



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



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Memorandum

Aug. 24, 2012

To: Salton Sea Financial Assistance Program

From: Project Leader, SBSS NWR
Calipatria, California

Subject: Authority to sign funding agreement on behalf of the Refuge

The following policies are excerpts from the Fish and Wildlife Service Manual (FWM) that summarize authorities that are ultimately delegated to Refuge Managers (Project Leaders). Since the amount of individual duties' are extensive, the authorities generally provide detail on the exceptions to an authority, without providing exhaustive detail as to what is authorized.

031 FW 1, General Program Delegation

1.1 Delegation.

A. The **Director**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may, except as provided in 242 DM 1.2, exercise the authority of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks **with respect to any matter** relating to fish, wildlife, and plants. This includes, but is not limited to, **matters relating to** migratory birds, game management, **wildlife refuges** and monuments, endangered and threatened species, sport fisheries, sea mammals (except whales, seals and sea lions), international treaty responsibilities concerning the conservation of fish, wildlife or plants, and other activities of the Service.

Much of the above authority is redelegated further:

032 FW 3, Land and Water Management

3.1 General Provisions. **Regional Directors may exercise all the authority of the Director for the management of land and water resources,** except as indicated below.

3.2 Operation and Management of National Wildlife Refuges.

A. Limitations. Regional Directors' authority in 3.1 does not include the following:

(1) Approval of proposals for acquisition of lands for wildlife refuges of more than 40 acres not within or adjacent to the boundary of land administered by the Service.

(2) Naming of refuges.

(3) Approval of agreements between the Service and other Federal or State agencies involving the Service's vested rights in the title or dedication of the lands and waters of wildlife refuge areas.

(4) Approval, pursuant to 50 CFR 32.4, of the opening of refuge areas to public hunting and fishing.

B. Redelelegation. Regional Directors may redelegate all of their authority regarding National Wildlife Refuges to refuge managers with the following exceptions:

(1) Approval of activities for the soliciting of funds for the support or assistance of any cause or organization.

(2) Approval of motion or sound pictures needing a script, cast, schedule, or "props."

(3) Approval of search for buried treasure or treasure trove.

(4) Approval of the donation, loan, or sale of surplus wildlife species.

(5) Approval of special regulations for hunting of migratory game birds, including issuance of documents in 50 CFR.

(6) Approval of wildlife control operations involving live trapping and transfer, depredation permits and lethal reduction through means other than harvest.

The above policy gives Refuge Managers authority to conduct the business of maintaining the lands, waters and facilities of National Wildlife Refuges including pursuing grants, a common administrative function.

If you have any questions please call me at (760) 348-5278, ext 227.