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**FS-Memorandum**

**EMS TRANSMISSION 08/21/2008  
BLM-Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2008-082  
Expires: 09/30/2009**

**To:** Forest Service Supervisors, Region 6  
Bureau of Land Management, Oregon/Washington District Managers

**Subject:** Use of Technical Assistants in Cultural Resource Activities

Cultural Resource Activities and Cultural Resource Technicians, also known as paraprofessional assistants, have played integral roles in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) and Forest Service's heritage programs since their inceptions in the mid-1970s. These trained and experienced personnel have assisted cultural resource specialists in carrying out certain field survey tasks. These assistants are different from archaeological technicians, such as those in the GS102 series, who have more formal academic training and can perform more independently under direction of the agency cultural resource specialist.

Questions have arisen from State Historic Preservation Offices and Indian tribes in Oregon and Washington over the past several months concerning the extent to which the agencies rely on the assistants in some areas. They wish to see certain levels of professionalism maintained in the agencies with regard to cultural resource management activities. As expressed in their inquiries, over the past decade, compliance surveys have become more complicated with the continued advances in the field of archaeology; legal requirements have increased, including identification of tribal concerns in proposed project areas; use of complex analyses and databases are being implemented; and the likelihood of appeals and lawsuits has increased. The need for assuring a professional quality of work has grown to ensure the performance of legally defensible compliance work.

Given these concerns, the attached set of draft standards is proposed to ensure we are maintaining our reputation for highly professional and credible work. These standards provide consistency between the two agencies and among the administrative units within each agency. They also build on earlier standards approved by the Regional Forester and BLM State Director.

Please review this draft and provide comments by August 29, 2008, to Richard Bailey, Acting, Regional Cultural Resource Program Lead, at [Richard\\_Bailey@blm.gov](mailto:Richard_Bailey@blm.gov).

Rick Brazell  
for LIZ AGPAOA  
Deputy Regional Forester, Region 6  
USDA Forest Service

JAMES G. KENNA  
Associate State Director, OR/WA  
USDI Bureau of Land Management

1 Attachment

1 – [Guide for the Use of Technical Assistants in Cultural Resource Activities](#) (4pp)

cc:

FS Marti Marshall (RLM)

BLM Distribution

WO-240 (LS-204)