



United States Fish & Wildlife Service

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Memorandum

03/23/2004

From AD-Business Mgmt & Ops
Title Status of FWS Internet Shutdown

Note to Supervisors: Please ensure that all employees under your supervision receive a copy of this announcement via hardcopy, e-mail or fax.)

The U.S. District Court has once again ordered a shutdown of Internet connectivity for the FWS and most other DOI bureaus and offices to isolate and protect any vulnerable Individual Indian Trust data in DOI information systems. Although the FWS Information Security program is viable, other DOI bureaus and offices must complete a series of tasks before reconnection to the Internet may occur. In the interim, we are closely working with both DOI senior officials and the Department of Justice to prepare an appeal to the Court that will document the impacts of this disconnect on the services we provide to the public. We are also appealing to the Court to allow us to operate critical law enforcement and fire management information systems. Keep in mind that this situation is highly volatile and may change quickly as progress is made. We will routinely provide the latest information to you as it is received.

Here is the Service's current operational status:

What's Working -

- Email services within the Service (except as noted below).
- DOI/FWS' Federal Personnel and Payroll System (FPPS), business as usual.
- DOI/FWS' Federal Financial System (FFS), business as usual.

What's NOT Working -

- Field Stations that use Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to connect to the Servicewide Area Network (SWAN) are disconnected from email and all services.
- FWS.gov and other webpages are not available to the public.
- Blackberry services are not operational.
- Email from outside (non-Interior) sources will be bounced back to the sender as undeliverable.

All employees must use due diligence in following the Order of the Court. If you find, through some technical error, that you still have Internet access, please advise your supervisor immediately. We understand that employees are anxious to get back to "work as usual." However, we have been advised by the DOI that employees are NOT permitted to complete their work assignments through an ISP on their personal home computer or any other ad-hoc computer system (e.g., computers at local libraries, colleges, cyber cafes). Methods on how to complete current critical assignments that traditionally require the resources of the Internet must be discussed with your supervisor and coordinated with your Regional Chief Technology Officer before any work alternatives are established. The Division of Human Resources will provide more information on the impact of the Court Order on telecommuting and other work alternatives.

We appreciate your patience as we work with the DOI and DOJ officials to re-establish Internet connectivity.

Our mission is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.