



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Parks-East
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A3815(NCR-NACE)

December 22, 2009

Mr. David Maloney
Associate Director
Historic Preservation Office
DC Office of Planning
801 North Capitol Street
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: Environmental Impact Statement-- Anacostia Park Wetlands Management Plan with Resident Goose Management Strategies, Anacostia Park, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Maloney:

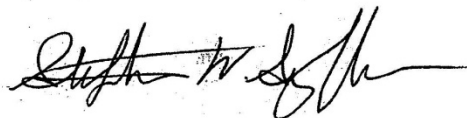
This letter is to inform you that the National Park Service (NPS), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), is developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Anacostia Park Wetlands Management Plan. This EIS will also contain Management Strategies for Resident Canada Geese. This EIS will address all of the Anacostia wetlands—remnant as well as reconstructed—in which the NPS has management responsibilities. In the months to come, we anticipate having an EIS containing management details and alternative actions proposed for your review and comment.

The focus of the EIS is nearly 100 acres of restored tidal wetlands in Anacostia Park, including Kenilworth Marsh, the Kingman Marshes, and the "Fringe Marshes." A number of obstacles to the success of these restored wetlands persist. Resident Canada geese consistently denude areas not protected by fencing, and questions and concerns about proper wetland elevations, invasive vegetation infestations, erosion, and sedimentation continue to arise.

The NPS initially started an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address these concerns. However, after considering comments received during public scoping, evaluating potential alternatives, and continuing to examine data, the NPS decided to complete an EIS rather than an EA for this plan. The scope of the EIS includes management of resident Canada geese, hydrologic regimes, invasive species, and wetland vegetation. Additionally, issues such as the effect of urbanization and toxicity will be addressed. Stabilization methods used to address erosion and sedimentation, such as the sheet piling used at Fringe Marsh, will also be examined. The EIS may identify potential future wetland restoration sites, but will not analyze them in detail.

Please contact Stephen Syphax in our Resource Management Division at (202) 690-5160 if you have any questions or require additional information.

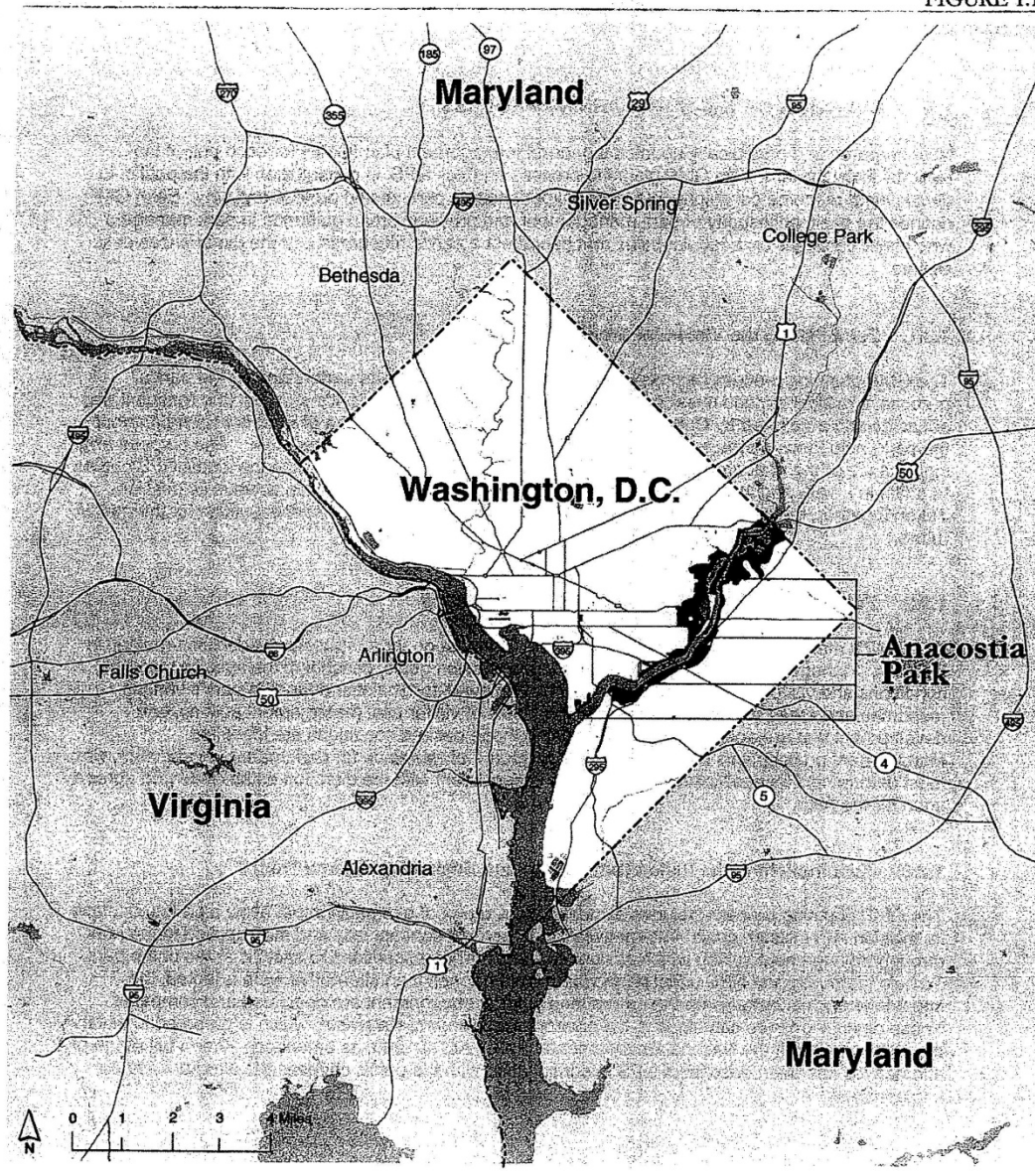
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen W. Syphax", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen W. Syphax
Chief, Resource Management Division

Enclosures

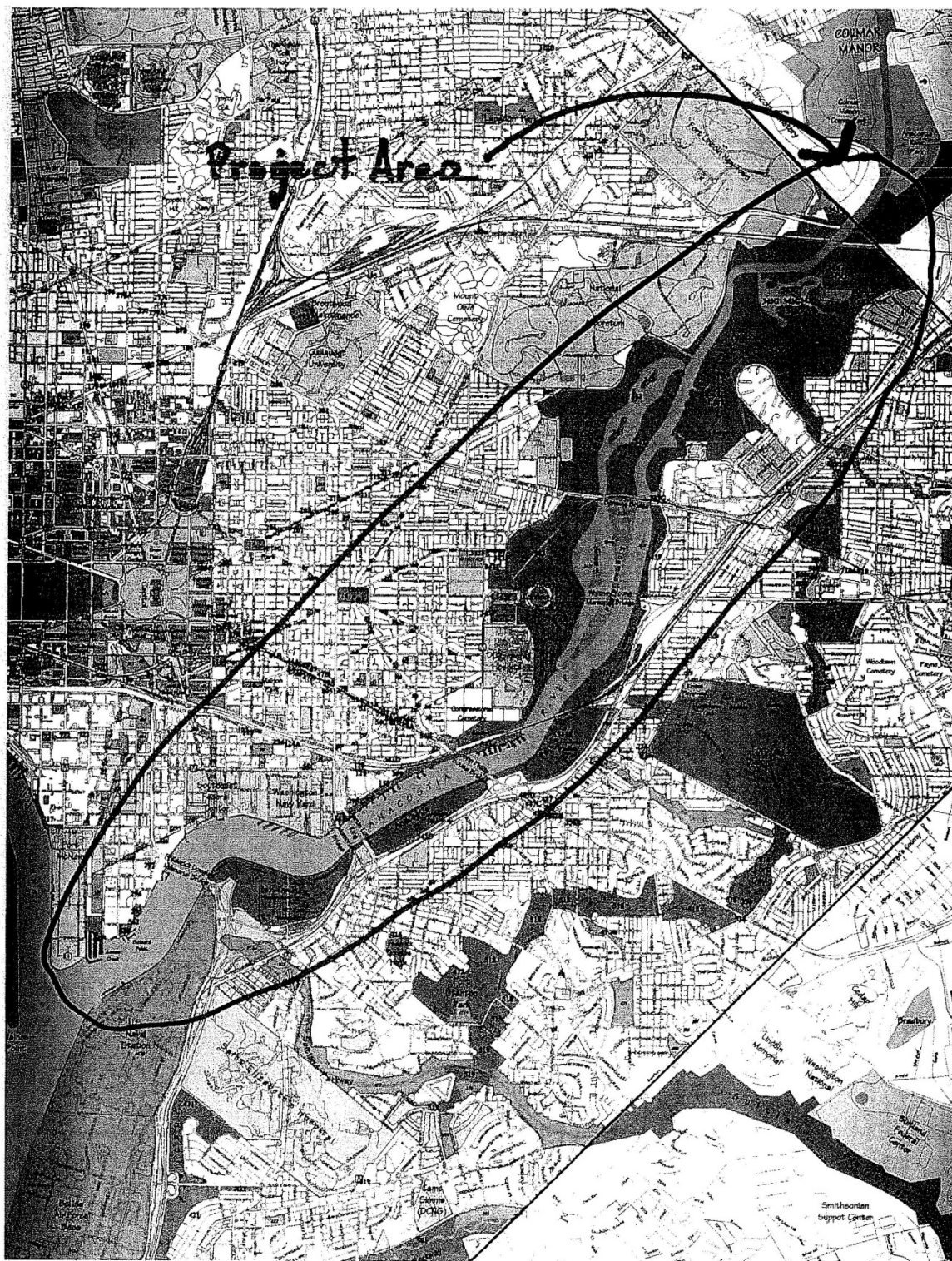
FIGURE 1.1



REGIONAL LOCATION



Anacostia Park -
A Unit of National Capital Parks - East
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



APPENDIX A-2: AGENCY RESPONSES



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Chesapeake Bay Field Office
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401



November 10, 2005

Ms. Susan Rudy
Natural Resources Program Manager
NPS-East
1900 Anacostia Dr., S.E.
Washington, DC 20020

RE: Resident Canada Goose Mgmt. project/NPS/Anacostia Pk., Washington, DC

Dear Ms. Rudy:

This responds to your letter, received October 20, 2005, requesting information on the presence of species which are federally listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened in the above referenced project area. We have reviewed the information you enclosed and are providing comments in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Except for occasional transient individuals, no proposed or federally listed endangered or threatened species are known to exist within the project impact area. Therefore, no Biological Assessment or further section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required. Should project plans change, or should additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered.

This response relates only to federally protected threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction. Limited information is currently available regarding the distribution of other rare species in the District of Columbia. However, the Nature Conservancy and National Park Service (NPS) have initiated an inventory of rare species within the District. For further information on such rare species, you should contact Marcus Koenen of the DC Natural Heritage Program at (202) 342-1443 ext. 216.

An additional concern of the Service is wetlands protection. Federal and state partners of the Chesapeake Bay Program have adopted an interim goal of no overall net loss of the Basin's remaining wetlands, and the long term goal of increasing the quality and quantity of the Basin's wetlands resource base. Because of this policy and the functions and values wetlands perform, the Service recommends avoiding wetland impacts. All wetlands within the project area should be identified, and if alterations of wetlands is proposed, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,



"Siemien, M. Jon
(DOH)"
<jon.siemien@dc.gov>

11/22/2005 02:24 PM EST

To: Susan_Rudy@nps.gov
cc: "Pfaffko, Mary (DOH)" <mary.pfaffko@dc.gov>
Subject: RE: Goose Management EA/ Consultation w/ NMFS

Susan,

I received the information you wanted from NOAA. I originally contacted Marta Nammack, who once upon a time worked for DC Fisheries, and she told me she wouldn't be the one to deal with the issue. Marta contacted Julie Crocker (julie.crocker@noaa.gov) at NOAA and she wrote:

=====

Hi Jon.

There is a population of the endangered shortnose sturgeon in the Chesapeake Bay and individuals have been documented in the Potomac River. Transient shortnose sturgeon may also occur in the Anacostia River. Giving the information Marta passed on a quick read, the types of activities do not look like they would affect shortnose sturgeon in the rivers and as such section 7 consultation would not be necessary. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Julie

=====

Looks like NPS is clear with NOAA. If you need any further information please let me know.

- Jon

M. Jon Siemien
Chief, Fisheries Research Branch
Acting Program Manager, Fisheries & Wildlife Division
Acting Branch Chief, Wildlife Management Branch
Fisheries & Wildlife Division
DC Department of Health
51 N Street, N.E., Room 5003
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: 202-535-2273
Fax: 202-535-1373
jon.siemien@dc.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan_Rudy@nps.gov [mailto:Susan_Rudy@nps.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2005 10:08 AM
To: jon.siemien@dc.gov
Subject: Fw: Goose Management EA/ Consultation w/ NMFS

Hello Jon-