



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
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APR 07 2008

Mr. Anada Tiega
Secretary General - Ramsar Secretariat
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
Rue Mauverney 28
CH-1196, Gland
SWITZERLAND

Dear Secretary General Tiega:

In accordance with Article 2.5 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, we have received a petition to designate the Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park (ORWRP) as a Wetland of International Importance. A comprehensive review of the nomination reveals that the site proposed for designation meets the Convention criteria for inclusion on the List of Wetlands of International Importance. A copy of the complete nomination package is enclosed and can also be found at <http://swamp.osu.edu/news/ORWRamsar.html>.

The ORWRP meets five of the nine Ramsar criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance. Located in a state that has seen more than 90% of its historic wetland base drained, the site contains riverine marshes that were once typical but are now rare. The ORWRP is a complex of created and natural wetlands located on the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. The wetlands include a biologically diverse assemblage of different wetland and riverine habitats both representative and unique to the region, including freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands, permanent rivers/streams/creeks, seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes, and permanent freshwater marshes. The site is also important for its significant wetland ecotourism and outreach within an urban community where few wetlands remain, as well as the high-quality university teaching and research related to wetland ecology and management conducted at the site.

The nomination package includes support from a range of stakeholders, demonstrating high levels of support in the region. In addition, the nomination indicates full awareness of the responsibilities and obligations to manage this site for conservation and to apply the concepts of wise use so as to maintain the natural ecological character of the site. In accordance with the right of a contracting party to the Convention "to add to the List further wetlands situated within its territory," the Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park is hereby designated as a Wetland of International Importance.

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We request the Secretariat to take the necessary steps to enter the Wilma H. Schiermeier Olenangy River Wetland Research Park on the Convention List of Wetlands of International Importance with an effective listing date of this letter and issue a site diploma reflecting this designation. Your assistance and cooperation in making this designation are, as always, much appreciated. If you have any questions or comments regarding the nomination, please contact Ms. Teiko Saito, the Service's Acting Assistant Director, Division of International Affairs, at (202) 208-6393.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Dale Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DIRECTOR

Enclosures