

Dated: March 6, 2007.

Orlando J. Cabrera,

*Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian
Housing.*

APPENDIX A—FISCAL YEAR 2006 FUNDING AWARDS FOR THE ROSS ELDERLY/PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

Mobile Housing Board	151 South Claiborne Street	Mobile	AL	36602	\$350,000
Lutheran Social Ministry of the South- west.	5049 East Broadway, Suite 102	Tucson	AZ	85711	375,000
The Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles.	2 Coral Circle	Monterey Park	CA	91755	350,000
Atlanta Regional Commission	40 Courtland Street, Northeast	Atlanta	GA	30303	375,000
Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii.	677 Queen Street, Suite 300	Honolulu	HI	96813	388,522
Chicago Housing Authority	626 West Jackson Street	Chicago	IL	60661	300,000
The Housing Authority of the City of New Albany, Indiana.	Post Office Box 11	New Albany	IN	47150	350,000
City of Wichita Housing Authority	332 North Riverview	Wichita	KS	67203	240,000
Housing Authority of Catlettsburg	210 24th Street	Catlettsburg	KY	41129	110,708
Housing Authority of Corbin	1336 Madison Street	Corbin	KY	40701	207,324
Grand Rapids Housing Commission	1420 Fuller Avenue, Southeast	Grand Rapids	MI	49507	164,734
Housing Authority of St. Louis Park	5005 Minnetonka Boulevard	St. Louis Park	MN	55416	210,627
Natchez Housing Authority	2 Auburn Avenue	Natchez	MS	39120	250,000
Public Housing Authority of Butte	220 Curtis Street	Butte	MT	59701	98,500
Gastonia Housing Authority	P.O. 2398, 340 West Long Avenue	Gastonia	NC	28053-2398	250,000
Dover Housing Authority	62 Whittier Street	Dover	NH	03820-2994	269,362
Garfield Housing Authority	71 Daniel P. Conti Court	Garfield	NJ	7026	350,000
Housing Authority of Gloucester County	100 Pop Moylan Boulevard	Deptford	NJ	8096	76,066
Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge.	20 Bunns Lane	Woodbridge	NJ	7095	350,000
Catholic Family Center	87 North Clinton Avenue	Rochester	NY	14604	375,000
Ithaca Housing Authority	800 South Plain Street	Ithaca	NY	14850	333,640
White Plains Housing Authority	223 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boule- vard.	White Plains	NY	10601	225,000
Columbiana Metropolitan Housing Au- thority.	325 Moore Street	East Liverpool	OH	43920	350,000
Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority ...	400 Tuscarawas Street East	Canton	OH	44702-1131	272,487
Mercer County Housing Authority	80 Jefferson Avenue	Sharon	PA	16146	240,000
City of San Marcos Housing Authority ..	1201 Thorpe Lane	San Marcos	TX	78666	207,311
Housing Authority of the City of El Paso.	5300 Paisano Drive	El Paso	TX	79905	450,000
Bennington Housing Authority	22 Willowbrook Drive	Bennington	VT	05201-1773	250,000
Rutland Housing Authority	5 Tremont Street	Rutland	VT	05701	248,750
Neighborhood House	905 Spruce Street, Suite 200	Seattle	WA	98104	125,000
Neighborhood House	905 Spruce Street	Seattle	WA	98104	250,000
Friends of Housing Corporation	9141 West Lisbon Avenue	Milwaukee	WI	53222	375,000
Wheeling Housing Authority	Box 2089 11 Community Street	Wheeling	WV	26003	239,160

[FR Doc. E7-6391 Filed 4-4-07; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

[Docket No. FR-4837-D-62]

**Delegation of Authority to Regional
Directors To Waive Certain Handbook
and Directives Provisions**

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of delegation of authority to regional directors in the HUD regional offices.

SUMMARY: In this notice, the Secretary delegates to the Regional Directors the authority to waive certain HUD handbook provisions and directives and announces the procedures that will

govern these waivers. Specifically, the delegation provides Regional Directors with concurrent authority to waive certain HUD handbook provisions and directives. Currently, the Regional Directors are located in Region I (Boston, MA); Region II (New York, NY); Region III (Philadelphia, PA); Region IV (Atlanta, GA); Region V (Chicago, IL); Region VI (Fort Worth, TX); Region VII (Kansas City, KS); Region VIII (Denver, CO); Region IX (San Francisco, CA); and Region X (Seattle, WA).

Any waiver of HUD handbook provisions and directives made in the field must be in writing and must specify the grounds for granting it. All waiver decisions by a Regional Director in the Office of Field Policy and Management must be jointly concurred in by the appropriate regional program director or Assistant Secretary. In

addition, the Department will make available for public inspection, for at least a 3-year period, a record of all waivers of HUD handbook provisions and directives.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 30, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Aaron Santa Anna, Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Legislation and Regulations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410; telephone number (202) 708-3055 or Mark Borum, Field Management Officer, Office of Field Policy and Management, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room 7122, Washington, DC 20410; telephone number (202) 708-1123. (These are not toll-free numbers.) These

numbers may be accessed through TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Comments or questions can be submitted through the Internet to *Aaron_Santa_Anna@hud.gov* or to *Mark_G._Borum@hud.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 106 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (Pub. L. 101-235, approved December 15, 1989) added section 7(q) to the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (HUD Act) (42 U.S.C. 3535(q)). Section 7(q) provides that any waiver of a HUD regulation or handbook provision must be in writing, specify the grounds for the waiver, and be indexed and made available for public inspection (42 U.S.C. 3535(q)(4)).

Pursuant to section 7(q) of the HUD Act, a regulation can be waived only by the Secretary or a designated Assistant Secretary or equivalent rank. The Secretary is the ultimate repository of the authority both to issue and to waive the regulations of the Department. The Secretary may delegate each of these powers to other HUD officers. Under section 7(q) of the HUD Act, however, the Secretary may not delegate the authority to waive a regulation below the Assistant Secretary rank. Individuals serving in an "acting" capacity may exercise the authority contained in this delegation. This delegation is subject to the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 (5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*).

Definitions as used in this delegation:

Assistant Secretary means an Assistant Secretary of the Department under section 4(a) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3533(a)), or an individual of equivalent rank.

Individual of equivalent rank means an individual with rank equivalent to an Assistant Secretary. The term includes the following HUD officers: The General Counsel; the Inspector General; the President of the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA); the Chief Financial Officer; and other positions appointed by the President requiring Senate confirmation.

Regional Director means an individual who is responsible for managing a HUD regional office.

*Directive*¹ means a non-Federal Register publication, as defined in HUD's handbook on the "HUD Directives System" (Handbook No.

000.2 REV-2 or such successor edition) and includes a handbook (including a change or supplement), notice, interim notice, special directive, and any other issuance that the Department may classify as a directive.

Handbook means a directive that communicates information of a non-temporary nature (including clarification of policies, instructions, guidance, procedures, forms, and reports) for HUD staff or program participants. The non-temporary nature distinguishes a handbook from temporary HUD directives, such as notices. (See paragraph 2-1A, HUD Handbook 000.2, *HUD Directives System*, or successor edition.)

Notice, in the context of a directive, means a non-Federal Register directive that is used to provide HUD program participants with temporary instructions involving HUD programs or to amend previous instructions until a handbook revision or change is issued. A notice must carry an expiration date of not to exceed one year, and may be extended. (See paragraph 2-1D, HUD Handbook 000.2, *HUD Directives System*, or successor edition.)

Interim Notice means a non-Federal Register directive that is issued at the discretion of an Assistant Secretary under emergency circumstances. Interim notices carry an expiration date not to exceed 120 days, and may not be extended. (See paragraph 2-1E, HUD Handbook 000.2, *HUD Directives System*, or successor edition.)

Regulation means "rule" or "regulation," as these terms are defined in Part 10 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and includes any material contained in Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations; any notice published in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of funds, or the criteria to be used to select recipients of the funds, under any program administered by the Department; and any other notice published in the **Federal Register** that establishes program requirements pursuant to a statute that authorizes the Department to administer the program by **Federal Register** publication, pending issuance of effective regulations amending Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Waiver of Directives and Handbook Provisions:

Form and Content of Waivers. Section 7(q) within the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(q), provides that any waiver of a HUD handbook or directive provision must be in writing, specify the grounds for the waiver, and be indexed and made available for public inspection.

Waivers of Directive or Handbook Provisions That Restate or Summarize a Regulation. Waiver of a directive or handbook provision that restates or summarizes a regulation may constitute a regulatory waiver for purposes of this Notice. The Office of General Counsel will determine whether a handbook or directive provision is to be treated as a regulatory waiver. If the handbook or directive provision is determined to be a regulatory waiver, it must comport with section 7(q) of the HUD Act, which requires the signature of the Assistant Secretary or equivalent.

All Prohibitions Against Discrimination. All prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, handicap, age, or familial status, and all related affirmative obligations that are direct derivatives of regulations governing prohibitions of discrimination are considered regulatory prohibitions.

Public Inspection of Waivers. A record of each waiver of a HUD directive or handbook provision (including the grounds for granting the waiver) will be maintained in indexed form, and will be made available to the public at the HUD Headquarters office with program authority over the HUD directive. The record will be maintained for not less than the 3-year period beginning on the date the waiver is granted.

Executive Order 12612, Federalism. The General Counsel, as the Designated Official under section 6(a) of Executive Order 12612, *Federalism*, has determined that this delegation will not have substantial direct impact on states or their political subdivisions, or on the relationship between the federal government and the states, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. The delegation only states procedures for granting waivers of regulations and directives, and for notifying the public of the waiver. As a result, this delegation is not subject to review under the Executive Order.

It should be noted that the actual grant of a waiver pursuant to this delegation may involve federalism implications. If this occurs, the relationship of the waiver to the Executive Order will be assessed at that time and in that context.

Section A: Authority Delegated

The Secretary delegates to each Regional Director concurrent authority within his or her respective jurisdiction, to waive those directives and handbook provisions pertaining to programs in the Offices of Housing, Public and Indian

¹ By its terms, section 106 reaches only HUD "handbooks." This is the one class of HUD directives, as defined in this Notice. In order to give section 106 the widest possible coverage, the Department has decided, as a matter of agency discretion, to subject all the Department's directives to the provisions of section 106.

Housing, Community Planning and Development, and Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. All waivers by the Regional Directors in the Office of Field Policy and Management must be jointly concurred in by the appropriate Regional Program Director or Assistant Secretary, as directed by the applicable Assistant Secretary.

Section B: Directives, Handbooks, and Provisions Excluded

The waiver authority delegated herein does not include the authority to waive regulations, or those Departmental directives and handbook provisions mandated by or directly predicated on a statute, executive order, or regulation, including, but not limited to, environmental, ethics, fair housing, civil rights enforcement and compliance, procurement, and other provisions. Additionally, the waiver authority delegated herein does not include the authority to waive provisions contained in the HUD Litigation Handbook.

Section C: Authority Revoked

Any previous delegated or redelegated authority to Regional Directors inconsistent with this delegation of authority is hereby revoked.

Section D: Authority To Redelegate

This authority may not be redelegated.

Authority: Section 7(q), Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(a)); Section 7(d), Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(d)); Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 (5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*).

Dated: March 30, 2007.

Alphonso Jackson,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7-6390 Filed 4-4-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Application of Endangered Species Recovery Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and receipt of applications.

SUMMARY: We announce our receipt of applications to conduct certain activities pertaining to enhancement of survival of endangered species.

DATES: Written comments on this request for a permit must be received by May 7, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Assistant Regional Director, Fisheries-Ecological Services, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225-0486; facsimile 303-236-0027. Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act [5 U.S.C. 552A] and Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. 552], by any party who submits a request for a copy of such documents within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to Kris Olsen, by mail or by telephone at 303-236-4256. All comments received from individuals become part of the official public record.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following applicants have requested issuance of enhancement of survival permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Applicant—Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana, TE-150365. The applicant requests a permit to take Topeka shiner (*Notropis topeka*) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing its survival and recovery.

Applicant—Sternberg Museum, Hays, Kansas, TE-150363. The applicant requests a permit to take gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), and black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing their survival and recovery.

Applicant—U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, Cortland, New York, TE-150352. The applicant requests a permit to take pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing its survival and recovery.

Applicant—U.S. Geological Survey, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, North Dakota, TE-121914. The applicant requests a permit amendment to modify survey and banding techniques for Interior least terns (*Sternula antillarum*), piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*), and pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing their survival and recovery.

Applicant—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Plains Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Office, Pierre, South Dakota, TE-056851. The applicant requests a renewed permit to take pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing its survival and recovery.

Applicant—Department of the Army, Conservation Division, Ft. Riley, Kansas, TE-049623. The applicant requests a renewed permit to take Topeka shiner (*Notropis topeka*) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing its survival and recovery.

Applicant—National Park Service, Zion National Park, Springdale, Utah, TE-057485. The applicant requests a renewed permit to take Holmgren milk-vetch (*Astragalus holmgreniorum*), Shivwitz milk-vetch (*Astragalus ampullarioides*), and Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing their survival and recovery.

Dated: March 21, 2007.

Elliott N. Sutta,

Acting Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.
[FR Doc. E7-6341 Filed 4-4-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Limestone, Madison, and Morgan Counties, AL

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, announce that a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft CCP/EA) for Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Complex is available for review and comment. The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires the Service to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. This Draft CCP, when final, will describe how we intend to manage the