOT regulations. Greater access than this would require a renegotiation of this agreement.

5. Stormwater runoff and tidal flow will be allowed through the fill areas by the installation of individual culverts for each draw and slough along the proposed alignment.

6. The loss of 7.4 acres of wetland shall be mitigated by restoration of a marsh accomplished by the removal of a fill along SR 101 south of the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge at Stockpile Site 4317. This site is located within the existing right of way of SR 101 at Milepost 21.04 on the east side of Willapa Bay. Reclamation of the tide land will consist of lowering the elevation of the waste site such that a channel allows the water to circulate near the east perimeter and creates an island in the center of the site. The lower half of the island will be inundated at a plus eight-foot tide and the upper half will be inundated at a plus ten-foot tide. The area east of the channel will be inundated at a plus 12-foot tide. All excess material will be removed from the area and deposited at an acceptable upland site. Plans for reclaiming the site will be reviewed by USFWS prior to any construction at the site. Reclamation construction at this site will not begin until construction affecting the wetlands of the proposed action commences.

   The USFWS agrees to provide one or more dump trucks and an approved disposal site for excess material.

All parties as signators of this agreement concur that this will provide full mitigation of impacts to wetlands and wildlife habitats associated with this project. It is further understood this agreement is based on existing or near existing wildlife habitat conditions occurring on the date of this agreement.

J. R. BLUM
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

4-9-81
Date

FRANK LOCKARD
Washington State Department of Game

3/26/81
Date

A. D. ANDREAS
Washington State Department of Transportation

3/10/81
Date