

Comments Not Requiring a Response

The following comments were received from various Federal and State agencies, but did not require a response from NRCS. A listing of commenting agencies is below:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Headquarters
Alabama Historical Commission
Florida Division of Historical Resources
Georgia Historic Preservation Division
Hawaii Office of the Director of Civil Defense
Kentucky Department of Natural Resources
Kentucky Heritage Council
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
South Carolina Office of State Budget
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Wyoming Fish and Game Department

Rec'd 2/22/00
RP



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Under Secretary for
Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

February 9, 2000

To Whom It May Concern
EWP Program Director
Watersheds and Wetlands Division
USDA-NRCS
Washington, DC 20020

Dear EWP Program Director:

Enclosed are comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Emergency Watershed Protection Program. We hope our comments can assist you. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to review this document.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Fruchter

Susan B. Fruchter
Acting NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

FEB 7 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR: Susan B. Fruchter
Acting NEPA Coordinator
FROM: Dail Brown, Chief *DB*
Watershed Division
Office of Habitat Conservation
SUBJECT: DEIS-9912-03-Emergency Watershed
Protection Program

We reviewed the subject document which describes the intent of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, to expand its activities under the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. That program provides technical and financial assistance to remove threats to life and property that remain in the nation's watersheds in the aftermath of natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires.

While the purpose of the EWP Program is not to protect or restore habitat, it can indirectly accomplish such activities when protecting life or property. For example, funds have been used to remove debris from streams in order to maintain water flow and to stabilize streambanks. We believe that expansion of the EWP Program as detailed in the DEIS could increase those beneficial activities with proper precautions taken to protect the ecological functions of aquatic habitats.



FEB 9 2000





STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
468 SOUTH PERRY STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-0900

LEE H. WARNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEL: 334-242-3184
FAX: 334-240-3477

January 11, 2000

EWP Draft PEIS Comments
P.O. Box 745
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0075

Re: AHC 00-0390
NRCS Draft Programmatic EIS
Statewide

Dear Sirs:

Upon review of the draft programmatic EIS, the Alabama Historical Commission has determined that we can agree with the document provided our office will be contacted regarding cultural resources on a case by case basis before EWP actions are taken, as stated in the report.

We appreciate your efforts on this project. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Stacye Hathorn or Greg Rhinehart of our office.

Sincerely,

Thomas O. Maher, Ph.D.
State Archaeologist

for: Elizabeth Ann Brown
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

EAB/TOM/SGH/GCR

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
www.preserveala.org

DIVISIONS OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Secretary
Office of International Relations
Division of Elections
Division of Corporations
Division of Cultural Affairs
Division of Historical Resources
Division of Library and Information Services
Division of Licensing
Division of Administrative Services



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Katherine Harris
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA CABINET
State Board of Education
Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
Administration Commission
Florida Land and Water Adjudication Commission
State Board
Division of Bond Finance
Department of Revenue
Department of Law, Enforcement
Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Department of Veterans Affairs

EWP Program Director
Watersheds and Wetlands Division
USDA - NRCS
Washington, D.C.

January 7, 2000

RE: DHR Project File No. 999213
Cultural Resource Assessment Request
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the
Emergency Watershed Protection Program

To Whom It May Concern:

In accordance with the procedures contained in 36 C.F.R., Part 800 ("Protection of Historic Properties"), we have reviewed the referenced project for possible impact to historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*. The authority for this procedure is the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), as amended.

We have reviewed the final draft programmatic environmental impact statement for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) project referenced above. We look forward to future coordination between USDA and this office with regards to this action. Conditioned upon early and sufficient consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office the proposed undertakings will be consistent with the historic preservation laws of Florida's Coastal Management Program and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Scott Edwards, Historic Preservation Planner, at 850-487-2333 or 800-847-7278. Your interest in protecting Florida's historic properties is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D., Director
Division of Historical Resources
State Historic Preservation Officer

JSM/Ese

R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Director's Office (850) 488-1180 • FAX 488-1155 | Archaeological Research (850) 487-2299 • FAX 414-2207 | Historic Preservation (850) 487-2333 • FAX 422-5496 | Historical Museums (850) 488-1184 • FAX 421-2543 |
| Historic Pensacola Preservation Board (850) 595-5985 • FAX 595-5989 | Palm Beach Regional Office (561) 279-1475 • FAX 374-1476 | St. Augustine Regional Office (904) 825-5045 • FAX 825-5044 | Tampa Regional Office (813) 272-3843 • FAX 272-2340 |

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 651-8739

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

January 11, 2000

EWP Draft PEIS Comments
P.O. Box 745
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0075

RE: Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)
Statewide, Georgia
HP991215-001

To Whom It May Concern:

The Historic Preservation Division has reviewed the information submitted concerning the proposed Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) for the state of Georgia. Based on the information provided (specifically that on page 5-3), it is our understanding that cultural resources will be considered on a case-by-case basis. We therefore have no concerns about the implementation of the EWP.

It is important to remember that any future changes to this project as it is currently proposed may require additional steps for Section 106 compliance. HPD encourages federal agencies and project applicants to discuss such changes with our office to ensure that potential effects to historic resources are adequately considered in project planning.

Please refer to project number HP991215-001 in any future correspondence. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Serena Bellew, Environmental Review Associate Planner, at (404) 651-6624.

Sincerely,



David Bennett
Environmental Review Coordinator

DB:kec

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR

BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD L. COMREA, JR.
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

EDWARD T. TEIXEIRA
INTERIM VICE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE



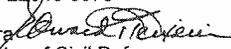
STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE
3849 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-4495



PHONE (808) 733-4200
FAX (808) 733-4287

January 21, 2000

TO: EWP Draft PEIS Comments
P.O. Box 745
Falls Church, VA 22040-0075

FROM: Edward T. Teixeira 
Interim Vice Director of Civil Defense

SUBJECT: DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

We appreciate the opportunity to review your Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. We have no comments or recommendations with regard to the draft.

We will continue to work closely with your Hawaii Offices in addressing emergency watershed protection issues in Hawaii.

Please contact Mr. Larry Kanda, State Hazard Mitigation Officer at (808) 733-4300, if you have any questions or need additional information.

James E. Bickford
Secretary



Paul E. Patton
Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CABINET
DEPARTMENT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF CONSERVATION
663 TETON TRAIL
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601

February 4, 2000

EWP Program Director
Watersheds and Wetlands Division
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 745
Falls Church, VA 22040-0075

SUBJECT: Comments-Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Alternatives

Dear EWP Program Director:

The Kentucky Division of Conservation appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on this NRCS program that affects communities and watersheds in Kentucky. The proposed action and alternatives developed from the responses at the public meetings and recommendations of the Oversight and Evaluation Team clearly outline the alternative options.

I strongly concur with Alternative 2 and the 15 proposed elements incorporated within the EWP Program Improvement and Expansion. Improvement of program delivery and accretion of conservation practices to be included is overdue. Brief comments on some of these elements are as follows:

- Immediate response to declared disaster sites or to "urgent and compelling" situations would allow NRCS personnel to react appropriately and quickly. Interpretation of the "exigency" and "non-exigency" terminology is too varied.
- Defensibility of EWP practices may not always be expressed in terms of cost benefit ratios. Although this is a primary consideration, locally led community values, social factors and cultural values must be a fraction of the criteria used in defending the implementation of the restoration process.
- Elimination of the "multiple beneficiaries" current policy guidelines reinforces the fact that natural resources are not bounded by property lines, fences or county lines. Benefits will be derived for all downstream parties for locally identified resource concerns and future protection.



Phone (502) 564-3080 Fax (502) 564-9195
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M.F.D.

EWP Program Director
Page Two
February 4, 2000

- I fully support the proposed changes to include enduring (structural or long-life) conservation practices as eligible for EWP assistance.

Adoption of the proposed action in the EWP program to Improvement and Expansion, Alternative 2 will enable NRCS to functionally and programmatically administer a program that can be defended to the public and environmental groups. This action will also allow the population of project areas to benefit from a locally led basis in addressing restoration efforts within EWP Improvement and Expansion programmatic guidelines.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Coleman, Director
Division of Conservation

SAC/tls

c Commissioner Hugh Archer



Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet

KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL
The State Historic Preservation Office

Paul E. Patton
Governor
Marlene M. Helm
Cabinet Secretary

David L. Morgan
Executive Director and
SHPO

January 12, 2000

EWP Draft PEIS Comments
P. O. Box 745
Falls Church, VA 22040-0075

Dear Sirs:

The Kentucky Heritage Council has reviewed the Natural Resources Conservation Services's document entitled "Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Emergency Watershed Protection Program". The proposed action by the Natural Resources Conservation Services is an effort to improve the delivery and defensibility of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program and to address additional concerns about natural disaster caused threats to life and property. Our review of the document indicates that the Emergency Watershed Protection Program has made provision to consult with SHPOs to ensure that potential impacts to cultural resources are adequately addressed. We look forward to seeing the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Charles Hockensmith of my staff at (502) 564-7005.

Sincerely,

David L. Morgan, Director
Kentucky Heritage Council and
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Mr. Alex Barber

300 Washington Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
An equal opportunity employer M/F/D



Telephone (502) 564-7005
FAX (502) 564-5820

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North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

David L. S. Brook, Administrator

James B. Hunt Jr., Governor
Betty Ray McCain, Secretary

Division of Archives and History
Jeffrey J. Crow, Director

January 21, 2000

EWP Program Director
EWP Draft PEIS Comments
PO Box 745
Falls Church, VA 22040-0075

Re: Programmatic Agreement, Emergency Watershed Protection Program,
ER00-8327

Thank you for the copy of the Programmatic Agreement, Emergency Watershed Protection Program for our review. We are satisfied with your proposed treatment of historic properties and cultural resources.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/733-4763.

Sincerely,

for David Brook
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DB:scb

| | Location | Mailing Address | Telephone/Fax |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| ADMINISTRATION | 507 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC | 4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617 | (919) 733-4763 • 733-8653 |
| ARCHAEOLOGY | 421 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC | 4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4619 | (919) 733-7342 • 735-2671 |
| RESTORATION | 515 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC | 4613 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4613 | (919) 733-6547 • 733-4801 |
| SURVEY & PLANNING | 515 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC | 4618 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4618 | (919) 733-6545 • 733-4801 |

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
State Budget and Control Board
OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET

February 15, 2000

EWP Draft PEIS Comments
Post Office Box 745
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0745

REF: Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)
Emergency Watershed Program

Dear Sir/Madam:

Personnel with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources have reviewed the above referenced Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and evaluated its potential impact on wildlife and fisheries habitat, wetlands, floodplains, water quality, recreation and other factors relating to the conservation of natural resources.

We recognize the value of the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program in providing funding and assistance to address watershed impairments that are caused by natural disasters and that pose a threat to life and property. In the past, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has allowed us to assist in developing watershed restoration projects that accomplish protection goals in an environmentally sensitive manner. We believe that the environmental, economic and technical soundness of the EWP Program can be improved by implementation of the proposed action alternative and we support the action alternative for the following reasons.

- 1) The purchase of floodplain easements could serve the dual purpose of attenuating flood while providing riparian habitat for fish and wildlife.
- 2) We agree that all measures to be installed must be environmentally defensible and that all measures must have predetermined criteria to meet that requirement.
- 3) We support a quick response for emergency restoration measures to minimize adverse effects to the environment.

We appreciate the opportunity to be involved in projects such as this and hope that our comments will be helpful in the development of a Final PEIS

Sincerely,

Robert E. Duncan
Environmental Programs Director
cc: Mark Berkland - NRCS/SC

JIM HOOPER, CHAIRMAN
GOVERNOR
GRADY L. PATTERSON, JR.
STATE TREASURER
JAMES A. LANDER
COMPTROLLER GENERAL

1122 LADY STREET, 12TH FLOOR
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201
(803) 734-2200

LES BIRDS
DIRECTOR

JOHN D. MURPHY
CHAIRMAN, SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
ROBERT W. HARBRELL, JR.
CHAIRMAN, WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
RICK KELLY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 10, 2000

EWP
Director, Watersheds & Wetlands Division
EWP Draft - USDA-NRCS
Post Office Box 745
Falls Church, VA 22040-0075

Project Name: Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement EWP Program Improvement and Expansion

Project Number: EIS-9912012-012

Dear EWP,

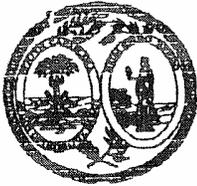
The Office of State Budget, has conducted an intergovernmental review on the above referenced activity as provided by Presidential Executive Order 12372. All comments received as a result of the review are enclosed for your use.

The State Application Identifier number indicated above should be used in any future correspondence with this office. If you have any questions call me at (803) 734-0485.

Sincerely,


Omega Burgess
Grants Services Coordinator

Enclosures



Office of State Budget
South Carolina Project Notification and Review System

1122 Lady Street, 12th floor
Columbia, SC 29201

| |
|---|
| State Application Identifier EIS-9912012-012 |
| Suspense Date 1/16/00 |

Michael LeFever
Governor's Division of Health & Human Services

The Office of State Budget is authorized to operate the South Carolina Project Notification and Review System (SCPNRS). Through the system the appropriate state and local officials are given the opportunity to review, comment, and be involved in efforts to obtain and use federal assistance, and to assess the relationship of proposals to their plans and programs.

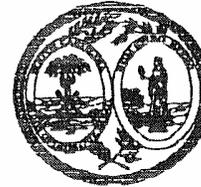
Please review the attached information, mindful of the impact it may have on your agency's goals and objectives. Document the results of your review in the space provided. Return your response to us by the suspense date indicated above. Your comments will be reviewed and utilized in making the official state recommendation concerning the project. The recommendation will be forwarded to the cognizant federal agency.

Should you have no comment, please return the form signed and dated.

If you have any questions, call me at (803) 734-0485.

- Project is consistent with our goals and objectives.
- Request a conference to discuss comments.
- Please discontinue sending projects with this CFDA# to our office for review.
- Comments on proposed Application are as follows:

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Signature: <u><i>Michael LeFever</i></u> | Date: <u>12-29-99</u> |
| Title: _____ | Phone: _____ |



Office of State Budget
South Carolina Project Notification and Review System

1122 Lady Street, 12th floor
Columbia, SC 29201

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|---|
| State Application Identifier EIS-9912012-012 |
| Suspense Date 1/16/00 |

Elliot E. Franks, III
S.C. Jobs-Economic Development Authority

The Office of State Budget is authorized to operate the South Carolina Project Notification and Review System (SCPNRS). Through the system the appropriate state and local officials are given the opportunity to review, comment, and be involved in efforts to obtain and use federal assistance, and to assess the relationship of proposals to their plans and programs.

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- Comments on proposed Application are as follows:

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Signature: <u><i>Elliot E. Franks, III</i></u> | Date: <u>12/20/99</u> |
| Title: <u>CEO</u> | Phone: <u>737-0079</u> |

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DEC 22 1999
OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET
RECEIVED
DEC 20 1999



Office of State Budget
 South Carolina Project Notification and Review System
 1122 Lady Street, 12th floor
 Columbia, SC 29201

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| State Application Identifier EIS-9912012-012 |
| Suspense Date 1/16/00 |

Steve Davis
 S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control

The Office of State Budget is authorized to operate the South Carolina Project Notification and Review System (SCPNRS). Through the system the appropriate state and local officials are given the opportunity to review, comment, and be involved in efforts to obtain and use federal assistance, and to assess the relationship of proposals to their plans and programs.

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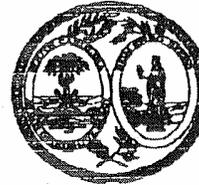
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- Comments on proposed Application are as follows:

RECEIVED
 JAN 06 2000
 Budget & Control Board
 OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Signature: _____ | Date: 1/4/00 |
| Title: _____ | Phone: _____ |



Office of State Budget
 South Carolina Project Notification and Review System
 1122 Lady Street, 12th floor
 Columbia, SC 29201

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|---|
| State Application Identifier EIS-9912012-012 |
| Suspense Date 1/16/00 |

James Hugh Ryan
 S. C. Forestry Commission

DEC 20 1999

The Office of State Budget is authorized to operate the South Carolina Project Notification and Review System (SCPNRS). Through the system the appropriate state and local officials are given the opportunity to review, comment, and be involved in efforts to obtain and use federal assistance, and to assess the relationship of proposals to their plans and programs.

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- Comments on proposed Application are as follows:

RECEIVED
 JAN 04 2000
 OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Signature: Joe M. Pahlberg | Date: 12/31/99 |
| Title: DIVISION DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION | Phone: (803) 896-8800 |

Office of State Budget
 South Carolina Project Notification and Review System
 1122 Lady Street, 12th floor
 Columbia, SC 29201

| |
|---|
| State Application Identifier EIS-9912012-012 |
| Suspense Date 1/16/00 |

RECEIVED

DEC 17 1999

Emergency Preparedness Division
 Office of the Adjutant General

Ofn. Adjutant General

The Office of State Budget is authorized to operate the South Carolina Project Notification and Review System (SCPNRS). Through the system the appropriate state and local officials are given the opportunity to review, comment, and be involved in efforts to obtain and use federal assistance, and to assess the relationship of proposals to their plans and programs.

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If you have any questions, call me at (803) 734-0485. JAN 04 2000

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- Please discontinue sending projects with this CFDA# to our office for review.
- Comments on proposed Application are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Signature: <u>Steph M. McKinney</u> | Date: <u>December 30, 99</u> |
| Title: <u>Director</u> | Phone: <u>734-8020</u> |



Office of State Budget
 South Carolina Project Notification and Review System
 1122 Lady Street, 12th floor
 Columbia, SC 29201

| |
|---|
| State Application Identifier EIS-9912012-012 |
| Suspense Date 1/16/00 |

Mr. Larry Boyleston
 South Carolina Department of Agriculture

The Office of State Budget is authorized to operate the South Carolina Project Notification and Review System (SCPNRS). Through the system the appropriate state and local officials are given the opportunity to review, comment, and be involved in efforts to obtain and use federal assistance, and to assess the relationship of proposals to their plans and programs.

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- Request a conference to discuss comments.
- Please discontinue sending projects with this CFDA# to our office for review.
- Comments on proposed Application are as follows:

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Signature: <u>Larry Boyleston</u> | Date: <u>12/28/99</u> |
| Title: <u>Assistant to the Commissioner</u> | Phone: <u>803/734-2193</u> |

James S. Gilmore, III
Governor

John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Secretary of Natural
Resources



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

203 Governor Street, Suite 326

TDD (804) 786-2121 Richmond, Virginia 23219-2010 (804) 786-2556 FAX (804) 371-7899

David G. Brickley
Director



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

2600 Washington Avenue

P.O. Box 756

Newport News, Virginia 23607-0756

William A. Pruitt
Commissioner

James S. Gilmore, III
Governor

John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

February 10, 2000

January 26, 2000

Emergency Watershed Program Director
Watersheds and Wetlands Division
United States Department of Agriculture-
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Washington, D. C. 20005

Re: Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Emergency Watershed
Protection Program

Dear Emergency Watershed Program Director:

Comments are provided herein on the above referenced project.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) supports the activities of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the implementation of this program. NRCS has improved the program to implement projects that consider floodplain improvements and proper streambank and channel stabilization techniques.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

Derral Jones
Planning Bureau Manager

EWP Draft PEIS Comments
P.O. Box 745
Falls Church, VA 22040-0075

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to your request for comments regarding the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program.

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission, pursuant to Section 28.2-1204 of the Code of Virginia, is authorized to issue permits for encroachments in, on, or over State-owned submerged lands throughout the Commonwealth. As such, many of the instream activities associated with EWP Program activities require authorization from our agency. In order to facilitate review and expedite our approval of identified projects, our agency (and others) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1993 with the NRCS (then SCS) to establish a framework for cooperation. In 1998 the Commission also promulgated a general permit to authorize certain EWP Program projects.

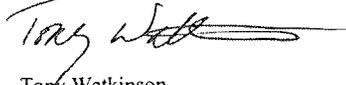
These efforts have been well received and any changes that are made in the EWP Program will need to be incorporated into our current coordination practices to ensure we continue to review and evaluate projects in a timely manner to address needed disaster relief and environmental protection. Since it appears the identified alternatives will result in an improved EWP Program that incorporates principles of natural stream dynamics and bioengineering, which have been included in numerous projects in Virginia, such changes should present little problem. The only exception may be that the terms "exigency" and "non-exigency" are used within both the existing MOU and our General Permit. Although the terms, and the types of projects the terms represent, seem to be well understood in Virginia, hopefully any changes in terminology can be easily accommodated.

EWP Draft PEIS Comments
Page 2

February 10, 2000

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions regarding our comments.

Sincerely,

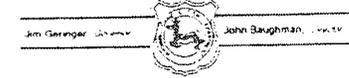


Tony Watkinson
Deputy Chief, Habitat Management

TW/bac
HM

cc: Ms. Silvia Gazzera, DEQ
Mr. Wade Biddix, NRCS

WYOMING
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT



"Conserving Wildlife — Serving People"

February 1, 2000

WER 9608
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact
Statement
Emergency Watershed Protection Program

EWP Draft PEIS Comments
P.O. Box 745
Falls Church, VA 22040-0075

Dear Sir/Madam:

The staff of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has reviewed the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. We have no terrestrial or aquatic concerns with this program or with the environmental document.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



BILL WICHERS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

BW:TC:as

cc: Julie Hamilton-State Clearinghouse
USFWS