United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge
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Davis, WV 26260
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August 24, 2009

Richard Meadows, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CELRH-PM-PP-P
502 8th Street
Huntington, WV 25701

Dear Mr. Meadows,

It has come to our attention through coordination with USACE Environmental Engineer, Nick McHenry, that there may be an opportunity to survey lands within Canaan Valley and on the National Wildlife Refuge for unexploded ordinance left over from WWII maneuvers. As you know, a hunter discovered a live 105 mm artillery shell on refuge property in 2007. Additionally used WWII bullet casings have been found at two separate locations on refuge property indicating dispersed training activity. Maps provided for refuge use from the period by the USACE indicate at least one site on Refuge property which may have been a target during the maneuvers.

Because of the recent ordinance discoveries, knowledge of possible target areas on the refuge and the fact that refuge staff and the hunting public access areas off trail on refuge property regularly we would support any investigations that may help clear areas of unexploded ordinance (UXO). We understand that there is a USACE project dealing with UXO's in that area in the "West Virginia Maneuver Area/Dolly Sods Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Project". The refuge fully supports this project and will assist the USACE where possible to help complete a survey of refuge lands.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Schafler
Refuge Manager