



MEMORANDUM

To: Steve Williams, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Terry Crawforth, President, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

From: Glen Salmon, Cochair, Joint State/Federal Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy *Glen Salmon*
Clint Riley, JTF Cochair, Joint State/Federal Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy *Clint Riley*

Subject: Amendment of the Charter of the Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Aid Policy

The Joint State/Federal Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy (JTF), established in September 2002, has provided recommendations to resolve issues of national significance in the Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration Grant Programs. Based on its recommendations, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has issued seven Director's Orders and two memos to clarify policy issues. The JTF has been successful because of the collaborative work of its members and the input and feedback from the Service and State fish and wildlife agency partners.

The JTF would like to build on this record of achievement by reviewing operational policies and administrative problems, and recommend solutions, for the two newest grant programs administered by the Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Activity. These are the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program and the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). This additional policy-making authority for the JTF would not extend to the Tribal elements of these two programs.

The SWG Program originated as a \$49,890,000 appropriation in the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-291). These Fiscal Year 2001 funds were for competitively selected grants to States and Territories. The Appropriations Acts for the three subsequent fiscal years provided \$60-80 million for grants to States and Territories. The Service apportions these funds to implement wildlife management and habitat restoration for the most critical needs of species that are not hunted or fished. One of the primary purposes of the Program is to benefit declining wildlife species to preclude their listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. §1531, *et seq*).

The LIP Program originated as an appropriation in the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-63). Although the original appropriation was rescinded, the Appropriations Acts for the three subsequent fiscal years provided \$26-35 million for the Program to carry out the purposes of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. §4601, *et seq.*). The Service grants these funds competitively to the States and Territories to establish or supplement landowner incentive programs that protect and restore habitats on private lands. One of the primary purposes of the Program is to benefit species that have been listed, proposed for listing, are candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, or are otherwise documented as species-at-risk by the State or Territorial fish and wildlife agency.

In order to address the policy issues of the SWG and LIP Programs, the JTF requests the Service Director and the President of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to approve the attached amendment to the JTF charter. The amendment will also make two minor changes in the original charter: (a) it will change the term "Federal Aid" in the original charter to "Federal Assistance," as mandated by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-408); and (b) it will authorize changes in the composition of the JTF membership by mutual notification of the parties.

Through these recommendations, the JTF can assist the Service in its responsibilities to make awards in support of State and Territorial programs for species that are listed as threatened or endangered, species that are candidates for listing, or species that are declining or otherwise documented as species-at-risk.

Respectfully submitted,

Clint Riley, JTF Cochair, & Special Assistant to Director, USFWS
Glen Salmon, JTF Cochair & Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Members of the Joint State/Federal Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy (in alphabetical order)

Tom Barnes, Chief, Branch of Grant Operations and Policy, Division of Federal Assistance, USFWS
Gerald Barnhart, Director, New York Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources
Lisa Evans, Federal Funds Manager, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
John Frampton, Director, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Dale Hall, Regional Director, USFWS Region 2
Kelly Hepler, Director, Sport Fish Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mitch King, Assistant Director, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, USFWS
Tom Niebauer, Federal Policy Advisor, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Kris LaMontagne, Chief, Division of Federal Assistance, USFWS
Chris McKay, Assistant Regional Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, USFWS Region 1
John Organ, Wildlife Program Chief, Division of Federal Assistance, USFWS Region 5
Keith Sexson, Assistant Secretary for Operations, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Attachments:

Charter

Draft Charter Amendment