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Mr. Warren T. Parker Endangered Species Office U.S. Pish and Wildlife Service Plateau Building, Room A-5 50 S. French Broad Avenue Asheville, NC 28801

Dear Mr. Parker:

This letter confirms our telephonic request of September 14, 1984 for informal consultation on the relationship between the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) and range improvements at the K-2 Impact Area. As shown on the enclosed site map, an active RCW colony is located in the secondary danger area adjacent to an area proposed for clearing. The colony was discovered during site surveys by Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and environmental personnel conducted in July. The colony site has not been included in previous management efforts because it was not known and its location was within the impact area.

Cleared areas are required to accommodate new and upgraded weapons systems such as the MK-19, 40mm grenade launcher, extended range ammunition for the 81mm mortar, and observation of long-range artillery fire. Trees and brush will be leveled by heavy equipment, but not removed, to provide visibility of target arrays at distances up to 3000 meters. The project area has been studied and walk-through inspections were completed by EOD personnel to confirm additional RCW colonies do not exist within the impact area. Further, a review in May 1984 of the potential environmental impacts of the project was made by the Marine Corps Base Environmental Enhancement/Impact Review Board and it was concluded these impacts were not significant provided mitigation measures were followed.

Request your expeditious review of this project in order that clearing can be completed to enable training to recommence at the earliest date possible. Please feel free to contact me at PTS: 676-3034 if further information is required.

Sincerely,

W. G. LILLEY
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities
By direction of the Commanding General

Encl: (1) Site Map

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