

**Title:** Proposal to Implement Candidate Conservation Agreements and Conservation Measures for Eastern Massasaugas in States within Region 3 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service including Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin

### **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 implementing Candidate Conservation Agreements for eastern massasauga on protected properties throughout the Service's Region 3 and described in Alternative A in the attached Environmental Assessment

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.

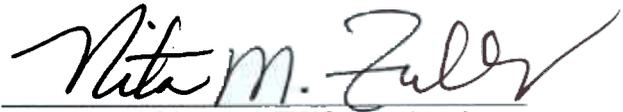
#### **Reasons:**

1. The Section 7 review determined that there would be "No Effect" for the Karner blue butterfly and for Mitchell's satyr and a "Not Likely to Jeopardize" for the eastern massasauga (Intra-Service Section 7 Form - attached).
2. Cultural resources will be protected from management actions to benefit the eastern massasauga by following the Section 106 process as defined in 36 CFR Part 800 (sub-section 2.2.1, p. 11 and sub-section 4.1.2, pp. 19-20 of EA).
3. Some public comments to the EA were received from agencies and private citizens. These have been addressed in Chapter 7 of the EA and with modifications to the EA where appropriate.
4. Public health and safety have been considered and a process has been developed to minimize adverse impacts to humans from any increase in the massasauga populations (sub-section 4.1.4, pp. 20-21 of EA).
5. The primary focus of the EA is to provide for Candidate Conservation Agreements throughout Region 3 on protected lands for improved management of eastern massasauga. This will result in usually subtle changes in land management and may eventually preclude the need to list this species (p. 1 of EA).

Supporting References:

1. Environmental Assessment Checklist
2. Environmental Assessment
3. Section 7 Consultation

Nita Fuller  
Acting Regional Director



Regional Director, FWS, Region 3

Date: 7.26.2005

Distribution:

Wash., DC (OEC)  
State Clearinghouse