



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

DEC 15 2011

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT

Travis T. Dardenne

Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764

Re: Travis T. Dardenne, DOI Case No. 11-0035-00

Dear Mr. Dardenne:

This is to provide you with my written decision as Debarring Official for the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) regarding your proposed debarment. I find that your debarment from Federal non-procurement and procurement award activities for three (3) years is warranted.

DOI proposed your debarment by Notice dated September 1, 2011. DOI proposed debarment under the governmentwide nonprocurement debarment regulation at 2 C.F.R. Part 180, adopted by the Department of the Interior at 2 C.F.R. Part 1400.

You timely responded to the Notice with a brief letter dated October 6, 2011. Your two sentence letter stated simply that you would like to contest the Notice and indicated the address to use for advising you of any future proceedings on the matter. By reply letter dated October 27, 2011, DOI established a schedule for proceeding on the matter. DOI sent the letter to you, at your address of record and the one you specified for use in these proceedings, by Postal Service express mail with delivery confirmation. The record establishes delivery on October 29, 2011.

Under the schedule you were to provide a written reply by close of business November 4, 2011, advising whether you wanted to make an oral presentation of matters in opposition (PMIO) as part of your contest of the Notice. By close of business November 14, 2011 you were to submit for the administrative record any substantive information you wished to provide in opposition to the proposed debarment. In the event that you did want a PMIO, the schedule letter tentatively set a date of December 20, 2011. You made no reply, either in writing, or by telephone, to the schedule letter.

On November 30, 2011, the DOI Debarment Program Manager, and the DOI case representative contacted you by telephone to ascertain whether in light of your silence, you intended to proceed with your contest of the notice. During the call, you indicated that by the next day, December 1, 2011, you would provide a reply. You were asked to do so by email when you indicated you have that service. DOI did not receive your reply, either by email or regular mail.

By letter dated December 6, 2011, DOI informed you that if you intended to proceed with your contest of the proposed debarment you must so advise by reply written communication no later than close of business, Monday, December 12, 2011. The letter cautioned that in the event you did not reply by that date, you would be deemed to have elected to withdraw your contest of the notice and the matter would proceed to determination without further proceedings. DOI sent the letter to you at your address of record, by Postal Service express mail with delivery confirmation. The record shows delivery on December 7, 2011. DOI has not received a reply to the December 6th letter. Accordingly, a determination on the record is appropriate at this time.

The proposed debarment action is based upon the information provided by the DOI Office of Inspector General in an Action Referral Memorandum (ARM) about your February 19, 2010, criminal conviction in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana. The Court convicted you, upon a guilty plea, of knowing unlawful acquisition of an endangered species, specifically an American Alligator, in contravention of the Endangered Species Act at 16 U.S.C §§1538(a)(1) (G), and the aiding and abetting thereof, in violation of the Lacey Act, at 3372(a)(1) and (4), and 3373(d)(2); and 18 U.S.C. § 2.

The ARM indicates that at relevant times you held a license in the State of Louisiana as an alligator hunter and were employed by a Louisiana hunting outfitter. In September of 2006 you guided a client of the outfitter on an alligator hunt into a prohibited area - an area for which you did not possess the required "hide tag". During that hunt an 11'5" trophy sized alligator was shot.

Your criminal offense indicates a lack of honesty and integrity. The fact of the conviction establishes the existence of cause for your debarment under 2 C.F.R. § 180.800(a) (4) and/or (d).

The DOI action notice proposed your debarment for a three year period, the routine length of time contemplated to be imposed under 2 CFR §180.865(a). Notwithstanding multiple opportunities, you have not provided for consideration any information as to why you should not be debarred. Accordingly, on the record presented, imposition of debarment for a three year period as proposed is warranted. Under the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 180, the period of your debarment measures from the date of this determination.

Debarment is a present, protective, remedy. In the event of changed circumstances, reversal of the criminal conviction upon which debarment is based, or other new relevant information about remedial or mitigation actions, you may at any time petition in writing for reinstatement, as provided under 2 C.F.R. § 180.880.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra E. Sonderman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "S".

Debra E. Sonderman, Director
Office of Acquisition and Property Management

cc: David M. Sims, PAM
Jim Weiner, SOL
Lori Vassar, OIG
Stanley Stocker, OIG
Official Case File

