

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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To: All Washington Office and Field Office Officials

From: Group Manager, National Recreation

Subject: May 2003 Document Titled *The BLM's Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services (BLM Workplan Fiscal Years 2003-2007)*

Program Areas: Recreation Resource Management and Visitor Services.

Purpose: This Information Bulletin officially announces the availability of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) May 2003 document titled *The BLM Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services (BLM Workplan Fiscal Years 2003-2007)*.

Policy/Action: This Workplan incorporates the Department of the Interior's Strategic Plan goals to improve access to appropriate recreation opportunities, to ensure a quality experience and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources, and to provide for and receive fair value in recreation. The three principle Goals, seven major Objectives, 31 key Milestones, and 137 separate Actions describe the BLM's priorities for management of public lands recreation and the delivery of visitor services. Implementation of the Workplan will be held to a high level of accountability. Both quarterly and annual progress reports will be made to the ELT by the Recreation and Visitor Services Advisory Team (RVSAT) which was officially chartered by the Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning (W0-200) on July 29, 2003.

Timeframe: It is anticipated that the May 2003 document titled *The BLM Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services (BLM Workplan Fiscal Years 2003-2007)* will retain its full five-year viability, but it is, by design, intended to be a dynamic workload-guiding instrument. As specific actions items are accomplished, new actions will be added to maintain the Workplan's contemporary value.

Background: Approximately two years ago, the BLM Director requested that California State Director Mike Pool work with several other members of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) to formulate a set of national priorities for the BLM's Recreation Management Program. The Director outlined several key factors which prompted this request including: 1) recreation and tourism has become a high profile management issue for almost every BLM State and Field Office in recent years, and has made the top-four list of priorities within the Department of the Interior; 2) recreation and tourism has become one of the key economic boosters in all of the

western states and in most of these states' political subdivisions; 3) recreation-related issues such as motorized access, permits and fees, infrastructure development, and visitor service availability are fast becoming flash-point topics among many BLM constituencies; and 4) western communities, and particularly rural communities, are recognizing their growing dependence on the BLM-administered public lands within proximity to fulfill specific quality-of-life expectations.

With ELT oversight, assignments were made to the BLM's National Recreation Group (WO-250) and key BLM State Recreation Program Leaders to define future recreation workload and to begin preparation of a "recreation program priorities" document. Following the January 2003 National Recreation Workshop in Redding, California, where significant work was accomplished in refining a full set of recreation priorities for the BLM, a final draft version of the document titled *The BLM Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services (BLM Workplan Fiscal Years 2003-2007)* was delivered to the ELT, through State Director Pool, for consideration. The ELT supported the draft effort, and asked that the document be finalized. In May 2003, at the ELT's regularly scheduled meeting, State Director Pool delivered the final product and received unanimous approval for its printing and distribution. This document has been printed, and a limited supply is still available from either State Office Recreation Program Leaders or the National Recreation Group (WO-250).

Coordination: Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning (WO-200), Assistant Director, National Landscape Conservation System (WO-170), and Group Manager, Public Affairs (WO-610).

Manual/Handbooks Section Affected: None.

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