DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
North Mississippi Refuges Complex
2776 Sunset Dr., P.O. Box 1070
Grenada, MS 38901

MEMORANDUM

To: Becky Rosamond, Wildlife Biologist

From: Chuck Hayes, Private Lands Biologist

Subject: Preliminary Cooperative Farming Planting for 2009

Date: September 30, 2008

Coldwater:

The attached map of Coldwater NWR shows the preliminary or proposed areas to be planted as well as the crop to be planted. Jerry Mixon believes that in a "normal year" (whatever that is) he will be able to get into Tract 2555 in Fields 1-4 and plant corn early enough to produce a grain crop. I have my doubts about that. If not, he will plant it back to milo. He wants to plant Tract 1563, Field 1 in rice. I'm not sure about the condition of the levee on the west side of the field. If the levee is still in a decent and functional state and the well is working OK, then we can try to put it in rice. We can work out some variations, if needed, between rice, corn, and milo depending on conditions.

If we go with rice, I know Jerry wants an 80/20 split. I believe I will push for the 75/25 split that is over the entire farm. Let me know what you think. Maybe when we go up to do veg surveys, we can cruise over to the levee on the west side and take a look.

Tallahatchie:

I have not prepared a map for Tallahatchie yet. However, here are my thoughts concerning next planting year. H.C. really does not have much of a choice if we are to stay within policy of genetically modified crops. He will have to plant something other than soybeans over the majority of the cropland. So, I believe we can give him the option of milo, corn, or rice as well as millet, if we choose to plant one of the grain bin fields (or other fields) and use it as part of the share. I realize our conversations with H.C. in the past would indicate that corn and rice are not options, since he doesn't like the prospect of dry-land corn and the topography of the fields really are not conducive to rice. Thus, we have milo left in the bag for a commodity crop. However, before I get into a thousand scenarios, I would like to sit down with you and a map of TAL and discuss some options. I'm not sure what your schedule is like prior to the staff meeting at 9:30 or after the meeting. Let's try to get a preliminary plan by Thursday of this week since I will be gone all of next week.

Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge

Preliminary Cooperative Farming Planting Map - 2009

United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
NORTH MISSISSIPPI REFUGES COMPLEX
P.O. BOX 1070
GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI 38902

September 22, 2008

Mr. Jerry Mixon
1284 Bill Locke Rd.
Marks, MS 38646

Dear Jerry:

Enclosed please find a map of Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge delineating the areas to leave as refuge share of the milo in accordance with the 2008 co-operative farming agreement. The map will need some explaining in terms of how Becky Rosamond, refuge biologist, and I determined the areas to leave as refuge share.

Although the milo provides a food source for waterfowl, we are looking for additional sources of natural foods such as millet, sedges, toothcup, and smartweeds that have volunteered and survived underneath and adjacent to the milo. Becky and I rode over a large portion of the milo fields and determined that all of Field 4 could be left standing for waterfowl. This would provide some diversity in food sources along with some logistical ease. Generally, Fields 1, 2, and 3 were somewhat "clean" underneath except for weeds such as coffeeweed, prickly sida, and morning glory, which are of no value to waterfowl. Conversely, the southern tip of Field 2 and the southern and western edges of Field 1 did have an abundance of natural foods complementing the milo.

The width of the milo strip left in Fields 1 and 2 is approximately 200' wide. I have placed blue flagging as a general guide to delineate the boundary of the strips. The unharvested milo left in Fields 1 and 2 along with Field 4 total about 50 acres, which is within the terms of the co-operative farming agreement. I realize the boundary of the strip in Field 1 runs in a north-south direction but the rows of milo do not. I'm not concerned about a clean, sharp edge between the standing and harvested milo. Hopefully, this will not cause too much of a logistical problem in harvesting the crop.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Also, please contact me at least 2 days prior to harvest. I would like to come up and photograph the harvest for our records and annual narrative.

Sincerely,

Chuck Hayes
North Mississippi Refuges Complex

Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge

Cooperative Farming Refuge Share Map - 2008

Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge
Crop Certification Table

Field #	Acres	Acres Planted	Crop Type	Loss (ac)
1	53.8	30 W.D. / 23 Soybeans	Milo/Soybeans	Ø
12	195.8	162.8/33	Soybeans/Milo	Ø
13	16.9	16.9	Soybeans	Ø
14	51.1	51.1	Soybeans	Ø
15	36.0	36.00	Soybeans	Ø
16	42.0	42.00	Soybeans	Ø
17	63.6	63.6	Soybeans	Ø
18	44.9	44.9	Corn	Ø
22	44.0	44.0	Soybeans	Planted 7/8/08

Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge
Crop Certification Table

Field #	Acres	Acres Planted	Crop Type	Loss (ac)
2555	222.3	222.3	Milo	25.0