



INDIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

COMMON SENSE CONSERVATION SINCE 1938

Tom Melius, Regional Director
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
One Federal Drive
Fort Snelling, MN
55111-4056

Dear Director Melius,

Indiana sporting groups and conservation groups appreciate the assistance of your agency in expediting an unusually beneficial opportunity at the Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area in south central Indiana. The Indiana National Guard has secured funding for over \$100 Million to expand its training facility and needs an area suitable for buildings to expand. The area of approximately 1,000 acres proposed for the training expansion was formerly fully developed with buildings and infrastructure during World War II, and was transferred to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in 1969. This area has been effectively converted to a small game and bird hunting area and utilized by many central Indiana hunters.

The approximately 2,000 acres at Putnamville proposed to be traded to DNR for fish and wildlife access are about the same distance from the Indianapolis metro area and have excellent potential for development as a quality fish and wildlife area in the coming years. This exchange is reasonable and results in a net benefit to Indiana fish and wildlife.

The Indiana Wildlife Federation would like to recommend approval of the exchange of the fish and wildlife area at Atterbury for the new area proposed at Putnamville, IN with the following additional stipulations.

Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area:

- 1) Increase the active management of the remaining property for small game and game birds
- 2) Acquire additional property adjacent to expand the fish and wildlife area
- 3) Add public access to the Sugar Creek corridor south of Hospital Road for hunting and fishing

Putnamville Fish and Wildlife Area:

- 1) Dedicate additional staff and funding for management
- 2) Commit a significant area to small game and game bird management
- 3) Consider catch and release designation for the Deer Creek stream

Thank you for your consideration of these specific additional requested items.

Sincerely,

John Goss
Executive Director

CC: Robert Carter, Director of Indiana Department of Natural Resources; Mark Reiter, Director, Indiana Fish and Wildlife Division; David Phippen, Natural Resources Policy Director, Governor Mitch Daniels Office