

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL APPLIED RESOURCE SCIENCES CENTER
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER, BUILDING 50
P.O. BOX 25047
DENVER, COLORADO 80225-0047**

September 8, 2000

In Reply Refer To:
1200 (RS-100) P

Information Bulletin No. RS-2000-137

To: Director 200, MIB, Room 5650
Director 300, MIB, Room 5627
Director 700, MIB, Room 5628

From: Director, National Applied Resource Sciences Center

Subject: Use of the Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit Network to Meet Diversity Objectives

The Department of the Interior, along with other Executive Branch agencies, has joined with numerous universities throughout the United States to form the Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit (CESU) Network. Each CESU is a consortium of universities that have joined together to make their expertise available to the participating agencies at a prenegotiated overhead rate of 15 percent. Contracting with participating universities is through a master agreement with specific task orders for products or services. The master agreement covers activities that are classified in the areas of natural sciences, social sciences, and cultural resources in support of public land management. Specific information regarding the CESU Network can be found at <http://www.cesu.org/cesu>.

Currently, there are six CESUs and four future CESUs that BLM is a partner with. Each CESU has, as a part of their consortium, one or more Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) or Native American Universities. A list of the membership of six of the CESUs is included in Attachment 1. This provides the Bureau with a unique opportunity to partner with our minority universities through the CESU Network to support our mission and provide opportunities to these various universities to become acquainted with the Bureau, recruit minority candidates for positions, and build their academic capacity.

By way of this IB, I am recommending that the Bureau develop a strategy that builds on the opportunity that the CESU Network provides to meet both our operational science and research needs and our diversity objectives. This strategy should identify our operational needs that can

be contracted with the HBCUs, HSIs, or Native American Universities using the CESU mechanism. This will not only facilitate our relationships with the minority universities but will also solidify our commitment to the CESU Network which is supported by the Department.

I would be happy to talk to you more about this opportunity to make our diversity initiatives and our natural resource management mandates synergistic.

Signed by:
Lee Barkow
Director

Autheticated by:
Rheda Dodd
Staff Assistant

1 Attachment
1 - List of CESUs (2 pp)

Distribution
RS-150A, BLM Library