



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO

### DIRECTOR'S ORDER NO. 143, Amendment 4

**Subject:** Responsibilities and Delegations of Authority for Native Endangered and Threatened Species Permits

This amends Director's Order No. 143, April 26, 2002, as follows:

Amend Sec. 5, subparagraph b, to add the following:

(3) Delegate permit signature authority to Ecological Services (E.S.) Field Office supervisors, at the discretion of the respective Regional Directors and California/Nevada Operations Office (CNO) Manager, as described below:

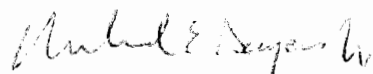
(i) Delegation Authority. Signature authority for permits, permit amendments, or permit transfers may be delegated to the E.S. Field Office supervisor only for low-effect Habitat Conservation Plans, Safe Harbor Agreements, and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances that are eligible for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

(ii) Limitation of Authority. Regional Directors and the CNO Manager retain signature authority for those actions not eligible for categorical exclusion under NEPA. The Regional Directors and CNO Manager also retain signature authority for any action involving a permit denial, suspension, or revocation, regardless of the level at which the permit was issued.

(iii) Guidance Requirements. If Regional Directors and the CNO Manager choose to delegate signature authority to E.S. Field Office supervisors, then they must develop internal guidance to address the shift in roles, responsibilities, and expectations for internal coordination involving other Field and Regional/CNO offices. This guidance will ensure consistent application of regulations, policy and guidance for these programs, as appropriate.

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(iv) Further Delegation. E.S. Field Office supervisors may not further delegate this signature authority.



**Acting**  
DIRECTOR

Date: November 16, 2005