

Title: Environmental Assessment for the Restoration of Resources Injured by the Release of PCBs and other hazardous substances into Fields Brook.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

For the reasons briefly presented below and based on an evaluation of the information contained in the supporting references enumerated below, I have determined that restoring, replacing and/or acquiring the equivalent of injured resources within the natural resource damage assessment area as described under Alternative B in the Final Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Fields Brook is not a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National environmental Policy Act of 1969. An Environmental Impact Statement will, accordingly, not be prepared.

Reasons:

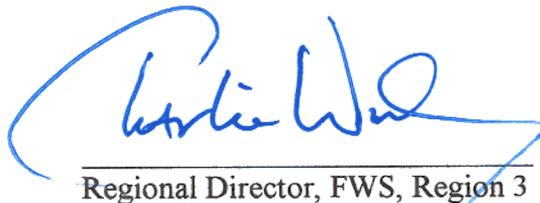
- 1 There are no known or anticipated endangered, threatened or candidate species or designated critical habitat that will be adversely affected. Protective measures (Appendix A) would be taken during implementation of any projects which should provide for no adverse effects on Federally-listed species or Critical habitat areas. Prior to specific restoration project implementation, each project will be evaluated for impacts to Federally-listed species under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Selected projects would involve further protection potentially aid in the recovery of certain species (Sections 4.2.2, 5.2.3, Appendix A of Restoration Plan and EA).**
- 2 Implementation of the proposed action may result in minimal short-term impacts to habitat due to physical manipulation needed to restore and enhance ecological systems. There is the possibility of permanent impacts to fish and wildlife habitat due to destruction for boat ramps, parking areas, and trails associated with public use. However, these projects would also protect and improve the quality of natural resources by directing and controlling human impacts on those resources in the area. All necessary permits will be obtained and regulations, policies and laws followed. (Sections 3.2.4, 5.2.1 of Restoration Plan and EA).**
- 3 Specific areas for wetland restorations, streambank stabilization, and land acquisition have not been determined. When these project areas have been determined, and prior to making final decisions about these projects, the Field Supervisor, Reynoldsburg Ecological Field Office, will initiate consultation with the Ohio State Historic Preservation Officer and, with the assistance of the FWS Regional Historic Preservation Officer, will complete the Section 106 process as described in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800. (Section 5.2.4)**
- 4 Preservation of habitats through acquisition of land or easements will only be from willing sellers or participants. Neighbors adjacent to land purchased for preservation under this restoration will retain all of their current rights to their**

land. Since habitat preservation through fee title or easements with willing sellers who would be paid fair market value, acquisition procedures would have little or no impact on the market price, or on landowners who choose not to sell.

- 5 Alternative B, natural resource-based restoration within the assessment area, maximizes the benefits from natural resource damage assessment restoration. Habitat preservation would include properties that currently deliver, or with restoration or enhancement could deliver ecological services that cannot be replaced within the assessment area or would take a long time to recover. Restoration and enhancement projects in the restoration area would reduce compensable damages to the public. The EA states a preference for restoration in proximity to Fields Brook.
- 6 Public review and public meeting comments regarding the Initial Restoration Plan and EA (April/May 2004) indicate a general acceptance and approval of the proposed action (Chapter 7 of Restoration Plan and EA).

Supporting References:

- 1 Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Fields Brook Superfund Site
Section 7 Endangered Species Consultation (Appendix A of Restoration Plan and EA)
3. Public Comments (Chapter 7 of Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment)



Regional Director, FWS, Region 3

Date: 9/8/04