



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

In Reply Refer to:
FWS/R1/MBSP

Dear Interested Party:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to issue a depredation permit for the take of Caspian Tern (CATE) eggs under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as part of implementation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Inland Avian Predation Management Plan (IAPMP). The Service's proposed action to issue this permit for the take of CATE eggs is described and evaluated in the IAPMP Environmental Assessment (EA). The Corps examined the environmental effects of the IAPMP on many aspects of the human environment in the EA. The Service adopts the IAPMP EA. Our need for the analysis is to address an application received from Corps, Walla Walla District, for the legal take of up to 200 CATE eggs in 2014 as part of implementation of the IAPMP, Alternative D.

The Corps' IAPMP focuses on the dissuasion of Caspian Terns nesting at federally owned islands and identifies measures to limit future nesting in the project area to reduce avian predation losses of ESA-listed salmonids.

The Corps' draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and IAPMP were circulated for public comment in November 2013. All comments received were addressed by the Corps, and a Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were prepared. The FONSI, Final EA, Final IAPMP, and other related documents are available for viewing on the Corps website at: <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects/InlandAvianPredationManagementPlan.aspx>

Enclosed is a copy of the Service's signed FONSI, which concludes the Services' environmental compliance for permit issuance. The FONSI is available for viewing on the Service's website at: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/migratorybirds/nepa.html>

If you have any questions regarding migratory bird permit issuance as part of implementation of the IAPMP, please contact Michelle McDowell at 503-231-2024.

Sincerely,

Assistant Regional Director
Migratory Birds and State Programs