

373638



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



OCT 17 2008

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor
Office of the Governor
The State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of September 9, 2008, to Secretary of the Interior Kempthorne, approving the acquisition of an additional 924 acres to be managed as part of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The Secretary has asked that I respond directly to you.

Your approval of the acquisition of 924 acres to be added to the Refuge with funds provided by the Migratory Bird Commission is greatly appreciated. The Refuge was established in 1994 to protect a remnant of the bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem along the Trinity River. The Refuge currently occupies 23,000 acres and with additions, such as the one recently approved, will continue to grow and to provide additional quality hunting, fishing, and wildlife conservation opportunities to the residents of Texas.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) acknowledges your concerns regarding the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. We appreciate your desire to ensure coordination between the Service and the State of Texas and look forward to working on items of mutual concern. It is the intention of the Service to continue to coordinate fully with the State on such items.

Thank you for your support. If you have any additional questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me or Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 202-208-4717.

Sincerely

Lyle Laverty
Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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2008 SEP 17 PM 12:20

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

September 9, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

I am pleased to approve the acquisition of an additional 924 acres to be managed as a part of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge. This will undoubtedly provide more recreational and hunting opportunities while further protecting migratory bird habitat. I appreciate the close working relationship the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has developed and maintained with the State of Texas for each of these acquisitions.

I must, however, register my displeasure about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's lack of coordination and lack of acknowledgement of the State of Texas' sovereignty in the creation of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. As with most of the United States, we face myriad challenges in addressing current and future water needs in Texas. Arbitrary decisions made by federal agencies that directly affect Texas' water supply for her citizens are irresponsible and can be detrimental to future planning.

As we move forward, I respectfully request the consideration of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on any new designations. I hope the relationship the Migratory Bird Commission has developed and fostered with Texas will serve as an example for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the future.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tbp

373638



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



OCT 17 2008

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Thank you for your support. If you have any additional questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me or Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 202-208-4717.

Sincerely

Lyle Laverty
Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

533054

April 27, 2001

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

01 APR 30 PM 3:27

RECEIVED

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing to express my strong concern about a proposed rule by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that designates over 600 miles of Texas coastline (and 1,000 miles of coastline in other states) as critical habitat for winter forage of the migratory Piping Plover. This regulation was initiated under the Clinton Administration and is scheduled for issuance as a final rule on April 30th.

As proposed, this rule will significantly impact the coastal economy of Texas, including real estate and tourism development and oil and gas exploration and production. Since many of the oil and gas leases along the Gulf Coast benefit the state's Permanent School Fund, these proposed designations will have a significant impact on funding for public school education in Texas.

This rule was proposed without the completion of an economic study, as required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It does not take into consideration that the ESA already provides protection for this species. Nor does it take into account that modifications to most coastal areas already require state and federal permits. Moreover, it provides for several broad designations that will impact areas along the Texas coastline that are not used for Piping Plover forage.

Finally, while the critical habitat designation for the nesting area of the Great Lakes population of the Piping Plover must be issued by April 30th according to a court order, I understand that this order does not require USFWS to make a final designation of critical habitat for wintering Piping Plover populations for another year.

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
April 27, 2001
Page 2

For these reasons, I urge you to postpone the final implementation of this rule as it relates to wintering Piping Plover populations to allow for further biological and economic studies based on sound science. I believe that the additional time afforded under the court order should be used to ensure that the conservation plan that is put in place will preserve the winter forage of the Piping Plover, recognize the private property rights of Texans, and avoid unnecessarily inhibiting economic development and energy production along the Texas coastline.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with prominent loops and a high arch over the "R".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgc

cc: Mr. Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 23, 2001

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Madam Secretary:

I recently learned of a project in our state that I believe is worthy of your consideration and support. The Capitol Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America (Capitol Area Council) is planning to establish a high adventure camp for boys and girls and a conference center on a 4,848 acre tract bequeathed to the Council by Mary Lavinia Griffith Sanders. The property, known as the Griffith League Ranch, is located in Bastrop County, just east of Austin. In addition to being a beautiful setting for a scout camp and conference center, Griffith League Ranch is home to the Houston toad, an endangered species.

I understand that the Capitol Area Council has proposed that its project be considered as a candidate for your landowner-incentive program. I fully support your decision to provide technical assistance, habitat enhancing tools and financial assistance to property owners, making them partners in the management of endangered species. I encourage you to give serious consideration to the Council's proposal. I reviewed the plan for the use of Griffith League Ranch and was impressed by the commitment to conservation, habitat preservation and enhancement, research regarding the species and education. The plan will achieve Ms. Sanders' dream for her family's ranch, providing a wonderful setting for an outdoor learning experience in a manner sensitive to the presence of the Houston toad. This is a unique opportunity for our state and your agency. This project affords the prospect of fostering an outstanding proposal for the youth of our state in a manner consistent with the continued existence of the Houston toad on the property.

I hope you will have the opportunity to meet with the representatives of the Capitol Area Council to discuss their proposal.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL
OFFICE OF THE

RP:bmw

01 MAY 30 PM 6:23

596613

cc: Mr. David P. Smith, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior
Mr. Ray Smith, Scout Executive, Capitol Area Council and Boy Scouts of America



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 23, 2001

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

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Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL
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586613

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Mr. Ray Smith, Scout Executive, Capitol Area Council and Boy Scouts of America



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

DEC 28 2001

Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your May 23, 2001, letter supporting the use of landowner incentive program funds for the Capitol Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America's Griffith League Ranch in Bastrop County, Texas. I apologize for the delay in this response.

The Griffith League Ranch is one of the largest, highest-quality tracts of habitat left in Bastrop County for the endangered Houston toad. My immediate staff and Fish and Wildlife Service staff had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Capitol Area Council regarding the Griffith League Ranch project. We agree that the Council's proposed plan is impressive in its commitment to conservation, habitat preservation and enhancement, research, and education. I am pleased to inform you that the Fish and Wildlife Service recently awarded the Capitol Area Council a grant of over \$260,000 to assist in developing a habitat conservation plan for the Griffith League Ranch adventure camp.

In addition, President Bush recently signed the Interior Appropriations for fiscal year 2002, which provides funding for the President's two new grant programs, the Landowner Incentives Grant Program and the Private Stewardship Grant Program. The Landowner Incentives program provides \$40 million in matching grants, competitively awarded to States, Territories, and Tribes to establish or supplement their own landowner incentive programs. Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for the protection and management of habitat for listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk-species, while landowners continue to engage in traditional land use practices. The Private Stewardship program provides \$10 million on a nationally competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species or other at-risk-species. The Boy Scouts may be able to obtain additional financial assistance through one of these grant programs for additional funding for conservation actions on the Griffith League Ranch. The Service will be distributing information about these two new grant programs in the future.

I appreciate your interest in this project and commend the Boy Scouts of America for their commitment to the conservation of endangered species. If you have any additional concerns about this matter, please contact the Service's Assistant Director for Endangered Species, Mr. Gary Frazer, at 202-208-4646.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Norton



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 8, 2001

RECEIVED
01 OCT 12 PM 4:03
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Madam Secretary:

As you know, in Texas we have tried to forge new, improved relationships between landowners and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). We have made some progress but that process seems to have halted at least for the time being.

One recent concern deals with the biological opinion issued by the USFWS regarding the Barton Springs Salamander. We do not believe that this opinion was subjected to competent peer review or scrutiny at the national level within your agency. The concerns that have been raised by many concerned landowners have to do with the scientific basis for this opinion. We would ask that your office carefully review this opinion. Landowners could face possible restrictions on their use of land based on USFWS claims about water quality issues that have not been connected to direct harm of endangered species.

An additional concern we have is with the relationship among landowners, agriculture and USFWS centers around Texas' extraordinarily successful volunteer cowbird-trapping program to reduce cowbird parasitism on both endangered and declining songbird species, including the black-capped vireo. This program has been a national model, demonstrating how landowners, biologists and birders from very diverse backgrounds, can achieve appropriate, workable solutions.

We were, therefore, disturbed to learn that the makeup of the revived black-capped vireo recovery team appointed by USFWS does not reflect the true constituency and partnership of this essential effort. In fact, a number of individuals who have been instrumental in this overall effort from the start have not been included, whereas several appointed to this recovery team by USFWS have not been involved. To be successful, the new recovery team needs to be diverse and representative of the Texas stakeholders.

We are only writing to express our concerns and believe that solutions reached in a fair, objective manner are the best solutions. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you on a solution.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

Susan Combs
Commissioner of Agriculture



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

50311

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 8, 2001

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Rick Perry
Governor

Susan Combs
Susan Combs
Commissioner of Agriculture



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JAN 15 2002

Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your October 8, 2001, letter regarding the draft biological opinion issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service to the Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate the effects of their general construction permit on listed species in Texas and for your comments on the composition of the recently assembled recovery team for the black-capped vireo. I apologize for the delay in responding to you.

I appreciate your concern that the Service's draft biological opinion on the effects of the Environmental Protection Agency's general construction permit on the Barton Springs salamander reflect the best available science and information. The draft opinion has been reviewed by both the Service's regional and national staff and the Service continues to work with the EPA to address issues associated with the draft. One of the Service's most experienced managers, Mr. Dale Hall, is now Acting Regional Director for the Service's Southwest Region. Mr. Hall has been made aware of the priority to finalize the Barton Springs consultation, and has been asked to work with you, the EPA and others to resolve the outstanding Barton Springs salamander issues.

The Service also is committed to having a diversity of views represented on its recovery teams. In June 2001, a group of individuals was invited to serve on the Black-Capped Vireo Recovery Team. Some of these individuals were asked to serve on the Recovery Team's Technical Subcommittee to provide expertise on the biology and ecology of the vireo and its habitat. Others were invited to serve on the Team's Stakeholder Subcommittee to provide expertise on the socio-economic aspects of the plan and the feasibility and appropriateness of recommended recovery tasks.

Since the initial meeting of the Recovery Team on August 21, 2001, the Service has expanded its efforts to further diversify the team's membership to ensure that the new recovery plan will be representative of and responsive to the views of local communities and our conservation partners. In October 2001, the membership of the team was broadened by extending invitations to representatives from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Wildlife Association, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Texas Audubon Society, Texas Farm Bureau, and Central Texas Cattleman's Association. The Texas Farm Bureau specifically requested that Dr. Wallace Klusmann, Mr. Steve Bauer, Dr. Pat Reardon, and Mr. Steve Manning be invited to join the

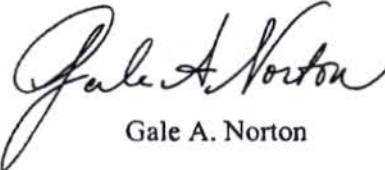
Honorable Rick Perry

2

recovery team. Invitations to join the team were extended to those four gentlemen; all have accepted the invitation. This will bring the number of stakeholders on the team to 14, with a total of 27 team members. The next meeting, scheduled for January 16, 2002, will be the first opportunity for the entire team to meet and work together. Enclosed please find a list of the Black-Capped Vireo Recovery Team members.

I commend your State's efforts to conserve endangered and declining songbird species and agree that the Texas program serves as a national model for how landowners, biologists, and birders of diverse backgrounds can achieve workable solutions. Without question, conservation reached through communication and cooperation is the best solution. If you need any further assistance on this matter, please contact Mr. Dale Hall, the Service's Acting Southwest Regional Director, at (505) 248-6910.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gale A. Norton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gale A. Norton

Enclosure

BLACK-CAPPED VIREO RECOVERY TEAM

TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE:

Name	Entity/Interest	Expertise
John Cornelius	Ft. Hood	bird biologist/habitat expert
Tim Hayden	USCOE-CERL	ornithological researcher
Joe Grzybowski	Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum	field expertise
Bill Armstrong	TPWD, Kerr WMA	ag/habitat manipulation
Jeff Hatfield	Patuxent	statistician/modeling
Christina Longacre	USFWS	lead for species
Dave Diamond	Missouri. Resource Assessment Partnership	habitat expert
Chuck Sexton	BCNWR	bird/habitat expert
Doug Slack (Leader)	Texas A&M	bird biologist
Frank Thompson	U.S. Forest Service	cowbird expert
Stanley Temple	Univ. Wisconsin	modeling – participation uncertain
Margaret Brittingham	Penn State University	cowbird expert – participation uncertain

STAKEHOLDER SUBCOMMITTEE:

Name	Entity/Interest	Expertise
Clay Jones	Jones North Ranch	ag economics
Donald Neal	Neal Ranch	cattle operations
Deidre Heisler	TPWD	recreation within preserves
Todd Janssen	Del Webb Sun City	developer
Mel Hinson	City of Austin PARD	worked on BCP
Bebe Fenstermaker	Citizen	landowner with birds

David Wolfe	Environmental Defense	non-profit, incentive-based conservation
Paul Robertson	TPWD	representative for TPWD BCV researchers
Pat Reardon	Texas Wildlife Association	representative for TWA
Terry Austin	Audubon Society	representative for Texas chapter
Wallace Klusmann	Texas Farm Bureau	representing TFB
Stephen Bauer	Texas Farm Bureau	representing TFB
Steve Manning	Central TX Cattlemen's Assoc.	representative for CTCA
Gary Amand	TNC	Central Texas Program Manager (replacing Jeff Weigel at request of TNC)
William Burman	City of San Antonio	participation uncertain



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

April 30, 2002

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Administrator Whitman and Secretary Norton:

I understand that the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are currently considering a request by the State of Chihuahua and their consultants to fund the Rio Conchos Watershed Management Project. On behalf of the State of Texas, I strongly urge that you deny any request for funding until Mexico, specifically the State of Chihuahua, meets its obligation to provide 1.5 million acre-feet of water in compliance with the 1944 Water Treaty.

Although the concept paper for the Rio Conchos Watershed Management Project states that "almost one-third of the Conchos' waters have been dedicated by Mexico to cover part of the quota committed by the International Treaty of 1944 with the USA," the proposal ironically gives no indication that a goal of this project will be to ensure the delivery of water owed by Mexico to the U.S. or that the treaty obligations will be incorporated into the management model.

Funding this request while Mexico is still far behind in its water treaty obligations would be adding insult to real economic injury to the citizens, farmers, and ranchers of South Texas.

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The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
The Honorable Gale A. North
April 30, 2002
Page 2

Current studies show Mexico's noncompliance with the treaty has resulted in the loss of 30,000 jobs and a negative impact of \$1 billion on Texas' economy. I respectfully request that the federal government refrain from funding this project and notify Mexico that it will be reconsidered when the treaty issues are substantially addressed. These actions will help amplify America's commitment to resolving this treaty violation and getting needed and long over due water to the citizens of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The first letter "R" is large and loops around the "i" and "c". The "P" is also large and loops around the "e" and "r". The "y" has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgk

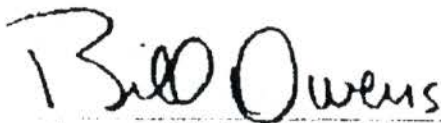
cc: The Honorable George W. Bush
The Honorable Paul H. O'Neill, Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury
The Honorable Gwyn Shea, Secretary of State
Texas Congressional Delegation Members
Mr. Otto Reich, Assistant Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State
Mr. Dennis Linksey, Border Coordinator, Office of Mexican Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Mr. Carlos Ramirez, U.S. Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission
Ms. Judith E. Ayres, Assistant Administrator for International Activities, Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Gregg Cooke, Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
Mr. Raul Rodriguez, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, North American Development Bank
Mr. Fernando Macias, General Manager, Border Environment Cooperation Commission


Successful firefighting efforts require close cooperation between federal, state and local officials. I look forward to working with you as partners in managing the short-term challenges of this fire season and in establishing safe and effective aerial firefighting practices on the long term.

Sincerely,



Governor Kenny Guinn

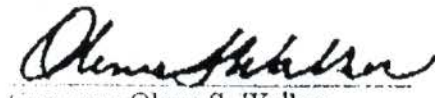

Governor Mike Johanns


Governor Bill Owens
Colorado


Governor Rick Perry


Governor Mike Rounds


Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger


Governor Olene S. Walker

332058



WASHINGTON



THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JUN 18 2004

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Chair, Western Governors' Association
1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 200
Denver, Colorado 80202

The Honorable Bill Owens
Vice-Chair Western Governors' Association
1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 200
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governors Richardson and Owens:

We are writing to provide additional information to address concerns over the effect of the termination of the large airtanker contract on the fire season this year.

In our letters of May 18 and June 3, 2004, we stressed that safety is our core value in firefighting, and that we continue to be committed to the protection of communities from the threat of wildland fires. As you know, we have aviation assets already assigned and activated. At this time, we have secured a total of 139 aircraft to supplement the loss of the airtanker support. This is an increased number from the last information we sent you. These aircraft include the use of Single Engine Airtankers (SEATs), large helitankers helicopters, and medium helicopters which were previously available on a call-when needed contract basis.

As we indicated previously, we have also activated the military Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS). The MAFFS are based in California, Colorado, Wyoming, and North Carolina, but are mobile and will be dispatched to locations on an as-needed basis depending upon national priorities. We have already deployed some MAFFS assets.

The addition of all of these aircraft will enable Federal firefighters to maintain effective aviation support while ensuring the safety of pilots and aircraft as well as communities. We anticipate that these resources will enable us to achieve a near 99% success rate on initial and extended attack.

We have also been working with the NTSB and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to establish procedures to determine the potential airworthiness of the previously contracted airtankers.

As part of our work with the NTSB and FAA, we have requested information from the airtanker vendors to assess the airworthiness of their airtankers for possible firefighting contracts. The requests are based on criteria established in concert with the NTSB, the FAA, Department of the Interior, and the Forest Service. The Forest Service has contracted DynCorp to evaluate the airtankers and the data to determine the potential airworthiness of these aircraft.

DynCorp is working toward a rigorous and complete evaluation of the aircraft and data and will soon provide airworthiness recommendations to the Forest Service and Department of the Interior for the various aircraft types. A determination is expected soon on whether to re-contract for aircraft that meet FAA and NTSB criteria.

Although we are undertaking these efforts with DynCorp, we do not want to infer from this process that a high percentage of the large airtankers will shortly be returned to service. As indicated, irrespective of the outcome of this process, the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior will maintain adequate aviation resources for the upcoming fire season.

We recognize how important it is to work closely with our tribal, State, and local firefighting partners to make the best use of our resources and to respond to what is likely to be another challenging fire season. We continue to work with State foresters to update regional needs in the current fire season. We will continue to work closely with the Western Governor's Association and our wildland firefighting partners on placement of resources.

We will keep you apprised on any further developments, and we are available to brief you and your staff at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



MARK REY
Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment



P. LYNN SCARLETT
Assistant Secretary
Policy, Management and Budget



812098

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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04 JUL 19 PM 4:47

812235

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

July 13, 2004

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Take Pride in America program. Texans have always held a special attachment to our natural, historic, and cultural resources. I am pleased to participate in a program that encourages Texans to volunteer their time and expertise to maintain and restore our unique treasures.

I submit Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Executive Director Robert L. Cook as the Texas state coordinator for the Take Pride in America program. TPWD is committed to achieving many of the same goals as the Take Pride in America program, and I am confident that Robert, or his designee, will represent Texas well. Mr. Cook's contact information is:

Mr. Robert L. Cook
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744
Phone: 512/389-4802

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this important program. Please feel free to contact my office if you need any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgp

cc: Mr. Robert L. Cook
Ms. Susan Weddington, President and CEO, OneStar Foundation

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04 JUL 21 11:50
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT



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04 OCT 13 PM 4:02

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

October 6, 2004

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the sound policies that you have advanced in support of natural resources in the State of Texas. Your efforts to improve national parks and protect vulnerable species have produced incalculable benefits to our environment. I am writing to request your assistance regarding the production of sheep and goats in Texas and the interaction of this industry with golden eagles.

Currently, sheep and goat raisers of west central Texas are having a depredation problem with golden eagles. However, the protections afforded these majestic creatures, through the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act, requires individuals to apply for a permit to trap and transport golden eagles. In order to facilitate their application, I have asked the Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service to coordinate with the agriculture producers affected by the depredating eagles. Their efforts will generate an application that describes the severe economic impact of the eagles on individual sheep and goat raisers who have suffered as much as an 80 percent loss of their kid goats in one year. This loss is unacceptable when it can be mitigated through the coordinated efforts of federal and state government.

The sheep and goat industry is very important to the State of Texas and generates more than \$173 million in direct sales to the economy. However, the noble golden eagle is very deserving of federal and state protections that will allow these eagles to be moved without harm. Therefore, I respectfully request your assistance in providing the necessary resources to address this situation internally or in coordination with the Wildlife Services Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is my sincere hope that we can work together to address this problem while continuing your laudable efforts to protect and preserve our nation's wildlife.

Sincerely,

A large, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:lsp

cc: Mr. Gary L. Nunley, State Director, Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service
Mr. George Sultemeier, Past President, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association
Mr. Kenneth Dierschke, President, Texas Farm Bureau



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AMB/019189

JAN 04 2005

Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of October 6, 2004, to Secretary Gale Norton regarding the production of sheep and goats in Texas and the interaction of this industry with golden eagles. We are aware of the depredation problems that have been reported by goat and sheep ranchers in west central Texas. The Secretary has asked me to respond directly to you, and I apologize for the delay.

On March 31, 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Texas State Administrator met with members of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association to discuss the problem. Also present at that meeting were representatives from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (USDA-WS), and a representative from your office.

The sources of predator caused mortality to sheep and goats in western Texas are not well understood at this time. Some ranchers at the meeting believed it could be attributed to golden eagles, while others thought there could be many sources of predation, including feral hogs.

Under a longstanding formal memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, USDA-WS is the Federal agency with the funding and responsibility for investigating golden eagle predation on sheep and goats in western Texas and undertaking any necessary control activities.

Trapping and relocating eagles, if necessary, are difficult tasks which must be undertaken by fully qualified individuals in consideration for the welfare of the birds. USDA-WS personnel are well qualified for these tasks and have successfully worked with Texas ranchers to resolve golden eagle depredation problems in the past. In compliance with the memorandum of understanding between the agencies and upon approval of an application from USDA-WS, the Service may issue a permit authorizing them to conduct eagle depredation control activities. The Service will work with both USDA-WS and the State of Texas to ensure that such a permit application is addressed in an efficient manner. If USDA-WS determines that golden eagles are a significant cause of mortality,


Honorable Rick Perry

2

the Service will ensure that they have the necessary authorization to trap and relocate the offending birds. We will personally convey this message to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

If you have further questions regarding this issue, please contact me, or have your staff contact Dale Hall, the Service's Southwest Regional Director, at (505) 248-6282.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "H".

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 14, 2005

Ms. Renee Orr
5-Year Program Manager
Minerals Management Service (MS-4010)
Room 3120, 382 Elden Street
Herndon, Virginia 20170

RE: Comments on the Preparation of the 5-Year Program for 2007-2012

Dear Ms. Orr:

As the Governor of Texas, I am pleased to provide the U.S. Department of the Interior with comments on preparation of the 2007-2012 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program. Our U.S. energy policy greatly depends on the federal offshore leasing program. Given today's energy supply and price environment, it is critical that the department move aggressively to open all prospective OCS areas for leasing as soon as possible.

All acreage in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico should continue to be offered during the 2007-2012 period. Available acreage in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico should be expanded, and lease sales should be held in all prospective Alaska planning areas including the North Aleutian Planning Area. New initiatives should be undertaken to open the Pacific and Atlantic planning areas for leasing and development as well. Making these areas available for energy exploration and production is a national imperative, and I strongly encourage the Department of the Interior to be steadfast in its resolve to produce an offshore leasing program that will serve the national interest and maximize the OCS' contribution to future energy supplies.

Oil and gas exploration and production can be accomplished in a safe and environmentally sound fashion. Extensive stakeholder consultations should be undertaken to address lingering concerns about offshore development in coastal states. These consultations are absolutely essential given federal offshore waters hold the greatest potential for finding new energy resources and bringing them to market in the next 5 to 10 years.

Finally, I encourage the Department of the Interior to assume a leadership role in passage of OCS revenue sharing legislation. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, OCS revenues

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Ms. Renee Orr
October 14, 2005
Page 2

are needed to rebuild local communities and infrastructure in coastal areas so that offshore employees can return to home and to work. A primary lesson from the 2005 hurricane season is the strategic importance of the Gulf of Mexico energy industry to the nation's economic and energy security. The time has come to dedicate a portion of OCS revenues to coastal states and communities to ensure that critical infrastructure is in place to support offshore development activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important government initiative. I look forward to seeing the Draft Proposed Program in January 2006. I hope that it will represent considerable of change from today's policies and that it will signal a new era of cooperation between governments at all levels for the national good.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The first name "Rick" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Perry" follows in a similar but slightly smaller script. The signature is positioned to the right of the typed name and title.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 13, 2005

839396

Mr. Matthew J. Hogan
Acting Director
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20242

RECEIVED
05 OCT 19 PM 3:31
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RE: Proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge

Dear Mr. Hogan:

The State of Texas, beginning in 1997, undertook a comprehensive, innovative study of the future water needs of this state. Since that time, the Texas Water Development Board, through regional planning groups, has identified needs in each region and has begun to identify methods in which to meet those water supply needs. That process is continuing today.

The Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex is one of the fastest growing areas in this state, if not in the nation, and there is no doubt that the future water needs of this fast growth area will be very large. As a matter of fact, growth in the area is outpacing the projections upon which the planning process is based, so its water supply needs will likely be greater than what has been estimated and will outpace the availability of existing projects. One of the few methods of providing needed water to the people of Texas will be through the development of reservoirs in our state.

Because of the scarcity of potential reservoir sites in Texas, it is important that we make sure to preserve those sites for the future. One potential site in East Texas is the Fastrill Reservoir site being studied by the City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority. I am aware that your agency is studying the possibility of developing a wildlife refuge within the footprint of Fastrill, which would have the effect of stopping the development of this reservoir.

In speaking with representatives of Dallas and the authority, I am convinced that they are willing to work with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to achieve the objectives sought in the wildlife refuge, and to possibly do this in a more advantageous manner by consolidating tracts,

Mr. Matthew J. Hogan
October 13, 2005
Page 2

or by giving your agency the ability to acquire even more acreage than initially planned for the refuge.

I urge you not to concur with the Region 2 Director's recommendation to grant project status to the Neches River Wildlife Refuge, and that you not acquire or accept any property within the Fastrill footprint until studies can be completed. I would further request that you work with the people of Dallas and the authority to find a solution that accomplishes the goals both for Texas and the nation. By working together with these entities, a solution can be reached whereby future Texans can be assured of adequate water resources while at the same time preserving prime bottomland hardwoods and wildlife habitat.

Thank you for working with the people of Texas. Please keep me informed of any developments in this area as this issue is of prime importance to my office and to all Texans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The first letter "R" is large and loops around the "i". The "Perry" part is also cursive and flows naturally from the "y" of "Perry".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Jeb Hensarling, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior
Mr. Mitch Butler, Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/022930

FEB 06 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of October 13, 2005, concerning the proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge and Fastrill Reservoir. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

The Service appreciates that the Texas Water Development Board wishes to have input into the proposed establishment of the refuge. The Service also understands the Texas Water Development Board's interest in the future water needs of Texas and its desire to preserve viable reservoir sites.

The Service believes the refuge proposal submitted by its Southwest Region merits consideration. It is our intention to make a determination on those merits after full review of the project record. Nevertheless, we remain interested in the information forthcoming from the study being conducted by the City of Dallas if it can be provided in the immediate future, especially to the degree that options that truly protect bottomland hardwood wildlife habitat resources are presented.

The conservation of healthy bottomland hardwood resources has been one of the Service's goals in east Texas for many years. The Neches River area proposed for the refuge was identified as early as 1985 as a priority area. More recently, the site was considered as a wildlife refuge when it appeared that lands in the area, especially those lands owned by timber corporations, might be divested and subject to residential or commercial development.

At present, we are still reviewing the project proposal and expect to make a decision in the near future. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact me or Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, the Service's Acting Regional Director for the Southwest Region, at (505) 248-6282.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/022930

FEB 06 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of October 13, 2005, concerning the proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge and Fastrill Reservoir. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

The Service appreciates that the Texas Water Development Board wishes to have input into the proposed establishment of the refuge. The Service also understands the Texas Water Development Board's interest in the future water needs of Texas and its desire to preserve viable reservoir sites.

The Service believes the refuge proposal submitted by its Southwest Region merits consideration. It is our intention to make a determination on those merits after full review of the project record. Nevertheless, we remain interested in the information forthcoming from the study being conducted by the City of Dallas if it can be provided in the immediate future, especially to the degree that options that truly protect bottomland hardwood wildlife habitat resources are presented.

The conservation of healthy bottomland hardwood resources has been one of the Service's goals in east Texas for many years. The Neches River area proposed for the refuge was identified as early as 1985 as a priority area. More recently, the site was considered as a wildlife refuge when it appeared that lands in the area, especially those lands owned by timber corporations, might be divested and subject to residential or commercial development.

At present, we are still reviewing the project proposal and expect to make a decision in the near future. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact me or Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, the Service's Acting Regional Director for the Southwest Region, at (505) 248-6282.

Sincerely,

H. Dale Hall

DIRECTOR

**TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA** 



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

May 30, 2006

Mr. Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

In 1997, the State of Texas, through the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), began the process of planning for our state's future water needs. Through regional planning, TWDB has identified what those needs will be for the next 50 years, and has begun to identify projects that will help meet those needs.

The Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex is one of the fastest growing areas in our state. There is no question that water supply projects beyond what is currently available must be identified and developed for the metroplex to meet its future needs. One of the projects proposed is the Fastrill Reservoir in East Texas, a reservoir site that has been present in the Texas state water plan since the early 1960's. The City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority (authority) are currently conducting studies to determine the feasibility of this proposed site. The City of Dallas provides water not only to Dallas proper, but to more than 30 surrounding cities in the metroplex. The high level of projected growth in this service area over the next few decades dictates that the need for water for this growing population will grow exponentially as well.

Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is studying a proposal to place a wildlife refuge within the footprint of Fastrill Reservoir. Designation of this refuge and acceptance of any land into it would preclude the development of the reservoir. Because reservoir sites are so rare, we have asked USFWS to delay making a decision until such time as all parties can complete current studies and have been given ample opportunity to work together and possibly negotiate the relocation of the proposed refuge in an area that may be more suitable, allowing for the development of both the refuge and the reservoir. TWDB, for example, has just let a contract to three engineering firms to study and produce a report on the remaining viable reservoir sites left in Texas, which may or may not include Fastrill Reservoir. That report is scheduled to be completed by December 2006.

Mr. Dirk Kempthorne
May 30, 2006
Page 2

I am told that USFWS and our Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have been meeting with representatives of Dallas and the authority. I am concerned that the USFWS representatives are proposing to move too quickly. I suggest giving the parties a chance to develop alternatives, and ask that you direct USFWS to delay any decision until such time as the TWDB study is completed. Delay of a decision in this instance from the arbitrary June 1 deadline until the TWDB study can be completed should not be considered unreasonable. I support wildlife conservation and refuges, but I also believe this can be accomplished in conjunction with meeting our state's water needs.

Delaying this decision does nothing to prevent the ultimate development of a wildlife refuge in the region or to otherwise preclude such designation. Swift action and designation of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge within the footprint of Fastrill Reservoir would, however, preclude the development of the reservoir, no matter what these ongoing studies will show.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and your willingness to work with the people of Texas. This is of prime importance to a significant number of citizens of this great state.

Sincerely,



Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Sam Johnson, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Pete Sessions, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jeb Hensarling, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kenny Marchant, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
Mr. Barry Jackson, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives
Mr. David P. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior
Mr. H. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. Mitchell J. Butler, Attorney Advisor, Council on Environmental Quality
Mr. Joseph B. C. Fitzsimons, Chairman, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Mr. E. G. Rod Pittman, Chairman, Texas Water Development Board



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06 MAY 31 PM 5:39

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNOR RICK PERRY
BUDGET, PLANNING AND POLICY

TO: KEMPTHORNE

FAX: 202.273.3501

FROM: ZYAK COVAR

DATE: 5.30.06

MESSAGE: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 3

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/025849/349719

AUG 23 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of May 30, 2006, to Secretary Kempthorne requesting that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) delay approval of the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). We appreciate your concerns with respect to the City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority's interest in the same site for the development of the proposed Fastrill Reservoir.

The conservation of the healthy bottomland hardwood resources in east Texas has been the Service's goal since 1985. More than 60 percent of the lands along this stretch of the Neches River are owned in larger tracts by interests that for the last 30 or 40 years have left the bottomland resources relatively untouched. We recognize that the habitat along the proposed project footprint is not considered "old growth." Nevertheless, there are smaller tracts along this stretch of river wherein bottomland resources have been moderately disturbed. The full stretch of the Neches River together with the proposal presents the best compendium of mature bottomland hardwood resources that could be conserved and managed without a large investment by the United States in reforestation.

We initially delayed a final decision on approving this new refuge at the request of local officials and to hear the concerns of all stakeholders. We have decided at this time to approve establishment of Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge will be established at such time as the first parcel of land is acquired. Lands within the approved refuge boundary would be acquired by the United States as funding becomes available and only from willing sellers. Lands would be acquired using funds appropriated by Congress, or approved through the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, which requires the Governor's approval, or through donation.

Now that we have approved the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge, we look forward to working with your office, the citizens of east Texas, the City of Dallas, the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority, and other interested State and local government officials on the details regarding management of the refuge.

Sincerely,

Marshall A. Jones Jr.
Acting DIRECTOR

**TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA** 



UNITED WE STAND

REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

1875 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 250 • Washington, DC 20006

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2008 JAN 22 PM 3:18

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

229255

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RGAA

REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

January 15, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne,

On behalf of the Republican Governors of the United States, I invite you be our guest at the 14th annual gala, "*A Celebration of America's Leaders*" in Washington, DC on Monday, February 25, 2008.

I am expecting all 21 of my colleagues to be in attendance for this gala along with special guest President George W. Bush. This is the RGA's largest event and will help give us the resources to compete in 11 gubernatorial races this year.

A successful event will also help us prepare for the 2010 elections. The governors in office that year will be instrumental in determining the make up of Congress for the next decade. Republicans could easily see a swing of 26 seats just by electing 7 new governors in key states before 2010.

The gala will be held at the National Building Museum (401 F Street, NW) from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

To RSVP please fill out the attached reply form, or contact Angela Meyers at (202) 662-4141 or ameyers@rga.org.

I look forward to seeing you on February 25, 2008.

Sincerely,



Governor Rick Perry
State of Texas
RGA Chairman



Republican Governors Association

2008 "A Celebration of America's Leaders"

R.S.V.P.

____ Yes, I will attend the RGA's "A Celebration of America's Leaders" as a guest of the RGA.

Tickets will be available for pick up under each guest's last name:

Monday, February 25th 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Will Call Hours

Event begins at 5:30 p.m.

National Building Museum, 401 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

Please use the G Street Entrance **Dress for the event: Business attire

Special Guest: President George W. Bush

Hosts:

Governor Mark Sanford, (SC), "A Celebration of America's Leaders" Chairman

Governor Rick Perry, (TX), RGA Chairman

Governor Matt Blunt, (MO), RGA Vice Chairman

Invited Guests:

Republican Governors of the United States

United States Cabinet and Administration Officials

U.S. Republican Members of the Senate

U.S. Republican Members of the House

Name: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Contact Information:

NAME

OFFICE

PHONE FAX E-MAIL

Questions: Kiley Herring 202-662-4145 / kherring@rga.org

RSVP: Please fax this form to: FAX: 202-662-4924
Republican Governors Association
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20006

Paid for by the Republican Governors Association.



236952

May 20, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Gulf Coast Coastal Impact Assistance Program

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

As you know, our states have been, and remain, firmly committed to supporting the nation's energy needs through oil and gas production in our respective state waters and adjacent federal waters. We also believe that our states, which bear the burden of supporting the Gulf Coast's oil and gas production, have earned the opportunity to receive enhanced revenues associated with Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas development and production adjacent to our respective states. Accordingly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your agency for the diligent efforts in developing and administering the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) which provides one billion dollars of enhanced revenue to oil and gas-producing states and coastal political subdivisions. We recognize the magnitude of this program and appreciate the assistance it will provide to the Gulf Coast states.

From its enactment in 2005, we have worked closely with the Minerals Management Service (MMS) in developing the CIAP program and we are highly appreciative of their efforts associated with this program. We believe that the individuals representing the MMS in this endeavor are committed to developing and implementing a program which is consistent with Congress' mandate. However, in working on this program for almost three years, we have developed, independent of one another, common concerns regarding the CIAP. We would like to share these with you and ask that due consideration be given to resolving these concerns. Our concerns are described in three areas below:

1. CIAP Plan Approval - It appears that among each state's CIAP plan, projects have emerged which require additional justification and information. We continue to provide additional information in order to gain approval. As it stands now, however, a CIAP plan will not gain approval unless all projects contained within the plan are approved. *We respectfully request consideration of an approach whereby the projects with which there are no questions or issues can be approved while we continue to work through issues associated with other projects. This will allow CIAP recipients the opportunity to proceed with implementation of important projects in a cost-effective and timely manner.*
2. Authorized Use #4 - Congress allowed for CIAP funding to be spent in one of five ways as described in the 2005 Energy Policy Act. These five ways in which the funding can be spent are referred to as Authorized Uses. Authorized Use #4 allows for "implementation of a Federally-approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan." While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, it is currently being interpreted by federal officials to exclude recreational, public access and economic development projects. Nowhere in the 2005 Energy Policy Act or the CIAP program guidance are these exclusions mentioned. We would also like to note that conservation goals along with recreational, public access and economic goals can be achieved simultaneously through implementation of on-the-

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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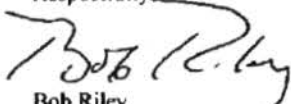
ground projects that are designed in an sustainable, environmentally-sensitive way. Those goals do not have to compete with one another or be mutually exclusive. For example, a pier construction project can support fishery population research and protect endangered species, as well as provide an opportunity for public access and recreation. *As such, we respectfully request consideration of an alternative, simpler interpretation of this Authorized Use #4 which allows recreational, public access and economic development projects as long as they are contained within a federally approved plan as described in Authorized Use #4 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.*


3. Authorized Use #1 – Authorized Use #1 allows “projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands;” While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, we feel the term “conservation” is currently being interpreted by federal officials as “preservation” as it relates to the proposed land acquisition projects. This interpretation is limiting the potential of these lands to be used to the fullest extent for public use and enjoyment while staying within the state conservation guidelines. Most state conservation management plans allow and promote public use of public lands. *We respectfully request consideration of an alternative interpretation of “conservation,” one that is consistent with state conservation plans.*

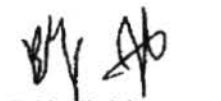
4. CIAP Grant Program – We are concerned about the CIAP grant program as it is currently being implemented. Currently, each project contained within an approved Final CIAP plan must also receive an individual grant award prior to implementation. Once the program is fully up and running, this will result in, literally, hundreds of grant applications that will require simultaneous processing by federal officials. The first and only CIAP grant awarded to date took five months to process prior to its award, a time frame we find both unreasonable and unacceptable. *We respectfully request consideration of an approach that will dramatically streamline the CIAP grant process. We suggest an approach that will issue a grant award to a state and one to each of its associated county or parish upon receipt of final plan approval. This would allow a significantly smaller commitment in paperwork processing and allow federal officials to focus on monitoring and site visits. Also, this approach follows the precedent set by the 2001 CIAP program administered by the Department of Commerce.*

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the issues raised in this correspondence. We believe the CIAP program can be an incredibly effective tool for the Gulf Coast and appreciate everything the Department of Interior has done to make this a reality. If you have any questions or desire any additional information, we stand ready to provide that for you.

Respectfully,


Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama


Haley Barbour
Governor of Mississippi


Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana


Rick Perry
Governor of Texas

cc: The Honorable Randall B. Luthi, MMS Director
Walter Cruickshank, MMS Deputy Director
M. Barnett Lawley, ADCNR Commissioner
William Walker, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mississippi DMR
Scott A. Angelle, Secretary, Louisiana DNR
Jerry Patterson, Commissioner, Texas General Land Office



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



JUL 3 1 2008

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter dated May 20, 2008, to Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, cosigned by Governors Bob Riley of Alabama, Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, and Haley Barbour of Mississippi, concerning the Gulf Coast Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). Secretary Kempthorne asked me to respond. A similar letter will be sent to Governors Riley, Jindal, and Barbour.

We are pleased to read of your regard for the Minerals Management Service (MMS) staff and their efforts in developing this very important program. In addition, we appreciate your concerns with MMS's implementation of CIAP, as well as your suggestions for improving the program.

In an effort to address your concerns, the MMS has scheduled regular meetings with your staff and those of the other Governors to discuss the four concerns in your letter. At the conclusion of these meetings, we will ascertain how the Department of the Interior and the MMS may best proceed with our CIAP responsibilities.

Thank you for contacting the Secretary. If you have any questions about this letter or the ongoing meetings please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 208-6734, or you may call Mr. Randall B. Luthi, Director, MMS at (202) 208-3500.

Sincerely,

C. Stephen Allred
Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management

**TEXAS GOVERNOR RICK PERRY
AND FIRST LADY ANITA PERRY**

INVITE YOU AND A GUEST TO SHARE AN EVENING WITH TEXAS STARS



TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Entry at 13th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT WITH TEXAS STARS!

TEXANS THAT FLEW AMONG THE STARS

TEXAS CULINARY & WINEMAKING STARS

RSVP BY JUNE 11, 2008

CREDENTIALS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ADMITTANCE



It's like a whole other country.

TEXAS MUSIC STARS
Kelly Willis and Bruce Robison
Los Texmaniacs with special guest Little Joe

TEXAS WILL BE A FEATURED DESTINATION AT THE 2008 SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL
HIGHLIGHTING THE MUSIC, FOOD AND WINEMAKING TRADITIONS OF THE LONE STAR STATE



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



JUL 3 1 2008

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter dated May 20, 2008, to Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, cosigned by Governors Bob Riley of Alabama, Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, and Haley Barbour of Mississippi, concerning the Gulf Coast Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). Secretary Kempthorne asked me to respond. A similar letter will be sent to Governors Riley, Jindal, and Barbour.

We are pleased to read of your regard for the Minerals Management Service (MMS) staff and their efforts in developing this very important program. In addition, we appreciate your concerns with MMS's implementation of CIAP, as well as your suggestions for improving the program.

In an effort to address your concerns, the MMS has scheduled regular meetings with your staff and those of the other Governors to discuss the four concerns in your letter. At the conclusion of these meetings, we will ascertain how the Department of the Interior and the MMS may best proceed with our CIAP responsibilities.

Thank you for contacting the Secretary. If you have any questions about this letter or the ongoing meetings please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 208-6734, or you may call Mr. Randall B. Luthi, Director, MMS at (202) 208-3500.

Sincerely,

C. Stephen Allred
Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



JUL 3 1 2008

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

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Sincerely,

C. Stephen Allred
Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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2008 SEP 17 PM 12:20

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

September 9, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

I am pleased to approve the acquisition of an additional 924 acres to be managed as a part of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge. This will undoubtedly provide more recreational and hunting opportunities while further protecting migratory bird habitat. I appreciate the close working relationship the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has developed and maintained with the State of Texas for each of these acquisitions.

I must, however, register my displeasure about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's lack of coordination and lack of acknowledgement of the State of Texas' sovereignty in the creation of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. As with most of the United States, we face myriad challenges in addressing current and future water needs in Texas. Arbitrary decisions made by federal agencies that directly affect Texas' water supply for her citizens are irresponsible and can be detrimental to future planning.

As we move forward, I respectfully request the consideration of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on any new designations. I hope the relationship the Migratory Bird Commission has developed and fostered with Texas will serve as an example for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tbp

373638



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



OCT 17 2008

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor
Office of the Governor
The State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of September 9, 2008, to Secretary of the Interior Kempthorne, approving the acquisition of an additional 924 acres to be managed as part of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The Secretary has asked that I respond directly to you.

Your approval of the acquisition of 924 acres to be added to the Refuge with funds provided by the Migratory Bird Commission is greatly appreciated. The Refuge was established in 1994 to protect a remnant of the bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem along the Trinity River. The Refuge currently occupies 23,000 acres and with additions, such as the one recently approved, will continue to grow and to provide additional quality hunting, fishing, and wildlife conservation opportunities to the residents of Texas.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) acknowledges your concerns regarding the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. We appreciate your desire to ensure coordination between the Service and the State of Texas and look forward to working on items of mutual concern. It is the intention of the Service to continue to coordinate fully with the State on such items.

Thank you for your support. If you have any additional questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me or Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 202-208-4717.

Sincerely

Lyle Laverty
Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

533054

April 27, 2001

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing to express my strong concern about a proposed rule by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that designates over 600 miles of Texas coastline (and 1,000 miles of coastline in other states) as critical habitat for winter forage of the migratory Piping Plover. This regulation was initiated under the Clinton Administration and is scheduled for issuance as a final rule on April 30th.

As proposed, this rule will significantly impact the coastal economy of Texas, including real estate and tourism development and oil and gas exploration and production. Since many of the oil and gas leases along the Gulf Coast benefit the state's Permanent School Fund, these proposed designations will have a significant impact on funding for public school education in Texas.

This rule was proposed without the completion of an economic study, as required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It does not take into consideration that the ESA already provides protection for this species. Nor does it take into account that modifications to most coastal areas already require state and federal permits. Moreover, it provides for several broad designations that will impact areas along the Texas coastline that are not used for Piping Plover forage.

Finally, while the critical habitat designation for the nesting area of the Great Lakes population of the Piping Plover must be issued by April 30th according to a court order, I understand that this order does not require USFWS to make a final designation of critical habitat for wintering Piping Plover populations for another year.

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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The Honorable Gale A. Norton
April 27, 2001
Page 2

For these reasons, I urge you to postpone the final implementation of this rule as it relates to wintering Piping Plover populations to allow for further biological and economic studies based on sound science. I believe that the additional time afforded under the court order should be used to ensure that the conservation plan that is put in place will preserve the winter forage of the Piping Plover, recognize the private property rights of Texans, and avoid unnecessarily inhibiting economic development and energy production along the Texas coastline.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgc

cc: Mr. Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 23, 2001

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Madam Secretary:

I recently learned of a project in our state that I believe is worthy of your consideration and support. The Capitol Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America (Capitol Area Council) is planning to establish a high adventure camp for boys and girls and a conference center on a 4,848 acre tract bequeathed to the Council by Mary Lavinia Griffith Sanders. The property, known as the Griffith League Ranch, is located in Bastrop County, just east of Austin. In addition to being a beautiful setting for a scout camp and conference center, Griffith League Ranch is home to the Houston toad, an endangered species.

I understand that the Capitol Area Council has proposed that its project be considered as a candidate for your landowner-incentive program. I fully support your decision to provide technical assistance, habitat enhancing tools and financial assistance to property owners, making them partners in the management of endangered species. I encourage you to give serious consideration to the Council's proposal. I reviewed the plan for the use of Griffith League Ranch and was impressed by the commitment to conservation, habitat preservation and enhancement, research regarding the species and education. The plan will achieve Ms. Sanders' dream for her family's ranch, providing a wonderful setting for an outdoor learning experience in a manner sensitive to the presence of the Houston toad. This is a unique opportunity for our state and your agency. This project affords the prospect of fostering an outstanding proposal for the youth of our state in a manner consistent with the continued existence of the Houston toad on the property.

I hope you will have the opportunity to meet with the representatives of the Capitol Area Council to discuss their proposal.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL
OFFICE OF THE

RP:bmw

01 MAY 30 PM 6:23

596613

cc: Mr. David P. Smith, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior
Mr. Ray Smith, Scout Executive, Capitol Area Council and Boy Scouts of America



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 23, 2001

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

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Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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Sincerely,

Rick Perry

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:bmw

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
OFFICE OF THE

01 MAY 30 PM 6:23

819985

cc: Mr. David P. Smith, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior
Mr. Ray Smith, Scout Executive, Capitol Area Council and Boy Scouts of America



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

DEC 28 2001

Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your May 23, 2001, letter supporting the use of landowner incentive program funds for the Capitol Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America's Griffith League Ranch in Bastrop County, Texas. I apologize for the delay in this response.

The Griffith League Ranch is one of the largest, highest-quality tracts of habitat left in Bastrop County for the endangered Houston toad. My immediate staff and Fish and Wildlife Service staff had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Capitol Area Council regarding the Griffith League Ranch project. We agree that the Council's proposed plan is impressive in its commitment to conservation, habitat preservation and enhancement, research, and education. I am pleased to inform you that the Fish and Wildlife Service recently awarded the Capitol Area Council a grant of over \$260,000 to assist in developing a habitat conservation plan for the Griffith League Ranch adventure camp.

In addition, President Bush recently signed the Interior Appropriations for fiscal year 2002, which provides funding for the President's two new grant programs, the Landowner Incentives Grant Program and the Private Stewardship Grant Program. The Landowner Incentives program provides \$40 million in matching grants, competitively awarded to States, Territories, and Tribes to establish or supplement their own landowner incentive programs. Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for the protection and management of habitat for listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk-species, while landowners continue to engage in traditional land use practices. The Private Stewardship program provides \$10 million on a nationally competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species or other at-risk-species. The Boy Scouts may be able to obtain additional financial assistance through one of these grant programs for additional funding for conservation actions on the Griffith League Ranch. The Service will be distributing information about these two new grant programs in the future.

I appreciate your interest in this project and commend the Boy Scouts of America for their commitment to the conservation of endangered species. If you have any additional concerns about this matter, please contact the Service's Assistant Director for Endangered Species, Mr. Gary Frazer, at 202-208-4646.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Norton



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 8, 2001

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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01 OCT 12 PM 4:03
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Dear Madam Secretary:

As you know, in Texas we have tried to forge new, improved relationships between landowners and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). We have made some progress but that process seems to have halted at least for the time being.

One recent concern deals with the biological opinion issued by the USFWS regarding the Barton Springs Salamander. We do not believe that this opinion was subjected to competent peer review or scrutiny at the national level within your agency. The concerns that have been raised by many concerned landowners have to do with the scientific basis for this opinion. We would ask that your office carefully review this opinion. Landowners could face possible restrictions on their use of land based on USFWS claims about water quality issues that have not been connected to direct harm of endangered species.

An additional concern we have is with the relationship among landowners, agriculture and USFWS centers around Texas' extraordinarily successful volunteer cowbird-trapping program to reduce cowbird parasitism on both endangered and declining songbird species, including the black-capped vireo. This program has been a national model, demonstrating how landowners, biologists and birders from very diverse backgrounds, can achieve appropriate, workable solutions.

We were, therefore, disturbed to learn that the makeup of the revived black-capped vireo recovery team appointed by USFWS does not reflect the true constituency and partnership of this essential effort. In fact, a number of individuals who have been instrumental in this overall effort from the start have not been included, whereas several appointed to this recovery team by USFWS have not been involved. To be successful, the new recovery team needs to be diverse and representative of the Texas stakeholders.

We are only writing to express our concerns and believe that solutions reached in a fair, objective manner are the best solutions. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you on a solution.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

Susan Combs
Commissioner of Agriculture



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 8, 2001

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

Susan Combs
Commissioner of Agriculture



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JAN 15 2002

Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your October 8, 2001, letter regarding the draft biological opinion issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service to the Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate the effects of their general construction permit on listed species in Texas and for your comments on the composition of the recently assembled recovery team for the black-capped vireo. I apologize for the delay in responding to you.

I appreciate your concern that the Service's draft biological opinion on the effects of the Environmental Protection Agency's general construction permit on the Barton Springs salamander reflect the best available science and information. The draft opinion has been reviewed by both the Service's regional and national staff and the Service continues to work with the EPA to address issues associated with the draft. One of the Service's most experienced managers, Mr. Dale Hall, is now Acting Regional Director for the Service's Southwest Region. Mr. Hall has been made aware of the priority to finalize the Barton Springs consultation, and has been asked to work with you, the EPA and others to resolve the outstanding Barton Springs salamander issues.

The Service also is committed to having a diversity of views represented on its recovery teams. In June 2001, a group of individuals was invited to serve on the Black-Capped Vireo Recovery Team. Some of these individuals were asked to serve on the Recovery Team's Technical Subcommittee to provide expertise on the biology and ecology of the vireo and its habitat. Others were invited to serve on the Team's Stakeholder Subcommittee to provide expertise on the socio-economic aspects of the plan and the feasibility and appropriateness of recommended recovery tasks.

Since the initial meeting of the Recovery Team on August 21, 2001, the Service has expanded its efforts to further diversify the team's membership to ensure that the new recovery plan will be representative of and responsive to the views of local communities and our conservation partners. In October 2001, the membership of the team was broadened by extending invitations to representatives from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Wildlife Association, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Texas Audubon Society, Texas Farm Bureau, and Central Texas Cattleman's Association. The Texas Farm Bureau specifically requested that Dr. Wallace Klussmann, Mr. Steve Bauer, Dr. Pat Reardon, and Mr. Steve Manning be invited to join the

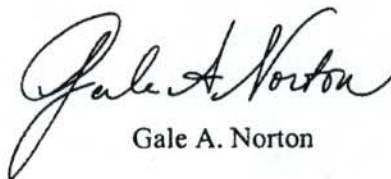
Honorable Rick Perry

2

recovery team. Invitations to join the team were extended to those four gentlemen; all have accepted the invitation. This will bring the number of stakeholders on the team to 14, with a total of 27 team members. The next meeting, scheduled for January 16, 2002, will be the first opportunity for the entire team to meet and work together. Enclosed please find a list of the Black-Capped Vireo Recovery Team members.

I commend your State's efforts to conserve endangered and declining songbird species and agree that the Texas program serves as a national model for how landowners, biologists, and birders of diverse backgrounds can achieve workable solutions. Without question, conservation reached through communication and cooperation is the best solution. If you need any further assistance on this matter, please contact Mr. Dale Hall, the Service's Acting Southwest Regional Director, at (505) 248-6910.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gale A. Norton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gale A. Norton

Enclosure

BLACK-CAPPED VIREO RECOVERY TEAM

TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE:

Name	Entity/Interest	Expertise
John Cornelius	Ft. Hood	bird biologist/habitat expert
Tim Hayden	USCOE-CERL	ornithological researcher
Joe Grzybowski	Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum	field expertise
Bill Armstrong	TPWD, Kerr WMA	ag/habitat manipulation
Jeff Hatfield	Patuxent	statistician/modeling
Christina Longacre	USFWS	lead for species
Dave Diamond	Missouri. Resource Assessment Partnership	habitat expert
Chuck Sexton	BCNWR	bird/habitat expert
Doug Slack (Leader)	Texas A&M	bird biologist
Frank Thompson	U.S. Forest Service	cowbird expert
Stanley Temple	Univ. Wisconsin	modeling – participation uncertain
Margaret Brittingham	Penn State University	cowbird expert – participation uncertain

STAKEHOLDER SUBCOMMITTEE:

Name	Entity/Interest	Expertise
Clay Jones	Jones North Ranch	ag economics
Donald Neal	Neal Ranch	cattle operations
Deidre Heisler	TPWD	recreation within preserves
Todd Janssen	Del Webb Sun City	developer
Mel Hinson	City of Austin PARD	worked on BCP
Bebe Fenstermaker	Citizen	landowner with birds

David Wolfe	Environmental Defense	non-profit, incentive-based conservation
Paul Robertson	TPWD	representative for TPWD BCV researchers
Pat Reardon	Texas Wildlife Association	representative for TWA
Terry Austin	Audubon Society	representative for Texas chapter
Wallace Klussmann	Texas Farm Bureau	representing TFB
Stephen Bauer	Texas Farm Bureau	representing TFB
Steve Manning	Central TX Cattlemen's Assoc.	representative for CTCA
Gary Amand	TNC	Central Texas Program Manager (replacing Jeff Weigel at request of TNC)
William Burman	City of San Antonio	participation uncertain



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

April 30, 2002

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Administrator Whitman and Secretary Norton:

I understand that the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are currently considering a request by the State of Chihuahua and their consultants to fund the Rio Conchos Watershed Management Project. On behalf of the State of Texas, I strongly urge that you deny any request for funding until Mexico, specifically the State of Chihuahua, meets its obligation to provide 1.5 million acre-feet of water in compliance with the 1944 Water Treaty.

Although the concept paper for the Rio Conchos Watershed Management Project states that "almost one-third of the Conchos' waters have been dedicated by Mexico to cover part of the quota committed by the International Treaty of 1944 with the USA," the proposal ironically gives no indication that a goal of this project will be to ensure the delivery of water owed by Mexico to the U.S. or that the treaty obligations will be incorporated into the management model.

Funding this request while Mexico is still far behind in its water treaty obligations would be adding insult to real economic injury to the citizens, farmers, and ranchers of South Texas.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
OFFICE OF THE

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The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
The Honorable Gale A. North
April 30, 2002
Page 2

Current studies show Mexico's noncompliance with the treaty has resulted in the loss of 30,000 jobs and a negative impact of \$1 billion on Texas' economy. I respectfully request that the federal government refrain from funding this project and notify Mexico that it will be reconsidered when the treaty issues are substantially addressed. These actions will help amplify America's commitment to resolving this treaty violation and getting needed and long over due water to the citizens of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The first letter "R" is large and loops around the "i" and "c". The "P" is also large and loops around the "e" and "r". The "y" has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgk

cc: The Honorable George W. Bush
The Honorable Paul H. O'Neill, Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury
The Honorable Gwyn Shea, Secretary of State
Texas Congressional Delegation Members
Mr. Otto Reich, Assistant Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State
Mr. Dennis Linksey, Border Coordinator, Office of Mexican Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Mr. Carlos Ramirez, U.S. Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission
Ms. Judith E. Ayres, Assistant Administrator for International Activities, Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Gregg Cooke, Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
Mr. Raul Rodriguez, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, North American Development Bank
Mr. Fernando Macias, General Manager, Border Environment Cooperation Commission

Handwritten notes:
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1849 C St, NW
Washington, DC 20240
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May 27, 2004

Secretaries Ann Veneman
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Secretary Gale Norton
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C St, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretaries Veneman and Norton:

We appreciate your balanced and reasonable response to the safety concerns raised by the recent National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) review of firefighting aircraft.

Based on the NTSB's finding that there is no effective mechanism in place to certify the safety of these planes, we understand the decision to terminate the use of large, fixed-wing air tankers for the remainder of the 2004 fire season. After the tragic 2002 fire season where airtanker crashes killed 5 firefighters, the federal government should take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of the men and women who risk their lives fighting fires. Moreover, it is essential to mitigate any risk these planes might pose to the public, particularly since tankers may be called on to fly near urban areas.

As you know, these aircraft were an important part of a fire suppression strategy that relies on initial attack to prevent small fire starts from becoming large-scale events that threaten people, property and our environment. That's why we appreciate the Administration's swift ongoing deployment of replacement resources, particularly the use of modified C-130 aircraft, heavy and medium lift helicopters, and single engine tankers (SEATS).

A rapid response is critical to insuring that small fires are quickly extinguished before they grow difficult to control, and we urge you to continue your efforts to deploy these and other replacement resources with all deliberate speed. We also encourage you to continue your work with the FAA to thoroughly address the safety issues raised by the NTSB report.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
OFFICE OF THE

04 JUN 17 PM 12:36

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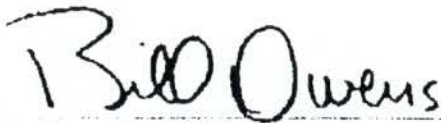
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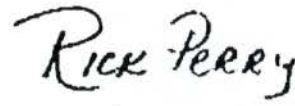
Successful firefighting efforts require close cooperation from federal, state and local officials, and look forward to working with you as partners in meeting the short-term challenges of this fire season and in establishing safe and effective aerial firefighting assets in the long term.

Sincerely,



Governor Kenny Guinn



Governor Mike Johanns


Governor Bill Owens
Colorado


Governor Rick Perry


Governor Mike Rounds


Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger


Governor Olene S. Walker

332058



WASHINGTON



THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JUN 18 2004

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Chair, Western Governors' Association
1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 200
Denver, Colorado 80202

The Honorable Bill Owens
Vice-Chair Western Governors' Association
1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 200
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governors Richardson and Owens:

We are writing to provide additional information to address concerns over the effect of the termination of the large airtanker contract on the fire season this year.

In our letters of May 18 and June 3, 2004, we stressed that safety is our core value in firefighting, and that we continue to be committed to the protection of communities from the threat of wildland fires. As you know, we have aviation assets already assigned and activated. At this time, we have secured a total of 139 aircraft to supplement the loss of the airtanker support. This is an increased number from the last information we sent you. These aircraft include the use of Single Engine Airtankers (SEATs), large helitankers helicopters, and medium helicopters which were previously available on a call-when needed contract basis.

As we indicated previously, we have also activated the military Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS). The MAFFS are based in California, Colorado, Wyoming, and North Carolina, but are mobile and will be dispatched to locations on an as-needed basis depending upon national priorities. We have already deployed some MAFFS assets.

The addition of all of these aircraft will enable Federal firefighters to maintain effective aviation support while ensuring the safety of pilots and aircraft as well as communities. We anticipate that these resources will enable us to achieve a near 99% success rate on initial and extended attack.

We have also been working with the NTSB and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to establish procedures to determine the potential airworthiness of the previously contracted airtankers.

As part of our work with the NTSB and FAA, we have requested information from the airtanker vendors to assess the airworthiness of their airtankers for possible firefighting contracts. The requests are based on criteria established in concert with the NTSB, the FAA, Department of the Interior, and the Forest Service. The Forest Service has contracted DynCorp to evaluate the airtankers and the data to determine the potential airworthiness of these aircraft.

DynCorp is working toward a rigorous and complete evaluation of the aircraft and data and will soon provide airworthiness recommendations to the Forest Service and Department of the Interior for the various aircraft types. A determination is expected soon on whether to re-contract for aircraft that meet FAA and NTSB criteria.

Although we are undertaking these efforts with DynCorp, we do not want to infer from this process that a high percentage of the large airtankers will shortly be returned to service. As indicated, irrespective of the outcome of this process, the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior will maintain adequate aviation resources for the upcoming fire season.

We recognize how important it is to work closely with our tribal, State, and local firefighting partners to make the best use of our resources and to respond to what is likely to be another challenging fire season. We continue to work with State foresters to update regional needs in the current fire season. We will continue to work closely with the Western Governor's Association and our wildland firefighting partners on placement of resources.

We will keep you apprised on any further developments, and we are available to brief you and your staff at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



MARK REY
Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment



P. LYNN SCARLETT
Assistant Secretary
Policy, Management and Budget



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

July 13, 2004

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Take Pride in America program. Texans have always held a special attachment to our natural, historic, and cultural resources. I am pleased to participate in a program that encourages Texans to volunteer their time and expertise to maintain and restore our unique treasures.

I submit Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Executive Director Robert L. Cook as the Texas state coordinator for the Take Pride in America program. TPWD is committed to achieving many of the same goals as the Take Pride in America program, and I am confident that Robert, or his designee, will represent Texas well. Mr. Cook's contact information is:

Mr. Robert L. Cook
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744
Phone: 512/389-4802

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this important program. Please feel free to contact my office if you need any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgp

cc: Mr. Robert L. Cook
Ms. Susan Weddington, President and CEO, OneStar Foundation

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

October 6, 2004

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the sound policies that you have advanced in support of natural resources in the State of Texas. Your efforts to improve national parks and protect vulnerable species have produced incalculable benefits to our environment. I am writing to request your assistance regarding the production of sheep and goats in Texas and the interaction of this industry with golden eagles.

Currently, sheep and goat raisers of west central Texas are having a depredation problem with golden eagles. However, the protections afforded these majestic creatures, through the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act, requires individuals to apply for a permit to trap and transport golden eagles. In order to facilitate their application, I have asked the Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service to coordinate with the agriculture producers affected by the depredating eagles. Their efforts will generate an application that describes the severe economic impact of the eagles on individual sheep and goat raisers who have suffered as much as an 80 percent loss of their kid goats in one year. This loss is unacceptable when it can be mitigated through the coordinated efforts of federal and state government.

The sheep and goat industry is very important to the State of Texas and generates more than \$173 million in direct sales to the economy. However, the noble golden eagle is very deserving of federal and state protections that will allow these eagles to be moved without harm. Therefore, I respectfully request your assistance in providing the necessary resources to address this situation internally or in coordination with the Wildlife Services Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is my sincere hope that we can work together to address this problem while continuing your laudable efforts to protect and preserve our nation's wildlife.

Sincerely,

A large, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:lsp

cc: Mr. Gary L. Nunley, State Director, Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service
Mr. George Sultemeier, Past President, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association
Mr. Kenneth Dierschke, President, Texas Farm Bureau



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AMB/019189

JAN 04 2005

Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of October 6, 2004, to Secretary Gale Norton regarding the production of sheep and goats in Texas and the interaction of this industry with golden eagles. We are aware of the depredation problems that have been reported by goat and sheep ranchers in west central Texas. The Secretary has asked me to respond directly to you, and I apologize for the delay.

On March 31, 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Texas State Administrator met with members of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association to discuss the problem. Also present at that meeting were representatives from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (USDA-WS), and a representative from your office.

The sources of predator caused mortality to sheep and goats in western Texas are not well understood at this time. Some ranchers at the meeting believed it could be attributed to golden eagles, while others thought there could be many sources of predation, including feral hogs.

Under a longstanding formal memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, USDA-WS is the Federal agency with the funding and responsibility for investigating golden eagle predation on sheep and goats in western Texas and undertaking any necessary control activities.

Trapping and relocating eagles, if necessary, are difficult tasks which must be undertaken by fully qualified individuals in consideration for the welfare of the birds. USDA-WS personnel are well qualified for these tasks and have successfully worked with Texas ranchers to resolve golden eagle depredation problems in the past. In compliance with the memorandum of understanding between the agencies and upon approval of an application from USDA-WS, the Service may issue a permit authorizing them to conduct eagle depredation control activities. The Service will work with both USDA-WS and the State of Texas to ensure that such a permit application is addressed in an efficient manner. If USDA-WS determines that golden eagles are a significant cause of mortality,

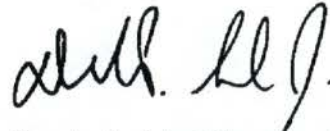
Honorable Rick Perry

2

the Service will ensure that they have the necessary authorization to trap and relocate the offending birds. We will personally convey this message to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

If you have further questions regarding this issue, please contact me, or have your staff contact Dale Hall, the Service's Southwest Regional Director, at (505) 248-6282.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D" and "H".

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 14, 2005

Ms. Renee Orr
5-Year Program Manager
Minerals Management Service (MS-4010)
Room 3120, 382 Elden Street
Herndon, Virginia 20170

RE: Comments on the Preparation of the 5-Year Program for 2007-2012

Dear Ms. Orr:

As the Governor of Texas, I am pleased to provide the U.S. Department of the Interior with comments on preparation of the 2007-2012 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program. Our U.S. energy policy greatly depends on the federal offshore leasing program. Given today's energy supply and price environment, it is critical that the department move aggressively to open all prospective OCS areas for leasing as soon as possible.

All acreage in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico should continue to be offered during the 2007-2012 period. Available acreage in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico should be expanded, and lease sales should be held in all prospective Alaska planning areas including the North Aleutian Planning Area. New initiatives should be undertaken to open the Pacific and Atlantic planning areas for leasing and development as well. Making these areas available for energy exploration and production is a national imperative, and I strongly encourage the Department of the Interior to be steadfast in its resolve to produce an offshore leasing program that will serve the national interest and maximize the OCS' contribution to future energy supplies.

Oil and gas exploration and production can be accomplished in a safe and environmentally sound fashion. Extensive stakeholder consultations should be undertaken to address lingering concerns about offshore development in coastal states. These consultations are absolutely essential given federal offshore waters hold the greatest potential for finding new energy resources and bringing them to market in the next 5 to 10 years.

Finally, I encourage the Department of the Interior to assume a leadership role in passage of OCS revenue sharing legislation. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, OCS revenues

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Ms. Renee Orr
October 14, 2005
Page 2

are needed to rebuild local communities and infrastructure in coastal areas so that offshore employees can return to home and to work. A primary lesson from the 2005 hurricane season is the strategic importance of the Gulf of Mexico energy industry to the nation's economic and energy security. The time has come to dedicate a portion of OCS revenues to coastal states and communities to ensure that critical infrastructure is in place to support offshore development activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important government initiative. I look forward to seeing the Draft Proposed Program in January 2006. I hope that it will represent considerable of change from today's policies and that it will signal a new era of cooperation between governments at all levels for the national good.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The first letter "R" is large and loops around the "i" and "c". The "P" is also large and loops around the "e" and "r". The "y" has a long, sweeping tail.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 13, 2005

839396

Mr. Matthew J. Hogan
Acting Director
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20242

RECEIVED
05 OCT 19 PM 3:31
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RE: Proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge

Dear Mr. Hogan:

The State of Texas, beginning in 1997, undertook a comprehensive, innovative study of the future water needs of this state. Since that time, the Texas Water Development Board, through regional planning groups, has identified needs in each region and has begun to identify methods in which to meet those water supply needs. That process is continuing today.

The Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex is one of the fastest growing areas in this state, if not in the nation, and there is no doubt that the future water needs of this fast growth area will be very large. As a matter of fact, growth in the area is outpacing the projections upon which the planning process is based, so its water supply needs will likely be greater than what has been estimated and will outpace the availability of existing projects. One of the few methods of providing needed water to the people of Texas will be through the development of reservoirs in our state.

Because of the scarcity of potential reservoir sites in Texas, it is important that we make sure to preserve those sites for the future. One potential site in East Texas is the Fastrill Reservoir site being studied by the City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority. I am aware that your agency is studying the possibility of developing a wildlife refuge within the footprint of Fastrill, which would have the effect of stopping the development of this reservoir.

In speaking with representatives of Dallas and the authority, I am convinced that they are willing to work with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to achieve the objectives sought in the wildlife refuge, and to possibly do this in a more advantageous manner by consolidating tracts,

Mr. Matthew J. Hogan
October 13, 2005
Page 2

or by giving your agency the ability to acquire even more acreage than initially planned for the refuge.

I urge you not to concur with the Region 2 Director's recommendation to grant project status to the Neches River Wildlife Refuge, and that you not acquire or accept any property within the Fastrill footprint until studies can be completed. I would further request that you work with the people of Dallas and the authority to find a solution that accomplishes the goals both for Texas and the nation. By working together with these entities, a solution can be reached whereby future Texans can be assured of adequate water resources while at the same time preserving prime bottomland hardwoods and wildlife habitat.

Thank you for working with the people of Texas. Please keep me informed of any developments in this area as this issue is of prime importance to my office and to all Texans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Jeb Hensarling, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior
Mr. Mitch Butler, Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/022930

FEB 06 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of October 13, 2005, concerning the proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge and Fastrill Reservoir. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

The Service appreciates that the Texas Water Development Board wishes to have input into the proposed establishment of the refuge. The Service also understands the Texas Water Development Board's interest in the future water needs of Texas and its desire to preserve viable reservoir sites.

The Service believes the refuge proposal submitted by its Southwest Region merits consideration. It is our intention to make a determination on those merits after full review of the project record. Nevertheless, we remain interested in the information forthcoming from the study being conducted by the City of Dallas if it can be provided in the immediate future, especially to the degree that options that truly protect bottomland hardwood wildlife habitat resources are presented.

The conservation of healthy bottomland hardwood resources has been one of the Service's goals in east Texas for many years. The Neches River area proposed for the refuge was identified as early as 1985 as a priority area. More recently, the site was considered as a wildlife refuge when it appeared that lands in the area, especially those lands owned by timber corporations, might be divested and subject to residential or commercial development.

At present, we are still reviewing the project proposal and expect to make a decision in the near future. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact me or Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, the Service's Acting Regional Director for the Southwest Region, at (505) 248-6282.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/022930

FEB 06 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of October 13, 2005, concerning the proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge and Fastrill Reservoir. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

The Service appreciates that the Texas Water Development Board wishes to have input into the proposed establishment of the refuge. The Service also understands the Texas Water Development Board's interest in the future water needs of Texas and its desire to preserve viable reservoir sites.

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The conservation of healthy bottomland hardwood resources has been one of the Service's goals in east Texas for many years. The Neches River area proposed for the refuge was identified as early as 1985 as a priority area. More recently, the site was considered as a wildlife refuge when it appeared that lands in the area, especially those lands owned by timber corporations, might be divested and subject to residential or commercial development.

At present, we are still reviewing the project proposal and expect to make a decision in the near future. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact me or Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, the Service's Acting Regional Director for the Southwest Region, at (505) 248-6282.

Sincerely,

H. Dale Hall

DIRECTOR

**TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA** 



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

May 30, 2006

Mr. Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

In 1997, the State of Texas, through the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), began the process of planning for our state's future water needs. Through regional planning, TWDB has identified what those needs will be for the next 50 years, and has begun to identify projects that will help meet those needs.

The Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex is one of the fastest growing areas in our state. There is no question that water supply projects beyond what is currently available must be identified and developed for the metroplex to meet its future needs. One of the projects proposed is the Fastrill Reservoir in East Texas, a reservoir site that has been present in the Texas state water plan since the early 1960's. The City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority (authority) are currently conducting studies to determine the feasibility of this proposed site. The City of Dallas provides water not only to Dallas proper, but to more than 30 surrounding cities in the metroplex. The high level of projected growth in this service area over the next few decades dictates that the need for water for this growing population will grow exponentially as well.

Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is studying a proposal to place a wildlife refuge within the footprint of Fastrill Reservoir. Designation of this refuge and acceptance of any land into it would preclude the development of the reservoir. Because reservoir sites are so rare, we have asked USFWS to delay making a decision until such time as all parties can complete current studies and have been given ample opportunity to work together and possibly negotiate the relocation of the proposed refuge in an area that may be more suitable, allowing for the development of both the refuge and the reservoir. TWDB, for example, has just let a contract to three engineering firms to study and produce a report on the remaining viable reservoir sites left in Texas, which may or may not include Fastrill Reservoir. That report is scheduled to be completed by December 2006.

Mr. Dirk Kempthorne
May 30, 2006
Page 2

I am told that USFWS and our Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have been meeting with representatives of Dallas and the authority. I am concerned that the USFWS representatives are proposing to move too quickly. I suggest giving the parties a chance to develop alternatives, and ask that you direct USFWS to delay any decision until such time as the TWDB study is completed. Delay of a decision in this instance from the arbitrary June 1 deadline until the TWDB study can be completed should not be considered unreasonable. I support wildlife conservation and refuges, but I also believe this can be accomplished in conjunction with meeting our state's water needs.

Delaying this decision does nothing to prevent the ultimate development of a wildlife refuge in the region or to otherwise preclude such designation. Swift action and designation of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge within the footprint of Fastrill Reservoir would, however, preclude the development of the reservoir, no matter what these ongoing studies will show.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and your willingness to work with the people of Texas. This is of prime importance to a significant number of citizens of this great state.

Sincerely,



Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Sam Johnson, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Pete Sessions, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jeb Hensarling, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kenny Marchant, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
Mr. Barry Jackson, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives
Mr. David P. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior
Mr. H. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. Mitchell J. Butler, Attorney Advisor, Council on Environmental Quality
Mr. Joseph B. C. Fitzsimons, Chairman, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Mr. E. G. Rod Pittman, Chairman, Texas Water Development Board



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNOR RICK PERRY
BUDGET, PLANNING AND POLICY

TO: KEMPTHORNE
FAX: 202.273.3501
FROM: ZAK COVAR
DATE: 5.30.06

MESSAGE: _____

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/025849/349719

AUG 23 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of May 30, 2006, to Secretary Kempthorne requesting that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) delay approval of the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). We appreciate your concerns with respect to the City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority's interest in the same site for the development of the proposed Fastrill Reservoir.

The conservation of the healthy bottomland hardwood resources in east Texas has been the Service's goal since 1985. More than 60 percent of the lands along this stretch of the Neches River are owned in larger tracts by interests that for the last 30 or 40 years have left the bottomland resources relatively untouched. We recognize that the habitat along the proposed project footprint is not considered "old growth." Nevertheless, there are smaller tracts along this stretch of river wherein bottomland resources have been moderately disturbed. The full stretch of the Neches River together with the proposal presents the best compendium of mature bottomland hardwood resources that could be conserved and managed without a large investment by the United States in reforestation.

We initially delayed a final decision on approving this new refuge at the request of local officials and to hear the concerns of all stakeholders. We have decided at this time to approve establishment of Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge will be established at such time as the first parcel of land is acquired. Lands within the approved refuge boundary would be acquired by the United States as funding becomes available and only from willing sellers. Lands would be acquired using funds appropriated by Congress, or approved through the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, which requires the Governor's approval, or through donation.

Now that we have approved the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge, we look forward to working with your office, the citizens of east Texas, the City of Dallas, the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority, and other interested State and local government officials on the details regarding management of the refuge.

Sincerely,

Marshall P. Jones Jr.
Acting DIRECTOR





UNITED WE STAND

REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

1875 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 250 • Washington, DC 20006

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2008 JAN 22 PM 3:10

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

229255

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RGGA

REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

January 15, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne,

On behalf of the Republican Governors of the United States, I invite you be our guest at the 14th annual gala, "*A Celebration of America's Leaders*" in Washington, DC on Monday, February 25, 2008.

I am expecting all 21 of my colleagues to be in attendance for this gala along with special guest President George W. Bush. This is the RGA's largest event and will help give us the resources to compete in 11 gubernatorial races this year.

A successful event will also help us prepare for the 2010 elections. The governors in office that year will be instrumental in determining the make up of Congress for the next decade. Republicans could easily see a swing of 26 seats just by electing 7 new governors in key states before 2010.

The gala will be held at the National Building Museum (401 F Street, NW) from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

To RSVP please fill out the attached reply form, or contact Angela Meyers at (202) 662-4141 or ameyers@rga.org.

I look forward to seeing you on February 25, 2008.

Sincerely,



Governor Rick Perry
State of Texas
RGA Chairman



Republican Governors Association

2008 "A Celebration of America's Leaders"

R.S.V.P.

____ Yes, I will attend the RGA's "A Celebration of America's Leaders" as a guest of the RGA.

Tickets will be available for pick up under each guest's last name:

Monday, February 25th 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Will Call Hours

Event begins at 5:30 p.m.

National Building Museum, 401 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

Please use the G Street Entrance **Dress for the event: Business attire

Special Guest: President George W. Bush

Hosts:

Governor Mark Sanford, (SC), "A Celebration of America's Leaders" Chairman

Governor Rick Perry, (TX), RGA Chairman

Governor Matt Blunt, (MO), RGA Vice Chairman

Invited Guests:

Republican Governors of the United States

United States Cabinet and Administration Officials

U.S. Republican Members of the Senate

U.S. Republican Members of the House

Name: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Contact Information:

NAME

OFFICE

PHONE FAX E-MAIL

Questions: Kiley Herring 202-662-4145 / kherring@rga.org

RSVP: Please fax this form to: FAX: 202-662-4924
Republican Governors Association
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20006

Paid for by the Republican Governors Association.



236952

May 20, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Gulf Coast Coastal Impact Assistance Program

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

As you know, our states have been, and remain, firmly committed to supporting the nation's energy needs through oil and gas production in our respective state waters and adjacent federal waters. We also believe that our states, which bear the burden of supporting the Gulf Coast's oil and gas production, have earned the opportunity to receive enhanced revenues associated with Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas development and production adjacent to our respective states. Accordingly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your agency for the diligent efforts in developing and administering the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) which provides one billion dollars of enhanced revenue to oil and gas-producing states and coastal political subdivisions. We recognize the magnitude of this program and appreciate the assistance it will provide to the Gulf Coast states.

From its enactment in 2005, we have worked closely with the Minerals Management Service (MMS) in developing the CIAP program and we are highly appreciative of their efforts associated with this program. We believe that the individuals representing the MMS in this endeavor are committed to developing and implementing a program which is consistent with Congress' mandate. However, in working on this program for almost three years, we have developed, independent of one another, common concerns regarding the CIAP. We would like to share these with you and ask that due consideration be given to resolving these concerns. Our concerns are described in three areas below:

1. CIAP Plan Approval - It appears that among each state's CIAP plan, projects have emerged which require additional justification and information. We continue to provide additional information in order to gain approval. As it stands now, however, a CIAP plan will not gain approval unless all projects contained within the plan are approved. *We respectfully request consideration of an approach whereby the projects with which there are no questions or issues can be approved while we continue to work through issues associated with other projects. This will allow CIAP recipients the opportunity to proceed with implementation of important projects in a cost-effective and timely manner.*
2. Authorized Use #4 - Congress allowed for CIAP funding to be spent in one of five ways as described in the 2005 Energy Policy Act. These five ways in which the funding can be spent are referred to as Authorized Uses. Authorized Use #4 allows for "implementation of a Federally-approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan." While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, it is currently being interpreted by federal officials to exclude recreational, public access and economic development projects. Nowhere in the 2005 Energy Policy Act or the CIAP program guidance are these exclusions mentioned. We would also like to note that conservation goals along with recreational, public access and economic goals can be achieved simultaneously through implementation of on-the-

2008 MAY 27 PM 2:31
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

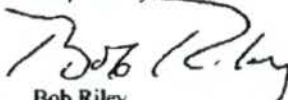
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ground projects that are designed in an sustainable, environmentally-sensitive way. Those goals do not have to compete with one another or be mutually exclusive. For example, a pier construction project can support fishery population research and protect endangered species, as well as provide an opportunity for public access and recreation. *As such, we respectfully request consideration of an alternative, simpler interpretation of this Authorized Use #4 which allows recreational, public access and economic development projects as long as they are contained within a federally approved plan as described in Authorized Use #4 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.*


3. Authorized Use #1 – Authorized Use #1 allows “projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands;” While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, we feel the term “conservation” is currently being interpreted by federal officials as “preservation” as it relates to the proposed land acquisition projects. This interpretation is limiting the potential of these lands to be used to the fullest extent for public use and enjoyment while staying within the state conservation guidelines. Most state conservation management plans allow and promote public use of public lands. *We respectfully request consideration of an alternative interpretation of “conservation,” one that is consistent with state conservation plans.*
4. CIAP Grant Program – We are concerned about the CIAP grant program as it is currently being implemented. Currently, each project contained within an approved Final CIAP plan must also receive an individual grant award prior to implementation. Once the program is fully up and running, this will result in, literally, hundreds of grant applications that will require simultaneous processing by federal officials. The first and only CIAP grant awarded to date took five months to process prior to its award, a time frame we find both unreasonable and unacceptable. *We respectfully request consideration of an approach that will dramatically streamline the CIAP grant process. We suggest an approach that will issue a grant award to a state and one to each of its associated county or parish upon receipt of final plan approval. This would allow a significantly smaller commitment in paperwork processing and allow federal officials to focus on monitoring and site visits. Also, this approach follows the precedent set by the 2001 CIAP program administered by the Department of Commerce.*


Thank you in advance for your consideration of the issues raised in this correspondence. We believe the CIAP program can be an incredibly effective tool for the Gulf Coast and appreciate everything the Department of Interior has done to make this a reality. If you have any questions or desire any additional information, we stand ready to provide that for you.

Respectfully,


Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama


Haley Barbour
Governor of Mississippi


Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana


Rick Perry
Governor of Texas

cc: The Honorable Randall B. Luthi, MMS Director
Walter Cruickshank, MMS Deputy Director
M. Barnett Lawley, ADCNR Commissioner
William Walker, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mississippi DMR
Scott A. Angelle, Secretary, Louisiana DNR
Jerry Patterson, Commissioner, Texas General Land Office

366460



236952

May 20, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington; D.C. 20240

Re: Gulf Coast Coastal Impact Assistance Program

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

As you know, our states have been, and remain, firmly committed to supporting the nation's energy needs through oil and gas production in our respective state waters and adjacent federal waters. We also believe that our states, which bear the burden of supporting the Gulf Coast's oil and gas production, have earned the opportunity to receive enhanced revenues associated with Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas development and production adjacent to our respective states. Accordingly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your agency for the diligent efforts in developing and administering the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) which provides one billion dollars of enhanced revenue to oil and gas-producing states and coastal political subdivisions. We recognize the magnitude of this program and appreciate the assistance it will provide to the Gulf Coast states.

From its enactment in 2005, we have worked closely with the Minerals Management Service (MMS) in developing the CIAP program and we are highly appreciative of their efforts associated with this program. We believe that the individuals representing the MMS in this endeavor are committed to developing and implementing a program which is consistent with Congress' mandate. However, in working on this program for almost three years, we have developed, independent of one another, common concerns regarding the CIAP. We would like to share these with you and ask that due consideration be given to resolving these concerns. Our concerns are described in three areas below:

1. CIAP Plan Approval - It appears that among each state's CIAP plan, projects have emerged which require additional justification and information. We continue to provide additional information in order to gain approval. As it stands now, however, a CIAP plan will not gain approval unless all projects contained within the plan are approved. *We respectfully request consideration of an approach whereby the projects with which there are no questions or issues can be approved while we continue to work through issues associated with other projects. This will allow CIAP recipients the opportunity to proceed with implementation of important projects in a cost-effective and timely manner.*
2. Authorized Use #4 - Congress allowed for CIAP funding to be spent in one of five ways as described in the 2005 Energy Policy Act. These five ways in which the funding can be spent are referred to as Authorized Uses. Authorized Use #4 allows for "implementation of a Federally-approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan." While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, it is currently being interpreted by federal officials to exclude recreational, public access and economic development projects. Nowhere in the 2005 Energy Policy Act or the CIAP program guidance are these exclusions mentioned. We would also like to note that conservation goals along with recreational, public access and economic goals can be achieved simultaneously through implementation of on-the-

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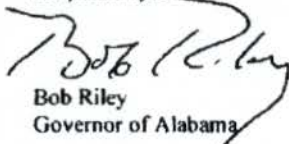
ground projects that are designed in an sustainable, environmentally-sensitive way. Those goals do not have to compete with one another or be mutually exclusive. For example, a pier construction project can support fishery population research and protect endangered species, as well as provide an opportunity for public access and recreation. *As such, we respectfully request consideration of an alternative, simpler interpretation of this Authorized Use #4 which allows recreational, public access and economic development projects as long as they are contained within a federally approved plan as described in Authorized Use #4 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.*

3. Authorized Use #1 - Authorized Use #1 allows "projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands;" While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, we feel the term "conservation" is currently being interpreted by federal officials as "preservation" as it relates to the proposed land acquisition projects. This interpretation is limiting the potential of these lands to be used to the fullest extent for public use and enjoyment while staying within the state conservation guidelines. Most state conservation management plans allow and promote public use of public lands. *We respectfully request consideration of an alternative interpretation of "conservation," one that is consistent with state conservation plans.*

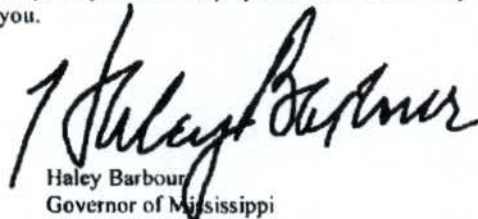
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Thank you in advance for your consideration of the issues raised in this correspondence. We believe the CIAP program can be an incredibly effective tool for the Gulf Coast and appreciate everything the Department of Interior has done to make this a reality. If you have any questions or desire any additional information, we stand ready to provide that for you.

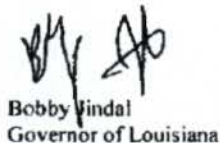
Respectfully



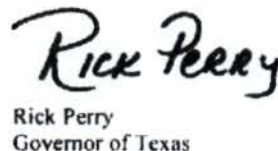
Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama



Haley Barbour
Governor of Mississippi



Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana



Rick Perry
Governor of Texas

cc: The Honorable Randall B. Luthi, MMS Director
Walter Cruickshank, MMS Deputy Director
M. Barnett Lawley, ADCNR Commissioner
William Walker, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mississippi DMR
Scott A. Angelle, Secretary, Louisiana DNR
Jerry Patterson, Commissioner, Texas General Land Office

366460



UNITED WE STAND

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

1800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 250 • Washington, DC 20006

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2008 JAN 22 PM 3:10
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

229255

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RGAA

REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

January 15, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne,

On behalf of the Republican Governors of the United States, I invite you be our guest at the 14th annual gala, "*A Celebration of America's Leaders*" in Washington, DC on Monday, February 25, 2008.

I am expecting all 21 of my colleagues to be in attendance for this gala along with special guest President George W. Bush. This is the RGA's largest event and will help give us the resources to compete in 11 gubernatorial races this year.

A successful event will also help us prepare for the 2010 elections. The governors in office that year will be instrumental in determining the make up of Congress for the next decade. Republicans could easily see a swing of 26 seats just by electing 7 new governors in key states before 2010.

The gala will be held at the National Building Museum (401 F Street, NW) from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

To RSVP please fill out the attached reply form, or contact Angela Meyers at (202) 662-4141 or ameyers@rga.org.

I look forward to seeing you on February 25, 2008.

Sincerely,



Governor Rick Perry
State of Texas
RGA Chairman



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

May 30, 2006

Mr. Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

In 1997, the State of Texas, through the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), began the process of planning for our state's future water needs. Through regional planning, TWDB has identified what those needs will be for the next 50 years, and has begun to identify projects that will help meet those needs.

The Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex is one of the fastest growing areas in our state. There is no question that water supply projects beyond what is currently available must be identified and developed for the metroplex to meet its future needs. One of the projects proposed is the Fastrill Reservoir in East Texas, a reservoir site that has been present in the Texas state water plan since the early 1960's. The City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority (authority) are currently conducting studies to determine the feasibility of this proposed site. The City of Dallas provides water not only to Dallas proper, but to more than 30 surrounding cities in the metroplex. The high level of projected growth in this service area over the next few decades dictates that the need for water for this growing population will grow exponentially as well.

Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is studying a proposal to place a wildlife refuge within the footprint of Fastrill Reservoir. Designation of this refuge and acceptance of any land into it would preclude the development of the reservoir. Because reservoir sites are so rare, we have asked USFWS to delay making a decision until such time as all parties can complete current studies and have been given ample opportunity to work together and possibly negotiate the relocation of the proposed refuge in an area that may be more suitable, allowing for the development of both the refuge and the reservoir. TWDB, for example, has just let a contract to three engineering firms to study and produce a report on the remaining viable reservoir sites left in Texas, which may or may not include Fastrill Reservoir. That report is scheduled to be completed by December 2006.

Mr. Dirk Kempthorne
May 30, 2006
Page 2

I am told that USFWS and our Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have been meeting with representatives of Dallas and the authority. I am concerned that the USFWS representatives are proposing to move too quickly. I suggest giving the parties a chance to develop alternatives, and ask that you direct USFWS to delay any decision until such time as the TWDB study is completed. Delay of a decision in this instance from the arbitrary June 1 deadline until the TWDB study can be completed should not be considered unreasonable. I support wildlife conservation and refuges, but I also believe this can be accomplished in conjunction with meeting our state's water needs.

Delaying this decision does nothing to prevent the ultimate development of a wildlife refuge in the region or to otherwise preclude such designation. Swift action and designation of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge within the footprint of Fastrill Reservoir would, however, preclude the development of the reservoir, no matter what these ongoing studies will show.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and your willingness to work with the people of Texas. This is of prime importance to a significant number of citizens of this great state.

Sincerely,



Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Sam Johnson, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Pete Sessions, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jeb Hensarling, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kenny Marchant, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
Mr. Barry Jackson, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives
Mr. David P. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior
Mr. H. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. Mitchell J. Butler, Attorney Advisor, Council on Environmental Quality
Mr. Joseph B. C. Fitzsimons, Chairman, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Mr. E. G. Rod Pittman, Chairman, Texas Water Development Board



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06 MAY 31 PM 5:39

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNOR RICK PERRY
BUDGET, PLANNING AND POLICY

TO: KEMPTHORNE
FAX: 202.273.3501
FROM: ZYAK COVAR
DATE: 5.30.06

MESSAGE: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 3

IF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES IS NOT RECEIVED, PLEASE CONTACT: TJ @ 463-1895

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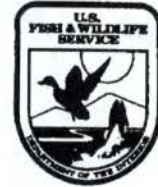
POST OFFICE BOX 12428 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
FAX (512) 463-1975

349719



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/025849/349719

AUG 23 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of May 30, 2006, to Secretary Kempthorne requesting that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) delay approval of the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). We appreciate your concerns with respect to the City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority's interest in the same site for the development of the proposed Fastrill Reservoir.

The conservation of the healthy bottomland hardwood resources in east Texas has been the Service's goal since 1985. More than 60 percent of the lands along this stretch of the Neches River are owned in larger tracts by interests that for the last 30 or 40 years have left the bottomland resources relatively untouched. We recognize that the habitat along the proposed project footprint is not considered "old growth." Nevertheless, there are smaller tracts along this stretch of river wherein bottomland resources have been moderately disturbed. The full stretch of the Neches River together with the proposal presents the best compendium of mature bottomland hardwood resources that could be conserved and managed without a large investment by the United States in reforestation.

We initially delayed a final decision on approving this new refuge at the request of local officials and to hear the concerns of all stakeholders. We have decided at this time to approve establishment of Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge will be established at such time as the first parcel of land is acquired. Lands within the approved refuge boundary would be acquired by the United States as funding becomes available and only from willing sellers. Lands would be acquired using funds appropriated by Congress, or approved through the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, which requires the Governor's approval, or through donation.

Now that we have approved the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge, we look forward to working with your office, the citizens of east Texas, the City of Dallas, the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority, and other interested State and local government officials on the details regarding management of the refuge.

Sincerely,

Marshall A. Jones Jr.
Acting DIRECTOR





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



345950
343750

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/022930

FEB 06 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of October 13, 2005, concerning the proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge and Fastrill Reservoir. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

The Service appreciates that the Texas Water Development Board wishes to have input into the proposed establishment of the refuge. The Service also understands the Texas Water Development Board's interest in the future water needs of Texas and its desire to preserve viable reservoir sites.

The Service believes the refuge proposal submitted by its Southwest Region merits consideration. It is our intention to make a determination on those merits after full review of the project record. Nevertheless, we remain interested in the information forthcoming from the study being conducted by the City of Dallas if it can be provided in the immediate future, especially to the degree that options that truly protect bottomland hardwood wildlife habitat resources are presented.

The conservation of healthy bottomland hardwood resources has been one of the Service's goals in east Texas for many years. The Neches River area proposed for the refuge was identified as early as 1985 as a priority area. More recently, the site was considered as a wildlife refuge when it appeared that lands in the area, especially those lands owned by timber corporations, might be divested and subject to residential or commercial development.

At present, we are still reviewing the project proposal and expect to make a decision in the near future. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact me or Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, the Service's Acting Regional Director for the Southwest Region, at (505) 248-6282.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/022930

FEB 06 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of October 13, 2005, concerning the proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge and Fastrill Reservoir. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

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Sincerely,

H. Dale Hall

DIRECTOR

**TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA** 

343752



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 13, 2005

839396

Mr. Matthew J. Hogan
Acting Director
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20242

RECEIVED
05 OCT 19 PM 3:31
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RE: Proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge

Dear Mr. Hogan:

The State of Texas, beginning in 1997, undertook a comprehensive, innovative study of the future water needs of this state. Since that time, the Texas Water Development Board, through regional planning groups, has identified needs in each region and has begun to identify methods in which to meet those water supply needs. That process is continuing today.

The Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex is one of the fastest growing areas in this state, if not in the nation, and there is no doubt that the future water needs of this fast growth area will be very large. As a matter of fact, growth in the area is outpacing the projections upon which the planning process is based, so its water supply needs will likely be greater than what has been estimated and will outpace the availability of existing projects. One of the few methods of providing needed water to the people of Texas will be through the development of reservoirs in our state.

Because of the scarcity of potential reservoir sites in Texas, it is important that we make sure to preserve those sites for the future. One potential site in East Texas is the Fastrill Reservoir site being studied by the City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority. I am aware that your agency is studying the possibility of developing a wildlife refuge within the footprint of Fastrill, which would have the effect of stopping the development of this reservoir.

In speaking with representatives of Dallas and the authority, I am convinced that they are willing to work with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to achieve the objectives sought in the wildlife refuge, and to possibly do this in a more advantageous manner by consolidating tracts,

Mr. Matthew J. Hogan
October 13, 2005
Page 2

or by giving your agency the ability to acquire even more acreage than initially planned for the refuge.

I urge you not to concur with the Region 2 Director's recommendation to grant project status to the Neches River Wildlife Refuge, and that you not acquire or accept any property within the Fastrill footprint until studies can be completed. I would further request that you work with the people of Dallas and the authority to find a solution that accomplishes the goals both for Texas and the nation. By working together with these entities, a solution can be reached whereby future Texans can be assured of adequate water resources while at the same time preserving prime bottomland hardwoods and wildlife habitat.

Thank you for working with the people of Texas. Please keep me informed of any developments in this area as this issue is of prime importance to my office and to all Texans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Jeb Hensarling, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior
Mr. Mitch Butler, Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 14, 2005

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Ms. Renee Orr
5-Year Program Manager
Minerals Management Service (MS-4010)
Room 3120, 382 Elden Street
Herndon, Virginia 20170

RE: Comments on the Preparation of the 5-Year Program for 2007-2012

Dear Ms. Orr:

As the Governor of Texas, I am pleased to provide the U.S. Department of the Interior with comments on preparation of the 2007-2012 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program. Our U.S. energy policy greatly depends on the federal offshore leasing program. Given today's energy supply and price environment, it is critical that the department move aggressively to open all prospective OCS areas for leasing as soon as possible.

All acreage in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico should continue to be offered during the 2007-2012 period. Available acreage in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico should be expanded, and lease sales should be held in all prospective Alaska planning areas including the North Aleutian Planning Area. New initiatives should be undertaken to open the Pacific and Atlantic planning areas for leasing and development as well. Making these areas available for energy exploration and production is a national imperative, and I strongly encourage the Department of the Interior to be steadfast in its resolve to produce an offshore leasing program that will serve the national interest and maximize the OCS' contribution to future energy supplies.

Oil and gas exploration and production can be accomplished in a safe and environmentally sound fashion. Extensive stakeholder consultations should be undertaken to address lingering concerns about offshore development in coastal states. These consultations are absolutely essential given federal offshore waters hold the greatest potential for finding new energy resources and bringing them to market in the next 5 to 10 years.

Finally, I encourage the Department of the Interior to assume a leadership role in passage of OCS revenue sharing legislation. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, OCS revenues

Ms. Renee Orr
October 14, 2005
Page 2

are needed to rebuild local communities and infrastructure in coastal areas so that offshore employees can return to home and to work. A primary lesson from the 2005 hurricane season is the strategic importance of the Gulf of Mexico energy industry to the nation's economic and energy security. The time has come to dedicate a portion of OCS revenues to coastal states and communities to ensure that critical infrastructure is in place to support offshore development activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important government initiative. I look forward to seeing the Draft Proposed Program in January 2006. I hope that it will represent considerable of change from today's policies and that it will signal a new era of cooperation between governments at all levels for the national good.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "R" and "P".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of the Interior



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AMB/019189

JAN 04 2005

Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of October 6, 2004, to Secretary Gale Norton regarding the production of sheep and goats in Texas and the interaction of this industry with golden eagles. We are aware of the depredation problems that have been reported by goat and sheep ranchers in west central Texas. The Secretary has asked me to respond directly to you, and I apologize for the delay.

On March 31, 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Texas State Administrator met with members of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association to discuss the problem. Also present at that meeting were representatives from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (USDA-WS), and a representative from your office.

The sources of predator caused mortality to sheep and goats in western Texas are not well understood at this time. Some ranchers at the meeting believed it could be attributed to golden eagles, while others thought there could be many sources of predation, including feral hogs.

Under a longstanding formal memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, USDA-WS is the Federal agency with the funding and responsibility for investigating golden eagle predation on sheep and goats in western Texas and undertaking any necessary control activities.

Trapping and relocating eagles, if necessary, are difficult tasks which must be undertaken by fully qualified individuals in consideration for the welfare of the birds. USDA-WS personnel are well qualified for these tasks and have successfully worked with Texas ranchers to resolve golden eagle depredation problems in the past. In compliance with the memorandum of understanding between the agencies and upon approval of an application from USDA-WS, the Service may issue a permit authorizing them to conduct eagle depredation control activities. The Service will work with both USDA-WS and the State of Texas to ensure that such a permit application is addressed in an efficient manner. If USDA-WS determines that golden eagles are a significant cause of mortality,

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

October 6, 2004

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the sound policies that you have advanced in support of natural resources in the State of Texas. Your efforts to improve national parks and protect vulnerable species have produced incalculable benefits to our environment. I am writing to request your assistance regarding the production of sheep and goats in Texas and the interaction of this industry with golden eagles.

Currently, sheep and goat raisers of west central Texas are having a depredation problem with golden eagles. However, the protections afforded these majestic creatures, through the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act, requires individuals to apply for a permit to trap and transport golden eagles. In order to facilitate their application, I have asked the Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service to coordinate with the agriculture producers affected by the depredating eagles. Their efforts will generate an application that describes the severe economic impact of the eagles on individual sheep and goat raisers who have suffered as much as an 80 percent loss of their kid goats in one year. This loss is unacceptable when it can be mitigated through the coordinated efforts of federal and state government.

The sheep and goat industry is very important to the State of Texas and generates more than \$173 million in direct sales to the economy. However, the noble golden eagle is very deserving of federal and state protections that will allow these eagles to be moved without harm. Therefore, I respectfully request your assistance in providing the necessary resources to address this situation internally or in coordination with the Wildlife Services Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is my sincere hope that we can work together to address this problem while continuing your laudable efforts to protect and preserve our nation's wildlife.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:lsp

cc: Mr. Gary L. Nunley, State Director, Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service
Mr. George Sultemeier, Past President, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association
Mr. Kenneth Dierschke, President, Texas Farm Bureau



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AMB/019189

JAN 04 2005

Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of October 6, 2004, to Secretary Gale Norton regarding the production of sheep and goats in Texas and the interaction of this industry with golden eagles. We are aware of the depredation problems that have been reported by goat and sheep ranchers in west central Texas. The Secretary has asked me to respond directly to you, and I apologize for the delay.

On March 31, 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Texas State Administrator met with members of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association to discuss the problem. Also present at that meeting were representatives from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (USDA-WS), and a representative from your office.

The sources of predator caused mortality to sheep and goats in western Texas are not well understood at this time. Some ranchers at the meeting believed it could be attributed to golden eagles, while others thought there could be many sources of predation, including feral hogs.

Under a longstanding formal memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, USDA-WS is the Federal agency with the funding and responsibility for investigating golden eagle predation on sheep and goats in western Texas and undertaking any necessary control activities.

Trapping and relocating eagles, if necessary, are difficult tasks which must be undertaken by fully qualified individuals in consideration for the welfare of the birds. USDA-WS personnel are well qualified for these tasks and have successfully worked with Texas ranchers to resolve golden eagle depredation problems in the past. In compliance with the memorandum of understanding between the agencies and upon approval of an application from USDA-WS, the Service may issue a permit authorizing them to conduct eagle depredation control activities. The Service will work with both USDA-WS and the State of Texas to ensure that such a permit application is addressed in an efficient manner. If USDA-WS determines that golden eagles are a significant cause of mortality,

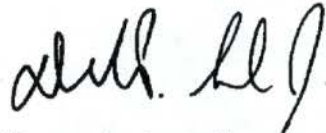
Honorable Rick Perry

2

the Service will ensure that they have the necessary authorization to trap and relocate the offending birds. We will personally convey this message to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

If you have further questions regarding this issue, please contact me, or have your staff contact Dale Hall, the Service's Southwest Regional Director, at (505) 248-6282.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "H".

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 14, 2005

Ms. Renee Orr
5-Year Program Manager
Minerals Management Service (MS-4010)
Room 3120, 382 Elden Street
Herndon, Virginia 20170

RE: Comments on the Preparation of the 5-Year Program for 2007-2012

Dear Ms. Orr:

As the Governor of Texas, I am pleased to provide the U.S. Department of the Interior with comments on preparation of the 2007-2012 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program. Our U.S. energy policy greatly depends on the federal offshore leasing program. Given today's energy supply and price environment, it is critical that the department move aggressively to open all prospective OCS areas for leasing as soon as possible.

All acreage in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico should continue to be offered during the 2007-2012 period. Available acreage in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico should be expanded, and lease sales should be held in all prospective Alaska planning areas including the North Aleutian Planning Area. New initiatives should be undertaken to open the Pacific and Atlantic planning areas for leasing and development as well. Making these areas available for energy exploration and production is a national imperative, and I strongly encourage the Department of the Interior to be steadfast in its resolve to produce an offshore leasing program that will serve the national interest and maximize the OCS' contribution to future energy supplies.

Oil and gas exploration and production can be accomplished in a safe and environmentally sound fashion. Extensive stakeholder consultations should be undertaken to address lingering concerns about offshore development in coastal states. These consultations are absolutely essential given federal offshore waters hold the greatest potential for finding new energy resources and bringing them to market in the next 5 to 10 years.

Finally, I encourage the Department of the Interior to assume a leadership role in passage of OCS revenue sharing legislation. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, OCS revenues

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Ms. Renee Orr
October 14, 2005
Page 2

are needed to rebuild local communities and infrastructure in coastal areas so that offshore employees can return to home and to work. A primary lesson from the 2005 hurricane season is the strategic importance of the Gulf of Mexico energy industry to the nation's economic and energy security. The time has come to dedicate a portion of OCS revenues to coastal states and communities to ensure that critical infrastructure is in place to support offshore development activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important government initiative. I look forward to seeing the Draft Proposed Program in January 2006. I hope that it will represent considerable of change from today's policies and that it will signal a new era of cooperation between governments at all levels for the national good.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The first letter "R" is large and loops around the "i" and "c". The "P" is also large and loops around the "e" and "r". The "y" has a long, sweeping tail.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 13, 2005

Mr. Matthew J. Hogan
Acting Director
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20242

RE: Proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge

Dear Mr. Hogan:

The State of Texas, beginning in 1997, undertook a comprehensive, innovative study of the future water needs of this state. Since that time, the Texas Water Development Board, through regional planning groups, has identified needs in each region and has begun to identify methods in which to meet those water supply needs. That process is continuing today.

The Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex is one of the fastest growing areas in this state, if not in the nation, and there is no doubt that the future water needs of this fast growth area will be very large. As a matter of fact, growth in the area is outpacing the projections upon which the planning process is based, so its water supply needs will likely be greater than what has been estimated and will outpace the availability of existing projects. One of the few methods of providing needed water to the people of Texas will be through the development of reservoirs in our state.

Because of the scarcity of potential reservoir sites in Texas, it is important that we make sure to preserve those sites for the future. One potential site in East Texas is the Fastrill Reservoir site being studied by the City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority. I am aware that your agency is studying the possibility of developing a wildlife refuge within the footprint of Fastrill, which would have the effect of stopping the development of this reservoir.

In speaking with representatives of Dallas and the authority, I am convinced that they are willing to work with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to achieve the objectives sought in the wildlife refuge, and to possibly do this in a more advantageous manner by consolidating tracts,

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Mr. Matthew J. Hogan
October 13, 2005
Page 2

or by giving your agency the ability to acquire even more acreage than initially planned for the refuge.

I urge you not to concur with the Region 2 Director's recommendation to grant project status to the Neches River Wildlife Refuge, and that you not acquire or accept any property within the Fastrill footprint until studies can be completed. I would further request that you work with the people of Dallas and the authority to find a solution that accomplishes the goals both for Texas and the nation. By working together with these entities, a solution can be reached whereby future Texans can be assured of adequate water resources while at the same time preserving prime bottomland hardwoods and wildlife habitat.

Thank you for working with the people of Texas. Please keep me informed of any developments in this area as this issue is of prime importance to my office and to all Texans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Jeb Hensarling, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior
Mr. Mitch Butler, Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/022930

FEB 06 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of October 13, 2005, concerning the proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge and Fastrill Reservoir. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

The Service appreciates that the Texas Water Development Board wishes to have input into the proposed establishment of the refuge. The Service also understands the Texas Water Development Board's interest in the future water needs of Texas and its desire to preserve viable reservoir sites.

The Service believes the refuge proposal submitted by its Southwest Region merits consideration. It is our intention to make a determination on those merits after full review of the project record. Nevertheless, we remain interested in the information forthcoming from the study being conducted by the City of Dallas if it can be provided in the immediate future, especially to the degree that options that truly protect bottomland hardwood wildlife habitat resources are presented.

The conservation of healthy bottomland hardwood resources has been one of the Service's goals in east Texas for many years. The Neches River area proposed for the refuge was identified as early as 1985 as a priority area. More recently, the site was considered as a wildlife refuge when it appeared that lands in the area, especially those lands owned by timber corporations, might be divested and subject to residential or commercial development.

At present, we are still reviewing the project proposal and expect to make a decision in the near future. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact me or Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, the Service's Acting Regional Director for the Southwest Region, at (505) 248-6282.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/022930

FEB 06 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of October 13, 2005, concerning the proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge and Fastrill Reservoir. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

The Service appreciates that the Texas Water Development Board wishes to have input into the proposed establishment of the refuge. The Service also understands the Texas Water Development Board's interest in the future water needs of Texas and its desire to preserve viable reservoir sites.

The Service believes the refuge proposal submitted by its Southwest Region merits consideration. It is our intention to make a determination on those merits after full review of the project record. Nevertheless, we remain interested in the information forthcoming from the study being conducted by the City of Dallas if it can be provided in the immediate future, especially to the degree that options that truly protect bottomland hardwood wildlife habitat resources are presented.

The conservation of healthy bottomland hardwood resources has been one of the Service's goals in east Texas for many years. The Neches River area proposed for the refuge was identified as early as 1985 as a priority area. More recently, the site was considered as a wildlife refuge when it appeared that lands in the area, especially those lands owned by timber corporations, might be divested and subject to residential or commercial development.

At present, we are still reviewing the project proposal and expect to make a decision in the near future. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact me or Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, the Service's Acting Regional Director for the Southwest Region, at (505) 248-6282.

Sincerely,

H. Dale Hall

DIRECTOR

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IN AMERICA** 



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

May 30, 2006

Mr. Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

In 1997, the State of Texas, through the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), began the process of planning for our state's future water needs. Through regional planning, TWDB has identified what those needs will be for the next 50 years, and has begun to identify projects that will help meet those needs.

The Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex is one of the fastest growing areas in our state. There is no question that water supply projects beyond what is currently available must be identified and developed for the metroplex to meet its future needs. One of the projects proposed is the Fastrill Reservoir in East Texas, a reservoir site that has been present in the Texas state water plan since the early 1960's. The City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority (authority) are currently conducting studies to determine the feasibility of this proposed site. The City of Dallas provides water not only to Dallas proper, but to more than 30 surrounding cities in the metroplex. The high level of projected growth in this service area over the next few decades dictates that the need for water for this growing population will grow exponentially as well.

Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is studying a proposal to place a wildlife refuge within the footprint of Fastrill Reservoir. Designation of this refuge and acceptance of any land into it would preclude the development of the reservoir. Because reservoir sites are so rare, we have asked USFWS to delay making a decision until such time as all parties can complete current studies and have been given ample opportunity to work together and possibly negotiate the relocation of the proposed refuge in an area that may be more suitable, allowing for the development of both the refuge and the reservoir. TWDB, for example, has just let a contract to three engineering firms to study and produce a report on the remaining viable reservoir sites left in Texas, which may or may not include Fastrill Reservoir. That report is scheduled to be completed by December 2006.

Mr. Dirk Kempthorne
May 30, 2006
Page 2

I am told that USFWS and our Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have been meeting with representatives of Dallas and the authority. I am concerned that the USFWS representatives are proposing to move too quickly. I suggest giving the parties a chance to develop alternatives, and ask that you direct USFWS to delay any decision until such time as the TWDB study is completed. Delay of a decision in this instance from the arbitrary June 1 deadline until the TWDB study can be completed should not be considered unreasonable. I support wildlife conservation and refuges, but I also believe this can be accomplished in conjunction with meeting our state's water needs.

Delaying this decision does nothing to prevent the ultimate development of a wildlife refuge in the region or to otherwise preclude such designation. Swift action and designation of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge within the footprint of Fastrill Reservoir would, however, preclude the development of the reservoir, no matter what these ongoing studies will show.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and your willingness to work with the people of Texas. This is of prime importance to a significant number of citizens of this great state.

Sincerely,



Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Sam Johnson, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Pete Sessions, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jeb Hensarling, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kenny Marchant, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
Mr. Barry Jackson, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives
Mr. David P. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior
Mr. H. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. Mitchell J. Butler, Attorney Advisor, Council on Environmental Quality
Mr. Joseph B. C. Fitzsimons, Chairman, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Mr. E. G. Rod Pittman, Chairman, Texas Water Development Board



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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNOR RICK PERRY
BUDGET, PLANNING AND POLICY

TO: KEMPTHORNE

FAX: 202.273.3501

FROM: ZYAK COVAR

DATE: 5.30.06

MESSAGE: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 3

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FAX (512) 463-1975

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/025849/349719

AUG 23 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of May 30, 2006, to Secretary Kempthorne requesting that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) delay approval of the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). We appreciate your concerns with respect to the City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority's interest in the same site for the development of the proposed Fastrill Reservoir.

The conservation of the healthy bottomland hardwood resources in east Texas has been the Service's goal since 1985. More than 60 percent of the lands along this stretch of the Neches River are owned in larger tracts by interests that for the last 30 or 40 years have left the bottomland resources relatively untouched. We recognize that the habitat along the proposed project footprint is not considered "old growth." Nevertheless, there are smaller tracts along this stretch of river wherein bottomland resources have been moderately disturbed. The full stretch of the Neches River together with the proposal presents the best compendium of mature bottomland hardwood resources that could be conserved and managed without a large investment by the United States in reforestation.

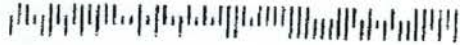
We initially delayed a final decision on approving this new refuge at the request of local officials and to hear the concerns of all stakeholders. We have decided at this time to approve establishment of Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge will be established at such time as the first parcel of land is acquired. Lands within the approved refuge boundary would be acquired by the United States as funding becomes available and only from willing sellers. Lands would be acquired using funds appropriated by Congress, or approved through the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, which requires the Governor's approval, or through donation.

Now that we have approved the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge, we look forward to working with your office, the citizens of east Texas, the City of Dallas, the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority, and other interested State and local government officials on the details regarding management of the refuge.

Sincerely,

Marshall A. Jones Jr.
Acting DIRECTOR





UNITED WE STAND

REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

1800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 250 • Washington, DC 20006

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2008 JAN 22 PM 3:10

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RGAA

REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

January 15, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne,

On behalf of the Republican Governors of the United States, I invite you be our guest at the 14th annual gala, "*A Celebration of America's Leaders*" in Washington, DC on Monday, February 25, 2008.

I am expecting all 21 of my colleagues to be in attendance for this gala along with special guest President George W. Bush. This is the RGA's largest event and will help give us the resources to compete in 11 gubernatorial races this year.

A successful event will also help us prepare for the 2010 elections. The governors in office that year will be instrumental in determining the make up of Congress for the next decade. Republicans could easily see a swing of 26 seats just by electing 7 new governors in key states before 2010.

The gala will be held at the National Building Museum (401 F Street, NW) from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

To RSVP please fill out the attached reply form, or contact Angela Meyers at (202) 662-4141 or ameycrs@rga.org.

I look forward to seeing you on February 25, 2008.

Sincerely,



Governor Rick Perry
State of Texas
RGA Chairman



Republican Governors Association

2008 "A Celebration of America's Leaders"

R.S.V.P.

_____ Yes, I will attend the RGA's "A Celebration of America's Leaders" as a guest of the RGA.

Tickets will be available for pick up under each guest's last name:

Monday, February 25th 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Will Call Hours

Event begins at 5:30 p.m.

National Building Museum, 401 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

Please use the G Street Entrance **Dress for the event: Business attire

Special Guest: President George W. Bush

Hosts:

Governor Mark Sanford, (SC), "A Celebration of America's Leaders" Chairman

Governor Rick Perry, (TX), RGA Chairman

Governor Matt Blunt, (MO), RGA Vice Chairman

Invited Guests:

Republican Governors of the United States

United States Cabinet and Administration Officials

U.S. Republican Members of the Senate

U.S. Republican Members of the House

Name: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Contact Information:

NAME

OFFICE

PHONE FAX E-MAIL

Questions: Kiley Herring 202-662-4145 / kherring@rga.org

RSVP: Please fax this form to: FAX: 202-662-4924
Republican Governors Association
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20006

Paid for by the Republican Governors Association.



236952

May 20, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Gulf Coast Coastal Impact Assistance Program

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

As you know, our states have been, and remain, firmly committed to supporting the nation's energy needs through oil and gas production in our respective state waters and adjacent federal waters. We also believe that our states, which bear the burden of supporting the Gulf Coast's oil and gas production, have earned the opportunity to receive enhanced revenues associated with Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas development and production adjacent to our respective states. Accordingly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your agency for the diligent efforts in developing and administering the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) which provides one billion dollars of enhanced revenue to oil and gas-producing states and coastal political subdivisions. We recognize the magnitude of this program and appreciate the assistance it will provide to the Gulf Coast states.

From its enactment in 2005, we have worked closely with the Minerals Management Service (MMS) in developing the CIAP program and we are highly appreciative of their efforts associated with this program. We believe that the individuals representing the MMS in this endeavor are committed to developing and implementing a program which is consistent with Congress' mandate. However, in working on this program for almost three years, we have developed, independent of one another, common concerns regarding the CIAP. We would like to share these with you and ask that due consideration be given to resolving these concerns. Our concerns are described in three areas below:

1. CIAP Plan Approval - It appears that among each state's CIAP plan, projects have emerged which require additional justification and information. We continue to provide additional information in order to gain approval. As it stands now, however, a CIAP plan will not gain approval unless all projects contained within the plan are approved. *We respectfully request consideration of an approach whereby the projects with which there are no questions or issues can be approved while we continue to work through issues associated with other projects. This will allow CIAP recipients the opportunity to proceed with implementation of important projects in a cost-effective and timely manner.*
2. Authorized Use #4 - Congress allowed for CIAP funding to be spent in one of five ways as described in the 2005 Energy Policy Act. These five ways in which the funding can be spent are referred to as Authorized Uses. Authorized Use #4 allows for "implementation of a Federally-approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan." While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, it is currently being interpreted by federal officials to exclude recreational, public access and economic development projects. Nowhere in the 2005 Energy Policy Act or the CIAP program guidance are these exclusions mentioned. We would also like to note that conservation goals along with recreational, public access and economic goals can be achieved simultaneously through implementation of on-the-

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

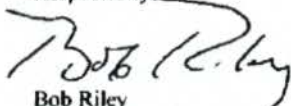
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ground projects that are designed in an sustainable, environmentally-sensitive way. Those goals do not have to compete with one another or be mutually exclusive. For example, a pier construction project can support fishery population research and protect endangered species, as well as provide an opportunity for public access and recreation. *As such, we respectfully request consideration of an alternative, simpler interpretation of this Authorized Use #4 which allows recreational, public access and economic development projects as long as they are contained within a federally approved plan as described in Authorized Use #4 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.*

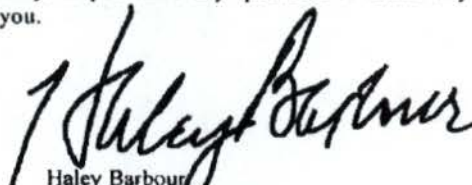
3. Authorized Use #1 – Authorized Use #1 allows “projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands;” While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, we feel the term “conservation” is currently being interpreted by federal officials as “preservation” as it relates to the proposed land acquisition projects. This interpretation is limiting the potential of these lands to be used to the fullest extent for public use and enjoyment while staying within the state conservation guidelines. Most state conservation management plans allow and promote public use of public lands. *We respectfully request consideration of an alternative interpretation of “conservation,” one that is consistent with state conservation plans.*
4. CIAP Grant Program – We are concerned about the CIAP grant program as it is currently being implemented. Currently, each project contained within an approved Final CIAP plan must also receive an individual grant award prior to implementation. Once the program is fully up and running, this will result in, literally, hundreds of grant applications that will require simultaneous processing by federal officials. The first and only CIAP grant awarded to date took five months to process prior to its award, a time frame we find both unreasonable and unacceptable. *We respectfully request consideration of an approach that will dramatically streamline the CIAP grant process. We suggest an approach that will issue a grant award to a state and one to each of its associated county or parish upon receipt of final plan approval. This would allow a significantly smaller commitment in paperwork processing and allow federal officials to focus on monitoring and site visits. Also, this approach follows the precedent set by the 2001 CIAP program administered by the Department of Commerce.*

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the issues raised in this correspondence. We believe the CIAP program can be an incredibly effective tool for the Gulf Coast and appreciate everything the Department of Interior has done to make this a reality. If you have any questions or desire any additional information, we stand ready to provide that for you.

Respectfully




Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama



Haley Barbour
Governor of Mississippi



Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana



Rick Perry
Governor of Texas

cc: The Honorable Randall B. Luthi, MMS Director
Walter Cruickshank, MMS Deputy Director
M. Barnett Lawley, ADCNR Commissioner
William Walker, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mississippi DMR
Scott A. Angelle, Secretary, Louisiana DNR
Jerry Patterson, Commissioner, Texas General Land Office



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



JUL 3 1 2008

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter dated May 20, 2008, to Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, cosigned by Governors Bob Riley of Alabama, Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, and Haley Barbour of Mississippi, concerning the Gulf Coast Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). Secretary Kempthorne asked me to respond. A similar letter will be sent to Governors Riley, Jindal, and Barbour.

We are pleased to read of your regard for the Minerals Management Service (MMS) staff and their efforts in developing this very important program. In addition, we appreciate your concerns with MMS's implementation of CIAP, as well as your suggestions for improving the program.

In an effort to address your concerns, the MMS has scheduled regular meetings with your staff and those of the other Governors to discuss the four concerns in your letter. At the conclusion of these meetings, we will ascertain how the Department of the Interior and the MMS may best proceed with our CIAP responsibilities.

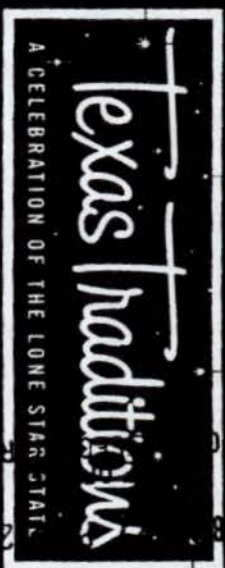
Thank you for contacting the Secretary. If you have any questions about this letter or the ongoing meetings please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 208-6734, or you may call Mr. Randall B. Luthi, Director, MMS at (202) 208-3500.

Sincerely,

C. Stephen Allred
Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management

**TEXAS GOVERNOR RICK PERRY
AND FIRST LADY ANITA PERRY**

INVITE YOU AND A GUEST TO SHARE AN EVENING WITH TEXAS STARS



TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Entry at 13th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT WITH TEXAS STARS!

RSVP BY JUNE 11, 2008

CREDENTIALS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ADMITTANCE

TEXANS THAT FLEW AMONG THE STARS

TEXAS CULINARY & WINEMAKING STARS



Offers like a vehicle, other country

TEXAS MUSIC STARS
Kelly Willis and Bruce Robison
Los Texmaniacs with special guest Little Joe

TEXAS WILL BE A FEATURED DESTINATION AT THE 2008 SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL
HIGHLIGHTING THE MUSIC, FOOD AND WINEMAKING TRADITIONS OF THE LONE STAR STATE



341361

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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2008 SEP 17 PM 12: 20

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

September 9, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

I am pleased to approve the acquisition of an additional 924 acres to be managed as a part of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge. This will undoubtedly provide more recreational and hunting opportunities while further protecting migratory bird habitat. I appreciate the close working relationship the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has developed and maintained with the State of Texas for each of these acquisitions.

I must, however, register my displeasure about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's lack of coordination and lack of acknowledgement of the State of Texas' sovereignty in the creation of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. As with most of the United States, we face myriad challenges in addressing current and future water needs in Texas. Arbitrary decisions made by federal agencies that directly affect Texas' water supply for her citizens are irresponsible and can be detrimental to future planning.

As we move forward, I respectfully request the consideration of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on any new designations. I hope the relationship the Migratory Bird Commission has developed and fostered with Texas will serve as an example for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tbp

373638



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



OCT 17 2008

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor
Office of the Governor
The State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of September 9, 2008, to Secretary of the Interior Kempthorne, approving the acquisition of an additional 924 acres to be managed as part of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The Secretary has asked that I respond directly to you.

Your approval of the acquisition of 924 acres to be added to the Refuge with funds provided by the Migratory Bird Commission is greatly appreciated. The Refuge was established in 1994 to protect a remnant of the bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem along the Trinity River. The Refuge currently occupies 23,000 acres and with additions, such as the one recently approved, will continue to grow and to provide additional quality hunting, fishing, and wildlife conservation opportunities to the residents of Texas.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) acknowledges your concerns regarding the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. We appreciate your desire to ensure coordination between the Service and the State of Texas and look forward to working on items of mutual concern. It is the intention of the Service to continue to coordinate fully with the State on such items.

Thank you for your support. If you have any additional questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me or Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 202-208-4717.

Sincerely

Lyle Laverty
Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

533054

April 27, 2001

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240RECEIVED
01 APR 30 PM 3:27
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing to express my strong concern about a proposed rule by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that designates over 600 miles of Texas coastline (and 1,000 miles of coastline in other states) as critical habitat for winter forage of the migratory Piping Plover. This regulation was initiated under the Clinton Administration and is scheduled for issuance as a final rule on April 30th.

As proposed, this rule will significantly impact the coastal economy of Texas, including real estate and tourism development and oil and gas exploration and production. Since many of the oil and gas leases along the Gulf Coast benefit the state's Permanent School Fund, these proposed designations will have a significant impact on funding for public school education in Texas.

This rule was proposed without the completion of an economic study, as required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It does not take into consideration that the ESA already provides protection for this species. Nor does it take into account that modifications to most coastal areas already require state and federal permits. Moreover, it provides for several broad designations that will impact areas along the Texas coastline that are not used for Piping Plover forage.

Finally, while the critical habitat designation for the nesting area of the Great Lakes population of the Piping Plover must be issued by April 30th according to a court order, I understand that this order does not require USFWS to make a final designation of critical habitat for wintering Piping Plover populations for another year.

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
April 27, 2001
Page 2

For these reasons, I urge you to postpone the final implementation of this rule as it relates to wintering Piping Plover populations to allow for further biological and economic studies based on sound science. I believe that the additional time afforded under the court order should be used to ensure that the conservation plan that is put in place will preserve the winter forage of the Piping Plover, recognize the private property rights of Texans, and avoid unnecessarily inhibiting economic development and energy production along the Texas coastline.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgc

cc: Mr. Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 23, 2001

RICK PERRY

GOVERNOR

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Madam Secretary:

I recently learned of a project in our state that I believe is worthy of your consideration and support. The Capitol Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America (Capitol Area Council) is planning to establish a high adventure camp for boys and girls and a conference center on a 4,848 acre tract bequeathed to the Council by Mary Lavinia Griffith Sanders. The property, known as the Griffith League Ranch, is located in Bastrop County, just east of Austin. In addition to being a beautiful setting for a scout camp and conference center, Griffith League Ranch is home to the Houston toad, an endangered species.

I understand that the Capitol Area Council has proposed that its project be considered as a candidate for your landowner-incentive program. I fully support your decision to provide technical assistance, habitat enhancing tools and financial assistance to property owners, making them partners in the management of endangered species. I encourage you to give serious consideration to the Council's proposal. I reviewed the plan for the use of Griffith League Ranch and was impressed by the commitment to conservation, habitat preservation and enhancement, research regarding the species and education. The plan will achieve Ms. Sanders' dream for her family's ranch, providing a wonderful setting for an outdoor learning experience in a manner sensitive to the presence of the Houston toad. This is a unique opportunity for our state and your agency. This project affords the prospect of fostering an outstanding proposal for the youth of our state in a manner consistent with the continued existence of the Houston toad on the property.

I hope you will have the opportunity to meet with the representatives of the Capitol Area Council to discuss their proposal.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL
OFFICE OF THE

RP:bmw

01 MAY 30 PM 6:23

596613

cc: Mr. David P. Smith, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior
Mr. Ray Smith, Scout Executive, Capitol Area Council and Boy Scouts of America



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 23, 2001

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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Sincerely,

Rick Perry

Rick Perry
Governor

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL
OFFICE OF THE

RP:bmw

01 MAY 30 PM 6:23

586613

cc: Mr. David P. Smith, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior
Mr. Ray Smith, Scout Executive, Capitol Area Council and Boy Scouts of America



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

DEC 28 2001

Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

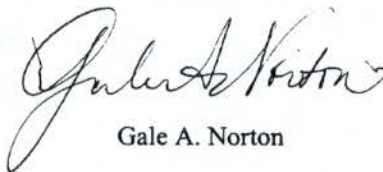
Thank you for your May 23, 2001, letter supporting the use of landowner incentive program funds for the Capitol Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America's Griffith League Ranch in Bastrop County, Texas. I apologize for the delay in this response.

The Griffith League Ranch is one of the largest, highest-quality tracts of habitat left in Bastrop County for the endangered Houston toad. My immediate staff and Fish and Wildlife Service staff had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Capitol Area Council regarding the Griffith League Ranch project. We agree that the Council's proposed plan is impressive in its commitment to conservation, habitat preservation and enhancement, research, and education. I am pleased to inform you that the Fish and Wildlife Service recently awarded the Capitol Area Council a grant of over \$260,000 to assist in developing a habitat conservation plan for the Griffith League Ranch adventure camp.

In addition, President Bush recently signed the Interior Appropriations for fiscal year 2002, which provides funding for the President's two new grant programs, the Landowner Incentives Grant Program and the Private Stewardship Grant Program. The Landowner Incentives program provides \$40 million in matching grants, competitively awarded to States, Territories, and Tribes to establish or supplement their own landowner incentive programs. Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for the protection and management of habitat for listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk-species, while landowners continue to engage in traditional land use practices. The Private Stewardship program provides \$10 million on a nationally competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species or other at-risk-species. The Boy Scouts may be able to obtain additional financial assistance through one of these grant programs for additional funding for conservation actions on the Griffith League Ranch. The Service will be distributing information about these two new grant programs in the future.

I appreciate your interest in this project and commend the Boy Scouts of America for their commitment to the conservation of endangered species. If you have any additional concerns about this matter, please contact the Service's Assistant Director for Endangered Species, Mr. Gary Frazer, at 202-208-4646.

Sincerely,



Gale A. Norton



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

550311

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 8, 2001

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01 OCT 12 PM 4:03
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Madam Secretary:

As you know, in Texas we have tried to forge new, improved relationships between landowners and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). We have made some progress but that process seems to have halted at least for the time being.

One recent concern deals with the biological opinion issued by the USFWS regarding the Barton Springs Salamander. We do not believe that this opinion was subjected to competent peer review or scrutiny at the national level within your agency. The concerns that have been raised by many concerned landowners have to do with the scientific basis for this opinion. We would ask that your office carefully review this opinion. Landowners could face possible restrictions on their use of land based on USFWS claims about water quality issues that have not been connected to direct harm of endangered species.

An additional concern we have is with the relationship among landowners, agriculture and USFWS centers around Texas' extraordinarily successful volunteer cowbird-trapping program to reduce cowbird parasitism on both endangered and declining songbird species, including the black-capped vireo. This program has been a national model, demonstrating how landowners, biologists and birders from very diverse backgrounds, can achieve appropriate, workable solutions.

We were, therefore, disturbed to learn that the makeup of the revived black-capped vireo recovery team appointed by USFWS does not reflect the true constituency and partnership of this essential effort. In fact, a number of individuals who have been instrumental in this overall effort from the start have not been included, whereas several appointed to this recovery team by USFWS have not been involved. To be successful, the new recovery team needs to be diverse and representative of the Texas stakeholders.

We are only writing to express our concerns and believe that solutions reached in a fair, objective manner are the best solutions. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you on a solution.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

Susan Combs
Commissioner of Agriculture



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

50311

RECEIVED
01 OCT 12 PM 4:03
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 8, 2001

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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We are only writing to express our concerns and believe that solutions reached in a fair, objective manner are the best solutions. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you on a solution.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Rick Perry
Governor

Susan Combs
Susan Combs
Commissioner of Agriculture



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JAN 15 2002

Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your October 8, 2001, letter regarding the draft biological opinion issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service to the Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate the effects of their general construction permit on listed species in Texas and for your comments on the composition of the recently assembled recovery team for the black-capped vireo. I apologize for the delay in responding to you.

I appreciate your concern that the Service's draft biological opinion on the effects of the Environmental Protection Agency's general construction permit on the Barton Springs salamander reflect the best available science and information. The draft opinion has been reviewed by both the Service's regional and national staff and the Service continues to work with the EPA to address issues associated with the draft. One of the Service's most experienced managers, Mr. Dale Hall, is now Acting Regional Director for the Service's Southwest Region. Mr. Hall has been made aware of the priority to finalize the Barton Springs consultation, and has been asked to work with you, the EPA and others to resolve the outstanding Barton Springs salamander issues.

The Service also is committed to having a diversity of views represented on its recovery teams. In June 2001, a group of individuals was invited to serve on the Black-Capped Vireo Recovery Team. Some of these individuals were asked to serve on the Recovery Team's Technical Subcommittee to provide expertise on the biology and ecology of the vireo and its habitat. Others were invited to serve on the Team's Stakeholder Subcommittee to provide expertise on the socio-economic aspects of the plan and the feasibility and appropriateness of recommended recovery tasks.

Since the initial meeting of the Recovery Team on August 21, 2001, the Service has expanded its efforts to further diversify the team's membership to ensure that the new recovery plan will be representative of and responsive to the views of local communities and our conservation partners. In October 2001, the membership of the team was broadened by extending invitations to representatives from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Wildlife Association, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Texas Audubon Society, Texas Farm Bureau, and Central Texas Cattleman's Association. The Texas Farm Bureau specifically requested that Dr. Wallace Klussmann, Mr. Steve Bauer, Dr. Pat Reardon, and Mr. Steve Manning be invited to join the

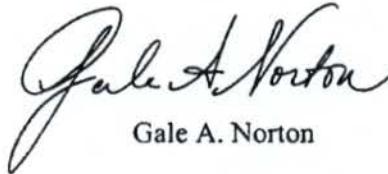
Honorable Rick Perry

2

recovery team. Invitations to join the team were extended to those four gentlemen; all have accepted the invitation. This will bring the number of stakeholders on the team to 14, with a total of 27 team members. The next meeting, scheduled for January 16, 2002, will be the first opportunity for the entire team to meet and work together. Enclosed please find a list of the Black-Capped Vireo Recovery Team members.

I commend your State's efforts to conserve endangered and declining songbird species and agree that the Texas program serves as a national model for how landowners, biologists, and birders of diverse backgrounds can achieve workable solutions. Without question, conservation reached through communication and cooperation is the best solution. If you need any further assistance on this matter, please contact Mr. Dale Hall, the Service's Acting Southwest Regional Director, at (505) 248-6910.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gale A. Norton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gale A. Norton

Enclosure

BLACK-CAPPED VIREO RECOVERY TEAM

TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE:

Name	Entity/Interest	Expertise
John Cornelius	Ft. Hood	bird biologist/habitat expert
Tim Hayden	USCOE-CERL	ornithological researcher
Joe Grzybowski	Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum	field expertise
Bill Armstrong	TPWD, Kerr WMA	ag/habitat manipulation
Jeff Hatfield	Patuxent	statistician/modeling
Christina Longacre	USFWS	lead for species
Dave Diamond	Missouri. Resource Assessment Partnership	habitat expert
Chuck Sexton	BCNWR	bird/habitat expert
Doug Slack (Leader)	Texas A&M	bird biologist
Frank Thompson	U.S. Forest Service	cowbird expert
Stanley Temple	Univ. Wisconsin	modeling – participation uncertain
Margaret Brittingham	Penn State University	cowbird expert – participation uncertain

STAKEHOLDER SUBCOMMITTEE:

Name	Entity/Interest	Expertise
Clay Jones	Jones North Ranch	ag economics
Donald Neal	Neal Ranch	cattle operations
Deidre Heisler	TPWD	recreation within preserves
Todd Janssen	Del Webb Sun City	developer
Mel Hinson	City of Austin PARD	worked on BCP
Bebe Fenstermaker	Citizen	landowner with birds

David Wolfe	Environmental Defense	non-profit, incentive-based conservation
Paul Robertson	TPWD	representative for TPWD BCV researchers
Pat Reardon	Texas Wildlife Association	representative for TWA
Terry Austin	Audubon Society	representative for Texas chapter
Wallace Klusmann	Texas Farm Bureau	representing TFB
Stephen Bauer	Texas Farm Bureau	representing TFB
Steve Manning	Central TX Cattlemen's Assoc.	representative for CTCA
Gary Amand	TNC	Central Texas Program Manager (replacing Jeff Weigel at request of TNC)
William Burman	City of San Antonio	participation uncertain



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

April 30, 2002

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Administrator Whitman and Secretary Norton:

I understand that the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are currently considering a request by the State of Chihuahua and their consultants to fund the Rio Conchos Watershed Management Project. On behalf of the State of Texas, I strongly urge that you deny any request for funding until Mexico, specifically the State of Chihuahua, meets its obligation to provide 1.5 million acre-feet of water in compliance with the 1944 Water Treaty.

Although the concept paper for the Rio Conchos Watershed Management Project states that "almost one-third of the Conchos' waters have been dedicated by Mexico to cover part of the quota committed by the International Treaty of 1944 with the USA," the proposal ironically gives no indication that a goal of this project will be to ensure the delivery of water owed by Mexico to the U.S. or that the treaty obligations will be incorporated into the management model.

Funding this request while Mexico is still far behind in its water treaty obligations would be adding insult to real economic injury to the citizens, farmers, and ranchers of South Texas.

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The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
The Honorable Gale A. North
April 30, 2002
Page 2

Current studies show Mexico's noncompliance with the treaty has resulted in the loss of 30,000 jobs and a negative impact of \$1 billion on Texas' economy. I respectfully request that the federal government refrain from funding this project and notify Mexico that it will be reconsidered when the treaty issues are substantially addressed. These actions will help amplify America's commitment to resolving this treaty violation and getting needed and long over due water to the citizens of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgk

cc: The Honorable George W. Bush
The Honorable Paul H. O'Neill, Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury
The Honorable Gwyn Shea, Secretary of State
Texas Congressional Delegation Members
Mr. Otto Reich, Assistant Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State
Mr. Dennis Linksey, Border Coordinator, Office of Mexican Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Mr. Carlos Ramirez, U.S. Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission
Ms. Judith E. Ayres, Assistant Administrator for International Activities, Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Gregg Cooke, Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
Mr. Raul Rodriguez, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, North American Development Bank
Mr. Fernando Macias, General Manager, Border Environment Cooperation Commission


These efforts require close cooperation from federal, state and local officials, and look forward to working with you as partners in meeting the short-term challenges of this fire season and in establishing safe and effective aerial fire-fighting systems in the long term.

Sincerely,



Governor Johnny Guinn



Governor Mike Johanns


Governor Bill Owens
Colorado


Governor Rick Perry


Governor Mike Rounds


Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger


Governor Olene S. Walker

332058



WASHINGTON



THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JUN 18 2004

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Chair, Western Governors' Association
1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 200
Denver, Colorado 80202

The Honorable Bill Owens
Vice-Chair Western Governors' Association
1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 200
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governors Richardson and Owens:

We are writing to provide additional information to address concerns over the effect of the termination of the large airtanker contract on the fire season this year.

In our letters of May 18 and June 3, 2004, we stressed that safety is our core value in firefighting, and that we continue to be committed to the protection of communities from the threat of wildland fires. As you know, we have aviation assets already assigned and activated. At this time, we have secured a total of 139 aircraft to supplement the loss of the airtanker support. This is an increased number from the last information we sent you. These aircraft include the use of Single Engine Airtankers (SEATs), large helitankers helicopters, and medium helicopters which were previously available on a call-when needed contract basis.

As we indicated previously, we have also activated the military Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS). The MAFFS are based in California, Colorado, Wyoming, and North Carolina, but are mobile and will be dispatched to locations on an as-needed basis depending upon national priorities. We have already deployed some MAFFS assets.

The addition of all of these aircraft will enable Federal firefighters to maintain effective aviation support while ensuring the safety of pilots and aircraft as well as communities. We anticipate that these resources will enable us to achieve a near 99% success rate on initial and extended attack.

We have also been working with the NTSB and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to establish procedures to determine the potential airworthiness of the previously contracted airtankers.

As part of our work with the NTSB and FAA, we have requested information from the airtanker vendors to assess the airworthiness of their airtankers for possible firefighting contracts. The requests are based on criteria established in concert with the NTSB, the FAA, Department of the Interior, and the Forest Service. The Forest Service has contracted DynCorp to evaluate the airtankers and the data to determine the potential airworthiness of these aircraft.

DynCorp is working toward a rigorous and complete evaluation of the aircraft and data and will soon provide airworthiness recommendations to the Forest Service and Department of the Interior for the various aircraft types. A determination is expected soon on whether to re-contract for aircraft that meet FAA and NTSB criteria.

Although we are undertaking these efforts with DynCorp, we do not want to infer from this process that a high percentage of the large airtankers will shortly be returned to service. As indicated, irrespective of the outcome of this process, the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior will maintain adequate aviation resources for the upcoming fire season.

We recognize how important it is to work closely with our tribal, State, and local firefighting partners to make the best use of our resources and to respond to what is likely to be another challenging fire season. We continue to work with State foresters to update regional needs in the current fire season. We will continue to work closely with the Western Governor's Association and our wildland firefighting partners on placement of resources.

We will keep you apprised on any further developments, and we are available to brief you and your staff at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



MARK REY
Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment



P. LYNN SCARLETT
Assistant Secretary
Policy, Management and Budget



812098

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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04 JUL 19 PM 4:47

812235

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

July 13, 2004

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Take Pride in America program. Texans have always held a special attachment to our natural, historic, and cultural resources. I am pleased to participate in a program that encourages Texans to volunteer their time and expertise to maintain and restore our unique treasures.

I submit Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Executive Director Robert L. Cook as the Texas state coordinator for the Take Pride in America program. TPWD is committed to achieving many of the same goals as the Take Pride in America program, and I am confident that Robert, or his designee, will represent Texas well. Mr. Cook's contact information is:

Mr. Robert L. Cook
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744
Phone: 512/389-4802

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this important program. Please feel free to contact my office if you need any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgp

cc: Mr. Robert L. Cook
Ms. Susan Weddington, President and CEO, OneStar Foundation

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04 JUL 21 11:50
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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812235

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

July 13, 2004

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Take Pride in America program. Texans have always held a special attachment to our natural, historic, and cultural resources. I am pleased to participate in a program that encourages Texans to volunteer their time and expertise to maintain and restore our unique treasures.

I submit Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Executive Director Robert L. Cook as the Texas state coordinator for the Take Pride in America program. TPWD is committed to achieving many of the same goals as the Take Pride in America program, and I am confident that Robert, or his designee, will represent Texas well. Mr. Cook's contact information is:

Mr. Robert L. Cook
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744
Phone: 512/389-4802

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this important program. Please feel free to contact my office if you need any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgp


cc: Mr. Robert L. Cook
Ms. Susan Weddington, President and CEO, OneStar Foundation


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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

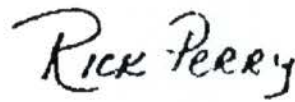
Successful fire prevention efforts require close cooperation from federal, state and local officials, and look forward to working with you as partners in meeting the short-term challenges of this fire season and in establishing safe and effective aerial firefighting assets in the long term.

Sincerely,



Governor Kenny Guinn



Governor Mike Johanns


Governor Bill Owens
Colorado


Governor Rick Perry


Governor Mike Rounds


Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger


Governor Olene S. Walker

332058



WASHINGTON



THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JUN 18 2004

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Chair, Western Governors' Association
1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 200
Denver, Colorado 80202

The Honorable Bill Owens
Vice-Chair Western Governors' Association
1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 200
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governors Richardson and Owens:

We are writing to provide additional information to address concerns over the effect of the termination of the large airtanker contract on the fire season this year.

In our letters of May 18 and June 3, 2004, we stressed that safety is our core value in firefighting, and that we continue to be committed to the protection of communities from the threat of wildland fires. As you know, we have aviation assets already assigned and activated. At this time, we have secured a total of 139 aircraft to supplement the loss of the airtanker support. This is an increased number from the last information we sent you. These aircraft include the use of Single Engine Airtankers (SEATs), large helitankers helicopters, and medium helicopters which were previously available on a call-when needed contract basis.

As we indicated previously, we have also activated the military Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS). The MAFFS are based in California, Colorado, Wyoming, and North Carolina, but are mobile and will be dispatched to locations on an as-needed basis depending upon national priorities. We have already deployed some MAFFS assets.

The addition of all of these aircraft will enable Federal firefighters to maintain effective aviation support while ensuring the safety of pilots and aircraft as well as communities. We anticipate that these resources will enable us to achieve a near 99% success rate on initial and extended attack.

We have also been working with the NTSB and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to establish procedures to determine the potential airworthiness of the previously contracted airtankers.

As part of our work with the NTSB and FAA, we have requested information from the airtanker vendors to assess the airworthiness of their airtankers for possible firefighting contracts. The requests are based on criteria established in concert with the NTSB, the FAA, Department of the Interior, and the Forest Service. The Forest Service has contracted DynCorp to evaluate the airtankers and the data to determine the potential airworthiness of these aircraft.

DynCorp is working toward a rigorous and complete evaluation of the aircraft and data and will soon provide airworthiness recommendations to the Forest Service and Department of the Interior for the various aircraft types. A determination is expected soon on whether to re-contract for aircraft that meet FAA and NTSB criteria.

Although we are undertaking these efforts with DynCorp, we do not want to infer from this process that a high percentage of the large airtankers will shortly be returned to service. As indicated, irrespective of the outcome of this process, the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior will maintain adequate aviation resources for the upcoming fire season.

We recognize how important it is to work closely with our tribal, State, and local firefighting partners to make the best use of our resources and to respond to what is likely to be another challenging fire season. We continue to work with State foresters to update regional needs in the current fire season. We will continue to work closely with the Western Governor's Association and our wildland firefighting partners on placement of resources.

We will keep you apprised on any further developments, and we are available to brief you and your staff at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



MARK REY
Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment



P. LYNN SCARLETT
Assistant Secretary
Policy, Management and Budget

314 100



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

April 30, 2002

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Administrator Whitman and Secretary Norton:

I understand that the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are currently considering a request by the State of Chihuahua and their consultants to fund the Rio Conchos Watershed Management Project. On behalf of the State of Texas, I strongly urge that you deny any request for funding until Mexico, specifically the State of Chihuahua, meets its obligation to provide 1.5 million acre-feet of water in compliance with the 1944 Water Treaty.

Although the concept paper for the Rio Conchos Watershed Management Project states that "almost one-third of the Conchos' waters have been dedicated by Mexico to cover part of the quota committed by the International Treaty of 1944 with the USA," the proposal ironically gives no indication that a goal of this project will be to ensure the delivery of water owed by Mexico to the U.S. or that the treaty obligations will be incorporated into the management model.

Funding this request while Mexico is still far behind in its water treaty obligations would be adding insult to real economic injury to the citizens, farmers, and ranchers of South Texas.

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The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
The Honorable Gale A. North
April 30, 2002
Page 2

Current studies show Mexico's noncompliance with the treaty has resulted in the loss of 30,000 jobs and a negative impact of \$1 billion on Texas' economy. I respectfully request that the federal government refrain from funding this project and notify Mexico that it will be reconsidered when the treaty issues are substantially addressed. These actions will help amplify America's commitment to resolving this treaty violation and getting needed and long over due water to the citizens of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a large, sweeping "R" and "P".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgk

cc: The Honorable George W. Bush
The Honorable Paul H. O'Neill, Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury
The Honorable Gwyn Shea, Secretary of State
Texas Congressional Delegation Members
Mr. Otto Reich, Assistant Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State
Mr. Dennis Linksey, Border Coordinator, Office of Mexican Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Mr. Carlos Ramirez, U.S. Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission
Ms. Judith E. Ayres, Assistant Administrator for International Activities, Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Gregg Cooke, Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
Mr. Raul Rodriguez, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, North American Development Bank
Mr. Fernando Macias, General Manager, Border Environment Cooperation Commission

310448

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 8, 2001

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Dear Madam Secretary:

As you know, in Texas we have tried to forge new, improved relationships between landowners and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). We have made some progress but that process seems to have halted at least for the time being.

One recent concern deals with the biological opinion issued by the USFWS regarding the Barton Springs Salamander. We do not believe that this opinion was subjected to competent peer review or scrutiny at the national level within your agency. The concerns that have been raised by many concerned landowners have to do with the scientific basis for this opinion. We would ask that your office carefully review this opinion. Landowners could face possible restrictions on their use of land based on USFWS claims about water quality issues that have not been connected to direct harm of endangered species.

An additional concern we have is with the relationship among landowners, agriculture and USFWS centers around Texas' extraordinarily successful volunteer cowbird-trapping program to reduce cowbird parasitism on both endangered and declining songbird species, including the black-capped vireo. This program has been a national model, demonstrating how landowners, biologists and birders from very diverse backgrounds, can achieve appropriate, workable solutions.

We were, therefore, disturbed to learn that the makeup of the revived black-capped vireo recovery team appointed by USFWS does not reflect the true constituency and partnership of this essential effort. In fact, a number of individuals who have been instrumental in this overall effort from the start have not been included, whereas several appointed to this recovery team by USFWS have not been involved. To be successful, the new recovery team needs to be diverse and representative of the Texas stakeholders.

We are only writing to express our concerns and believe that solutions reached in a fair, objective manner are the best solutions. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you on a solution.

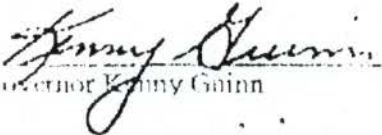
Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Rick Perry
Governor

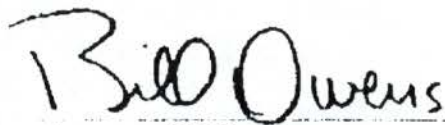
Susan Combs
Susan Combs
Commissioner of Agriculture


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Sincerely,



Governor Kenny Guinn



Governor Mike Johanns


Governor Bill Owens
Colorado


Governor Rick Perry


Governor Mike Rounds


Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger


Governor Olene S. Walker

332058



WASHINGTON



THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JUN 18 2004

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Chair, Western Governors' Association
1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 200
Denver, Colorado 80202

The Honorable Bill Owens
Vice-Chair Western Governors' Association
1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 200
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We will keep you apprised on any further developments, and we are available to brief you and your staff at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



MARK REY
Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment



P. LYNN SCARLETT
Assistant Secretary
Policy, Management and Budget



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

July 13, 2004

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

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I submit Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Executive Director Robert L. Cook as the Texas state coordinator for the Take Pride in America program. TPWD is committed to achieving many of the same goals as the Take Pride in America program, and I am confident that Robert, or his designee, will represent Texas well. Mr. Cook's contact information is:

Mr. Robert L. Cook
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744
Phone: 512/389-4802

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this important program. Please feel free to contact my office if you need any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgp

cc: Mr. Robert L. Cook
Ms. Susan Weddington, President and CEO, OneStar Foundation

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

October 6, 2004

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the sound policies that you have advanced in support of natural resources in the State of Texas. Your efforts to improve national parks and protect vulnerable species have produced incalculable benefits to our environment. I am writing to request your assistance regarding the production of sheep and goats in Texas and the interaction of this industry with golden eagles.

Currently, sheep and goat raisers of west central Texas are having a depredation problem with golden eagles. However, the protections afforded these majestic creatures, through the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act, requires individuals to apply for a permit to trap and transport golden eagles. In order to facilitate their application, I have asked the Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service to coordinate with the agriculture producers affected by the depredating eagles. Their efforts will generate an application that describes the severe economic impact of the eagles on individual sheep and goat raisers who have suffered as much as an 80 percent loss of their kid goats in one year. This loss is unacceptable when it can be mitigated through the coordinated efforts of federal and state government.

The sheep and goat industry is very important to the State of Texas and generates more than \$173 million in direct sales to the economy. However, the noble golden eagle is very deserving of federal and state protections that will allow these eagles to be moved without harm.

Therefore, I respectfully request your assistance in providing the necessary resources to address this situation internally or in coordination with the Wildlife Services Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is my sincere hope that we can work together to address this problem while continuing your laudable efforts to protect and preserve our nation's wildlife.

Sincerely,

A large, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:lsp

cc: Mr. Gary L. Nunley, State Director, Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service
Mr. George Sultemeier, Past President, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association
Mr. Kenneth Dierschke, President, Texas Farm Bureau



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AMB/019189

JAN 04 2005

Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of October 6, 2004, to Secretary Gale Norton regarding the production of sheep and goats in Texas and the interaction of this industry with golden eagles. We are aware of the depredation problems that have been reported by goat and sheep ranchers in west central Texas. The Secretary has asked me to respond directly to you, and I apologize for the delay.

On March 31, 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Texas State Administrator met with members of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association to discuss the problem. Also present at that meeting were representatives from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (USDA-WS), and a representative from your office.

The sources of predator caused mortality to sheep and goats in western Texas are not well understood at this time. Some ranchers at the meeting believed it could be attributed to golden eagles, while others thought there could be many sources of predation, including feral hogs.

Under a longstanding formal memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, USDA-WS is the Federal agency with the funding and responsibility for investigating golden eagle predation on sheep and goats in western Texas and undertaking any necessary control activities.

Trapping and relocating eagles, if necessary, are difficult tasks which must be undertaken by fully qualified individuals in consideration for the welfare of the birds. USDA-WS personnel are well qualified for these tasks and have successfully worked with Texas ranchers to resolve golden eagle depredation problems in the past. In compliance with the memorandum of understanding between the agencies and upon approval of an application from USDA-WS, the Service may issue a permit authorizing them to conduct eagle depredation control activities. The Service will work with both USDA-WS and the State of Texas to ensure that such a permit application is addressed in an efficient manner. If USDA-WS determines that golden eagles are a significant cause of mortality,

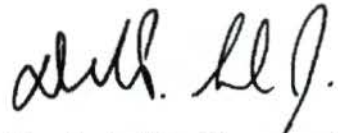
Honorable Rick Perry

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the Service will ensure that they have the necessary authorization to trap and relocate the offending birds. We will personally convey this message to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

If you have further questions regarding this issue, please contact me, or have your staff contact Dale Hall, the Service's Southwest Regional Director, at (505) 248-6282.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "H".

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 14, 2005

Ms. Renee Orr
5-Year Program Manager
Minerals Management Service (MS-4010)
Room 3120, 382 Elden Street
Herndon, Virginia 20170

RE: Comments on the Preparation of the 5-Year Program for 2007-2012

Dear Ms. Orr:

As the Governor of Texas, I am pleased to provide the U.S. Department of the Interior with comments on preparation of the 2007-2012 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program. Our U.S. energy policy greatly depends on the federal offshore leasing program. Given today's energy supply and price environment, it is critical that the department move aggressively to open all prospective OCS areas for leasing as soon as possible.

All acreage in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico should continue to be offered during the 2007-2012 period. Available acreage in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico should be expanded, and lease sales should be held in all prospective Alaska planning areas including the North Aleutian Planning Area. New initiatives should be undertaken to open the Pacific and Atlantic planning areas for leasing and development as well. Making these areas available for energy exploration and production is a national imperative, and I strongly encourage the Department of the Interior to be steadfast in its resolve to produce an offshore leasing program that will serve the national interest and maximize the OCS' contribution to future energy supplies.

Oil and gas exploration and production can be accomplished in a safe and environmentally sound fashion. Extensive stakeholder consultations should be undertaken to address lingering concerns about offshore development in coastal states. These consultations are absolutely essential given federal offshore waters hold the greatest potential for finding new energy resources and bringing them to market in the next 5 to 10 years.

Finally, I encourage the Department of the Interior to assume a leadership role in passage of OCS revenue sharing legislation. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, OCS revenues

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Ms. Renee Orr
October 14, 2005
Page 2

are needed to rebuild local communities and infrastructure in coastal areas so that offshore employees can return to home and to work. A primary lesson from the 2005 hurricane season is the strategic importance of the Gulf of Mexico energy industry to the nation's economic and energy security. The time has come to dedicate a portion of OCS revenues to coastal states and communities to ensure that critical infrastructure is in place to support offshore development activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important government initiative. I look forward to seeing the Draft Proposed Program in January 2006. I hope that it will represent considerable of change from today's policies and that it will signal a new era of cooperation between governments at all levels for the national good.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The first letter "R" is large and loops around the "i" and "c". The "P" is also large and loops around the "e" and "r". The "y" has a long, sweeping tail.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 13, 2005

839396

Mr. Matthew J. Hogan
Acting Director
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20242

RECEIVED
05 OCT 19 PM 3:31
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RE: Proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge

Dear Mr. Hogan:

The State of Texas, beginning in 1997, undertook a comprehensive, innovative study of the future water needs of this state. Since that time, the Texas Water Development Board, through regional planning groups, has identified needs in each region and has begun to identify methods in which to meet those water supply needs. That process is continuing today.

The Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex is one of the fastest growing areas in this state, if not in the nation, and there is no doubt that the future water needs of this fast growth area will be very large. As a matter of fact, growth in the area is outpacing the projections upon which the planning process is based, so its water supply needs will likely be greater than what has been estimated and will outpace the availability of existing projects. One of the few methods of providing needed water to the people of Texas will be through the development of reservoirs in our state.

Because of the scarcity of potential reservoir sites in Texas, it is important that we make sure to preserve those sites for the future. One potential site in East Texas is the Fastrill Reservoir site being studied by the City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority. I am aware that your agency is studying the possibility of developing a wildlife refuge within the footprint of Fastrill, which would have the effect of stopping the development of this reservoir.

In speaking with representatives of Dallas and the authority, I am convinced that they are willing to work with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to achieve the objectives sought in the wildlife refuge, and to possibly do this in a more advantageous manner by consolidating tracts,

Mr. Matthew J. Hogan
October 13, 2005
Page 2

or by giving your agency the ability to acquire even more acreage than initially planned for the refuge.

I urge you not to concur with the Region 2 Director's recommendation to grant project status to the Neches River Wildlife Refuge, and that you not acquire or accept any property within the Fastrill footprint until studies can be completed. I would further request that you work with the people of Dallas and the authority to find a solution that accomplishes the goals both for Texas and the nation. By working together with these entities, a solution can be reached whereby future Texans can be assured of adequate water resources while at the same time preserving prime bottomland hardwoods and wildlife habitat.

Thank you for working with the people of Texas. Please keep me informed of any developments in this area as this issue is of prime importance to my office and to all Texans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a large, sweeping "R" and "P".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Jeb Hensarling, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior
Mr. Mitch Butler, Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/022930

FEB 06 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of October 13, 2005, concerning the proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge and Fastrill Reservoir. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

The Service appreciates that the Texas Water Development Board wishes to have input into the proposed establishment of the refuge. The Service also understands the Texas Water Development Board's interest in the future water needs of Texas and its desire to preserve viable reservoir sites.

The Service believes the refuge proposal submitted by its Southwest Region merits consideration. It is our intention to make a determination on those merits after full review of the project record. Nevertheless, we remain interested in the information forthcoming from the study being conducted by the City of Dallas if it can be provided in the immediate future, especially to the degree that options that truly protect bottomland hardwood wildlife habitat resources are presented.

The conservation of healthy bottomland hardwood resources has been one of the Service's goals in east Texas for many years. The Neches River area proposed for the refuge was identified as early as 1985 as a priority area. More recently, the site was considered as a wildlife refuge when it appeared that lands in the area, especially those lands owned by timber corporations, might be divested and subject to residential or commercial development.

At present, we are still reviewing the project proposal and expect to make a decision in the near future. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact me or Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, the Service's Acting Regional Director for the Southwest Region, at (505) 248-6282.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/022930

FEB 06 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

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Sincerely,

H. Dale Hall

DIRECTOR

**TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA** 



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

May 30, 2006

Mr. Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

In 1997, the State of Texas, through the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), began the process of planning for our state's future water needs. Through regional planning, TWDB has identified what those needs will be for the next 50 years, and has begun to identify projects that will help meet those needs.

The Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex is one of the fastest growing areas in our state. There is no question that water supply projects beyond what is currently available must be identified and developed for the metroplex to meet its future needs. One of the projects proposed is the Fastrill Reservoir in East Texas, a reservoir site that has been present in the Texas state water plan since the early 1960's. The City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority (authority) are currently conducting studies to determine the feasibility of this proposed site. The City of Dallas provides water not only to Dallas proper, but to more than 30 surrounding cities in the metroplex. The high level of projected growth in this service area over the next few decades dictates that the need for water for this growing population will grow exponentially as well.

Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is studying a proposal to place a wildlife refuge within the footprint of Fastrill Reservoir. Designation of this refuge and acceptance of any land into it would preclude the development of the reservoir. Because reservoir sites are so rare, we have asked USFWS to delay making a decision until such time as all parties can complete current studies and have been given ample opportunity to work together and possibly negotiate the relocation of the proposed refuge in an area that may be more suitable, allowing for the development of both the refuge and the reservoir. TWDB, for example, has just let a contract to three engineering firms to study and produce a report on the remaining viable reservoir sites left in Texas, which may or may not include Fastrill Reservoir. That report is scheduled to be completed by December 2006.

Mr. Dirk Kempthorne
May 30, 2006
Page 2

I am told that USFWS and our Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have been meeting with representatives of Dallas and the authority. I am concerned that the USFWS representatives are proposing to move too quickly. I suggest giving the parties a chance to develop alternatives, and ask that you direct USFWS to delay any decision until such time as the TWDB study is completed. Delay of a decision in this instance from the arbitrary June 1 deadline until the TWDB study can be completed should not be considered unreasonable. I support wildlife conservation and refuges, but I also believe this can be accomplished in conjunction with meeting our state's water needs.

Delaying this decision does nothing to prevent the ultimate development of a wildlife refuge in the region or to otherwise preclude such designation. Swift action and designation of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge within the footprint of Fastrill Reservoir would, however, preclude the development of the reservoir, no matter what these ongoing studies will show.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and your willingness to work with the people of Texas. This is of prime importance to a significant number of citizens of this great state.

Sincerely,



Rick Perry
Governor

RP:zcp

cc: The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senator, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Sam Johnson, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Pete Sessions, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jeb Hensarling, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kenny Marchant, U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives
Mr. Barry Jackson, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives
Mr. David P. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior
Mr. H. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. Mitchell J. Butler, Attorney Advisor, Council on Environmental Quality
Mr. Joseph B. C. Fitzsimons, Chairman, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Mr. E. G. Rod Pittman, Chairman, Texas Water Development Board



ES

RECEIVED

06 MAY 31 PH 5:39

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNOR RICK PERRY
BUDGET, PLANNING AND POLICY

TO: KEMPTHORNE

FAX: 202.273.3501

FROM: ZAK COVAR

DATE: 5.30.06

MESSAGE: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 3

IF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES IS NOT RECEIVED, PLEASE CONTACT: TJ @ 463-1895

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POST OFFICE BOX 12428 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
FAX (512) 463-1975

349719



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS/025849/349719

AUG 23 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of May 30, 2006, to Secretary Kempthorne requesting that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) delay approval of the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). We appreciate your concerns with respect to the City of Dallas and the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority's interest in the same site for the development of the proposed Fastrill Reservoir.

The conservation of the healthy bottomland hardwood resources in east Texas has been the Service's goal since 1985. More than 60 percent of the lands along this stretch of the Neches River are owned in larger tracts by interests that for the last 30 or 40 years have left the bottomland resources relatively untouched. We recognize that the habitat along the proposed project footprint is not considered "old growth." Nevertheless, there are smaller tracts along this stretch of river wherein bottomland resources have been moderately disturbed. The full stretch of the Neches River together with the proposal presents the best compendium of mature bottomland hardwood resources that could be conserved and managed without a large investment by the United States in reforestation.

We initially delayed a final decision on approving this new refuge at the request of local officials and to hear the concerns of all stakeholders. We have decided at this time to approve establishment of Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge will be established at such time as the first parcel of land is acquired. Lands within the approved refuge boundary would be acquired by the United States as funding becomes available and only from willing sellers. Lands would be acquired using funds appropriated by Congress, or approved through the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, which requires the Governor's approval, or through donation.

Now that we have approved the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge, we look forward to working with your office, the citizens of east Texas, the City of Dallas, the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority, and other interested State and local government officials on the details regarding management of the refuge.

Sincerely,

Marshall P. Jones Jr.
Acting DIRECTOR

**TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA** 



UNITED WE STAND

REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

1875 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 250 • Washington, DC 20006

RECEIVED

2008 JAN 22 PM 3:19

GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION
1875 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
WASHINGTON DC 20006

229255

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RGAA

REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

January 15, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne,

On behalf of the Republican Governors of the United States, I invite you be our guest at the 14th annual gala, "*A Celebration of America's Leaders*" in Washington, DC on Monday, February 25, 2008.

I am expecting all 21 of my colleagues to be in attendance for this gala along with special guest President George W. Bush. This is the RGA's largest event and will help give us the resources to compete in 11 gubernatorial races this year.

A successful event will also help us prepare for the 2010 elections. The governors in office that year will be instrumental in determining the make up of Congress for the next decade. Republicans could easily see a swing of 26 seats just by electing 7 new governors in key states before 2010.

The gala will be held at the National Building Museum (401 F Street, NW) from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

To RSVP please fill out the attached reply form, or contact Angela Meyers at (202) 662-4141 or ameyers@rga.org.

I look forward to seeing you on February 25, 2008.

Sincerely,



Governor Rick Perry
State of Texas
RGA Chairman



Republican Governors Association

2008 "A Celebration of America's Leaders"

R.S.V.P.

____ Yes, I will attend the RGA's "A Celebration of America's Leaders" as a guest of the RGA.

Tickets will be available for pick up under each guest's last name:

Monday, February 25th 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Will Call Hours

Event begins at 5:30 p.m.

National Building Museum, 401 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

Please use the G Street Entrance **Dress for the event: Business attire

Special Guest: President George W. Bush

Hosts:

Governor Mark Sanford, (SC), "A Celebration of America's Leaders" Chairman

Governor Rick Perry, (TX), RGA Chairman

Governor Matt Blunt, (MO), RGA Vice Chairman

Invited Guests:

Republican Governors of the United States

United States Cabinet and Administration Officials

U.S. Republican Members of the Senate

U.S. Republican Members of the House

Name: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Contact Information:

NAME

OFFICE

PHONE FAX E-MAIL

Questions: Kiley Herring 202-662-4145 / kherring@rga.org

RSVP: Please fax this form to: FAX: 202-662-4924
Republican Governors Association
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20006



236952

May 20, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Gulf Coast Coastal Impact Assistance Program

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

As you know, our states have been, and remain, firmly committed to supporting the nation's energy needs through oil and gas production in our respective state waters and adjacent federal waters. We also believe that our states, which bear the burden of supporting the Gulf Coast's oil and gas production, have earned the opportunity to receive enhanced revenues associated with Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas development and production adjacent to our respective states. Accordingly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your agency for the diligent efforts in developing and administering the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) which provides one billion dollars of enhanced revenue to oil and gas-producing states and coastal political subdivisions. We recognize the magnitude of this program and appreciate the assistance it will provide to the Gulf Coast states.

From its enactment in 2005, we have worked closely with the Minerals Management Service (MMS) in developing the CIAP program and we are highly appreciative of their efforts associated with this program. We believe that the individuals representing the MMS in this endeavor are committed to developing and implementing a program which is consistent with Congress' mandate. However, in working on this program for almost three years, we have developed, independent of one another, common concerns regarding the CIAP. We would like to share these with you and ask that due consideration be given to resolving these concerns. Our concerns are described in three areas below:

1. CIAP Plan Approval - It appears that among each state's CIAP plan, projects have emerged which require additional justification and information. We continue to provide additional information in order to gain approval. As it stands now, however, a CIAP plan will not gain approval unless all projects contained within the plan are approved. *We respectfully request consideration of an approach whereby the projects with which there are no questions or issues can be approved while we continue to work through issues associated with other projects. This will allow CIAP recipients the opportunity to proceed with implementation of important projects in a cost-effective and timely manner.*
2. Authorized Use #4 - Congress allowed for CIAP funding to be spent in one of five ways as described in the 2005 Energy Policy Act. These five ways in which the funding can be spent are referred to as Authorized Uses. Authorized Use #4 allows for "implementation of a Federally-approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan." While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, it is currently being interpreted by federal officials to exclude recreational, public access and economic development projects. Nowhere in the 2005 Energy Policy Act or the CIAP program guidance are these exclusions mentioned. We would also like to note that conservation goals along with recreational, public access and economic goals can be achieved simultaneously through implementation of on-the-

2008 MAY 27 PM 2:31
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

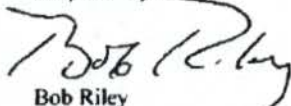
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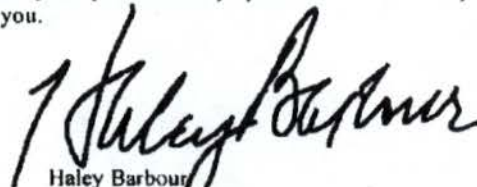
ground projects that are designed in an sustainable, environmentally-sensitive way. Those goals do not have to compete with one another or be mutually exclusive. For example, a pier construction project can support fishery population research and protect endangered species, as well as provide an opportunity for public access and recreation. *As such, we respectfully request consideration of an alternative, simpler interpretation of this Authorized Use #4 which allows recreational, public access and economic development projects as long as they are contained within a federally approved plan as described in Authorized Use #4 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.*

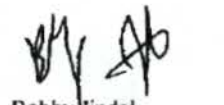
3. Authorized Use #1 – Authorized Use #1 allows “projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands;” While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, we feel the term “conservation” is currently being interpreted by federal officials as “preservation” as it relates to the proposed land acquisition projects. This interpretation is limiting the potential of these lands to be used to the fullest extent for public use and enjoyment while staying within the state conservation guidelines. Most state conservation management plans allow and promote public use of public lands. *We respectfully request consideration of an alternative interpretation of “conservation,” one that is consistent with state conservation plans.*
4. CIAP Grant Program – We are concerned about the CIAP grant program as it is currently being implemented. Currently, each project contained within an approved Final CIAP plan must also receive an individual grant award prior to implementation. Once the program is fully up and running, this will result in, literally, hundreds of grant applications that will require simultaneous processing by federal officials. The first and only CIAP grant awarded to date took five months to process prior to its award, a time frame we find both unreasonable and unacceptable. *We respectfully request consideration of an approach that will dramatically streamline the CIAP grant process. We suggest an approach that will issue a grant award to a state and one to each of its associated county or parish upon receipt of final plan approval. This would allow a significantly smaller commitment in paperwork processing and allow federal officials to focus on monitoring and site visits. Also, this approach follows the precedent set by the 2001 CIAP program administered by the Department of Commerce.*

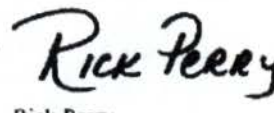
Thank you in advance for your consideration of the issues raised in this correspondence. We believe the CIAP program can be an incredibly effective tool for the Gulf Coast and appreciate everything the Department of Interior has done to make this a reality. If you have any questions or desire any additional information, we stand ready to provide that for you.

Respectfully,


Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama


Haley Barbour
Governor of Mississippi


Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana


Rick Perry
Governor of Texas

cc: The Honorable Randall B. Luthi, MMS Director
Walter Cruickshank, MMS Deputy Director
M. Barnett Lawley, ADCNR Commissioner
William Walker, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mississippi DMR
Scott A. Angelle, Secretary, Louisiana DNR
Jerry Patterson, Commissioner, Texas General Land Office



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



JUL 3 1 2008

The Honorable Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2751

Dear Governor Riley:

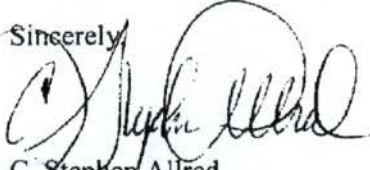
Thank you for your letter dated May 20, 2008, to Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, cosigned by Governors Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, Haley Barbour of Mississippi, and Rick Perry of Texas, concerning the Gulf Coast Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). Secretary Kempthorne asked me to respond. A similar letter will be sent to Governors Jindal, Barbour, and Perry.

We are pleased to read of your regard for the Minerals Management Service (MMS) staff and their efforts in developing this very important program. In addition, we appreciate your concerns with MMS's implementation of CIAP, as well as your suggestions for improving the program.

In an effort to address your concerns, the MMS has scheduled regular meetings with your staff and those of the other Governors to discuss the four concerns in your letter. At the conclusion of these meetings, we will ascertain how the Department of the Interior and the MMS may best proceed with our CIAP responsibilities.

Thank you for contacting the Secretary. If you have any questions about this letter or the ongoing meetings please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 208-6734, or you may call Mr. Randall B. Luthi, Director, MMS at (202) 208-3500.

Sincerely,


C. Stephen Allred
Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



JUL 31 2008

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9004

Dear Governor Jindal:

Thank you for your letter dated May 20, 2008, to Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, cosigned by Governors Bob Riley of Alabama, Haley Barbour of Mississippi, and Rick Perry of Texas, concerning the Gulf Coast Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). Secretary Kempthorne asked me to respond. A similar letter will be sent to Governors Riley, Barbour, and Perry.

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Sincerely,

Stephen Allred
Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



JUL 3 1 2008

The Honorable Haley Barbour
Governor of Mississippi
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Governor Barbour:

Thank you for your letter dated May 20, 2008, to Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, cosigned by Governors Bob Riley of Alabama, Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, and Rick Perry of Texas, concerning the Gulf Coast Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). Secretary Kempthorne asked me to respond. A similar letter will be sent to Governors Riley, Jindal, and Perry.

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Sincerely,

C. Stephen Allred
Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



JUL 3 1 2008

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter dated May 20, 2008, to Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, cosigned by Governors Bob Riley of Alabama, Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, and Haley Barbour of Mississippi, concerning the Gulf Coast Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). Secretary Kempthorne asked me to respond. A similar letter will be sent to Governors Riley, Jindal, and Barbour.

We are pleased to read of your regard for the Minerals Management Service (MMS) staff and their efforts in developing this very important program. In addition, we appreciate your concerns with MMS's implementation of CIAP, as well as your suggestions for improving the program.

In an effort to address your concerns, the MMS has scheduled regular meetings with your staff and those of the other Governors to discuss the four concerns in your letter. At the conclusion of these meetings, we will ascertain how the Department of the Interior and the MMS may best proceed with our CIAP responsibilities.

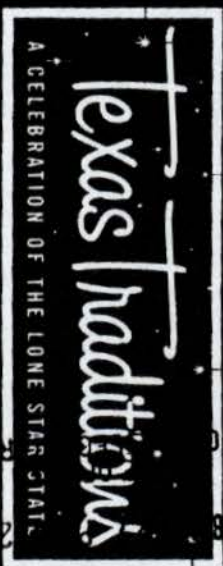
Thank you for contacting the Secretary. If you have any questions about this letter or the ongoing meetings please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 208-6734, or you may call Mr. Randall B. Luthi, Director, MMS at (202) 208-3500.

Sincerely,

C. Stephen Allred
Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management

**TEXAS GOVERNOR RICK PERRY
AND FIRST LADY ANITA PERRY**

INVITE YOU AND A GUEST TO SHARE AN EVENING WITH TEXAS STARS



TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Entry at 13th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT WITH TEXAS STARS!

RSVP BY JUNE 11, 2008

CREDENTIALS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ADMITTANCE

TEXANS THAT FLEW AMONG THE STARS

TEXAS CULINARY & WINEMAKING STARS

Off to take a vehicle across country

TEXAS MUSIC STARS
Kelly Willis and Bruce Robison
Los Texmaniacs with special guest Little Joe

TEXAS WILL BE A FEATURED DESTINATION AT THE 2008 SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL
HIGHLIGHTING THE MUSIC, FOOD AND WINEMAKING TRADITIONS OF THE LONE STAR STATE



341361

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RECEIVED

2008 SEP 17 PM 12:20

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

September 9, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

I am pleased to approve the acquisition of an additional 924 acres to be managed as a part of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge. This will undoubtedly provide more recreational and hunting opportunities while further protecting migratory bird habitat. I appreciate the close working relationship the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has developed and maintained with the State of Texas for each of these acquisitions.

I must, however, register my displeasure about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's lack of coordination and lack of acknowledgement of the State of Texas' sovereignty in the creation of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. As with most of the United States, we face myriad challenges in addressing current and future water needs in Texas. Arbitrary decisions made by federal agencies that directly affect Texas' water supply for her citizens are irresponsible and can be detrimental to future planning.

As we move forward, I respectfully request the consideration of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on any new designations. I hope the relationship the Migratory Bird Commission has developed and fostered with Texas will serve as an example for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the future.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature of Rick Perry in black ink.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tbp

373638



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



OCT 17 2008

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor
Office of the Governor
The State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of September 9, 2008, to Secretary of the Interior Kempthorne, approving the acquisition of an additional 924 acres to be managed as part of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The Secretary has asked that I respond directly to you.

Your approval of the acquisition of 924 acres to be added to the Refuge with funds provided by the Migratory Bird Commission is greatly appreciated. The Refuge was established in 1994 to protect a remnant of the bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem along the Trinity River. The Refuge currently occupies 23,000 acres and with additions, such as the one recently approved, will continue to grow and to provide additional quality hunting, fishing, and wildlife conservation opportunities to the residents of Texas.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) acknowledges your concerns regarding the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. We appreciate your desire to ensure coordination between the Service and the State of Texas and look forward to working on items of mutual concern. It is the intention of the Service to continue to coordinate fully with the State on such items.

Thank you for your support. If you have any additional questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me or Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 202-208-4717.

Sincerely

Lyle Laverty
Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

533054

April 27, 2001

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

01 APR 30 PM 3:27

RECEIVED

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing to express my strong concern about a proposed rule by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that designates over 600 miles of Texas coastline (and 1,000 miles of coastline in other states) as critical habitat for winter forage of the migratory Piping Plover. This regulation was initiated under the Clinton Administration and is scheduled for issuance as a final rule on April 30th.

As proposed, this rule will significantly impact the coastal economy of Texas, including real estate and tourism development and oil and gas exploration and production. Since many of the oil and gas leases along the Gulf Coast benefit the state's Permanent School Fund, these proposed designations will have a significant impact on funding for public school education in Texas.

This rule was proposed without the completion of an economic study, as required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It does not take into consideration that the ESA already provides protection for this species. Nor does it take into account that modifications to most coastal areas already require state and federal permits. Moreover, it provides for several broad designations that will impact areas along the Texas coastline that are not used for Piping Plover forage.

Finally, while the critical habitat designation for the nesting area of the Great Lakes population of the Piping Plover must be issued by April 30th according to a court order, I understand that this order does not require USFWS to make a final designation of critical habitat for wintering Piping Plover populations for another year.

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
April 27, 2001
Page 2

For these reasons, I urge you to postpone the final implementation of this rule as it relates to wintering Piping Plover populations to allow for further biological and economic studies based on sound science. I believe that the additional time afforded under the court order should be used to ensure that the conservation plan that is put in place will preserve the winter forage of the Piping Plover, recognize the private property rights of Texans, and avoid unnecessarily inhibiting economic development and energy production along the Texas coastline.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent "R" and "P".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgc

cc: Mr. Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 23, 2001

RICK PERRY

GOVERNOR

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Madam Secretary:

I recently learned of a project in our state that I believe is worthy of your consideration and support. The Capitol Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America (Capitol Area Council) is planning to establish a high adventure camp for boys and girls and a conference center on a 4,848 acre tract bequeathed to the Council by Mary Lavinia Griffith Sanders. The property, known as the Griffith League Ranch, is located in Bastrop County, just east of Austin. In addition to being a beautiful setting for a scout camp and conference center, Griffith League Ranch is home to the Houston toad, an endangered species.

I understand that the Capitol Area Council has proposed that its project be considered as a candidate for your landowner-incentive program. I fully support your decision to provide technical assistance, habitat enhancing tools and financial assistance to property owners, making them partners in the management of endangered species. I encourage you to give serious consideration to the Council's proposal. I reviewed the plan for the use of Griffith League Ranch and was impressed by the commitment to conservation, habitat preservation and enhancement, research regarding the species and education. The plan will achieve Ms. Sanders' dream for her family's ranch, providing a wonderful setting for an outdoor learning experience in a manner sensitive to the presence of the Houston toad. This is a unique opportunity for our state and your agency. This project affords the prospect of fostering an outstanding proposal for the youth of our state in a manner consistent with the continued existence of the Houston toad on the property.

I hope you will have the opportunity to meet with the representatives of the Capitol Area Council to discuss their proposal.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL
OFFICE OF THE

RP:bmw

01 MAY 30 PM 6:23

536613

cc: Mr. David P. Smith, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior
Mr. Ray Smith, Scout Executive, Capitol Area Council and Boy Scouts of America



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 23, 2001

RICK PERRY

GOVERNOR

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Madam Secretary:

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I understand that the Capitol Area Council has proposed that its project be considered as a candidate for your landowner-incentive program. I fully support your decision to provide technical assistance, habitat enhancing tools and financial assistance to property owners, making them partners in the management of endangered species. I encourage you to give serious consideration to the Council's proposal. I reviewed the plan for the use of Griffith League Ranch and was impressed by the commitment to conservation, habitat preservation and enhancement, research regarding the species and education. The plan will achieve Ms. Sanders' dream for her family's ranch, providing a wonderful setting for an outdoor learning experience in a manner sensitive to the presence of the Houston toad. This is a unique opportunity for our state and your agency. This project affords the prospect of fostering an outstanding proposal for the youth of our state in a manner consistent with the continued existence of the Houston toad on the property.

I hope you will have the opportunity to meet with the representatives of the Capitol Area Council to discuss their proposal.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry

Rick Perry
Governor

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL
OFFICE OF THE

RP:bmw

01 MAY 30 PM 6:23

819988

cc: Mr. David P. Smith, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior
Mr. Ray Smith, Scout Executive, Capitol Area Council and Boy Scouts of America



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

DEC 28 2001

Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your May 23, 2001, letter supporting the use of landowner incentive program funds for the Capitol Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America's Griffith League Ranch in Bastrop County, Texas. I apologize for the delay in this response.

The Griffith League Ranch is one of the largest, highest-quality tracts of habitat left in Bastrop County for the endangered Houston toad. My immediate staff and Fish and Wildlife Service staff had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Capitol Area Council regarding the Griffith League Ranch project. We agree that the Council's proposed plan is impressive in its commitment to conservation, habitat preservation and enhancement, research, and education. I am pleased to inform you that the Fish and Wildlife Service recently awarded the Capitol Area Council a grant of over \$260,000 to assist in developing a habitat conservation plan for the Griffith League Ranch adventure camp.

In addition, President Bush recently signed the Interior Appropriations for fiscal year 2002, which provides funding for the President's two new grant programs, the Landowner Incentives Grant Program and the Private Stewardship Grant Program. The Landowner Incentives program provides \$40 million in matching grants, competitively awarded to States, Territories, and Tribes to establish or supplement their own landowner incentive programs. Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for the protection and management of habitat for listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk-species, while landowners continue to engage in traditional land use practices. The Private Stewardship program provides \$10 million on a nationally competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species or other at-risk-species. The Boy Scouts may be able to obtain additional financial assistance through one of these grant programs for additional funding for conservation actions on the Griffith League Ranch. The Service will be distributing information about these two new grant programs in the future.

I appreciate your interest in this project and commend the Boy Scouts of America for their commitment to the conservation of endangered species. If you have any additional concerns about this matter, please contact the Service's Assistant Director for Endangered Species, Mr. Gary Frazer, at 202-208-4646.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Norton



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

550311

RECEIVED
01 OCT 12 PM 4:03
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 8, 2001

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Madam Secretary:

As you know, in Texas we have tried to forge new, improved relationships between landowners and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). We have made some progress but that process seems to have halted at least for the time being.

One recent concern deals with the biological opinion issued by the USFWS regarding the Barton Springs Salamander. We do not believe that this opinion was subjected to competent peer review or scrutiny at the national level within your agency. The concerns that have been raised by many concerned landowners have to do with the scientific basis for this opinion. We would ask that your office carefully review this opinion. Landowners could face possible restrictions on their use of land based on USFWS claims about water quality issues that have not been connected to direct harm of endangered species.

An additional concern we have is with the relationship among landowners, agriculture and USFWS centers around Texas' extraordinarily successful volunteer cowbird-trapping program to reduce cowbird parasitism on both endangered and declining songbird species, including the black-capped vireo. This program has been a national model, demonstrating how landowners, biologists and birders from very diverse backgrounds, can achieve appropriate, workable solutions.

We were, therefore, disturbed to learn that the makeup of the revived black-capped vireo recovery team appointed by USFWS does not reflect the true constituency and partnership of this essential effort. In fact, a number of individuals who have been instrumental in this overall effort from the start have not been included, whereas several appointed to this recovery team by USFWS have not been involved. To be successful, the new recovery team needs to be diverse and representative of the Texas stakeholders.

We are only writing to express our concerns and believe that solutions reached in a fair, objective manner are the best solutions. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you on a solution.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

Susan Combs
Commissioner of Agriculture



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JAN 15 2002

Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your October 8, 2001, letter regarding the draft biological opinion issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service to the Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate the effects of their general construction permit on listed species in Texas and for your comments on the composition of the recently assembled recovery team for the black-capped vireo. I apologize for the delay in responding to you.

I appreciate your concern that the Service's draft biological opinion on the effects of the Environmental Protection Agency's general construction permit on the Barton Springs salamander reflect the best available science and information. The draft opinion has been reviewed by both the Service's regional and national staff and the Service continues to work with the EPA to address issues associated with the draft. One of the Service's most experienced managers, Mr. Dale Hall, is now Acting Regional Director for the Service's Southwest Region. Mr. Hall has been made aware of the priority to finalize the Barton Springs consultation, and has been asked to work with you, the EPA and others to resolve the outstanding Barton Springs salamander issues.

The Service also is committed to having a diversity of views represented on its recovery teams. In June 2001, a group of individuals was invited to serve on the Black-Capped Vireo Recovery Team. Some of these individuals were asked to serve on the Recovery Team's Technical Subcommittee to provide expertise on the biology and ecology of the vireo and its habitat. Others were invited to serve on the Team's Stakeholder Subcommittee to provide expertise on the socio-economic aspects of the plan and the feasibility and appropriateness of recommended recovery tasks.

Since the initial meeting of the Recovery Team on August 21, 2001, the Service has expanded its efforts to further diversify the team's membership to ensure that the new recovery plan will be representative of and responsive to the views of local communities and our conservation partners. In October 2001, the membership of the team was broadened by extending invitations to representatives from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Wildlife Association, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Texas Audubon Society, Texas Farm Bureau, and Central Texas Cattleman's Association. The Texas Farm Bureau specifically requested that Dr. Wallace Klussmann, Mr. Steve Bauer, Dr. Pat Reardon, and Mr. Steve Manning be invited to join the

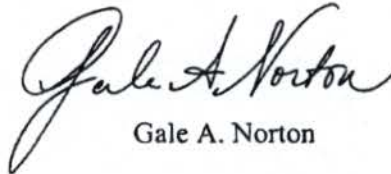
Honorable Rick Perry

2

recovery team. Invitations to join the team were extended to those four gentlemen; all have accepted the invitation. This will bring the number of stakeholders on the team to 14, with a total of 27 team members. The next meeting, scheduled for January 16, 2002, will be the first opportunity for the entire team to meet and work together. Enclosed please find a list of the Black-Capped Vireo Recovery Team members.

I commend your State's efforts to conserve endangered and declining songbird species and agree that the Texas program serves as a national model for how landowners, biologists, and birders of diverse backgrounds can achieve workable solutions. Without question, conservation reached through communication and cooperation is the best solution. If you need any further assistance on this matter, please contact Mr. Dale Hall, the Service's Acting Southwest Regional Director, at (505) 248-6910.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gale A. Norton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gale A. Norton

Enclosure

BLACK-CAPPED VIREO RECOVERY TEAM

TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE:

Name	Entity/Interest	Expertise
John Cornelius	Ft. Hood	bird biologist/habitat expert
Tim Hayden	USCOE-CERL	ornithological researcher
Joe Grzybowski	Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum	field expertise
Bill Armstrong	TPWD, Kerr WMA	ag/habitat manipulation
Jeff Hatfield	Patuxent	statistician/modeling
Christina Longacre	USFWS	lead for species
Dave Diamond	Missouri. Resource Assessment Partnership	habitat expert
Chuck Sexton	BCNWR	bird/habitat expert
Doug Slack (Leader)	Texas A&M	bird biologist
Frank Thompson	U.S. Forest Service	cowbird expert
Stanley Temple	Univ. Wisconsin	modeling – participation uncertain
Margaret Brittingham	Penn State University	cowbird expert – participation uncertain

STAKEHOLDER SUBCOMMITTEE:

Name	Entity/Interest	Expertise
Clay Jones	Jones North Ranch	ag economics
Donald Neal	Neal Ranch	cattle operations
Deidre Heisler	TPWD	recreation within preserves
Todd Janssen	Del Webb Sun City	developer
Mel Hinson	City of Austin PARD	worked on BCP
Bebe Fenstermaker	Citizen	landowner with birds

David Wolfe	Environmental Defense	non-profit, incentive-based conservation
Paul Robertson	TPWD	representative for TPWD BCV researchers
Pat Reardon	Texas Wildlife Association	representative for TWA
Terry Austin	Audubon Society	representative for Texas chapter
Wallace Klussmann	Texas Farm Bureau	representing TFB
Stephen Bauer	Texas Farm Bureau	representing TFB
Steve Manning	Central TX Cattlemen's Assoc.	representative for CTCA
Gary Amand	TNC	Central Texas Program Manager (replacing Jeff Weigel at request of TNC)
William Burman	City of San Antonio	participation uncertain

307323



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 23, 2001

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Madam Secretary:

I recently learned of a project in our state that I believe is worthy of your consideration and support. The Capitol Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America (Capitol Area Council) is planning to establish a high adventure camp for boys and girls and a conference center on a 4,848 acre tract bequeathed to the Council by Mary Lavinia Griffith Sanders. The property, known as the Griffith League Ranch, is located in Bastrop County, just east of Austin. In addition to being a beautiful setting for a scout camp and conference center, Griffith League Ranch is home to the Houston toad, an endangered species.

I understand that the Capitol Area Council has proposed that its project be considered as a candidate for your landowner-incentive program. I fully support your decision to provide technical assistance, habitat enhancing tools and financial assistance to property owners, making them partners in the management of endangered species. I encourage you to give serious consideration to the Council's proposal. I reviewed the plan for the use of Griffith League Ranch and was impressed by the commitment to conservation, habitat preservation and enhancement, research regarding the species and education. The plan will achieve Ms. Sanders' dream for her family's ranch, providing a wonderful setting for an outdoor learning experience in a manner sensitive to the presence of the Houston toad. This is a unique opportunity for our state and your agency. This project affords the prospect of fostering an outstanding proposal for the youth of our state in a manner consistent with the continued existence of the Houston toad on the property.

I hope you will have the opportunity to meet with the representatives of the Capitol Area Council to discuss their proposal.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Rick Perry
Governor

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL
OFFICE OF THE

RP:bmw

01 MAY 30 PM 6:23

596613

cc: Mr. David P. Smith, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior
Mr. Ray Smith, Scout Executive, Capitol Area Council and Boy Scouts of America



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

April 27, 2001

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing to express my strong concern about a proposed rule by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that designates over 600 miles of Texas coastline (and 1,000 miles of coastline in other states) as critical habitat for winter forage of the migratory Piping Plover. This regulation was initiated under the Clinton Administration and is scheduled for issuance as a final rule on April 30th.

As proposed, this rule will significantly impact the coastal economy of Texas, including real estate and tourism development and oil and gas exploration and production. Since many of the oil and gas leases along the Gulf Coast benefit the state's Permanent School Fund, these proposed designations will have a significant impact on funding for public school education in Texas.

This rule was proposed without the completion of an economic study, as required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It does not take into consideration that the ESA already provides protection for this species. Nor does it take into account that modifications to most coastal areas already require state and federal permits. Moreover, it provides for several broad designations that will impact areas along the Texas coastline that are not used for Piping Plover forage.

Finally, while the critical habitat designation for the nesting area of the Great Lakes population of the Piping Plover must be issued by April 30th according to a court order, I understand that this order does not require USFWS to make a final designation of critical habitat for wintering Piping Plover populations for another year.

533054

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

01 APR 30 PM 3:27

RECEIVED

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
April 27, 2001
Page 2

For these reasons, I urge you to postpone the final implementation of this rule as it relates to wintering Piping Plover populations to allow for further biological and economic studies based on sound science. I believe that the additional time afforded under the court order should be used to ensure that the conservation plan that is put in place will preserve the winter forage of the Piping Plover, recognize the private property rights of Texans, and avoid unnecessarily inhibiting economic development and energy production along the Texas coastline.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with prominent loops and a high arch over the "R".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgc

cc: Mr. Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 23, 2001

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GOVERNOR

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Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
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Rick Perry
Governor

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL
OFFICE OF THE

RP:bmw

01 MAY 30 PM 6:23

319985

cc: Mr. David P. Smith, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior
Mr. Ray Smith, Scout Executive, Capitol Area Council and Boy Scouts of America



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

DEC 28 2001

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Governor of Texas
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Sincerely,

Gale A. Norton



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

533054

April 27, 2001

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

01 APR 30 PM 3:27

RECEIVED

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The Honorable Gale A. Norton
April 27, 2001
Page 2

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Thank you for your consideration of this request.

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Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgc

cc: Mr. Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

OCT 26 2011

The Honorable James Richard Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

The restoration of the Gulf Coast is a very high priority for the Department of the Interior and we support the good work that Texas is doing to restore its coastal resources and communities. The Department has land management responsibility for 4.2 million acres throughout the Gulf, and responsibility for safe offshore oil and gas leasing and production. We value the partnership with Texas and we remain committed to significant and sustained action at the Federal level to support the State's communities and citizens.

In particular, I want to note our valued collaboration on the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustee Council, including our shared responsibility to accelerate recovery from the Deepwater Horizon spill with the \$1 billion in early restoration funding that we secured together from BP.

Another important source of funding for coastal restoration is the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). In response to concerns raised by Gulf Coast States, I have implemented major management changes to streamline and improve the delivery of CIAP funds to Texas and the other Gulf States. On October 1, 2011, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) assumed administrative responsibility for distribution of CIAP funding to the States. The FWS has considerable grant making expertise, with over \$1 billion distributed annually to states and tribes through a variety of Federal grant programs. The FWS will work directly with your CIAP Coordinator's office to support grant requests from Texas. These actions will significantly streamline the process and bring valuable restoration and grant making expertise to the program.

Presently Texas has a balance of approximately \$129.6 million in CIAP funding available to it that may be distributed upon approval of a grant request from your CIAP Coordinator's office. I ask that you direct your CIAP Coordinator to submit a grant request for Texas' funds. The FWS's Assistant Director for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, Mr. Hannibal Bolton, will work with your CIAP staff to provide these funds to Texas so that we can together facilitate Gulf Coast restoration. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the State of Texas on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

cc: Honorable Lisa Jackson



June 27, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
United States Department of Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

On behalf of all the Governors who are participating in the newly formed Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Governors' Coalition, we are writing to update you on the status of this recently formed Coalition, its mission and goals, and to let you know we look forward to working closely with you on offshore energy matters.

The Mission of the OCS Governors' Coalition is to improve dialogue and understanding about the Outer Continental Shelf.

Working with those coastal states interested in understanding more about the promise and potential of responsible production offshore, the coalition will work toward:

- Improved communication between federal and state officials on Outer Continental Shelf Energy issues.
- Improved understanding of the potential resources and opportunities adjacent to the various coastal states.
- Improved understanding of the impact those resources could have on local, state and federal revenues.
- Improved management and stewardship of coastal resources related to coastal and ocean activities.

As the elected representatives of the states that are interested in learning more about the resources adjacent to our respective coasts and the opportunities they bring to our states and the nation, we certainly look forward to actively engaging with federal officials on a regular basis.

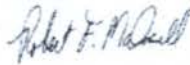
The members of the coalition will hold an official meeting in the coming months and look forward to having you participate.

We look forward to working with you to share information and develop a commonsense plan for U.S. energy.

Sincerely,



Bobby Jindal
Governor
Louisiana



Bob McDonnell
Governor
Virginia



Rick Perry
Governor
Texas



Sean Parnell
Governor
Alaska



Haley Barbour
Governor
Mississippi

Cc: Michael R. Bromwich
Director
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
United States Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

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OF THE

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RECEIVED

503030



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

OCT 26 2011

The Honorable James Richard Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

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Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

cc: Honorable Lisa Jackson



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON
MAR 31 2010

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Preliminary Revised Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program (PRP) for 2007-2012. The PRP constitutes my reconsideration of the OCS program for 2007-2012 as required by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. This document has been published for a 30-day comment period.

The OCS program for 2007-2012 took effect on July 1, 2007, and was immediately challenged in court. In April 2009, the Court vacated and remanded the Department of the Interior's 2007-2012 program. The Court found that the environmental sensitivity analysis required by Section 18 of the OCS Lands Act was inadequate and instructed me to expand the environmental sensitivity analysis and reconsider the original decision, rebalancing the program under Section 18(a)(3). On July 28, 2009, the Court stayed its mandate and clarified at the Department's request that the relief granted applied only to three areas of the Alaska OCS—Beaufort, Chukchi, and Bering Seas.

My decision reflects the crucial role that OCS oil and gas production plays in reducing the Nation's dependence on foreign imports and is guided by the fundamental principle that all oil and gas exploration on Federal lands must be conducted at the right place, at the right time, and in an environmentally sound way.

The PRP decision includes 16 sales in six areas and recognizes the Gulf of Mexico as the primary region that provides energy resources to meet the Nation's oil and natural gas needs. Therefore, the PRP includes the 11 annual, areawide sales in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico, including Western Gulf Sales 204, 207, and 210 that have already occurred plus Sales 215 and 218, scheduled for 2010 and 2011 respectively. These areas alone cannot be expected to meet the Nation's energy demands. Therefore, one sale is included in the PRP for the Mid-Atlantic offshore Virginia; two special interest sales are included for Cook Inlet, Alaska (including one that will not be held due to lack of industry interest); and one sale that was held in 2008 in the Chukchi Sea, Alaska, is included in the PRP. Eastern Gulf Sale 224 was mandated by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 and, therefore, is not subject to Section 18 analysis and rebalancing. It is included as an historical record of leasing activity in the time period.

Following the end of this 30-day comment period, I will consider any comments received from the State of Texas and others in arriving at my final decision. I then will approve a final revised leasing program for 2007-2012 and submit it to the Court.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Salazar". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ken Salazar

Enclosure

The Honorable Pat McCrory, Governor of North Carolina (Chair)
The Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska
The Honorable Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana
The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas
The Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor of Mississippi
The Honorable Terry McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia
The Honorable Robert Bentley, Governor of Alabama
The Honorable Nikki Haley, Governor of South Carolina

REC'D
2014 AUG - 6



July 31, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Request for Information on 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program

Dear Secretary Jewell:

The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Governors Coalition is pleased to submit our views on areas to be considered for inclusion in the Department of the Interior's 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program. We appreciate the recent efforts that you and your colleagues have undertaken to engage coastal governors in offshore leasing and regulatory decisions.

The OCS Governors Coalition was created by governors from coastal states in May 2011 to promote a constructive dialogue on OCS energy-resource planning and development between coastal state governors and federal policy makers. The bipartisan group of eight governors supports policies that encourage a responsible expansion of offshore oil, natural gas and renewable energy to the benefit of the nation, our states and our citizens. As we conveyed to you during our meeting in February, our principal role in the OCS as state executives is to explore the opportunities and challenges of offshore energy development and coastal management in order to balance appropriately economic prospects with environmental safety, as well as the health and safety of our citizens.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) multi-step process to formulate the five-year leasing program provides policy makers and the public the ability to review and revise the nation's offshore energy policy in light of new economic developments, environmental circumstances and energy demand. At this stage in the process, the OCS Governors Coalition urges the BOEM to include all unleased areas of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf in its Draft Proposed Program. These include unleased areas in the Atlantic, Western, Central and Eastern Gulf of Mexico and off the coast of Alaska. Forthcoming environmental analyses and ongoing conversations with the U.S. Department of Defense, oil and gas operators, renewable energy producers, various marine industries and other stakeholders will determine the areas that are ultimately included in the Final Program and offered for lease.

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The OCS Governors Coalition believes it is prudent to include all leasing options in the Draft Proposed Program, understanding that circumstances affecting leasing decisions could change during the course of the program's development and implementation. Access to offshore energy resources will allow coastal states and communities to realize great economic opportunities. The successful development of the Gulf of Mexico and the initial exploration of Alaska's OCS demonstrate how responsible offshore oil and gas development can generate many good paying jobs, spur activity in a host of associated industries and generate billions of dollars in tax revenue.

The OCS Governors Coalition encourages the Obama Administration to support legislation that would expand revenue sharing to all participating coastal states and modify the existing revenue-sharing structure for the Gulf States to ensure a more equitable system. Sharing of revenues with coastal states can help address the externalities that states and coastal counties assume with offshore oil, natural gas and wind development. The current system of limited revenue sharing utilized in the Gulf of Mexico provides state governments some of the resources to expand coastal management and conservation, build new roads, docks, ports and other necessary infrastructure and expand other public services. We strongly believe that equitable revenue sharing allows states to properly address the coastal impacts of offshore production.

In addition to conveying our opinions on areas to be considered for leasing, the OCS Governors Coalition is also providing brief responses to some of the agency's questions outlined in the Request for Information.

What do you think is the proper role of OCS oil and gas leasing as part of a comprehensive national energy policy?

Safe exploration and production of offshore resources must be part of a long term, "all-of-the-above" energy plan that permits access to onshore and offshore hydrocarbons, grows opportunities for alternative and renewable energy sources and expands efforts to use energy more efficiently. OCS energy development will provide a safe, stable and domestic supply of oil and natural gas.

The BOEM estimates that the U.S. OCS holds approximately 90 billion barrels of oil and more than 400 trillion cubic feet of natural gas which are technically recoverable. Recent increases in onshore oil and natural gas extraction coupled with greater efforts to conserve energy and utilize renewable energy sources have helped reduce our dependency on overseas energy resources. However, the United States still relies on imported oil to meet demand and will continue to do so in the absence of new resource development. The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimated in its 2014 Annual Energy Outlook that U.S. crude oil production will meet only 50 percent of demand in 2030 and 45 percent of demand in 2040. Greater access to offshore traditional and renewable energy resources will increase domestic supplies, advancing our nation's economic and energy security interests.

Should areas not included in the 2012-2017 Five Year Program be included in the new Five Year Program? If so, what areas should be included and what should be the proposed timeframe for lease sales in these areas?

Yes, the OCS Governors Coalition urges BOEM to include all unleased areas for inclusion in the 2017-2022 Draft Proposed Program, including the three Atlantic planning areas, the Beaufort and Chukchi Sea planning areas and the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.

The Coalition wrote to President Obama in August 2012 regarding our disappointment that the Department of the Interior excluded these areas from its Proposed Final OCS Oil and Natural Gas Leasing Program for 2012-2017. The five-year plan is the only mechanism through which the federal government can offer OCS lease sales. Therefore, all options should be considered during initial evaluations.

If new areas are leased for exploration and potential development, what short-term and long-term impacts can be foreseen for the economies of local communities?

The OCS Governors Coalition has provided an excellent forum for Atlantic Coast governors to engage in meaningful dialogue with governors from the Gulf Coast and Alaska regarding the economic impact of offshore development. Sharing these experiences informs us on ways in which we can promote best practices and maximize opportunities for our coastal residents.

Offshore energy development in the Gulf of Mexico supports more than 240,000 jobs and contributes \$26 billion annually to gross domestic production. Last year, the federal government collected more than \$8.7 billion in revenue from offshore royalties, rents and bonuses in the Gulf of Mexico. New access will allow other states and coastal communities to benefit from new industry and supplier jobs and spur economic activity. For Alaska, new leasing and continued access to existing leases could generate more than 54,000 jobs nationally, 35,000 of which would be located in Alaska.¹ Studies have similarly found that access to Atlantic OCS development could generate 215,000 jobs in the Atlantic Coast region.²

Expanded revenue sharing will augment these economic benefits. Resources to improve coastal infrastructure and management will add to the overall economic wellbeing of coastal communities adjacent to offshore development.

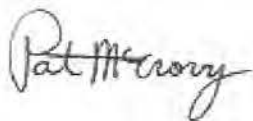
¹ Northern Economics and the Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage, "Potential National-Level Benefits of Alaska OCS Development." February 2011. <http://www.northerneconomics.com/pdfs/ShellOCS/National%20Effects%20Report%20FJNAL.pdf> (accessed July 22, 2014).

² Quest Offshore Resources, Inc., "The Economic Benefits of Increasing U.S. Access to Offshore Oil and Natural Gas Resources in the Atlantic." December 2013. <http://www.noia.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/The-Economic-Benefits-of-Increasing-US-Access-to-Offshore-Oil-and-Natura...pdf> (accessed July 22, 2014).

We appreciate the efforts of the BOEM to engage coastal governors in this important process, and we look forward to continuing this dialogue throughout the development of the leasing program.

Please direct any questions to Don van der Vaart, Energy Policy Advisor with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources at Donald.vandervaart@ncdenr.gov or via telephone at 919-707-8475. Dr. van der Vaart serves as the principal point of contact for Governor McCrory, Chair of the OCS Governors Coalition.

Sincerely,



Governor Pat McCrory
State of North Carolina
Chair, OCS Governors Coalition



Governor Sean Parnell
State of Alaska



Governor Robert Bentley
State of Alabama



Governor Terry McAuliffe
Commonwealth of Virginia



Governor Rick Perry
State of Texas

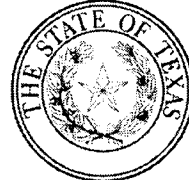


Governor Bobby Jindal
State of Louisiana



Governor Phil Bryant
State of Mississippi

CC: Walter D. Cruickshank, Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Kelly Hammerle, Five-Year Program Manager, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



March 4, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Last June, you conditioned approval of the Keystone XL pipeline on a finding that the project would be in our nation's interest, which would be served only if the project "does not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution." In a long-anticipated report released January 31, the State Department determined that approval of the pipeline is unlikely to result in a substantial increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Such a finding should now clear the way for final endorsement of the pipeline.

We understand that the State Department plans to undertake a 90-day process to gather input from other federal agencies and departments, and from the public toward a "national interest" determination. While this process appears reasonable on its face, we are troubled by comments from senior officials within your Administration. *The National Journal*, for example, reports that Assistant Secretary of State Kerri-Ann Jones plans to introduce tangential issues that will inform the "national interest" determination, such as the impact of project approval on international climate policy. We seriously doubt that approval or rejection of the project would impact – even marginally – the climate policies of China, India, and Russia.

We maintain that approval of the pipeline, a critical energy infrastructure project, is clearly in the "national interest" with quantifiable benefits for not only our constituents, but for the entire American people. The State Department's report concluded that the pipeline, during construction, would support over 42,000 jobs – a substantial, meaningful number to the vast majority of Americans. We concur with the well-argued points made by many of the nation's major labor unions, including the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which highlight the job benefits of Keystone XL.

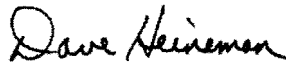
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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Moreover, the pipeline would improve our energy security by diversifying the nation's energy infrastructure, which would help ensure access to reliable and affordable fuels for our cars and trucks. Although the United States has made impressive progress in displacing foreign petroleum in recent years, it remains in the national interest to promote, *as a percentage of total oil imports*, shipments from our friends and allies, such as Canada. We take note of a recent Bloomberg poll, which found that 56 percent of respondents view the Keystone XL pipeline "as a chance to reduce dependence on oil imports from less reliable trading partners." We agree with that assessment.

We ask that you set a prudent, rational deadline for a decision on whether the Keystone project is in the "national interest" – one based on the condition you set in June.

We look forward to working with your Administration to ensure that this pipeline, which will undoubtedly promote U.S. economic and energy security interests, is built without any further delay.

Sincerely,



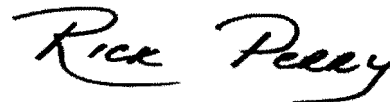
Governor Dave Heineman
Nebraska



Governor Dennis Daugaard
South Dakota



Governor Jack Dalrymple
North Dakota



Governor Rick Perry
Texas



Governor Mary Fallin
Oklahoma

3/14/2014

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: FW: Keystone letter



Howarth, Robert <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: FW: Keystone letter

Carrillo, Francisco <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Mar 13, 2014 at 4:21 PM

To: Robert Howarth <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Klein <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Cynthia Moses-Nedd <cnedd@blm.gov>

FYI - letter from the Governors regarding Keystone XL.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Blair, John** <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Wed, Mar 5, 2014 at 5:10 AM

Subject: Fwd: FW: Keystone letter

To: Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <Francisco_Carrillo@ios.doi.gov>

Can one of you please forward this on to anyone in DOI who needs to see it?

Thanks! jb

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Saenz, Adrian** (b)(6)

Date: Tue, Mar 4, 2014 at 7:23 PM

Subject: FW: Keystone letter

To: "Kvaal, James" (b)(6); "Boots, Michael J." (b)(6)

"Maley, Keith" (b)(6); John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, "rupp.mark@epa.gov" <rupp.mark@epa.gov>

Cc: "Agnew, David P." (b)(6); "Patel, Rohan" (b)(6)

Folks, please see the attached letter from Govs Heineman, Daugaard, Dalrymple, Pery and Fallin asking the President to set "a prudent, rational deadline" for a decision on the Keystone pipeline's construction. POTUS touched on this at NGA Govs meeting last week.

- Adrian

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan Wilmot [mailto:dan.wilmot@governor.state.tx.us]

Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 10:12 AM

To: Amo, Gabe

Subject: Keystone letter

Gabe,

Please find attached a letter to President Obama regarding the Keystone Pipeline.

dan

3/14/2014

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: FW: Keystone letter

—
John Blair
Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
W: 202-208-1923 | C: 202-412-3486 | john_blair@ios.doi.gov

 **Keystone Governors Letter.pdf**
314K



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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIATRICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

February 6, 2014

Mr. Dan M. Ashe
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-1000

Dear Mr. Ashe:

Thank you for reopening the comment period on listing the Lesser Prairie Chicken (LEPC) as a threatened species with a special rule under Section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This will give an opportunity for more people, including Texans, to voice their concerns.

The State of Texas is adamantly opposed to the FWS proposed listing of LEPC, and believes the listing of LEPC under ESA is not warranted considering the best scientific information available and the extensive conservation measures developed to date. We also believe that voluntary conservation planning is the most effective approach to preserving LEPC populations and eliminates the need for listing the species as threatened.

The State of Texas has already made great progress through various conservation planning efforts by working with oil and gas companies and private landowners. Just recently, five leading oil and gas companies have come forward in support of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Range-Wide Plan (RWP). These companies have committed to enrolling nearly 1.5 million acres of land to RWP.

On a parallel track, the Stakeholder Conservation Strategy (SCS) has the support of five oil and natural gas companies with property interests in approximately 20 percent of LEPC habitat. SCS also enjoys the backing of a significant portion of private land, farming and ranching interests. SCS effectively addresses split estate situations, a critically important issue in Texas. Allowing for the conservation proposed in SCS to complement RWP furthers the underlying goal of conservation and protection of LEPC. Additionally, a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances component is part of SCS, which provides additional protection of LEPC in the event it is not listed by FWS.

Mr. Dan M. Ashc
February 6, 2014
Page 2

Both of these plans represent scientifically robust programs that place conservation on the ground in an accelerated and meaningful way to protect the bird and eliminate the need for listing.

Should LEPC be listed as threatened, business continuity for oil and gas companies, ranchers, farmers and landowners coexisting with LEPC populations will be jeopardized. This is because the currently proposed 4(d) special rule does not provide sufficient flexibility to industry, agricultural stakeholders or landowners. Instead, it proposes limiting "take" exemptions to a single proposed model, the WAFWA IRWP.

While the State of Texas endorses RWP, it also supports additional innovative, privately developed conservation plans like SCS. The State of Texas recognizes that only a broad-based approach to conservation that employs all methods and procedures will bring LEPC to the point at which protection under ESA is not required.

Given the large geographic range of LEPC habitat and the diversity and variety of agriculture, commercial and industrial development within the range, the State of Texas requests that FWS encourage and acknowledge in any 4(d) special rule all conservation plans aimed at conserving the species, should the species be listed by FWS. This action will ensure regulatory certainty that is crucial for these land-based businesses to remain operational.

Sincerely,



Rick Perry
Governor

RP:rvp

Texas Governor's Office

1100 San Jacinto

Austin, TX 78701

512-463-1800 | 512-463-1849 f |

fax

TO:	Secretary Sally Jewell	FROM:	Governor Rick Perry
FAX:	202-219-2100	PAGES:	2
PHONE:	202-208-3100	DATE:	2/7/2014
RE:	Comments for Lesser Prairie Chicken	CC:	

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

Comments:

Dear Madam Secretary,

The following fax is a letter from Governor Rick Perry to Director Dan Ashe of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the proposed listing for the Lesser Prairie Chicken. Please contact Governor Perry's Office if you have any questions regarding the letter.



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GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

May 21, 2013

Ms. Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: State of Texas Final Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Plan

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I hereby submit the Texas CIAP Plan to you and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for approval.

If you have any questions during the review process, please contact Commissioner Jerry Patterson by writing to the Texas General Land Office (GLO), P.O. Box 12873, Austin, Texas 78711-2873, by phone at (512) 463-5001, or by e-mail at Jerry.Patterson@glo.state.tx.us. You can also reach Ms. Helen Young, Deputy Commissioner, GLO, Coastal Resources Program, at the same address above, by phone at (512) 463-5338 or by e-mail at Helen.Young@glo.state.tx.us.

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:mbp

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Helen Young, Deputy Commissioner, GLO

STATE OF TEXAS
COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PLAN



TEXAS COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PLAN
4th AMENDMENT

STATE OF TEXAS
COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) approved the Texas Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Plan in January 2009. The First Amendment to that Plan was approved on May 13, 2010. The State and Coastal Political Subdivision (CPS) programs and project details for the FY 2007 funding allocations were described in those documents. The Second Amendment to the Plan was approved on March 17, 2011. The State and CPS programs and project details for the FY 2008 funding allocations were described in that document. The Third Amendment to the Plan was approved on April 2, 2012. The State and CPS programs and project details for the FY 2009 and FY 2010 funding allocations were described in that document.

The Fourth Amendment to the Plan includes two counties that have requested formal amendments. Harris County is adding a new project to cover county expenses to administer their CIAP projects. San Patricio is adding a project to their Tier 2 list should any funding become available from projects coming in under budget.

GOVERNOR'S CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In preparing this amendment, the GLO ensured these two CPS programs included the public through local and county meetings. Notice of the 4th Amendment to the Plan was posted on the CIAP Website and in the *Texas Register* for public comment for more than 30 days from February 27, 2013 through March 31, 2013. No public comments were received.

STATE OF TEXAS
COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PLAN

HARRIS COUNTY

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Natural resources of Harris County impacted by offshore oil and gas activities will be conserved, protected, or restored, including air, water, soil, and natural habitat.

Objective 1.1: To support projects that will contribute to restoration of air quality.

Objective 1.2: To support projects that will contribute to restoration of water quality.

Objective 1.3: To support projects that will result in protection of soil or prevention of erosion.

Objective 1.4: To support projects that will result in conservation or restoration of natural habitat.

Goal 2: Damage to the environment, including air, water, soil, and natural habitat, will be mitigated and health risks to the citizens due to environmental damage will be reduced.

Objective 2.1: To fund projects that will improve management of air quality.

Objective 2.2: To fund projects that will improve management of water quality.

Objective 2.3: To fund projects that will improve management of public lands and wildlife resources.

Objective 2.4: To fund projects that will reduce health risks to citizens from air and water pollution.

Goal 3: Sustainable benefits to quality of life and the economy of Harris County will be provided by CIAP projects.

Objective 3.1: To select projects that will incorporate and balance benefits to the environment, the economy, and the quality of life for Harris County residents.

Objective 3.2: To select projects that have long lasting benefits.

Goal 4: To support projects that are coordinated with other government agencies and provide leveraging of county CIAP funds by incorporating other sources of funding.

Objective 4.1: To prioritize projects with additional sources of funding.

Objective 4.2: To prioritize projects involving partnerships with resource agencies or stakeholder groups.

MANAGEMENT OF THE PROGRAM

The County Judge's Office will administer the projects on behalf of Harris County. The actual implementation of the projects will be done by subgrantees and other County departments whose projects were selected. The County Judges Office's will provide oversight of the program with support by the County Auditor's Office, the Grant Coordination Section, Public Infrastructure Department, and the County Attorney's Office. A Project Analyst will be hired by the County to conduct the County's oversight and due diligence duties.

STATE OF TEXAS
COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PLAN

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The County's FY 2007-2010 CIAP Plan 4th Amendment was posted in the *Texas Register* and on the GLO CIAP website for public comment for 30 days. Public notices of County Commissioners' meetings are posted in the lobby of the Criminal Justice Center, 1201 Franklin, Houston, TX; the first and ninth floor bulletin boards in the lobby of the Administration Building at 1001 Preston, Houston, Texas; and the county's website at <http://www.co.harris.tx.us>. Meetings were held during the FY 2007 – 2010 selection process to involve the public in the selection of projects for CIAP funding. The County met with each of the Tier 1 awardees to discuss the County's Administrative Costs, and the funding from this project will come from reallocated budget from the other approved projects. Commissioners Court voted and approved the inclusion of the Administration & Planning project totaling \$321,347 in the 4th Amendment of the CIAP Plan at its meeting on January 8, 2013.

PROJECT SELECTION

This project was selected based on the need by the County, presented by the award of CIAP grants, to provide administrative oversight and to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, local and grant regulations. CIAP Authorized Use #3 provides for up to 24% of CIAP allocations for administrative and planning purposes.

COMPLIANCE WITH RELEVANT RULES AND REGULATIONS

The County will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, and will work with the GLO and the Fish & Wildlife Service during the review and implementation of the project.

STATE OF TEXAS
COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PLAN

FY 2009 -- TIER 1
HARRIS COUNTY CIAP ADMINISTRATION & PLANNING

1. Designated County Contact

Entity: Harris County
Contact Name: Judge Ed Emmett
Address: 1001 Preston, Suite 911, Houston, TX 77002
Telephone: (713) 755-4000
Fax: (713) 755-4911
E-mail: cjograntsnotification@hctx.net

2. Project Title: Harris County CIAP Administration & Planning

3. Contact Information

Project Manager Contact

Contact Name: Mr. Eric Cadow
Entity: Harris County
Address: 1310 Prairie, Suite 530
Houston, TX 77002
Telephone: (713) 755-4117
Fax: (713) 437-4091
E-mail: eric.cadow@bmd.hctx.net

Application Contact

Contact Name: Mr. Eric Cadow
Entity: Harris County
Address: 1310 Prairie, Suite 530
Houston, TX 77002
Telephone: (713) 755-4117
Fax: (713) 437-4091
E-mail: eric.cadow@bmd.hctx.net

Sub-grantee Contact:

N/A

4. Project Summary

Total CIAP Cost: \$321,347
Total CIAP Cost by Funding Year: \$321,347 (FY 2009 Allocation)
Project Location: 29° 48' 27" N/ 95° 23' 29" W, Houston
Duration in months: 48

Project Goals: To fund costs of administering the Harris County 2007 through 2010 CIAP projects.

STATE OF TEXAS
COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PLAN

Measurable Objectives: To ensure that all program activities are monitored to comply with program requirements; to ensure all program costs are allowable; and to coordinate and evaluate the program results with stated objectives.

This project will fund the administrative costs of all FY 2007 through 2010 CIAP projects located in Harris County, Texas. Administration of the Harris County CIAP projects will include a number of tasks to develop and implement the CIAP projects.

Administrative costs will include plan implementation and oversight, travel associated with plan development and implementation, copying and publication costs and costs incurred for public meetings, notices, and other coordination efforts. Administrative costs also involve the dispersal of CIAP funds and include budget management, staff supervision, facilitation of communications, preparation and review of documents and other tasks associated with the project. Planning assistance and administrative costs are needed to ensure that all program activities are monitored for compliance with program requirements, to ensure all program costs are allowable, and to coordinate and evaluate the program results with stated objectives.

No CIAP funds relative to this project would be used for federal cost-sharing or matching purposes.

5. Authorized Use #3. Planning assistance and the administrative costs to comply with CIAP.

This project will help to offset the direct administrative costs incurred in developing and overseeing Harris County's CIAP plan and active projects.

STATE OF TEXAS
COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PLAN

SAN PATRICIO COUNTY

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals of the San Patricio County CIAP are to encourage the conservation, protection and enjoyment of the Texas coastal natural resources in San Patricio County. CIAP funds will be used to protect riparian habitat and provide outdoor recreational opportunities for the general public. Objectives for the CIAP include:

- Create and develop county parks;
- Provide new outdoor recreational opportunities along the Nueces River watershed and Aransas Bay;
- Provide projects and activities for the conservation, protection, and restoration of coastal areas;
- Provide public education and outreach opportunities; and
- Provide administrative assistance for the CIAP program.

MANAGEMENT OF THE PROGRAM

A new park system will be developed and managed by the San Patricio County Parks Department and the Parks Director, who will report directly to the County Judge and coordinate with the County Commissioners. The County Treasurer and the County Auditor will oversee the financial aspects of the program. The County contracted with a grants consultant to assist with grant management.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

All Commissioners Court meetings are posted on the county website at <http://www.co.san-patricio.tx.us> and at the County Courthouse at 400 West Sinton Street, Sinton, Texas. The Commissioners Court first met in May, September, October, and December 2006 to discuss proposed CIAP projects and to hear public input. Commissioners Court meetings regarding CIAP were also conducted in June, July, August, and December 2007, where a general consensus of selected projects was finalized through commissioner vote. Project priorities were reaffirmed in Commissioners Court meetings in September 2008, and June and July 2010. On July 2 and July 16, 2012, the "San Patricio County Coastal Pavilion" was discussed as a new proposed project. On September 24, 2012, the project was added to the approved County CIAP Plan as a Tier 2 project. Approximately 35 people attended each meeting.

PROJECT SELECTION

The Commissioners Court reviewed and selected projects for county CIAP funding based on:

- Impact on the current park system;
- Access to park facilities; and
- New educational and outreach opportunities.

COMPLIANCE WITH RELEVANT RULES AND REGULATIONS

The County will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, including compliance with the NEPA and the CMP.

STATE OF TEXAS
COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PLAN

FY 2009 and FY 2010 -- TIER 2
SAN PATRICIO COUNTY COASTAL PAVILION

1. Designated County Contact

Entity: San Patricio County
Contact Name: Judge Terry Simpson
Address: 400 West Sinton Street, #109, Sinton TX 78387
Telephone: (361) 364-9301
Fax: (361) 364-6118
E-mail: terry.simpson@co.san-patricio.tx.us

2. Project Title: San Patricio County Coastal Pavilion

3. Contact Information

Project Manager Contact

Contact Name: William E. Zagorski
Entity: San Patricio County Parks Director
Address: 300 North Rachel, Sinton TX 78387
Telephone: (361) 364-9650
Fax: (361) 364-6194
E-mail: zagorski@juno.com

Application Contact

Contact Name: Ms. Kathy Smartt
Entity: Smartt Grants
Address: 3801 Manchaca #7, Austin, TX 78704
Telephone: (512) 800-4740
Fax: none
E-mail: smarttgrants@sbcglobal.net

Sub-grantee Contact

N/A

4. Project Summary

Total CIAP Cost: \$500,000
Total CIAP Cost by Funding Year: \$250,000 (FY 2009 Allocation)
\$250,000 (FY 2010 Allocation)
Project Location: 27° 53' 23.19" N/97° 09' 12.07" W, Aransas Pass
Duration in months: 18

Project Goals: To expand environmental education and outreach programs in San Patricio County.

Measurable Objective: To construct a 100' x 120' covered outdoor pavilion in the city of Aransas Pass.

STATE OF TEXAS
COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PLAN

San Patricio County proposes to construct a covered outdoor pavilion on property owned by the city of Aransas Pass. The pavilion would become part of the existing Aransas Pass Community Park, which is near the Aransas Bay shoreline, Redfish Bay and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. The park currently includes a wetlands boardwalk trail, a coastal marsh lagoon and ponds. The freestanding pavilion would be approximately 100' x 120' in size. Overhead lighting and electricity would be installed. The city of Aransas Pass would maintain the pavilion during its useful life.

This proposed project is part of San Patricio County's on-going efforts to improve public access and enjoyment of the coastal natural environment. The pavilion would provide a community resource for environmental education and learning. Local educators and environmental community groups would use the pavilion for education and outreach programs. Annually, approximately 1,000-2,000 schoolchildren and 43,000 visitors to the area would be able to learn about the coastal natural habitat. A pavilion at the park would provide a protected location for outdoor field trips and educational hands-on opportunities. Through education and awareness, the public could learn about the importance of conserving, protecting, and restoring the county's valuable natural resources.

No CIAP funds relative to this project would be used for federal cost-sharing or matching purposes.

5. Authorized Use #4: Implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan.

This project would implement four goals of the federally-approved Texas Coastal Management Program: (1) to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance the diversity, quality, quantity, functions, and values of coastal natural resource areas (CNRAs); (2) to ensure sound management of all coastal resources by allowing for compatible economic development and multiple human uses of the coastal zone; (3) to ensure and enhance planned public access to and enjoyment of the coastal zone in a manner that is compatible with private property rights and other uses of the coastal zone; and (4) to balance the benefits from economic development and multiple human uses of the coastal zone, the benefits from protecting, preserving, restoring, and enhancing CNRAs, the benefits from minimizing loss of human life and property, and the benefits from public access to and enjoyment of the coastal zone. By constructing a covered pavilion at the Aransas Pass Community Park, this project would allow members of environmental organizations and local educators to provide educational opportunities regarding the conservation/protection of coastal areas, marine resources and wetlands, and the fragile coastal environment. With outdoor classroom activities, participants would be able to experience the natural environment firsthand. An important step toward encouraging the conservation and protection of Texas coastal natural resources is to educate the general public and schoolchildren of the existence and value of those resources.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

May 21, 2013

Ms. Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Texas Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Public Participation Certification

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I hereby certify that the State of Texas, San Patricio and Harris counties have provided ample opportunity for public participation in the development of the Texas CIAP Plan as described in our final plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RICK PERRY".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:mbp

cc: Ms. Helen Young, Deputy Commissioner, GLO



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer to:
FWS/WSFR/CIAP/054688

JUL 10 2013

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter dated May 21, 2013 transmitting the Fourth Amendment to the Texas Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Plan for approval by the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This letter acknowledges that the Fourth Amendment meets the requirement that the amended Plan be approved by the Governor of Texas

We are in the process of reviewing the proposed changes to the CIAP Plan and will continue to work with the General Land Office (GLO) and the affected Counties to ensure that the Texas projects meet the Congressional requirements of Section 384 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the funding eligibility criteria, including that the project objectives address the CIAP

Authorized Uses:

- Projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands;
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources;
- Planning assistance and the administrative costs of complying with this section;
- Implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan;
- Mitigation of the impact of Outer Continental Shelf activities through funding of onshore infrastructure projects and public service needs.

As a result of your continuing support, the GLO and eligible coastal counties are in the process of implementing conservation-related projects to benefit local communities and the rich variety of coastal natural resources using the nearly \$112.1 million in federal CIAP funds allocated to Texas. I deeply appreciate our productive working partnership with Texas to conserve natural resources while providing ample recreational opportunities and public benefits.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR

cc:

The Honorable Jerry Patterson
Commissioner
Texas General Land Office
P. O. Box 12873
Austin, Texas 78711-2873

Ms. Sheri Land
Director - Grant Programs and Support
Coastal Resources Division
Texas General Land Office
P.O. Box 12873
Austin, Texas 78711-2873



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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

November 9, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: FWS-R2-ES-2012-0064

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I am writing in opposition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) proposal to list the Texas golden gladecress and the Neches River rose-mallow as endangered and threatened species, respectively, as well as the proposal to designate critical habitat for both species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

These two east Texas plants have not been fully studied, and there are significant concerns with the quality of data and analysis FWS used for its determination. The proposal to list these species is based largely on inconclusive reports and vast speculation about operations thought to affect habitats, existing regulatory mechanisms, conservation efforts, species populations and potential threats. These bases fail to provide any sound scientific foundation on which to justify the listing and critical habitat designation of these species.

The Texas golden gladecress — located in Nacogdoches, Sabine and San Augustine Counties, Texas — is not in danger of extinction and is thus not an endangered species. Based on available information, there is no conclusive indication that glauconite quarrying, oil and gas activities, invasive species, or pine tree plantings threaten the gladecress' livelihood. In fact, there are accounts of gladecress populations reappearing after certain activities and events have disrupted their habitat. Additionally, the gladecress is already adequately protected by many mechanisms, such as its shared habitat with the federally listed white bladderpod and collaborations between FWS and several partners to preserve the gladecress species.

The Neches River rose-mallow — located in Cherokee, Harrison, Houston, Nacogdoches and Trinity Counties, Texas — is not likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future and is thus not a threatened species. Presently, neither invasion by other species, development and construction projects, herbicide use, nor herbivory incidents pose a risk of loss or degradation to the rose-mallow habitat. Mechanisms and plans provided by the Davy

The Honorable Ken Salazar
November 9, 2012
Page 2

Crockett National Forest, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, the Texas Department of Transportation, groundwater management areas and conservation districts, federally protected wetlands, and a number of private initiatives and agreements all serve to adequately protect the rose-mallow species. Moreover, the Forest Service has deemed the rose-mallow a sensitive species, which is a species that does not warrant listing as endangered or threatened.

The best available data indicate that the Texas golden gladeceess and the Neches River rose-mallow are resilient species, that there are mechanisms in place to adequately protect them and that there is a lack of information warranting their listing under ESA.

Regarding the FWS proposed critical habitat designations, ESA requires that such designations be limited to areas occupied by the species at the time of listing. However, several units proposed by FWS include areas in which there are no recent confirmations of gladeceess or rose-mallow populations. As such, those designations do not meet the standard delineated by ESA and therefore are not appropriate for designation as critical habitats. Additionally, the designation of critical habitat would provide no added benefit because the gladeceess and rose-mallow are both sufficiently protected by private initiatives as well as state and federal regulations.

Finally, listing these species has the potential to have a significant harmful economic impact, as there are active agriculture, timber, mining, oil and gas, and construction activities near the habitat of both species. I encourage FWS to involve in this process the communities, business owners and landowners who will be affected by this proposal.

I respectfully ask that you withdraw the proposed listing and critical habitat designation for these two east Texas plants.

Sincerely,



Rick Perry
Governor

RP:jsp

cc: Public Comments Processing, Division of Policy and Directives Management,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

DEC 03 2012

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor, State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letters dated October 12, October 15, and November 9, 2012 regarding the proposed listing as endangered and designation of critical habitat for the six west Texas aquatic invertebrates and the four central Texas salamander species, and the Texas golden gladdess and the Neches River rose-mallow respectively.

The Endangered Species Act mandates that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) use the best available science in making listing decisions. The Service carefully evaluates the available scientific information and has concluded that these listing proposals are warranted. However, to assist in making any final determinations, the Service has asked the general public for additional information on the historical and current status and distribution of these species, their biology and ecology, ongoing conservation measures, and threats to the species and their habitats. In addition, the Service has requested independent scientific peer review of the proposed rules. The Service took this action to ensure the use and proper interpretation of the best available scientific information in making the final listing determinations and critical habitat designations.

Following the close of the comment period on the proposed rules, the Service will evaluate any new information received, as well as all conservation efforts, when making final determinations for each species. I thank you for your comments and recommendations. They will be included within the administrative record, and the Service will carefully consider them in the rulemaking process.

If you have any questions please contact me personally, or my Assistant Director for Endangered Species, Mr. Gary Frazer at (202) 208-4646.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 15, 2012

The Honorable Kenneth (Ken) L. Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

RE: FWS-R2-ES-2012-0035

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I am writing in opposition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) proposal to list four central Texas salamander species as endangered and the designation of critical habitat. The identified salamander species have not been fully studied, and there are serious and significant concerns with the accuracy and quality of data FWS used for its determination.

Currently, insufficient data is available to evaluate long-term flow patterns of the springs and creek, and the correlation of flow, water quality, habitat, ecology and community response. Long-term water quality data is also lacking. Such information is needed to assist in making surface and ground water management decisions that not only address human needs, but also include consideration of the environment.

Pertaining to the Austin blind salamander, very little is known about this species. No population estimates are currently available. Presently, there is no conclusive data on how the water quality of the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer affects the Austin blind salamander. Furthermore, the City of Austin has a plan in place to protect and improve the habitat of the Austin blind salamander without this species being listed as endangered.

As for the salamanders that reside in the northern segment of the Edwards Aquifer — the Jollyville Plateau, Georgetown and Salado salamanders — the local community has partnered with FWS to develop a regional habitat conservation plan aimed at protecting these species locally. The plan includes a five-year study on the species and is presently in its second year of collecting and analyzing data. Thus far, local data collection shows that water and sediment quality remain good with no degradation, no elevated levels of toxins and no harmful residues in

The Honorable Kenneth (Ken) L. Salazar

October 15, 2012

Page 2

known springs. Williamson County's studies and data collection indicate that not only are salamander populations being found in Williamson County throughout their habitat range, but that they are healthy, flourishing and existing in heavily developed areas.

Listing the salamanders has the potential to have negative impacts on both private development and public infrastructure. I respectfully ask you to withdraw the proposed listing and critical habitat designation, as there is not sufficient evidence to justify listing the four central Texas salamander species as threatened or endangered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The letters are stylized and cursive, with a large "R" and "P".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:jsp

cc: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Policy and Directives Management



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

DEC 03 2012

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor, State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letters dated October 12, October 15, and November 9, 2012 regarding the proposed listing as endangered and designation of critical habitat for the six west Texas aquatic invertebrates and the four central Texas salamander species, and the Texas golden gladdess and the Neches River rose-mallow respectively.

The Endangered Species Act mandates that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) use the best available science in making listing decisions. The Service carefully evaluates the available scientific information and has concluded that these listing proposals are warranted. However, to assist in making any final determinations, the Service has asked the general public for additional information on the historical and current status and distribution of these species, their biology and ecology, ongoing conservation measures, and threats to the species and their habitats. In addition, the Service has requested independent scientific peer review of the proposed rules. The Service took this action to ensure the use and proper interpretation of the best available scientific information in making the final listing determinations and critical habitat designations.

Following the close of the comment period on the proposed rules, the Service will evaluate any new information received, as well as all conservation efforts, when making final determinations for each species. I thank you for your comments and recommendations. They will be included within the administrative record, and the Service will carefully consider them in the rulemaking process.

If you have any questions please contact me personally, or my Assistant Director for Endangered Species, Mr. Gary Frazer at (202) 208-4646.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 12, 2012

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Kenneth (Ken) L. Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

RE: FWS-R2-ES-2012-0029

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I am writing in opposition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) proposal to list six west Texas aquatic invertebrate species — the Phantom Cave snail, Phantom springsnail, diminutive amphipod, Diamond Y Spring snail, Gonzales springsnail and Pecos amphipod — as endangered, and the proposed designation of critical habitat. These species have not been fully studied, and there are significant concerns with the accuracy and quality of data FWS used for its determination.

The FWS proposal to list these six west Texas aquatic invertebrates is largely based on conflicting reports, inconclusive data, hypothetical scenarios, various assumptions and vast speculation about species populations, water quantity and quality, the effect of existing regulatory mechanisms and other potential threats. Such information fails to provide any sound scientific foundation on which to justify the listing and critical habitat designation of these species.

In regard to the species that inhabit the spring outflows of the San Solomon Spring system near Balmorhea in Reeves and Jeff Davis Counties, Texas — the Phantom Cave snail, Phantom springsnail and diminutive amphipod — no conclusive data shows that such species are currently threatened. Spring flows in the San Solomon Springs system, which lack sufficient studies and data thereon, are protected by Groundwater Management Area 4's desired future conditions as well as groundwater conservation districts in the area, which have the common goal of protecting the environment within the districts. Such a goal necessarily includes consideration of the impacts that groundwater pumping has on spring flows. Additionally, because the San Solomon Spring system is in a rural, lightly populated area and it has been found that exposure to pollutants therein is limited, no threat to the system's water quality is apparent. In areas where pollutants may be a concern, there are already protection mechanisms in place, like an informal protected area within the spring system developed in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Department of Agriculture as well as a Habitat Conservation Plan completed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Furthermore, because the San Solomon Spring system species share their habitat with at least two other species that are already listed as endangered and are protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), these aquatic invertebrates' habitat is already protected. Finally, the two instances of nonnative snails in the San Solomon Spring system have not conclusively been found to have a negative impact on the

The Honorable Kenneth (Ken) L. Salazar
October 12, 2012
Page 2

species at issue, and the potential for the introduction of other nonnative species is extraordinarily low.

Concerning the species that exist in the spring outflow areas within the Diamond Y Spring system north of Fort Stockton in Pecos County, Texas — the Diamond Y Spring snail, Gonzales springsnail and Pecos amphipod — the best available information indicates that these species are not in any danger of extinction. Just as with the San Solomon Spring system, studies of spring flows in the Diamond Y Spring system are lacking, and both the Groundwater Management Area 3 desired future conditions and the groundwater conservation districts covering the area have a stated goal of promoting the environment, which necessarily includes preserving the spring flows on which the aforementioned aquatic invertebrates rely. As for the system's water quality, though there is active oil and gas exploration, extraction, transportation and processing in the area, no pollutant or contaminant thereof has ever been found to have harmed the aquatic invertebrates that dwell in the system. Moreover, the Texas Railroad Commission has established many regulations that reduce the risk of contaminant releases. Without solid evidence of harm, the mere fear that a leak or spill could one day possibly affect the habitat of the Diamond Y Spring system species is insufficient to justify a listing under the ESA. Additionally, the Diamond Y Spring system is inhabited by two fishes federally listed as endangered, which thereby currently protects the habitat of the three aquatic invertebrates at issue. Lastly, these species have been deemed unthreatened by the presence of nonnative fish in the Diamond Y Spring system and it is not likely that other nonnative species will be introduced into the system.

Listing these six west Texas aquatic invertebrates has the potential to have a significant economic impact, as there is active oil and gas development near the Diamond Y Spring system and agricultural activities in both the San Solomon Spring and Diamond Y Spring systems. Furthermore, the designation of critical habitat would provide no added benefit, because the six species share a habitat with other species currently protected by the ESA, and present statutory and regulatory mechanisms provide sufficient protection.

I respectfully ask you to withdraw the proposed listing and critical habitat designation for these six west Texas aquatic invertebrates.

Sincerely,



Rick Perry
Governor

RP:jsp

cc: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Policy and Directives Management



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

DEC 03 2012

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor, State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letters dated October 12, October 15, and November 9, 2012 regarding the proposed listing as endangered and designation of critical habitat for the six west Texas aquatic invertebrates and the four central Texas salamander species, and the Texas golden gladeceess and the Neches River rose-mallow respectively.

The Endangered Species Act mandates that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) use the best available science in making listing decisions. The Service carefully evaluates the available scientific information and has concluded that these listing proposals are warranted. However, to assist in making any final determinations, the Service has asked the general public for additional information on the historical and current status and distribution of these species, their biology and ecology, ongoing conservation measures, and threats to the species and their habitats. In addition, the Service has requested independent scientific peer review of the proposed rules. The Service took this action to ensure the use and proper interpretation of the best available scientific information in making the final listing determinations and critical habitat designations.

Following the close of the comment period on the proposed rules, the Service will evaluate any new information received, as well as all conservation efforts, when making final determinations for each species. I thank you for your comments and recommendations. They will be included within the administrative record, and the Service will carefully consider them in the rulemaking process.

If you have any questions please contact me personally, or my Assistant Director for Endangered Species, Mr. Gary Frazer at (202) 208-4646.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

April 24, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Mailstop 7314
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

The U.S. Department of the Interior's 2010 "Idle Iron" policy directive ordering non-producing oil and gas wells in offshore waters to be removed within five years of the issuance of that directive will have profound negative implications for Texas. The vast forest of energy-related structures in the Gulf of Mexico forms what is generally regarded as the largest man-made artificial reef system in the world. This current "Idle Iron" policy will soon damage marine fisheries and the local coastal communities and businesses that rely on the fishing opportunities that these structures provide in the Gulf.

I understand the factors that may have influenced the decision to order the blanket removal of these structures in the aftermath of the tragic oil spill of 2010. However, a more balanced, reasoned response is required in light of irrefutable evidence that these structures are the basis for thriving ecosystems that harbor and sustain an immense diversity of life above and below the waterline, including seabirds, fish, turtles, marine mammals and corals.

With more and more of our population moving to the coasts and looking to the oceans for recreation and enjoyment, our country must be committed to protecting and increasing habitats for marine life. Simply put, these structures are important to all who enjoy our oceans and the economies supported by activities like diving, boating, and fishing. I urge you to reconsider this policy and look at alternatives to achieve our shared goal of protecting the marine environment while conserving these valuable artificial reefs.

I look forward to working with you in finding solutions on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:trp

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

April 24, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Mailstop 7314
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

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I understand the factors that may have influenced the decision to order the blanket removal of these structures in the aftermath of the tragic oil spill of 2010. However, a more balanced, reasoned response is required in light of irrefutable evidence that these structures are the basis for thriving ecosystems that harbor and sustain an immense diversity of life above and below the waterline, including seabirds, fish, turtles, marine mammals and corals.

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I look forward to working with you in finding solutions on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:trp



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

JUL 31 2012

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of April 24, 2012, to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar concerning the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's (BSEE) decommissioning requirements, Notice to Lessees (NTL) on "Idle Iron" and "Rigs-to-Reefs" policy. Secretary Salazar has asked me to respond to your letter.

Decommissioning of oil and gas facilities and structures on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) is not a new requirement. Under the authority of the OCS Lands Act, the Department of the Interior includes decommissioning requirements in every lease, Right-of-Way and Right-of-Use-and-Easement issued for oil, gas, and energy-related operations on the OCS. These requirements are further set out in BSEE's regulations. Facilities and structures are required to be removed from terminated leases – leases no longer producing – within one year of the lease termination. Facilities and structures, including wells, platforms and pipelines, which are "no longer useful for operations" are also required to be decommissioned and removed.

As a result of the navigational safety, personal safety, environmental, and economic ramifications of the catastrophic 2004, 2005, and 2008 hurricane seasons, BSEE conducted a review to analyze the idle infrastructure in the Gulf. This analysis determined there was significant risk based on the extensive numbers of idle platforms and wells, which led BSEE to issue NTL No. 2010-G05: "Decommissioning Guidance for Wells and Platforms" (the "Idle Iron" NTL). The "Idle Iron" NTL is designed to reduce a multitude of risks from non-producing infrastructure by clarifying terminology found in the Code of Federal Regulations. The NTL is also designed to establish guidelines for standard decommissioning timeframes and methods for wells and platforms on active leases that are no longer useful for operations, as well as providing detail to all aspects of the decommissioning process.

- For terminated leases, the NTL reiterated that decommissioning for structures and wells is required within one year of the lease being terminated.
- For active leases, the NTL clarified the definition of "no longer useful for operations" and established guidelines for standard decommissioning timeframes and methods for wells and platforms:
 - Wells are considered "no longer useful for operations" if there has been no production from the well in five years and there are no plans for future operations using that well. Well decommissioning, including permanent plugging and abandonment and removal of the riser structures, must be completed within 3 years of meeting the definition of "no longer useful for operations" or three years after the NTL was issued, whichever is later.

- Platforms are considered “no longer useful for operations” if they are toppled by a storm or incident, or have not been used for OCS operations for five years. Decommissioning of the platform must be completed within five years after the NTL was issued or five years after meeting the definition of “no longer useful for operations”, whichever is later.

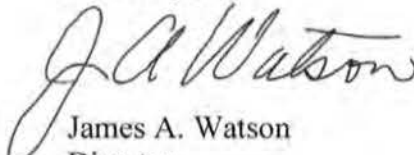
BSEE has long supported the reuse of obsolete oil and gas facilities as artificial reefs. BSEE’s Rigs-to-Reefs policy allows for a departure from removal requirements and lease obligations and encourages an environmentally friendly method of structure disposal for lessees and operators provided that the facilities meet certain conditions:

- The structure becomes part of a state artificial reef program that complies with the criteria in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration managed National Artificial Reef Plan;
- The responsible state agency acquires a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and accepts title and liability for the reefed structure once removal/reefing operations are concluded;
- The operator satisfies any U.S. Coast Guard navigational requirements for the structure, including that the top of the structure is 85 feet below the waterline; and
- The reefing proposal complies with BSEE’s Gulf of Mexico Region engineering, stability, and environmental reviewing standards and reef-approval guidelines.

Currently, there are 265 oil and gas structures on the Federal OCS off the coast of Texas. Of these, 65 are identified as “idle” structures: 1 floating platform, 16 caissons, and 48 jacket platforms (i.e., tripods up to 8-piles, which may have potential use as artificial reef structures). Thirty percent of the applications to remove structures offshore Texas propose to dispose of those structures under the state’s program – this is nearly double the percentage of structures proposed to go into the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama programs. BSEE has approved 24 idle structure removal permits; six proposed disposing of the structures under Texas’ Artificial Reef Program. In addition, nine idle structure removal permits are pending; four propose disposing of the structures under the state’s program. BSEE is working with appropriate authorities in Texas to designate additional artificial reef areas.

I appreciate your concerns regarding the continued ability to convert obsolete oil and gas structures to artificial reefs, and your continued interest in environmentally responsible domestic oil and gas development on the Gulf of Mexico OCS. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 208-3500, or call Ms. Julie S. Fleming, Chief, BSEE Office of Congressional Affairs, at (202) 208-3827.

Sincerely,



James A. Watson
Director



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY

GOVERNOR

April 4, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Mailstop 7314
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Texas ranchers and hunters have been instrumental in saving three species of African antelope from the brink of extinction — the addax, the dama gazelle and the scimitar-horned oryx. These hunters and ranchers have successfully increased the populations of these animals and have even reintroduced them into their native habitats. In spite of this, the funding for these efforts will come to a halt today, due to the removal of the blanket exemption that allowed a “taking” of these species in recognition of the extraordinary conservation efforts of these ranchers and hunters.

A “taking” is so broadly defined that not only does it include hunting and culling animals, but may also include activities associated with propagating these animals, such as capture and retention for breeding purposes, or trapping for veterinary care. It will now take 60 to 90 days or more to obtain a permit to “take” these privately owned animals, along with an invasive and burdensome public permitting process. This intrusion on individual privacy and property rights hurts the ability of a rancher to manage his or her herd, and effectively removes all incentives to continue breeding and conservation efforts.

The Exotic Wildlife Association estimates there are more than 11,000 scimitar-horned oryx, more than 5,000 addax, and nearly 900 dama gazelle on private ranches in Texas — the largest herds in existence — all attributable to the conservation efforts of ranchers and hunters. These numbers are up significantly from their 1979 estimated population numbers of 32, 2 and 9, respectively. However, since the publication of the final rule removing the blanket take exemption, these populations have been greatly reduced and the value of the three species has plummeted. Many ranchers cannot afford to feed and care for their herds, and we can only expect that conservation efforts by these ranchers will soon cease.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) must recognize that these three species are being put in jeopardy of extinction by the very act that was intended to protect them. As you know, hunting and conservation are not mutually exclusive, but instead are inextricably linked. This is proven by the history and survival of these very antelope species, where hunting has provided both the capital and the incentive to continue the conservation of these animals. FWS has

The Honorable Ken Salazar
April 4, 2012
Page 2

recognized that captive breeding efforts have stemmed the decline of the three species, and that but for captive breeding, the scimitar-horned oryx would likely be extinct.

I recognize that this change in permit requirements is the result of a court ruling, and I appreciate FWS's efforts to fight the removal of the blanket exemption. Now, in light of that court ruling, I strongly urge FWS to respond to and grant the pending petition to remove the three species of antelope from the endangered species list. The captive-bred addax, dama gazelle and scimitar-horned oryx are simply not endangered in the United States; rather, the populations have continually increased up to the date of publication of the exemption removal. These three species are recovered in the United States.

As a fellow former farmer and rancher and a small-business man, you know the value of freedom from government overregulation, and its value in this instance cannot be overstated. The fact that these antelope are endangered in their native Africa does not justify the listing of captive-bred animals as endangered in the United States. Just as you once determined the gray wolf was not endangered throughout its entire range, neither are these three species endangered in the United States.

To comply with the U.S. Department of the Interior Solicitor's Memorandum M-37013, FWS must determine the portion of the three species' range in which the animals are endangered, and de-list the populations in ranges that are not endangered. Given that no data supports the proposition that captive-bred populations in the United States are endangered, I urge you to remove all captive-bred addax, dama gazelle and scimitar-horned oryx in the United States from the endangered species list under 50 C.F.R. § 424.11(d), and allow the hardworking ranchers and hunters of this great country to return to their conservation efforts.

Sincerely,



Rick Perry
Governor

RP:trp

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AES/051328

MAY 22 2012

The Honorable Rick Perry
State of Texas
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

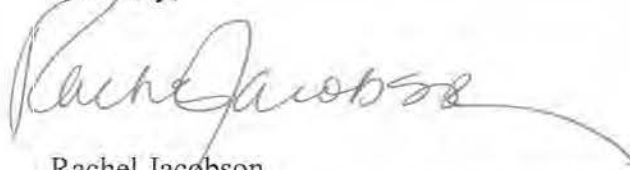
Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of April 4, 2012, supporting a recently filed petition to delist captive-bred populations of the addax, dama gazelle, and scimitar-horned oryx (three antelope) from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife (50 CFR 17.11 (h)), under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act).

The parties are currently in discussions regarding a potential settlement agreement, whereby the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will complete a 90-day finding on the petitions to delist the U.S. captive-bred herds of the three antelope species within the next several months. On April 30, 2012, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia agreed to put the litigation in temporary abeyance during these discussions.

Thank you for your interest and concern for these species. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Gary Frazer, the Service's Assistant Director for Endangered Species at (202) 208-4646.

Sincerely,



Rachel Jacobson
Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

January 12, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: FWS-R2-ES-2010-0041 Comments

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I am relieved to hear that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has decided to extend the final determination for listing the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard (DSL) as endangered, and to solicit additional facts and information during the extension period. The DSL has not been sufficiently studied in Texas, and there are serious and significant concerns with the adequacy and accuracy of the data FWS considered in drafting its proposed rule. The rule itself even acknowledges that the DSL habitat has not yet been determined. Because the listing of the DSL as threatened or endangered would have a damaging effect on jobs, energy independence, and energy affordability, it is incumbent on FWS to ensure that any such action is based on sound science and confirmed conclusions.

This is particularly important in light of the growing scientific evidence that the DSL is not threatened or endangered, and specifically not by oil and gas development operations. Contrary to FWS's preliminary theories, a recent study by Texas Tech University found little evidence to indicate that oil and gas production negatively impacts the DSL or its habitat. In addition, research conducted by scientists at Texas A&M University indicates that the DSL is more populous than FWS and others had supposed. Further, 18 members of Congress recently pointed out that a study by Sias and Snell revealed that the DSL's population actually increased by a factor of 2.4 where oil and gas wells were located, compared to an increase of only 1.6 in areas without wells. Finally, a scientific review of the proposed listing by Texas Tech University found that the "genetic data ... does not justify the listing of the DSL as an endangered species." and that "uncertainties regarding the scientific basis for listing the DSL as threatened and endangered are well recognized."

The Honorable Ken Salazar
January 12, 2012
Page 2

What is undeniable is the fact that Texas fuels the nation, containing almost a quarter of all crude oil reserves in the United States. Businesses involved with the oil and gas industry in Texas employ more than 200,000 people and pump more than \$200 billion annually into our national economy. The Permian Basin – which is home to the DSL – accounted for 74 percent of oil production in Texas from January to August 2011, and contains an estimated 30 billion barrels of recoverable oil. The economic impact of these energy-producing activities on our state and nation cannot be denied or ignored. Listing the DSL could halt the production of 7 million barrels of oil equivalent per year, effectively deducting \$700 million annually from our state and national economies, raising the cost of energy for all Americans, and destroying the livelihoods of countless American families.

Our nation's economic well-being and energy independence should not be jeopardized based on insufficient, outdated or prejudiced scientific data. Given the recent findings described above, I respectfully ask you to withdraw the proposed listing pursuant to Section 4(b)(6)(B)(ii) of the Endangered Species Act, as there is not sufficient evidence to justify listing the DSL as threatened or endangered.

Sincerely,



Rick Perry
Governor

RP:trp

cc: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Public Comments Processing, Division of Policy and Directives Management

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

FEB 17 2012

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of January 12, 2012, regarding the proposed listing of the dunes sagebrush lizard, and your comments on that proposal.

The Endangered Species Act mandates that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) use the best available science in making listing decisions. As you are aware, on December 5, 2011, the Service extended the listing determination by 6 months because there was substantial disagreement regarding the sufficiency or accuracy of the available data relevant to the proposed listing rule, making it necessary to solicit additional information by reopening the comment period for 45 days. The Service took this action to ensure they make use of the best available scientific information in making the final listing determination.

The comment period closed on January 19, 2012, and the Service is now evaluating the information received as well as all conservation efforts for the lizard before making its final determination. The rulemaking peer review process is a key tool for ensuring the quality of any scientific information received. The Service will ensure that any scientific information submitted during the 45-day comment period is considered through that process.

The Service appreciates their partnerships with Federal, State, and private sectors in New Mexico and Texas in developing and implementing conservation agreements that address dunes sagebrush lizard conservation. The Service has made it a top priority to work collaboratively with the State of Texas in developing a conservation agreement designed to reduce or eliminate threats to the species. The result of the conservation agreement should minimize economic impacts if the lizard is listed. The Service anticipates finalizing the Texas agreement by the end of February 2012.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

December 27, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: State of Texas Final Coastal Impact Assistance Program Plan

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I hereby submit the Third Amendment to the Texas Coastal Impact Assistance Program Plan to you and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for approval.

If you have any questions during the review process, please contact one of the following:

The Honorable Jerry Patterson
Commissioner
Texas General Land Office
P.O. Box 12873
Austin, Texas 78711-2873
Phone: (512) 463-5001
E-mail: Jerry.Patterson@glo.state.tx.us

Ms. Helen Young
Deputy Commissioner, Coastal Resources Program
Texas General Land Office
P.O. Box 12873
Austin, Texas 78711-2873
Phone: (512) 463-5338
E-mail: Helen.Young@glo.state.tx.us

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tbp

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jerry Patterson
Ms. Helen Young

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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

OCT 26 2011

The Honorable James Richard Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

The restoration of the Gulf Coast is a very high priority for the Department of the Interior and we support the good work that Texas is doing to restore its coastal resources and communities. The Department has land management responsibility for 4.2 million acres throughout the Gulf, and responsibility for safe offshore oil and gas leasing and production. We value the partnership with Texas and we remain committed to significant and sustained action at the Federal level to support the State's communities and citizens.

In particular, I want to note our valued collaboration on the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustee Council, including our shared responsibility to accelerate recovery from the Deepwater Horizon spill with the \$1 billion in early restoration funding that we secured together from BP.

Another important source of funding for coastal restoration is the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). In response to concerns raised by Gulf Coast States, I have implemented major management changes to streamline and improve the delivery of CIAP funds to Texas and the other Gulf States. On October 1, 2011, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) assumed administrative responsibility for distribution of CIAP funding to the States. The FWS has considerable grant making expertise, with over \$1 billion distributed annually to states and tribes through a variety of Federal grant programs. The FWS will work directly with your CIAP Coordinator's office to support grant requests from Texas. These actions will significantly streamline the process and bring valuable restoration and grant making expertise to the program.

Presently Texas has a balance of approximately \$129.6 million in CIAP funding available to it that may be distributed upon approval of a grant request from your CIAP Coordinator's office. I ask that you direct your CIAP Coordinator to submit a grant request for Texas' funds. The FWS's Assistant Director for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, Mr. Hannibal Bolton, will work with your CIAP staff to provide these funds to Texas so that we can together facilitate Gulf Coast restoration. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the State of Texas on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

cc: Honorable Lisa Jackson



June 27, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
United States Department of Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

On behalf of all the Governors who are participating in the newly formed Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Governors' Coalition, we are writing to update you on the status of this recently formed Coalition, its mission and goals, and to let you know we look forward to working closely with you on offshore energy matters.

The Mission of the OCS Governors' Coalition is to improve dialogue and understanding about the Outer Continental Shelf.

Working with those coastal states interested in understanding more about the promise and potential of responsible production offshore, the coalition will work toward:

- Improved communication between federal and state officials on Outer Continental Shelf Energy issues.
- Improved understanding of the potential resources and opportunities adjacent to the various coastal states.
- Improved understanding of the impact those resources could have on local, state and federal revenues.
- Improved management and stewardship of coastal resources related to coastal and ocean activities.

As the elected representatives of the states that are interested in learning more about the resources adjacent to our respective coasts and the opportunities they bring to our states and the nation, we certainly look forward to actively engaging with federal officials on a regular basis.

The members of the coalition will hold an official meeting in the coming months and look forward to having you participate.

We look forward to working with you to share information and develop a commonsense plan for U.S. energy.

Sincerely,



Bobby Jindal
Governor
Louisiana



Bob McDonnell
Governor
Virginia



Rick Perry
Governor
Texas



Sean Parnell
Governor
Alaska



Haley Barbour
Governor
Mississippi

Cc: Michael R. Bromwich
Director
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
United States Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

SECRETARY OF THE

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