



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

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18 July 2005

Roger K. Patterson, Director
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 94676
Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

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DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Dear Mr. Patterson,

Please reference your letter dated 24 June 2005, acknowledging the coordination between the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (Department) and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (Commission) on the development of integrated management plans (Plans) by the Department and the Upper Republican, Middle Republican, and Lower Republican Natural Resources Districts. These Plans outline how each of these Natural Resources Districts will comply with the Republican River Compact and the Final Settlement Stipulation. We have completed our review of the Plans under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 37-807 (3) of the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act and we offer the following comments.

The Commission has records of the state endangered American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*), interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*), whooping crane (*Grus americana*) and swift fox (*Vulpes velox*), and the state threatened bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), in this part of the state during different times of the year. However, after a review of the final draft of these Plans we have determined that they will not adversely impact these state-listed species or result in the removal or alteration of suitable habitat for such species. Therefore, the proposed Plans will have "No Effect" on any state-listed threatened or endangered species.

As implementation moves forward, the Commission encourages the Department and the three respective Natural Resource Districts to strive for a balance between surface and ground water use in the basin. Maintaining a balance in water use and exploring opportunities to conserve water will be instrumental in promoting a multitude of fish, wildlife and park resources in the basin. The benefits of these resources include, but are not limited to; preserving a diversity of native plant and animal life, offering recreational opportunities to present and future generations and providing countless educational opportunities for youth in the region.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these Plans. If you have any further questions or need additional information concerning our comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Amack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Rex Amack
Director

Cc: Kirk Nelson, NGPC
Frank Albrecht, NGPC
Larry Hutchinson, NGPC
John Kilpatrick, NGPC
Troy Rahmig, NGPC