

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

373638



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,

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. 20240EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
OFFICE OF THE

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.

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 SECRETARIAT
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:

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

RP:bmw

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL
OFFICE OF THE

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

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

RECEIVED
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

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

RECEIVED
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



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 SECRETARIAL
OFFICE OF THE

02 MAY -9 AM 10:28

RECEIVED

565312

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

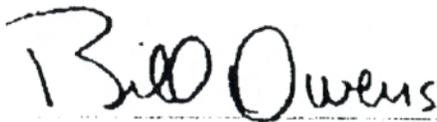
cc: The Honorable George W. Bush
The Honorable Paul H. O'Neill, Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury
The Honorable Gwyn Shea, Secretary of State
Texas Congressional Delegation Members
Mr. Otto Reich, Assistant Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State
Mr. Dennis Linksey, Border Coordinator, 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

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 routes in the long term.

Sincerely,

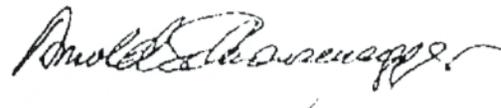

Governor Kenny Guinn

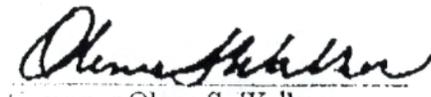

Governor Mike Johanns


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



812098

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RECEIVED

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

RECEIVED
04 JUL 21 11:58:50
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT



RECEIVED

816837

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", written in a cursive style.

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

839394

05 OCT 19 PM 3:31

RECEIVED

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 "R" is large and loops around the "i". The "P" is also large and loops around the "e". 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

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



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: 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

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This facsimile contains information that is confidential, privileged, or both. This information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named on this facsimile cover letter. Any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this information by any person other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify us by telephone immediately at (512) 463-1778 so that we can arrange for the retrieval of the transmitted documents at no cost to you.

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





UNITED WE STAND

REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

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

RECEIVED

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-

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

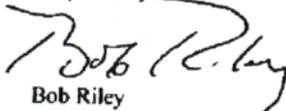
RECEIVED

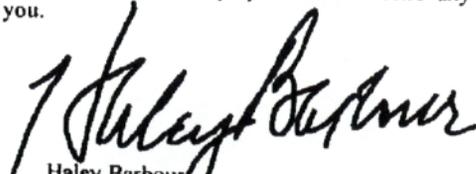
ground projects that are designed in an sustainable, environmentally-sensitive way. Those goals do not have to compete with one another or be mutually exclusive. For example, a pier construction project can support fishery population research and protect endangered species, as well as provide an opportunity 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.*

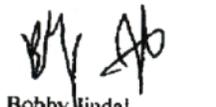
3. Authorized Use #1 – Authorized Use #1 allows “projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands;” While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, we feel the term “conservation” is currently being interpreted by federal 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.

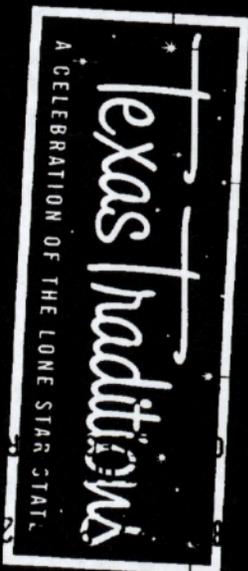
Thank you for contacting the Secretary. If you have any questions about this letter or the ongoing meetings please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 208-6734, or you may call Mr. Randall B. Luthi, Director, MMS at (202) 208-3500.

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

RSVP BY JUNE 11, 2008

CREDENTIALS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ADMITTANCE

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT WITH TEXAS STARS!

TEXANS THAT FLEW AMONG THE STARS

TEXAS CULINARY & WINEMAKING STARS

AND OTHER
FOR A NIGHT

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

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



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, 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

RECEIVED
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.

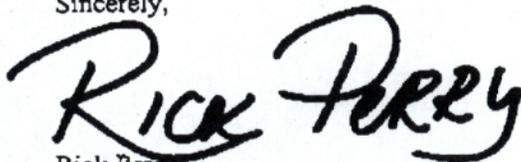
Finally, while the critical habitat designation for the nesting area of the Great Lakes population of the Piping Plover must be issued by April 30th according to a court order, I understand that this order does not require USFWS to make a final designation of critical habitat for wintering Piping Plover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

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

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

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

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

550311
RECEIVED
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
Rick Perry
Governor

Susan Combs
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

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

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

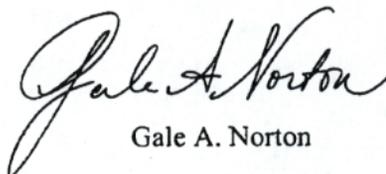
Honorable Rick Perry

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 black 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.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
OFFICE OF THE

02 MAY -9 AM 10:28

565312

RECEIVED

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 prominent underline under the word "Perry".

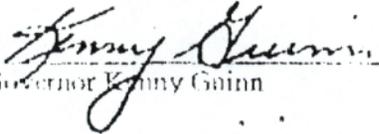
Rick Perry
Governor

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

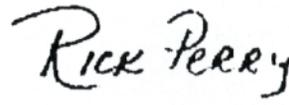
It is clear that on this issue efforts require close cooperation from federal, state and local officials, and look forward to working with you as partners in meeting the short-term challenges of this fire season and in establishing safe and effective aerial fire-fighting assets in the long term.

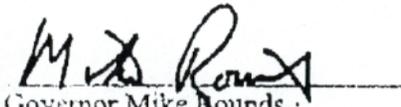
Sincerely,


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



812098

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RECEIVED

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

RECEIVED
04 JUL 21 4:50
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT



816837

RECEIVED

04 OCT 13 PM 4:02

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

839394

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

05 OCT 19 PM 3:31

RECEIVED

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 SECRETARIAL

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,

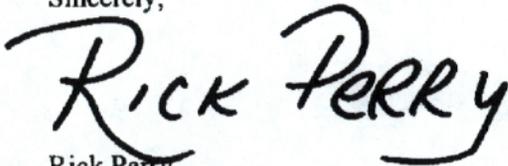
Mr. Matthew J. Hogan
October 13, 2005
Page 2

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" and "c". The "P" is also large and loops around the "e" and "r". The "y" is written with a simple tail.

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



ES

RECEIVED

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: 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

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This facsimile contains information that is confidential, privileged, or both. This information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named on this facsimile cover letter. Any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this information by any person other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify us by telephone immediately at (512) 463-1778 so that we can arrange for the retrieval of the transmitted documents at no cost to you.

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.

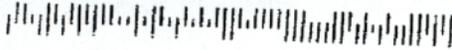
Now that we have approved the establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge, we look forward to working with your office, the citizens of east Texas, the City of Dallas, the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority, and other interested State and local government officials on the details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

Sincerely,

Marshall A. Jones Jr.

Acting DIRECTOR

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



UNITED WE STAND

REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

1849 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 250 • Washington, DC 20006

RECEIVED

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



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

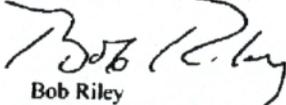
RECEIVED

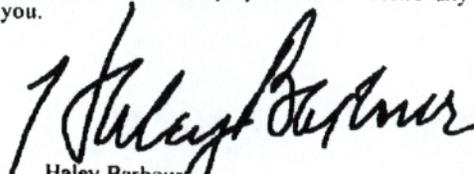
ground projects that are designed in a sustainable, environmentally-sensitive way. Those goals do not have to compete with one another or be mutually exclusive. For example, a pier construction project can support fishery population research and protect endangered species, as well as provide an opportunity 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.*

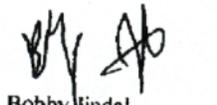
3. Authorized Use #1 – Authorized Use #1 allows “projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands;” While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, we feel the term “conservation” is currently being interpreted by federal 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.*

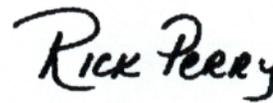
Thank you in advance for your consideration of the issues raised in this correspondence. We believe the CIAP program can be an incredibly effective tool for the Gulf Coast and appreciate everything the Department of Interior has done to make this a reality. If you have any questions or desire any additional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

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

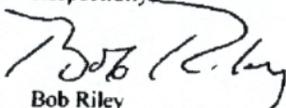
ground projects that are designed in an sustainable, environmentally-sensitive way. Those goals do not have to compete with one another or be mutually exclusive. For example, a pier construction project can support fishery population research and protect endangered species, as well as provide an opportunity 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.*

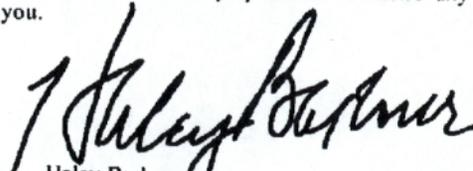
3. Authorized Use #1 – Authorized Use #1 allows “projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands;” While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, we feel the term “conservation” is currently being interpreted by federal 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.*

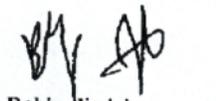
4. CIAP Grant Program – We are concerned about the CIAP grant program as it is currently being implemented. Currently, each project contained within an approved Final CIAP plan must also receive an individual grant award prior to implementation. Once the program is fully up and running, this will result 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



UNITED WE STAND

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

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

RECEIVED

2008 JAN 22 PM 3:10

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

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



ES

RECEIVED

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: 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

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This facsimile contains information that is confidential, privileged, or both. This information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named on this facsimile cover letter. Any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this information by any person other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify us by telephone immediately at (512) 463-1778 so that we can arrange for the removal of the transmitted documents at no cost to you.

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.

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** 

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

343736



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

839394

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 14, 2005

RECEIVED
05 OCT 19 PM 3:31
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 initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

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,

34836



816837

RECEIVED

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,

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,

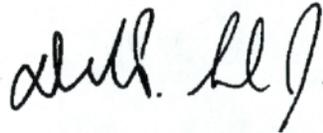
Honorable Rick Perry

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, flowing style.

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

839394

RECEIVED
05 OCT 19 PM 3:31
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, 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



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

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,

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

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

**TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA** 



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERMY
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 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

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This facsimile contains information that is confidential, privileged, or both. This information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named on this facsimile cover letter. Any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this information by any person other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify us by telephone immediately at (512) 463-1778 so that we can arrange for the retrieval of the transmitted documents at no cost to you.

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

**TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA** 



REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

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

RECEIVED

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 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-

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

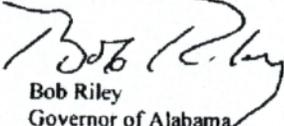
RECEIVED

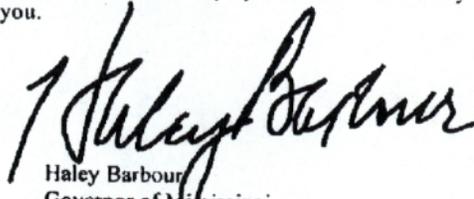
ground projects that are designed in an sustainable, environmentally-sensitive way. Those goals do not have to compete with one another or be mutually exclusive. For example, a pier construction project can support fishery population research and protect endangered species, as well as provide an opportunity 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.*

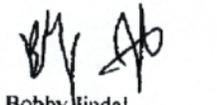
3. Authorized Use #1 – Authorized Use #1 allows “projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands;” While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, we feel the term “conservation” is currently being interpreted by federal 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 Findal
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.

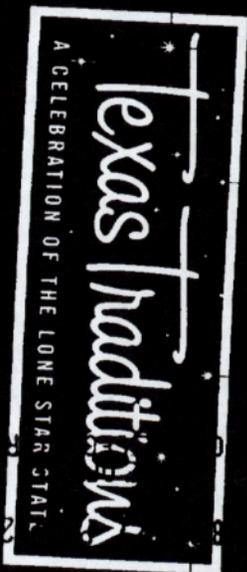
Thank you for contacting the Secretary. If you have any questions about this letter or the ongoing meetings please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 208-6734, or you may call Mr. Randall B. Luthi, Director, MMS at (202) 208-3500.

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



Offs 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



34 | 361

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, 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

RECEIVED
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 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

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

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

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

550311
RECEIVED
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
Rick Perry
Governor

Susan Combs
Susan Combs
Commissioner of Agriculture



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

50311

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
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

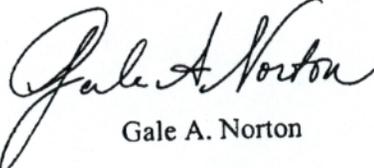
Honorable Rick Perry

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,



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.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
OFFICE OF THE

02 MAY -9 AM 10:28

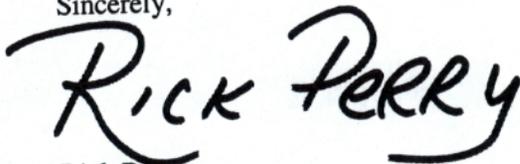
213595

RECEIVED

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.

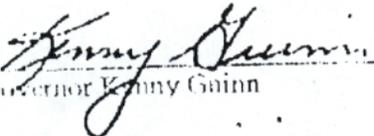
Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgk

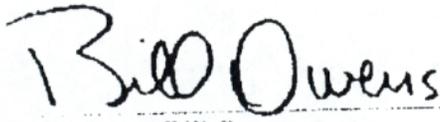
cc: The Honorable George W. Bush
The Honorable Paul H. O'Neill, Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury
The Honorable Gwyn Shea, Secretary of State
Texas Congressional Delegation Members
Mr. Otto Reich, Assistant Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State
Mr. Dennis Linksey, Border Coordinator, 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

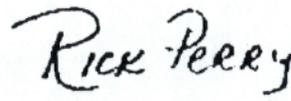
... that such heroic efforts require close cooperation from federal, state and local officials, and look forward to working with you as partners in meeting the short-term challenges of this fire season and in establishing safe and effective aerial firefighting routes in the long term.

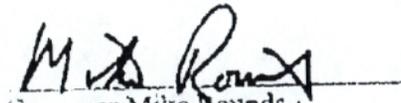
Sincerely,


Governor Kenny Guinn

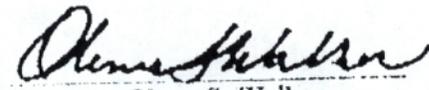

Governor Mike Johanns


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



812098

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RECEIVED

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

RECEIVED
04 JUL 21 4:50
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT



812098

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RECEIVED

04 JUL 19 PM 4:47

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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

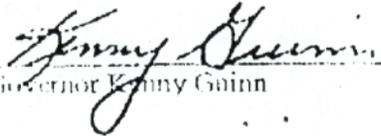
RP:tgp

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

RECEIVED
04 JUL 21 11:35 50
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

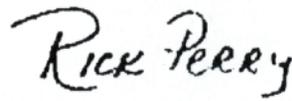
The kind of work that needs to be done requires close cooperation from federal, state and local officials, and look forward to working with you as partners in meeting the short-term challenges of this fire season and in establishing safe and effective aerial firefighting plans in the long term.

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



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

02 MAY -9 AM 10:28

565312

RECEIVED

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

31048

550311



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 8, 2001

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

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

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.

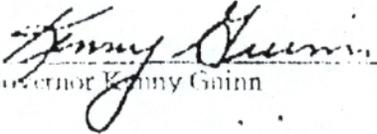
Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

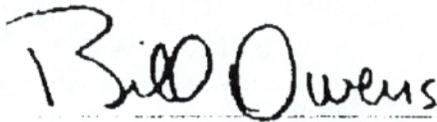
Susan Combs
Commissioner of Agriculture

... 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 assets in the long term.

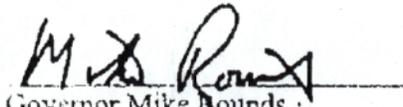
Sincerely,

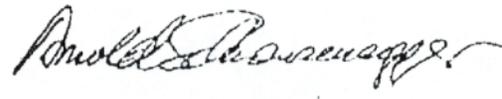

Governor Kenny Guinn


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



812098

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RECEIVED

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

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



RECEIVED

04 OCT 13 PM 4:02

816837

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,

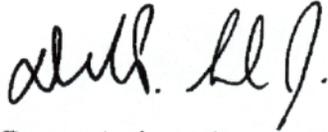
Honorable Rick Perry

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

839394

RECEIVED

05 OCT 19 PM 3:31

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,

839396

RECEIVED
05 OCT 19 PM 3:31
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

**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

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This facsimile contains information that is confidential, privileged, or both. This information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named on this facsimile cover letter. Any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this information by any person other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify us by telephone immediately at (512) 463-1778 so that we can arrange for the retrieval of the transmitted documents at no cost to you.

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.

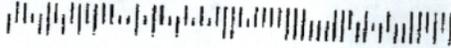
We initially delayed a final decision on approving this new refuge at the request of local officials and to hear the concerns of all stakeholders. We have decided at this time to approve establishment of Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge will be established at such time as the first parcel 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 WE STAND

REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

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

RECEIVED

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.



2366952

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

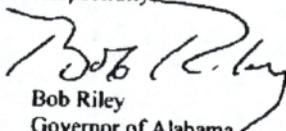
RECEIVED

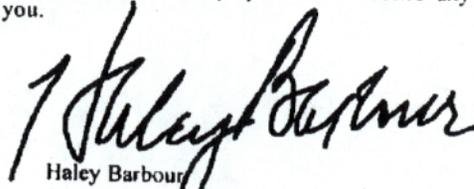
ground projects that are designed in an sustainable, environmentally-sensitive way. Those goals do not have to compete with one another or be mutually exclusive. For example, a pier construction project can support fishery population research and protect endangered species, as well as provide an opportunity 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.*

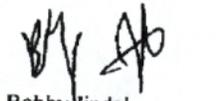
3. Authorized Use #1 – Authorized Use #1 allows “projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands;” While we believe this is a valid authorized use as it is written, we feel the term “conservation” is currently being interpreted by federal 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.

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,

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.

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

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.

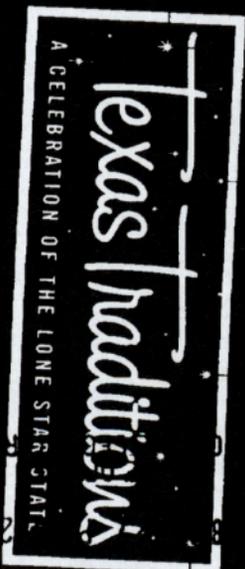
Thank you for contacting the Secretary. If you have any questions about this letter or the ongoing meetings please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 208-6734, or you may call Mr. Randall B. Luthi, Director, MMS at (202) 208-3500.

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

TEXAS
MUSIC STARS
KELLY WILLIS AND BRUCE ROBINSON

It's like a whole other country.

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**



34 | 361
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 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

RECEIVED
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.

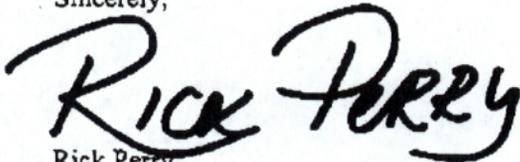
Finally, while the critical habitat designation for the nesting area of the Great Lakes population of the Piping Plover must be issued by April 30th according to a court order, I understand that this order does not require USFWS to make a final designation of critical habitat for wintering Piping Plover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

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 (handwritten signature)

Rick Perry
Governor

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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

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

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



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

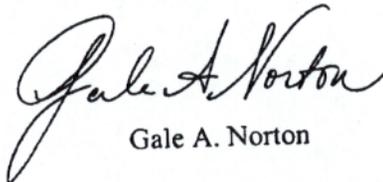
Honorable Rick Perry

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

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 SECRETARIAT
OFFICE OF THE

01 MAY 30 PM 6:23

819968

RP:bmw

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

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.

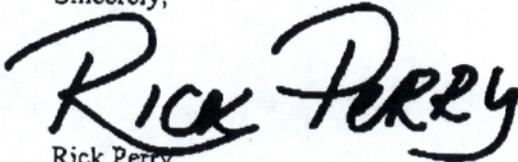
Finally, while the critical habitat designation for the nesting area of the Great Lakes population of the Piping Plover must be issued by April 30th according to a court order, I understand that this order does not require USFWS to make a final designation of critical habitat for wintering Piping Plover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

Rick Perry
Governor

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL
OFFICE OF THE

RP:bmw

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

306518



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

RECEIVED
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 large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The letters are connected and have a cursive, flowing appearance.

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

RECEIVED
2011 5 PM 1:31
SECRETARY OF THE

503030



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