

APPENDIX I

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
AND THE
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

- WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has been delegated the authority of the Secretary of the Interior for the administration and enforcement of laws pertaining to fish, wildlife and plants; and
- WHEREAS, The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) has been delegated the authority for the administration and enforcement of laws pertaining to fish and wildlife in the State of Montana; and
- WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have law enforcement personnel located in the State of Montana, these people having the necessary training, qualifications, and experience to enforce all of these laws; and
- WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior has delegated law enforcement authority to the Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and given the Director responsibility for cooperative assistance in enforcing these acts in accord with any cooperative agreement;
- NOW, THEREFORE, the Assistant Regional Director for Law Enforcement of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6, and the Director of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks do hereby agree as follows:
1. Special Agents of the FWS and Law Enforcement Officers of the MFWP are expected to recognize possible violations of State and Federal laws, develop intelligence, collect evidence, and report their activities to the officer responsible for case coordination.
 2. Specific requests for investigative assistance by the State of Montana Coordinating Officer will be handled on an individual basis through the nearest Resident Special Agent in Montana.
 3. When Special Agents of the FWS provide investigative assistance to the MFWP, the following guidelines shall apply:
 - a. Both FWS and MFWP shall each designate a Case Agent who will be responsible for directing the operation and case reporting.

- b. Supervision will follow the routine of the parent agency.
- c. Decisions relating to investigative direction shall be initially decided by the designated Case Agents and confirmed by the appropriate level(s) of supervision in the respective agency.
- d. When operating within the respective investigation, the most restrictive legal policy shall apply (search and seizure, rules of evidence, laws of arrest, etc.).
- e. The State of Montana may supply up to \$100,000 per annum on any State/Federal cooperative investigation. The FWS shall supply that funding needed to complete a mutually agreed upon operation. All administrative reporting requirements shall be met as procedurally required by each parent agency.
- f. The MFWP and the FWS, within each agencies administrative guidelines and upon mutual agreement, may assist each other in the payment of expenses necessary to the administration or routine operation on cooperative operations.
- g. All funding initially provided by the MFWP will remain in an interest bearing account and any initial funding issued will require the signature of one person from the law enforcement unit.
- h. Decisions to allocate any funds to further the operation will be cleared, in advance, through the appropriate level of supervision in each agency and in accordance with agency administrative policy.
- i. All expenditures are to be documented if at all possible except when case officer safety is an issue. In those cases documentation is not mandated except as can be noted on monthly report forms. MFWP expenditures will be recorded in the checking ledger or covert/business books and the FWS will provide monthly accounting of funding expended to MFWP, office of the chief.
- j. Documentation on all expenditures will be available for audit only when the specific investigation is completed or upon advice of the United States Attorney or Attorney General for the State of Montana.

- k. The MFWP and FWS will request that the prosecuting agency(s) seek reimbursement through the courts of any identified expended funds for return to the MFWP fund for re-use within the parameters of agency policy.
- l. Operational closedown dates, charges to be filed, courts to be utilized and prosecution direction will be decided by the Case Agents and the appropriate level(s) of supervision.
- m. All news releases will be coordinated with the appropriate State/Federal attorneys' offices and the appropriate level(s) of supervision. There will be no release of case information without concurrence of all the above listed parties. The Public Affairs Office(s) to assume the lead in information dissemination will be determined by the parties prior to closedown.
- n. All seized property will be disposed of by the courts and/or mutual State/Federal agreement.
- o. Equipment may be loaned by one party to the other on an individual basis. Such equipment becomes the responsibility of the borrower and will be returned in the same condition as when received, normal wear and tear excepted. Damage in excess of normal wear and tear will be repaired by the user. Lost or stolen property will be replaced or reimbursed.
- p. Emphasis will be placed on the long term operation, with the goal of apprehending all major targeted violators. However, the length of time an operation will run will be dependent upon the mutual decision of the Case Agents and the State/Federal attorneys.
- q. Intelligence relative to joint operations will be centrally located and shared among the parties involved. Arrangements for intelligence centralization will be determined prior to initiation of operations.
- r. All property lawfully acquired under color of the covert operation will be disposed of in accordance with agency requirements/regulations.
- s. Business contracts may be entered into by either or both parties with cooperating private individuals in accordance with agency policy(s) to further covert operations. Both parties represented by this MOU must consent however to such 3rd party contracts.

This Memorandum of Understanding will become effective when signed by the Director of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for the State of Montana and the Assistant Regional Director for Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Either of the aforementioned parties may cancel this Memorandum of Understanding upon (30) days written notice to the other party member.



Director
Montana Department of Fish,
Wildlife and Parks

9-28-98
Date



Assistant Regional Director
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 6

10/22/98
Date

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