



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

United States Department of Agriculture
FOREST SERVICE



United States Department of Commerce
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Memorandum

To: Regional Directors, Fish and Wildlife Service
State Directors, Bureau of Land Management
Regional Foresters, Forest Service
Regional Administrators, National Marine Fisheries Service

From: Bryan Arroyo, Assistant Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director, Bureau of Land Management

Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief, Forest Service

John Oliver, Acting Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS; collectively “the Services”), with the assistance of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (FS), have completed the review of FS and BLM’s use of the Endangered Species Act counterpart regulations (50 CFR 402.30 to 402.34) for National Fire Plan activities during the first year of implementation. The attached report summarizes the requirements of the counterpart regulations and their alternative consultation agreements, describes in detail the approaches used by the Services to evaluate individual FS and BLM decision documents (biological evaluations/biological assessments), and documents the combined results of the evaluations. The attached document contains recommendations to the FS and BLM for improving the documentation of decisions they make pursuant to the counterpart regulations.

While the Services conducted the evaluations and the FS and BLM retain discretion over implementation of recommendations, the four agencies cooperatively prepared the attached report. By way of signing this document, the agencies acknowledge completion of this review, and acceptance of the recommendations in the report.

Finally, in accordance with the Alternative Consultation Agreements, the next review of the FS and BLM’s use of the counterpart regulations will occur in 2008, and a report will follow.