

Title: Environmental Assessment / 90% Plan for Tobico Marsh

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 natural fluctuations of water levels within Tobico Marsh, while providing adequate flood protection to residences riparian to Tobico Marsh, as described under Alternative 3 in the Environmental Assessment / 90% Plan for Tobico Marsh

is not a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the 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:

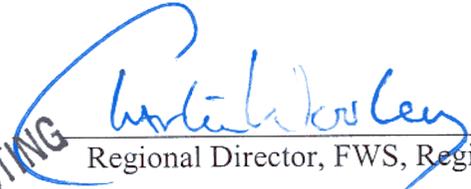
- 1 There are no known or anticipated endangered, threatened or candidate species or designated critical habitat in the area of the project (Section 4.3.2 and Appendix G, Intra Service Section 7 Biological Evaluation, of the Environmental Assessment / 90% Plan for Tobico Marsh).
- 2 Implementation of the proposed action would result in minimal short-term impacts to habitat because the physical manipulation needed to clean and repair culverts and install enhancements to the flap gate will be conducted from existing roadways. This project would improve the quality of natural resources by increasing the continuous flow of water through the marsh. Continuous water flow increases the flushing of nutrients and maintains oxygen levels above those present in a static system. All necessary permits will be obtained and regulations, policies and laws followed.
3. The proposed action will not affect cultural or historic properties based on a review by the State Historic Preservation Officer (Section 4.6 and Appendix H of the Environmental Assessment / 90% Plan for Tobico Marsh).
4. Public review comments indicate general acceptance of the proposed actions, demonstrate public interest in the health of the marsh, and also suggest several additional projects that are beyond the scope the proposed project (Section 8 of the Environmental Assessment / 90% Plan for Tobico Marsh).

Supporting References:

1. Environmental Assessment / 90% Plan for Tobico Marsh
2. Intra Service Section 7 Biological Evaluation (Appendix G of Environmental Assessment / 90% Plan for Tobico Marsh)
3. State Historic Preservation Review (Appendix H of Environmental Assessment / 90%

Plan for Tobico Marsh)

4. Public Comments (Chapter 8 of the Environmental Assessment / 90% Plan for Tobico Marsh)

ACTING 
Regional Director, FWS, Region 3

Date: 10/20/04