

July 31, 2007

In Reply Refer To:
6300 (CA930)P

EMS TRANSMISSION: 7/31/07
Instruction Memorandum No CA-2007-026
Expires: 9/30/08

To: All California Field Managers
From: State Director
Subject: Notice of Proposed Actions for Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) outlines the requirements and procedures for completing a Notice of Proposed Actions (NOPA) when dealing with proposed actions that affect WSA and wilderness actions in California.

Background: BLM is required to inform all affected or interested publics about any proposed action, specific emergency responses, or unauthorized activity occurring within BLM Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) or wilderness areas. The standard procedure for notification is through the (NOPA) process. The Interim Management Policy (IMP) or H-8550-1 and previous (but expired) California Instruction Memorandums for managing wilderness areas outline some of the notification requirements.

Because of new wilderness designations, recent questions about the use of NOPAs and the need to update an expired IM that addressed NOPAs, we are issuing the attached "California NOPA Procedures" (attachment 1) and an example of a completed NOPA (attachment 2).

Policy/Action: This IM combines and clarifies the direction for the use of NOPAs provided through H-8550-1 and incorporates the use of NOPAs for designated wilderness areas. Generally the California policy through this IM is:

- All offices must notify interested or affected parties about proposed actions affecting WSAs or wilderness areas before such actions are approved. This should occur at least 30 days before the action, except in the case of emergencies.
- Copies of the NOPA must be kept in the Field Office's wilderness files.
- All Field Offices must provide the State Director (CA-930, NLCS Coordinator) a copy of the NOPA for the proposed action/unauthorized activity and a copy of the final decision for the action.
- NOPA can be sent to interested parties either electronically or by mail.

This IM cancels California IM No. 98-56, subject: Public Notification of Proposed Actions and Unauthorized Activities within WSAs and Wilderness Areas.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None

Coordination: This IM was developed after close coordination with the WO-170, other wilderness state leads, and the wilderness coordinator in the California State Office. This direction is essentially an update of an earlier IM (CA IM No. 98-56) that addressed this topic.

Contact: Questions regarding this IM may be directed to Paul Brink, the California NLCS Coordinator (CA-930) at (916) 978-4641.

Signed by:
James Wesley Abbott
Associate State Director

Authenticated by:
Richard A. Erickson
Records Management

Attachments:

California NOPA Procedures (4 p)
Example of Completed NOPA Letter and NOPA (3 p)

cc: Chris Roholt (CA-610)
Peter Mali (WO-170)