

**AMENDMENT TO A  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MANUAL CHAPTER**

<b>Series 200:</b> Administration
<b>Part 202:</b> The Federal Register
<b>Chapter 1:</b> Overview for Publishing Federal Register Documents
<b>Amendment Number:</b> 1
<b>Purpose:</b> This amendment corrects 202 FW 1.7 to clarify that the Director may delegate digital signature authority to the Chief, Policy and Regulations Branch, on any Federal Register document the Director has the authority to sign, and not just on rules. Although the accompanying handbook made this clear, the chapter currently implies that this authority may only be delegated for rules. This delegation may only take place after the Director has approved the content of such documents.

**Actions:**

Under section 1.7 of 202 FW 1, make the following changes:

1. Under Table 1-1, subsection B (Director) change:

FROM:

(1) Signing rulemaking documents that pertain to specific species on the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants in 50 CFR part 17. The Director may delegate digital signature to the Chief, Policy and Regulations Branch (PRB), or to the Acting PRB Chief, but only after the Director has approved the content of the document (see section 1.7F(2)).

(2) Ensuring that we write rules that are clear and easy for the public to understand.

(3) Ensuring that we develop rules and get approval according to the criteria and procedures in 318 DM and Part 202 of the Service Manual.

(4) Ensuring that we prepare regulatory analysis documents when required.

(5) Requiring the Chief, Division of Policy, Economics, Risk Management, and Analytics (PERMA), to designate at least two employees to serve as principal and alternate Federal Register Liaison Officers.

TO:

(1) Signing rulemaking documents that pertain to specific species on the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants in 50 CFR part 17.

**(2)** Signing Federal Register notice documents, except for those notices where signature authority is delegated to a lower level (see section 1.7D(3)).

**(3)** Delegating digital signature of any Federal Register document described in section 1.7B(1) or B(2) to the Chief, Policy and Regulations Branch (PRB), or to the Acting PRB Chief, but only after the Director has approved the content of the document (see section 1.7F(2)).

**(4)** Ensuring that we write Federal Register documents that are clear and easy for the public to understand.

**(5)** Ensuring that we develop Federal Register documents and get approval according to the criteria and procedures in 318 DM and Part 202 of the Service Manual.

**(6)** Ensuring that we prepare regulatory analysis documents when required.

**(7)** Requiring the Chief, Division of Policy, Economics, Risk Management, and Analytics (PERMA), to designate at least two employees to serve as principal and alternate Federal Register Liaison Officers.

**2.** Under Table 1-1, subsection F (The Chief, Division of Policy, Economics, Risk Management, and Analytics (PERMA), through the Policy and Regulations Branch (PRB)):

FROM:

**(2)** Signing rulemaking documents when delegated by the Director as we describe in section 1.7B(1). When the PRB Chief or Acting PRB Chief is not available to sign, the PRB Chief may delegate the authority to the principal Federal Register liaison (or alternate Federal Register liaison), but no further.

TO:

**(2)** Signing Federal Register documents when delegated by the Director as we describe in section 1.7B(1) and B(2). When the PRB Chief or Acting PRB Chief is not available to sign, the PRB Chief may delegate the authority to the principal Federal Register liaison (or alternate Federal Register liaison), but no further.

/sgd/ Stephen Guertin  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Date: November 7, 2022