

**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

June 3, 1994

Reference: FWS/DHC/BCWR

Mollie Beattie
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

RECEIVED
DEC 19 2007**EDMC**

Dear Director Beattie:

Thank you for letter of April 21, 1994, requesting the Department of Energy's (DOE) participation in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts to move toward an ecosystem management approach to fish and wildlife conservation. Your enclosure, "An Ecosystem Approach to Fish and Wildlife Conservation," describes the Service's approach to more effectively conserve the nation's biodiversity. The document is most instructive on the subject of ecosystem management, a subject which DOE is just beginning to address. DOE certainly supports your continuing efforts to develop this initiative. As you know, the Vice President's National Performance Review recommended that the Federal government begin to organize all of its environmental protection and conservation efforts along ecosystem lines. I congratulate you for providing vision and leadership, which will be needed by all federal land and resource managing agencies, in pursuing this very exciting and long-overdue initiative.

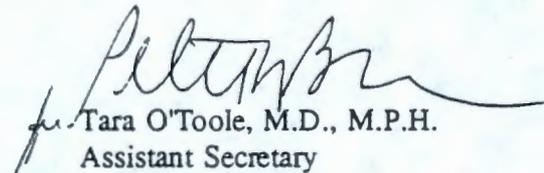
The DOE is steward to almost one million hectares of land in 33 states. These lands contain an abundance of valuable resources, including some of the nation's most diverse natural ecological habitats, scenic landscapes, and Native American cultural and religious sites. However, given the nature of past missions of this Department, DOE does not yet have a comparable level of resource management experience to that of the Service. Our initiative is still in a fledgling state. Notwithstanding, our mission is changing, and along with this change we are committing the Department to a future that includes a greater effort to recognize and respond to our stakeholder's perceptions of the way we do business, recognition and correction of past land and facility use practices to promote environmental protection using ecosystem management principles, and the development and implementation of flexible policies which integrate the needs of natural systems, human communities, and our facility managers.

One of the prominent themes in your plan, is the importance partnerships with other federal agencies, states and the Tribes will play in the implementation of the ecosystem management approach. Let me assure you that you can count the Department of Energy (DOE) among your partners. I am proud to report that under the leadership of Secretary O'Leary, DOE is developing plans to implement its own ecosystem management initiative, and we are enthusiastic about joining with you in any appropriate way, as you move to an ecosystem-based approach to conserving biodiversity.

Given the fledgling nature of our own effort, I would be most appreciative of any reciprocal efforts made by the Service to assist DOE as we begin our journey toward ecosystem-based management of the Department's lands and natural resources. DOE's ecosystem management team has begun its work, and has made preliminary recommendations for short-term actions to get DOE started on its journey. Our team is also preparing a draft Ecosystem-Based Land and Facility Management Policy and Implementation Plan, and will be considering longer-term actions to promote an ecosystem-based approach to resource stewardship. My sense is that the nexus of the eventual DOE plan and the Service's plan could serve as a basis for our two agencies to identify concrete opportunities for partnerships.

Again, let me congratulate you for your leadership of this important initiative, and pledge my support for partnerships that will allow us to be better stewards of the public's resources. If you have any questions or need further information and/or assistance, please contact John Bascietto of my Office of Environmental Guidance, RCRA/CERCLA Division (EH-231), who is a member of DOE's ecosystem management team. Mr. Bascietto can be reached at (202) 586-7917 (FAX at 586-3915).

Sincerely,


Tara O'Toole, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Secretary
Environment, Safety and Health

cc: D. Reicher, S-1
T. Grumbly, EM-1