AUTHORIZATION FOR NRCS TO CONSULT AND RELEASE CASE FILE INFORMATION

Persons receiving federal funding through the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), to implement conservation projects, are required to comply with all Federal, State and local laws, as well as obtain any Federal State or local permits prior to the construction of the projects.

**Endangered Species Act**

In order to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Magnusson-Stevens Act-Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), NRCS is required to consult with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries) if we determine that our actions may affect ESA listed species or their Designated Critical Habitat.

**National Historic Preservation Act**

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires NRCS to consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) and other appropriate parties when NRCS proposes to fund conservation projects on private or tribal lands. NRCS must also work closely with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

**Release**

I,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have control of said project and/or property and **give my consent** for NRCS to consult with and/or release pertinent information from my case file relating to said consultation with the USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, SHPO, THPO or other appropriate parties to ensure compliance with ESA, EFH, and NHPA. This does not authorize access to my private property by non-NRCS agencies, tribes, groups or individuals.

I,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have control of saidproject and/or property and **choose not to give my consent** for NRCS to consult with and/or release pertinent information from my case file relating to said consultation with the USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, SHPO, THPO or other appropriate parties to ensure compliance with ESA, EFH, and NHPA.

If you choose not to give your consent, you may work directly with these agencies when the need arises and provide assurance of ESA, EFH and NHPA compliance to the NRCS prior to implementation of your planned project. NRCS will provide you with no further assistance until the consultation process has been completed.

NOTE: Failure to provide consent may affect your eligibility to receive USDA funding for your project. You may cancel this consent by written notice.

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NAME (Signature) DATE