

file FWS

NPSKN-PL-ER

9 JUL 1979

R. Kahler Martinson, Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
500 N.E. Multnomah Street
Lloyd 500 Building, Suite 1692
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Mr. Martinson:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of changes made to the proposed Skagit River, Washington, levee project since the biological opinion regarding the impact of the project on the endangered bald eagle was received from your office in a letter dated 24 January 1979. For ease of reference, a copy of the letter is attached as inclosure 1. A description of the project changes, presented as an addendum to the draft Environmental Impact Statement, is provided as inclosure 2. The changes are primarily both nonstructural and structural features added to reduce project-related induced flood damages.

It is our opinion that the project modifications are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the bald eagle and, therefore, we do not intend to reinitiate consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended. We do realize that flood protection will result in increased pressure to develop in the protected floodplain and recognize the potential effect of this secondary impact to all fish and wildlife in the Skagit Delta unless local zoning regulations are strictly enforced. The intent of the proposed levee project is to protect existing development, not to promote the undesirable development of agricultural land, and no project benefits have been claimed for any higher or more intensive use of any of the protected areas.

P005126

Northup/gm/3624
2 Jul 79

NPSEN-PL-ER
R. Kahler Martinson, Regional Director

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, or the inclosed addendum, please contact Ms. Karen Northup, Environmental Coordinator, phone (206) 764-3624.

Sincerely,

2 Incl
As stated

Copy furnished (w/incls)
Joseph R. Blum, Area Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
2625 Parkmont Lane, Building A
Olympia, Washington 98502

Gordon Sandison, Director
Washington Department of Fisheries
General Administration Bldg., Room 115
Olympia, Washington 98504

Ralph W. Larson, Director
Washington Department of Game
600 North Capitol Way
Olympia, Washington 98504

cc
Dice
Bush/Northup
Brunner
Brooks (Reg Plng)
Cook/Towle (Des Br)
ERS RP File (Skagit Levees)

MAXEY B. CARPENTER, JR.
Lt. Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Deputy District Engineer

KN 35 July 79
BUSH/EN-PL
DICE/EN-PL
FARRAR
MOGAN/EN-PL
DERRICK/EN-DB
SELLEWOLD/EN
PEDERSEN/EA
CARPENTER/ACTG
DE
July 28 1979

ED PL FILE