



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

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March 26, 1997

Lieutenant Colonel Donald R. Curtis, Jr.  
District Engineer  
Corps of Engineers  
201 North Third Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Curtis:

RE: Walla Walla Watershed Reconnaissance Study

The information provided to this office has been reviewed by our staff as requested; comments follow.

The draft list of problems and opportunities for the Walla Walla Watershed Reconnaissance Study does a good job of outlining our concerns with fish and wildlife habitat in the Walla Walla and Touchet River basins. As you know the current level of activity in the area is high as a result of repeat flooding in 1997. The issues presented are more important now than when they were developed.

We hope that activities undertaken by your agency as emergency fixes do not preclude acting on the outlined opportunities.

Your proposal to use Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife lands along the Walla Walla River to breach existing dikes for riparian restoration has merit and should be discussed further. Please feel free to contact Mark Grandstaff (509-529-0260) for coordination.

You may also wish to contact John Easterbrook in our Yakima Screen Shop (509) 575-2734 to discuss specific fish passage and screening projects. There are several proposals on the table that affect these issues. Early coordination could help avoid duplication of efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce R. Smith".

Bruce R. Smith  
Regional Director

cc: John Andrews  
John Easterbrook  
Mark Grandstaff