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DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

1801 N. Lincoln

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Oklahoma City, OK 73152

PH. 521-3851

December 20, 1999

Mr. Gene Wheeler
7434 SE 86th
Tulsa, OK 74137

Dear Gene:

The Assistant Director of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), Mr. Richard Hatcher, visited with you recently regarding the status of the Spring Creek trout stocking issue. He asked me to respond with an update on the matter.

As discussed in an earlier meeting with Spring Creek Angler Club representatives and members of the Governor's staff, ODWC and the Oklahoma State University Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit have begun research to address specific concerns regarding habitat and diet overlap of introduced trout and native species, particularly smallmouth bass. The study is funded with Sportfish Restoration money and should be completed in June 2002.

Mr. Hatcher also expressed that you didn't understand why we have denied the permit to stock trout in Spring Creek. Our reasons for the trout stocking denial are included in a letter to Mr. Herb Beattie dated December 10, 1998 (copy attached). Until new information from the study is available to support or reverse the denial, we believe it is in the best interest of the resource to continue to deny the request.

I would be happy to visit further about this matter at any time.

Sincerely,

Kim E. Erickson
Chief, Fisheries Division

cc: Mr. Richard Hatcher

