

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SURPASSES GOALS SET TO HELP MINORITY BUSINESSES, MAKES PROGRESS IN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DESPITE RESTRICTIONS

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded over \$10 million in Federal contracts to socially and economically disadvantaged businesses for construction, services, and research during the fiscal year ending September 30. This was the third consecutive year the agency surpassed its "Minority Business Enterprise" goal.

Progress in Affirmative Action employment also was reported, although the Service did not meet all of its specified goals, partially because of a mid-year Federal hiring freeze. Despite the freeze, the agency achieved a net increase of 20 minority employees in permanent, full-time positions, including an increase of 17 in positions at GS-9 and above.

"We're proud that we increased our employment of these groups in higher grade positions, although we are determined to do a better job in meeting our goal at all levels in the Fish and Wildlife Service," said Director Lynn Greenwalt. The hiring freeze imposed last March resulted in fewer permanent, full-time hires, according to the Service's Office for Equal Opportunity and the Division of Personnel Management and Organization, which accounted in part for the agency's inability to fulfill the overall hiring goal for certain categories, such as for white females.

The Service's "Minority Business Enterprise" goal for 1980 was set at \$8 million -- 10 percent of the agency's estimated procurement budget. By the end of the fiscal year, the Service had awarded \$10,788,830 (135 percent of its goal) to qualifying businesses.

Major contract awards included \$725,494 to the Kem-Her Construction Company of Philadelphia for construction of an administration building at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge near Dover, Delaware; \$273,020 to Hubbard & Hubbard Construction Company of St. Louis, for earthen dams for fish ponds at the Frankfort (Ky.) National Fish Hatchery; and two awards totaling \$637,258 to Leland L. Anderson Construction, Inc., of Topeka, Kansas, for headquarters buildings at Swan Lake and Squaw Creek refuges in Missouri.

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