

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New Jersey Field Office **Ecological Service** 927 North Main Street, Building D

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James Ott, Director of Public Works Department of the Army Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Monmouth Fort Monmouth, New Jersey 07703-5101

Reference: Threatened and endangered species review within the vicinity of the proposed Residential

Communities Initiative program at Fort Monmouth, located within Fort Monmouth, Monmouth

County New Jersey.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the above-referenced proposed project pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to ensure the protection of federally listed endangered and threatened species. The following comments do not address all Service concerns for fish and wildlife resources and do not preclude separate review and comment by the Service as afforded by other applicable environmental legislation.

Except for an occasional transient bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), no other federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened flora or fauna under Service jurisdiction are known to occur within the vicinity of the proposed project site. Therefore, no further consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is required by the Service. This determination is based on the best available information. If additional information on federally listed species becomes available, or if project plans change, this determination may be reconsidered. Please be aware that this determination is valid for 90 days; therefore, if the project is not initiated within this time, the Service should be contacted prior to project implementation to verify the accuracy of this information. The Service will review current information to ensure that no federally listed threatened or endangered species will be adversely affected by the proposed project.

Enclosed is current information regarding federally listed and candidate species occurring in New Jersey. The Service encourages federal agencies and other planners to consider candidate species in project planning. The addresses of State agencies that may be contacted for current site-specific information regarding federal candidate and State-listed species are also enclosed.

Authorizing Supervisor:

Current summaries of federally listed and candidate species in New Jersey Enclosures:

Addresses for additional information on candidate and State-listed species

Sect 7 (es-NEeot7.fax) 11/24/03