



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-2255

Planning Branch

SUBJECT: May 7, 2001 Planning Aid Letter for Skagit River Flood Feasibility Study

Ken S. Berg, Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Western Washington Office
510 Desmond Drive Southeast, Suite 102
Lacey, Washington 98503

Dear Mr. Berg:

This responds to your letter of May 7, 2001 on possible changes to the project purpose for the Skagit River Flood Damage Reduction Study. The primary purpose of this project is Flood Damage Reduction. Whether or not the project purpose contains "fish and wildlife habitat improvements," environmental features will still be part of any constructed project. We assure you that the Corps will implement a project that adequately mitigates for any potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

My staff is currently engaged in scoping activities with your and other agency staff to develop analyses that will accurately measure potential project impacts and mitigation options. Both the Corps and our project sponsor--Skagit County--are committed to including these mitigation measures as part of the project. In the course of identifying mitigation options, opportunities for restoration and enhancement will likely also be found. We will work with you, Skagit County, and other stakeholders to determine how best to implement these either under the Flood Damage Reduction project or another construction authority such as our Section 1135 or Section 206 restoration authorities. In addition, if other agencies or groups are willing and able to be a non-Federal sponsor for these restorative actions, we will work with them in implementing these features using the aforementioned restoration authorities.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (206) 764-3690, Mr. Stephen Pierce at (206) 764-3456, or Mr. Michael Scuderi at (206) 764-7205.

Sincerely,

Ralph H. Graves
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

cc:

Skagit County
NMFS (Tonnes)
WDFW (Johnson)
SSC (Wasserman)

SCUDERI/PM-PL-ER

BRUNNER/PM-PL-ER

ZIMINSKE/PM-PL-ER

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OFFICE COUNSEL

EXEC OFFICE