



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lower Colorado Regional Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470



LC-8000
ENV-7.00

OCT 21 2008

Mr. Russell K. Engel
Habitat Program Manager
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Region IV
9140 E. 28th Street
Yuma, AZ 85365

Subject: Request from the Bureau of Reclamation Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) to the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) to Evaluate Backwater Sites

Dear Mr. Engel:

Reclamation requested that the Department evaluate backwater sites selected for potential habitat creation or enhancement to benefit native fish through the LCR MSCP to determine if potential conflicts and impacts may result from the selection and development of backwaters outlined in the backwater site selection report for Reaches 5 and 6 in Arizona. Reclamation received the Department's comments, dated September 11, 2008, on September 15, 2008.

The Department recommended several backwaters where conflicts between current recreational use and backwater development for native fish were not anticipated. Headquarters Lake (A59.7) and unnamed lake (A49.2) were categorized as having excellent biological potential and will move forward in the backwater selection process.

At this time, conceptual habitat creation plans for both Headquarters Lake (A59.7) and Secret Lake (A62.3) are near completion. Reclamation has initiated a work task (E26) to address implementation of Headquarters Lake; however, additional work beyond the conceptual habitat creation plan has not been committed to at Secret Lake.

Additional backwater sites located in Arizona and California may be evaluated before a determination is made on future backwater habitat creation or enhancement sites for the LCR MSCP. Reclamation intends to request recommendations from the California Department of Fish and Game to identify potential public use conflicts at backwater sites already evaluated in California.

Reclamation appreciates the efforts of the Department in soliciting stakeholder comments and providing input and recommendations on this important project. We look forward to continued communication and cooperation throughout the backwater selection and development process. Should you have additional questions, comments, or recommendations, please contact Mr. Nathan Lenon of my staff at 702-293-8015 or via electronic mail at nlenon@lc.usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Swett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

John Swett
Manager
Lower Colorado River
Multi-Species Conservation Program