



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office
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Reply To: 7373.0051
File Name: West Hayden Island
TS Number: 05-1372

MAR 03 2005

Mr. Bill Wyatt
Port of Portland
PO Box 3529
Portland, OR 97208-3529

Bob Sallinger
Urban Conservation Director
Portland Audubon Society
5151 N.W. Cornell Road
Portland, Oregon 97210

Dear Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Sallinger,

Portland Audubon Society (Audubon) recently inquired about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) perspective on Audubon's request to the Port of Portland (Port) to enter into discussions regarding the sale and protection of West Hayden Island (Island). In response to that inquiry, the Service can state that it will support any discussion or process that facilitates sound management and long-term conservation of the Island and its important natural resources.

As you know, the Island's size, the amount and quality of its constituent habitats, the potential to restore and enhance these habitats, and its location in relation to other natural areas make the Island a unique and valuable conservation resource. Notable resources and conditions include:

- 826-acres of undeveloped habitat;
- At least 39-acres of wetlands;
- One of the largest intact stands of cottonwood-ash bottomland forest on the Lower Columbia.
- A key component of a network of natural areas in the lower Columbia that include Smith and Bybee Lakes, Sauvie Island, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Kelley Point Park and Vancouver Lake Lowlands;
- Serves as an intersection of two major wildlife corridors and is utilized by wildlife moving between the other important wildlife areas;
- Provides habitat for the federally listed bald eagle, chinook, chum and sockeye salmon and steelhead trout, and several sensitive species including, pileated woodpeckers, bank swallows, willow flycatchers and western painted turtles.