

March 1, 1988

From Fish and Wildlife Service  
To James Butch

Dear Mr. Butch;

A draft restoration plan for the Robert Brace Farm is enclosed.

General Discussion

The plan is based on the following:

Aerial photography from 1968, 1977, 1980, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1987; The Soil Survey of Erie County, Pennsylvania, published by the Soil Conservation Service; field visits by our staff and other agencies; A USGS; topographic map; the National Wetland Inventory map; information supplied by Mr. Brace; and technical discussions with the Soil Conservation Service, the PA Dept. Of Environmental Resources, and EPA staff.

The goal of the draft plan is to restore all wetlands disturbed since October 1984, as discussed with you and Mr. Don Wilson of the Buffalo Corps. Of Engineers. The plan was prepared by the Service because Mr. Brace has failed to provide his own plan and our biologist is familiar with the site involved in the case with requests for comments.

We request that you coordinate any revisions with the regulatory agencies. We will prepare a revised plan with added details from those agencies.

We recommend that the draft or revised draft plan be submitted to Mr. Brace and his attorney for comment and that another on-site meeting be held with Mr. Brace to discuss details of the plan and any response or additional information that Mr. Brace may wish to add to the plan. The maps and information supplied by Mr. Brace in response to your request for information was sketchy at best.

Specific Details for Implementing the Plan

1. Restore all wetlands disturbed since October 1984 by:
  - A) Plugging all drainage tiles in the areas disturbed since October 1984 in a manner specified by the regulatory agencies. Non perforated drainage pipe may cross wetlands to maintain drainage in adjacent fields.
  - B) Plugging the southermost surface ditches in the areas indicated with cross hatching.
2. Maintaining drainage to all feilds drained prior to October 1984.
3. Revegetating only if natural revegetation is not successful.

Agency Comments

By copy of this letter, we are requesting that each agency involved submit comments within ten days to EPA with a copy to the Service addressing the following points.

1. Does this plan satisfy your agency's resource protection goals?
2. Does the plan appear to be reasonable and technically sound.
3. Do you have any technical specifications that should be considered in developing the final restoration plan?

If you need additional information pleas contact David Putnam of my staff at 814-234-4090.

Sincerely,

Charles Kulp, Supervisor

