



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

911 NE. 11th Avenue

Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AES

AUG 1 2006

Memorandum

To: See Below

From: Regional Director, Region 1
Portland, Oregon

Subject: Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Signature Authority

Effective October 1, 2006, signature authority for Section 7 consultations is delegated to Fishery Resources, Migratory Birds and State Programs, and the National Wildlife Refuge System in Region 1 for actions undertaken by these programs. The scope of this authority extends to the signing of concurrence memoranda and biological and conference opinions with conclusions of no-jeopardy and no-adverse modification of critical habitat. This delegation is intended to streamline the section 7 process for each program's activities and reduce the Ecological Services program consultation workload.

Under this delegation, the programs will have responsibility for conducting all section 7 compliance procedures on proposed program actions that may affect candidate, proposed, or listed species and proposed or designated critical habitat under the Service's jurisdiction. The programs will still need to consult and conference, as appropriate, with NOAA-Fisheries on the effects of program actions on proposed or listed species and proposed or designated critical habitat under their jurisdiction.

In circumstances where a draft biological or conference opinion has been prepared that supports a finding of jeopardy or adverse modification, the appropriate Ecological Services field office should be contacted to complete the consultation or conference. There may be other circumstances where it would be appropriate for an Ecological Services field office to conduct a consultation or conference. The discretion for this decision rests with the program project leader in coordination with the appropriate Ecological Services field office project leader.

Regular coordination with Ecological Services field offices is expected under this delegation to ensure that the best available information on the range-wide status of listed/proposed/candidate species and designated/proposed critical habitat is utilized in the consultation and conference processes. Such coordination should also facilitate an informal mentoring process while program staff gain more experience and expertise in conducting consultation and conference procedures. For tracking purposes, copies of all informal and formal consultations and conferences completed under this delegation should be sent to the appropriate Ecological Services field office(s).

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Section 7 training, supported by the National Conservation Training Center, will be scheduled for program staff to facilitate effective implementation of the delegated authority. Please provide Larry Salata of Ecological Services in the Regional Office with a program contact for purposes of completing the training arrangements.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Terry Rabot, Assistant Regional Director-Ecological Services, at (503) 231-6151. Technical questions concerning section 7 and this delegation should be directed to your local Ecological Services field office or to Larry Salata, Chief, Division of Consultation and Conservation Planning, in the Regional Office at (503) 231-2350.

Assistant Regional Director-Ecological Services, Portland, Oregon
Assistant Regional Director-Fishery Resources, Portland, Oregon
Assistant Regional Director- Migratory Birds and State Programs, Portland, Oregon
Regional Chief-National Wildlife Refuge System, Portland, Oregon
All Region 1 Project Leaders, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington