United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R1/
WSFR

May 2, 2011

Dear Interested Party,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) in Region 1[1] is proposing a streamlined approach for dealing with minor encroachments or divestitures (disposals) of land purchased with WSFR funds . We are required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider all disposals, regardless of the significance of anticipated impacts. For this purpose, a Programmatic EA was prepared to evaluate our proposed process; this is the purpose for the Proposed Action and use of the Abbreviated Assessment Process, as described in Alternative B of the draft EA.

As of 2010, a total of approximately 369,900 acres of land have been acquired, partially or in whole, with WSFR grant funds by the State partner agencies in Region 1. The majority of these lands are being managed to provide habitat for fish and wildlife and some are also managed to support various forms of wildlife-dependent recreation for the public. These agencies have also acquired thousands of smaller sites using these funds to provide access to lakes and streams for anglers and boaters.

Each year, the Region 1 WSFR Program Office receives a number of requests to approve minor land encroachments and divestitures. Typically, these proposed disposals are sought by the State partner agencies because the lands involved are no longer needed, or meeting the original purpose(s), for which they were acquired. Exchanges, trades, or sales of WSFR-interest lands may also be used to: correct land boundary problems (i.e., access) with adjacent public and private landowners, allow for utility rights-of-way, consolidate ownership, and/or allow for increased management effectiveness, repositioning of WSFR resources, and/or improved habitat function. This letter and draft EA are the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, not the States with whom we work.

Through this letter, we are requesting your feedback on the draft Environmental Assessment. In particular, we are interested in comments related to the range of alternatives and the anticipated impacts of each. The deadline for comment submittal is **Friday, June 3, 2011**. All comments must be received or postmarked by this date.

The draft Environmental Assessment can be found on the following website:
http://www.fws.gov/pacific/fedaid/projects.html

Please submit your comments via the following email address: **R1FA_Grants@fws.gov**

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[1]Region 1 is Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands. The EA only applies to ID, OR, and WA.

If you utilize this email address, which we encourage, be sure to identify in the Subject line of your email that your comments are related to the **Draft Programmatic Disposal EA**. This will greatly facilitate our receipt of your comments and is a paperless option. Hard copy comment letters should be sent to:
Dan Edwards
USFWS/WSFR
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232

If you have questions and concerns, and/or would prefer a hard copy of or cd-rom with the document, please contact Dan Edwards at (503)231-2261 or Nell Fuller at (503)231-6758.

Sincerely yours,

Acting

J. Frederick Caslick, PhD, Chief,
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program