



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

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ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICE OF
INFORMATION AND
REGULATORY AFFAIRS

The Honorable Judge Craig Manson
Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 3156
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Judge Manson:

The purpose of this letter is to encourage the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to integrate the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) spatial data supporting critical habitat designations into the Geospatial One-Stop Initiative. Integrating data for all critical habitats on a single web-based site as part of the Geospatial One-Stop will provide the affected public as well as federal agencies with ready access to important information related to these designations and facilitate their compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The Geospatial One-Stop Initiative is led by DOI, United States Geological Survey (USGS), and is one of twenty-four Office of Management and Budget (OMB) electronic-government initiatives to enhance government efficiency and achieve President Bush's vision that government be more citizen-based and results oriented. Geospatial One-Stop builds on advances in geospatial information technologies to encourage greater collaboration and coordination in their use across all levels of government. The opportunities offered by the Geospatial One-Stop Initiative should be of great value to government agencies and other entities with ESA responsibilities.

Maps and boundary coordinates for critical habitat are available for individual or multiple species in the *Federal Register* during the course of rulemaking and are then codified in the *Code of Federal Regulations*. However, affected entities cannot obtain a comprehensive set of data that reflects the full set of requirements for their location. A comprehensive data source that encompasses all existing critical habitats could allow regulatory agencies to determine more easily whether their actions are subject to the consultation requirements under the ESA.

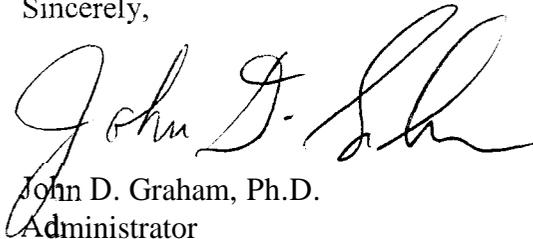
An accessible, web-based spatial data source could decrease the workload of FWS field offices by reducing the technical assistance needed by potential coinventors seeking to determine whether their property is proposed to be designated as a critical habitat. The FWS relies on information provided during the public notice and comment period of the proposed critical habitat designation to refine the boundaries of the proposed critical

habitat and determine whether to exclude any portions due to economic or other considerations. Web-based information could also be provided to affected property owners regarding critical habitat requirements and how to participate in the notice and comment process.

The Geospatial One-Stop Initiative will facilitate this effort by providing a common portal to provide this information to the public. FWS could also consider working with other agencies, such as USGS, to leverage mapping resources already available within the Department.

I recognize that DOI is working on a number of initiatives to promote Geospatial One-Stop as an effective tool in making government actions more accessible and responsive to citizens. I hope that this suggestion will assist the Department with this important effort. My staff stands ready to aid you with this task.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Graham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John D. Graham, Ph.D.
Administrator
Office of
and Regulatory Affairs