



ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

WILDLIFE SERVICE C. 20240



FEB 23 1988

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/EHC/ESP

### Memorandum

To: Regional Directors, Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7  
From: Director  
Subject: Fish and Wildlife Service Responsibility in Swampbuster Implementation

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) by virtue of the Food Security Act of 1985 and subsequent Department of Agriculture regulations, has both the opportunity and the responsibility to participate, to the fullest extent possible, in Swampbuster implementation activities. It is important that the Service offer the greatest possible technical support to agencies of the Department of Agriculture as they proceed with field implementation efforts.

Serious questions regarding the effectiveness of Swampbuster implementation efforts continue to surface. For the Service to be in the best possible position to respond to any questions ultimately directed to it, data based on field implementation experience will be required. Each Region should assemble pertinent information and be prepared to provide such on short notice. The type of information may vary somewhat from Region to Region but basically I will need to know the following:

1. What consultation opportunities are actually available to Service field personnel? Is Service participation making a difference? How should it be improved?
2. Is wetland conversion for agricultural purposes a continuing problem? To what extent has Swampbuster affected the conversion of wetlands?
3. How many potential violations have been observed and reported by Service personnel? What has been the response of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service to these reported activities? Is the response adequate? Attached is a form being utilized by Region 3 to report observed wetland modifications. Each Region should utilize this or something similar.

4. What would be the impact of an exemption from Swampbuster protection of Type 1 Wetland, both in terms of acres and lost wetland values?
5. If a minimal effect determination were routinely granted to conversions affecting wetland of less than one-quarter acre, what would be the impact, both in terms of acres and wetland values.



Attachment

CALL 1-800-541-8700 FOR MORE INFORMATION

