

Facility: DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
Title: Proposed Ring-necked Pheasant and Wild Turkey Hunting on DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

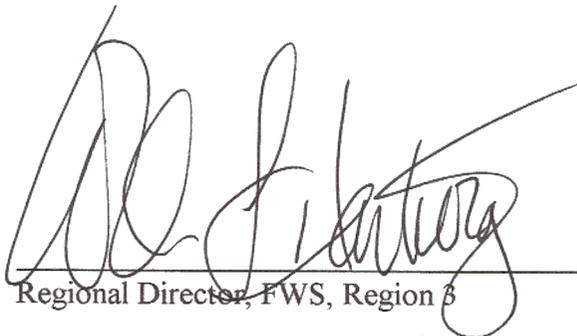
For the reasons briefly presented below and based on an evaluation of the information contained in the supporting references enumerated below, I have determined that conducting limited controlled ring-necked pheasant and wild turkey hunt, described as the Preferred Alternative in the attached Environmental Assessment (sub-section 2.2.3) at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge is not a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. An Environmental Impact Statement will, accordingly, not be prepared.

Reasons:

- 1 Providing the general public with a quality wildlife oriented recreational experience, promoting hunter safety and ethics, and utilizing a renewable natural resource will have no detrimental affects to DeSoto Refuge or the environment.
- 2 The impacts to threatened and endangered species and resident wildlife is minimal.
- 3 Opening the Refuge to unlimited upland game hunting would cause hazards to public safety.

Supporting References:

1. Environmental Assessment Checklist
2. Environmental Assessment
3. Section 7 Consultation
4. Compatibility Determination



Regional Director, FWS, Region 3

Date: 1-14-03

Distribution:
Wash., DC (OEC)
State Clearinghouse