



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

June 24, 2005

IN REPLY TO:

Kirk Nelson, Assistant Director – Fish and Wildlife
Game and Parks Commission
2200 North 33rd Street
P.O. Box 30370
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

Dear Mr. Nelson:

As we have previously discussed, the natural resources districts in the Republican River Basin, together with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (Department) have recently adopted integrated management plans (the "Plans") for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the Republican River Compact and the Final Settlement Stipulation.

During the course of drafting and developing the Plans, Department staff had several informal discussions, as well as a formal meeting on April 27, 2005, with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (Commission) staff, to keep your offices apprised of the process, and the progress being made. It is the Department's view that the Plans will have no effect on endangered species and threatened species listed pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 37-806 (Reissue 2004). Each of the Plans will be further reviewed for compliance, and revised in three years.

The purpose of this letter is to document the Department's determination that implementation of the integrated management plans recently adopted for the Upper Republican Natural Resources District, the Middle Republican Natural Resources District, and the Lower Republican Natural Resources District will not jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or modification of habitat of the species listed pursuant to section 37-806 which is determined by the commission to be critical.

We look forward to working with the Commission on future matters relating to the integrated management planning process in Nebraska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger K. Patterson".

Roger K. Patterson
Director

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