

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Forest
Service**

R-6

OR/WA

**Bureau of Land
Management**

**United States
Department of
the Interior**

Reply Refer To: 5100 (FS)/ 9210 (BLM) (OR-934) P

Date: June 12, 2006

FS-Memorandum

**EMS TRANSMISSION 06/14/06
BLM-Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2006-043
Expires: 09/30/2007**

To: Bureau of Land Management District Managers and Forest Service Forest Supervisors

Subject: Interagency Radio Backbone System

DD: 06/30/06

Program Area: Radio Communications

Purpose:

This Instruction Memorandum is transmitting the Interagency Radio Backbone System Strategic Plan to the Districts and Forests. In addition, this is a request for information needed to proceed with the completion of an Oregon/Washington-wide radio coverage map.

Policy/Action:

We are beginning the implementation of an Interagency Radio Backbone to serve the needs of both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service (FS) in Oregon and Washington. Details on the implementation of this strategy are in the Interagency Radio Backbone System Strategic Plan (attached).

Timeframe:

The due date for the requested information is June 30, 2006. Field verification of the initial coverage map will occur in July and early August.

Budget Impact:

Cost for development of the coverage map will be at the State Office/Regional Office (SORO) level. There may be some costs to field units to validate the accuracy of the initial coverage map.

Background:

Last December a meeting was held in SORO to address several issues dealing with radio communications in south central Oregon. Out of this meeting two groups were created to address the issues needing resolution. The first was a tactical team tasked with addressing specific issues for south central Oregon. The second group was tasked with developing a Strategic Plan which would enable implementation of a single radio system to serve both the BLM and the FS in Oregon and Washington. This group completed the Interagency Radio Backbone System Strategic Plan.

This plan identifies the need to complete an Oregon/Washington radio coverage map by October 1, 2006, to enable us to determine the adequacy of current coverage, and then determine how to make any needed improvements in coverage. To accomplish this task, each Forest and District will need to submit the following information to Dale Guenther on the SORO staff by June 30, 2006:

The latitude and longitude of current repeater on the Forests and Districts, elevation of the site, antenna height, antenna type, antenna gain, tower height, transmit power, transmission frequency, and radio type.

Once the initial coverage map is completed, Dale will be contacting each Forest and District to identify sample points to validate the accuracy of the coverage map. Each Forest and District should plan on making personnel available to accomplish this task.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:

No Manual or Handbook Sections are affected.

Coordination:

Team members involved in the development of this strategy included Fire and Aviation Management, FS Information Solutions Organization, BLM Information Technology, BLM National Radio Telecommunications, FS National Radio Telecommunications, and management representation from the Fremont/Winema/Lakeview Interagency Unit.

Contact:

Carl Gossard, Chief, Branch of Fire and Aviation Management
Dale Guenther, Information Technical Specialist, SORO

Districts with Unions are reminded to notify their unions of this Instruction Memorandum and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

/s/ Linda Goodman
LINDA GOODMAN
Regional Forester, Region 6
Forest Service

/s/ Elaine M. Brong
ELAINE M. BRONG
State Director, OR/WA
Bureau of Land Management

1 Attachment(s)

1 – [Strategic Plan Interagency Radio Backbone System](#) (6 pp)

BLM Distribution

WO – (FA-100)

WO-560D (Russ Sveda)

cc:

WO – Fire and Aviation

WO – Tom Thomison

Fremont/Winema NF – Rick Rine