



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

August 23, 2002

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R4/RF/RS-I

Mr. Gary Kaster, Chairman
UtiliTree Carbon Company
c/o Edison Electric Institute
701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. ~~Kaster~~:

The Fish and Wildlife Service would like to endorse the electric power industry's efforts to support President Bush's plan to address greenhouse gases through terrestrial carbon sequestration projects in the lower Mississippi River Valley.

A number of possible new reforestation projects were discussed at UtiliTree's recent meeting in Natchitoches, Louisiana, that would result in significant carbon benefits for your member companies and help achieve the Service's conservation goals in the lower Mississippi River Valley.

Within the lower Mississippi River Valley, we have identified many suitable sites which would support terrestrial carbon sequestration efforts while addressing priority conservation needs and avoiding potential problems associated with leakage, permanence, additionality, and monitoring. These reforestation projects are purposefully planned to connect important wildlife habitat areas by establishing movement corridors and creating contiguous forest blocks by reducing forest fragmentation. Implementation of these projects will create significant habitat for migratory waterfowl and songbirds, Louisiana black bears, and other native wildlife species. They also provide a wide array of other benefits in that they help reduce erosion and sedimentation from incompatible land use practices, enhance water quality, improve water storage in soils to help maintain stream flows and reduce flooding, and provide important opportunities for public outdoor recreation activities.

Such reforestation projects will further the existing partnerships we have with the UtiliTree Carbon Company and its member companies and could result in important additions to the National Wildlife Refuge System, which would be managed as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System under 100-year agreements, consistent with the Service's conservation goals for the Region. These non-traditional, public-private partnerships have great promise to advance our Nation's conservation priorities.

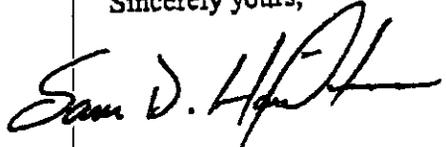
Mr. Gary Kaster

Furthermore, in support of these efforts, the Service intends to work with the Department of Agriculture to support the President's request for improvements to the project crediting and voluntary greenhouse gas emissions reduction registry. We also intend to continue working with the energy industry at a grass-roots level on terrestrial carbon sequestration projects in the lower Mississippi River Valley.

The restoration of these lands is a national conservation priority that is shared and supported by numerous partners including State and Federal agencies and national conservation organizations. Much of this restoration will not and cannot be accomplished without the continued support of groups like the UtiliTree Carbon Company.

We look forward to continuing these relationships, which we are certain will result in long-term conservation and carbon benefits that will benefit the American public.

Sincerely yours,



Sam D. Hamilton
Regional Director