



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

911 NE. 11th Avenue

Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NOV 9 2000

Craig S. Harrison  
Vice Chair for Conservation  
Pacific Seabird Group  
4001 North Ninth Street #1801  
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Dear Mr. Harrison:

Thank you for your letter of September 26, 2000, regarding establishment of East Sand Island as a national wildlife refuge.

We have a formal procedure to evaluate proposed land acquisitions. We make an initial assessment of the project to determine whether it has sufficient merit to proceed with further planning. If we decide to proceed, a Preliminary Project Proposal is typically required for the Director to authorize us to conduct detailed planning, including compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. If the project is a small addition to an existing refuge, a Preliminary Project Proposal may not be required.

We will complete the initial assessment of East Sand Island in 2 to 3 months. Charles Houghten, Chief of the Division of Refuge Planning, will inform you of the status of this proposal following the initial assessment. If we decide that East Sand Island has sufficient value for possible inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System, we will proceed with further planning.

Please call Mr. Houghten at (503) 231-6207 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Regional Director