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United States
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Natural
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Conservation
Service

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SUBJECT: PDM - Little Reed Island Creek Watershed, Virginia
National Economic Development (NED) Plan Exception

SEP 20 2001

TO: M. Denise Doetzer
State Conservationist, NRCS
Richmond, Virginia

File Code: 390-11-5

Thank you for your request to grant an exception to the NED Plan requirement for the Public Law (P.L.) 566 Little Reed Island Creek Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA). The purpose of the project is to improve water quality of the streams and Claytor Lake, decrease water treatment costs, improve habitat for trout and other aquatic species, and reduce erosion and sediment damage. The plan is a watershed protection plan that includes the installation of conservation practices on 15,659 acres.

The NED Plan would provide treatment to 15,402 acres of cropland, pasture, and hayland. The NED Plan would reduce erosion by 128,388 tons/year and sedimentation by 45,689 tons/year, and improve water quality in the streams and Claytor Lake. The NED Plan would cost \$4,338,100 of P.L. 566 funds, and has a benefit to cost ratio of 2.31:1.0.

The Recommended Plan would provide treatment to 15,659 acres of cropland, pasture, hayland, woodland, and streambanks. The Recommended Plan would treat the woodland problem, reduce cattle impacting the riparian zone and critically eroding streambanks, in addition to the area treated with the NED Plan. The restored riparian zone, with tree and shrub plantings, will provide a stream buffer and filter out sediment and nutrients from surface runoff, and provide needed shading, wildlife habitat, and a food source for aquatic species. The Recommended Plan would cost \$4,782,200 of P.L. 566 funds, and has a benefit to cost ratio of 2.11:1.0.

You requested the exception because the Recommended Plan would reach 15 - 25 limited resource farmers, adequately protect more land in the watershed, and more significantly improve stream water quality. The Recommended Plan will treat an additional 167 acres and protect approximately 20 miles of streambanks. The plan will reduce erosion by 17,411 tons/year and sedimentation by 7,376 tons/year more than the NED Plan.

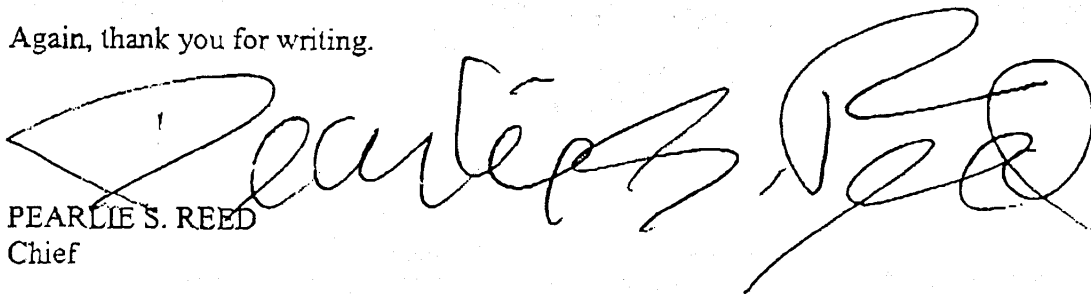
M. Denisc Doetzer

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Your request to grant an exception to the NED Plan is approved. You should finalize the watershed plan that includes the Recommended Plan as the selected plan, treating 15,569 acres at a P.L. 566 cost of \$4,782,200.

Again, thank you for writing.

PEARLIE S. REED
Chief

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pearlie S. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large loops and a prominent initial "P".