November 11, 2002

Dr. Jeffrey P. Koenings
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Dr. Koenings,

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you of the exceptional service that I received from Mr. Ted Johnson, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Upland Wildlife Restoration in your Walla Walla office.

Before the current Upland Bird season started I needed some information on Feel Free to Hunt properties in the Walla Walla area. I contacted the Region One office in Spokane and requested they send me a map of the sites. In previous years I have requested such information from the States of Nebraska and South Dakota (in fact many states have this information posted on their web sites). I was given what I would classify as a very curt reply that "they had no maps, the farmers did not want their land identified, and besides these sites changed all the time. What you'll have to do is drive down the road and see if you can find them."

Subsequently, a friend of mine who works for the State of Washington told me that the location of these properties was information available under the Freedom of Information Act. As a result I contacted your public information office and talked to a very helpful lady who faxed me the Freedom of Information Request Form. I am sorry but I do not recall her name at this time. After I returned the form, she responded promptly that you do not have a current list or maps, which I find to be exceptional in this information age. However, she gave me the cell phone number of Ted Johnson to see if he could help me.

Ted promptly returned my call; offered to fax me some maps of properties he had, and even set up an appointment to meet him in his Walla Walla field office. When I arrived in Walla Walla he had obtained an old map, which he had prepared with the Feel Free to Hunt properties in the three counties, colored in. He proceeded to go over many of them indicating the pros and cons of each, whether they had been planted, expected hunting pressure, etc. He was courteous, professional, well informed and free with the information he possessed. It is obvious he sees his job as serving the public in order to help insure they have a successful hunting experience.

Sincerely,

Gary K. Johnson

cc: Mr. Ted Johnson

RECEIVED
NOV 14 2002
WDFW
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR