



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240



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## Memorandum

To: Regional Directors, Regions 1 and 4

From: Director *Steve Williams*

Subject: Authority to Exempt Insular Areas and Puerto Rico from Matching Requirements under the Federal Aid in Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Acts

This memorandum is to clarify guidelines for requiring matching funds on grants to Insular Areas and Puerto Rico. The updated guidelines are as follows:

1. Insular Areas<sup>1</sup> and Puerto Rico are exempt from any matching requirements for grants authorized under the Federal Aid in Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Acts. Specifically, the Secretary has broad authority under the Federal Aid in Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Acts to waive matching requirements of any amount for both Insular Areas and Puerto Rico for the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs.
2. Insular Areas only (not Puerto Rico) are exempt from grant matching requirements up to \$200,000 under all other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant programs.

This guidance follows the advice from the Office of the Solicitor, and is based on a previous Director's memorandum dated August 23, 1993 (attached), regarding the exemption of Insular Areas from matching requirements under all Service grant programs. Additionally, both the Federal Aid in Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Acts specifically authorize the Secretary to make grants to Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico under fair and equitable terms, and restricts the Secretary from requiring any of these entities to pay an amount in excess of 25 percent of the cost of any project.

If you have any questions, please contact the Assistant Director - Migratory Birds and State Programs (Attention: Chief, Division of Federal Aid), at 703-358-2156.

## Attachment

<sup>1</sup> Insular Areas are defined as the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (does not receive Sport Fish or Wildlife Restoration Program funds), and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands.