



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arizona State Office
222 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004
www.az.blm.gov

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February 10, 2004

EMS TRANSMISSION: 02/17/2004
Instruction Memorandum No. AZ-2004-021
Expires: 09/30/2005

To: All Arizona Employees

From: State Director

Subject: Achieving Consistency in Arizona Land Use Planning Efforts

DD: None

Purpose: Guidelines for achieving consistency in ongoing and future Arizona Land Use Planning efforts.

Background: Recent briefings at the State Office have revealed an inconsistent use of terminology and approaches regarding how Planning Areas are being divided into smaller units to make it easier to work with during the planning process. Additionally, a consistent approach is needed for how we identify and plan for areas emphasizing the protection of some or all of the wilderness characteristics along with or as a priority over other multiple uses, without making a formal Special Area Designation. A statewide planning meeting was held on October 27-28, 2003, the purpose of which was twofold: (1) to agree upon the approach Arizona BLM would take to achieve consistency among ongoing planning efforts, and (2) to agree on how Arizona BLM would implement IM 2003-275 - Change 1, Consideration of Wilderness Characteristics in Land Use Plans. Each Arizona Field Office was represented by planning, NEPA and wilderness expertise. The guidance provided in the attachment is one of the products of this two-day meeting.

Policy/Action: All currently ongoing and future planning efforts must comply with the guidance to achieve consistency in Arizona land use planning presented in the attachment.

Timeframe: This IM is effective immediately.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None

Budget Impact: None

Contact: If you have any questions, contact Gregg Simmons, State Planning and NEPA Program Lead, at 602-417-9446.

SIGNED BY:

Michael A. Taylor

Acting for Elaine Y. Zielinski

AUTHENTICATED BY:

Susan Williams

Staff Assistant

Attachment

1 – Achieving Consistency in AZ Land Use
Planning Efforts (3 pp.)