

Amendment to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Manual Chapter

Series: Population Management

Part 720: Migratory Bird Management

Chapter 1: Policies and Responsibilities of the Migratory Bird Program, published 8/9/2004

Amendment Number: 3

Purpose: This amendment adds a description of the Division of Bird Conservation, Permits, and Regulations (DBCPR) to clarify their authorities, objectives, and responsibilities. This is necessary because the DBCPR and its responsibilities are not currently described in this chapter. Under new regulations finalized for the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, effective April 12, 2024, Headquarters DBCPR has the authority to issue and administer general permits, which is not currently described in the chapter.

Actions:

Action 1 - Add a new subsection 1.3B as follows, and re-letter the remaining subsections as C through L:

B. The Chief, Division of Bird Conservation, Permits, and Regulations has responsibility for the development of policies, regulations, budget, and other directives for the conservation of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act). The Chief signs general permits under the MBTA and the Eagle Act. The Chief also leads coordination with Federal and international partners to further conservation of migratory birds.

Action 2 - In new subsection 1.3C, strike the existing subsection and replace it with:

C. The Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management has responsibility for development and implementation of policies, regulations, budget, and other directives for the conservation of migratory bird populations and their habitats. The Chief oversees the development and implementation of monitoring and management initiatives to maintain healthy populations of migratory birds and provide opportunities for citizens to enjoy bird-related recreation.

Action 3 – Add a new section 1.4 as follows and renumber old sections 1.4 through 1.12 as sections 1.5 to 1.13.

1.4 What does the Division of Bird Conservation, Permits, and Regulations do?

A. Regulation and policy development and implementation – The DBCPR is responsible for developing, maintaining, and interpreting regulations and policy under the MBTA and the Eagle Act. This includes revising the List of Birds Protected by the MBTA (50 CFR 10.13) and the regulations at 50 CFR 21, Migratory Bird Permits, and 50 CFR 22, Eagle Permits. DBCPR supports the Regions in the consistent application of regulations and policy for permit issuance and administration.

B. General permits – The DBCPR administers general permits under the MBTA and the Eagle Act. The Division Chief has the authority to sign general permits the Service issues and may further delegate this authority. The DBCPR administers an audit program for general permits and manages the administration fees collected from general permits.

C. Anthropogenic threats to birds – The DBCPR works with experts to identify the scale and scope of the predominant anthropogenic threats to birds. The DBCPR works with stakeholders, industries, and government partners to develop and implement solutions that reduce those threats to aid in the recovery of declining bird populations.

D. Conservation decision making – The DBCPR develops tools and processes to support conservation planning and decision making. The DBCPR is responsible for developing web-based tools that provide essential information to the public for conservation planning efforts. The DBCPR implements the program’s species conflict framework to support consistent management decisions and collaboration with other Service programs and agency partners.

E. Federal partners – The DBCPR is responsible for the implementation of Executive Order (E.O.) 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds. This includes developing and maintaining Federal partnerships to further conservation of migratory birds. The DBCPR leads the Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds and works with other Federal agencies to develop memoranda of understanding to implement E.O. 13186.

F. International partners – The DBCPR is responsible for coordinating with international partners to implement the bilateral migratory bird conventions. The Division Chief co-chairs and facilitates the Migratory Bird Working Table of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management. DBCPR works to support full annual-cycle bird conservation by promoting linkages among bird conservation partners and enhancing coordination, cooperation, and the development of partnerships among wildlife agencies throughout the Western Hemisphere. The DBCPR also coordinates with ministries in the Eastern Hemisphere to further support global bird conservation.

G. e-Permits – The DBCPR is the system owner of ePermits and is responsible for development and maintenance of online permitting on behalf of all Service permitting programs who implement online permitting in ePermits. The DBCPR is responsible for national, program-level policy, regulation, and oversight of the Migratory Bird Program’s permitting.

Action 3 – In new section 1.5A (currently at 1.4A), strike the existing sentence and replace it with: “The DMBM coordinates and conducts bird surveys, supports research, and sets hunting regulations.”

/sgd/ Stephen Guertin
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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