



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office

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In Reply Refer to:

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January 22, 2007

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Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2007-019

Expires: 9/30/2008

To: District Managers: Burns, Lakeview, Medford, Prineville, Spokane, Vale

From: State Director, Oregon/Washington

Subject: Develop Oregon/Washington District Schedules for Completing the Full Processing of Grazing Permits/Leases by FY 2009

Program Area: Rangeland Management and Livestock Grazing Administration

Purpose: The purpose of this Instruction Memorandum (IM) is to direct each District, in consultation with the State Office (OR-930), to develop a schedule of grazing permit/lease (hereafter referred to as "permits") renewals to meet the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 commitment. By developing a work schedule of remaining permit renewals to be accomplished in FY 2007, FY 2008 and FY 2009 for each district, we can better evaluate our critical needs and identify specific workforce and budget options over the course of the next two and one half years to accomplish this priority work.

Policy/Action: Attachment 1 is a table that shows the status of land health assessments and fully processed permit renewals, current through FY 2006. Each District should review this information to insure that it is accurate along with filling in a proposed schedule for processing the permit renewals in FY 2007-2009. The proposed schedule will include the number of remaining allotments expected to have completed land health assessments by year, as well as, the number of remaining permits that will be fully processed by year, concluding in FY 2009.

Each District should also provide a brief narrative that describes any specific issues, complexities or other problems that may create difficulties in completing the permit renewals by FY 2009. In addition, steps that have been taken or are planned to be taken to overcome these impediments to ensure successful completion of the permit renewals should be noted. It should be assumed that: current and future budgets will be flat; the use of the 1020 base formula will continue to be used to allocate funds; and implementation of the Strategic Fund will continue to include directing these funds toward assisting District Offices to complete this effort.

Timeframe: This policy will be effective upon issuance of this IM. Attachment 1 should be completed and forwarded to Mike Mottice, Deputy State Director (OR-930) by February 9, 2007.

Budget Impact: No significant increased costs are expected as a result of implementing this IM. However, information generated from this IM may be used in the future to adjust allocations of rangeland program funds between the Districts Offices.

Background: Congress and the Office of Management and Budget have required the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to fully process grazing permit renewals scheduled to expire between 1999 and 2009 by the end of FY 2009. The BLM is committed to accomplish this as reflected in Washington Office (WO) IM No. 2003-071 and the initial WO FY 2000 Annual Work Plan directives. These direct that land health evaluations should be used as much as possible to provide information for the National Environmental Policy Act process associated with issuing a grazing permit or lease. In addition, “States are to complete land health standards evaluations on at least ten percent of the livestock grazing lands under their jurisdiction each year”; and the full processing of permits/leases “will not be deferred to the end of that 10-year period, but will be completed by the end of FY 2009”.

The “Oregon/Washington Strategy for Eliminating the Backlog of Grazing Permits and Leases by the end of FY 2009”, approved April 6, 2006, is the primary guidance to be followed in continuing to renew grazing permits. It is recognized that completing the “full processing” of all grazing permit renewals by the end of FY 2009 is a challenging task that requires strong support by managers and staff at all levels. This is a State Director priority as reflected in the FY 2007 PTA which identifies the need for an integrated program and funding support, including the allocation of Strategic Funds to accomplish this commitment.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None

Coordination: This policy has been developed with input from OR-932, OR-933, and field office staff and will help to expedite the processing of grazing permit/lease renewals.

Contact: If you have further questions or need additional information on this matter, please feel free to call Craig MacKinnon, Rangeland Management Specialist (OR-932), at 503-808-6157.

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.

Signed by
James G. Kenna
Associate State Director

Authenticated by
Rita Wallberg
Records Section

1 Attachment(s)

1 - [Appendix 1 District Schedule](#) (1p)

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