

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
COLORADO STATE OFFICE  
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To: All Employees  
From: State Director  
Subject: Western Slope Center Manager Position

I know many of you have been wondering what my final decision is on the Western Slope Center (WSC). After much deliberation, I have decided to accept the recommendations of the team evaluating the WSC which would retain the current WSC structure while assigning the scarce and shared resource skills to their resident Field Office organization. In addition, I have elected to reassign responsibility for multi-jurisdictional resource projects, such as RAC coordination, to the field office managers as they are more directly involved in these issues. The other mission responsibilities of the WSC: interagency fire management, information technology, administrative services, and public information will remain in the center organization.

After the Center Manager position became vacant, I convened a team, led by Doug Koza, to discuss the possible reorganization of the WSC. In addition to the team's recommendation, I also discussed the WSC structure and mission with several WSC employees, field office managers/associate managers, members of our fire organization, and a number of senior Forest Service managers. I believe in the long run we will be moving toward distributing the function and positions in the WSC to the field; however, the current structure provides the best organization for our unique business needs. I will be recruiting and filling the vacant Center Manager position as a four year term appointment that can be converted to a permanent placement if our unique needs continue.

I want to thank all of you for your feedback and your patience. I particularly want to thank the employees of the WSC for "staying the course" while waiting for a final decision on this issue. If you have any questions please contact Melissa Dukes at 303-239-3920.

Signed by  
Ron Wenker  
State Director

Authenticated by  
Don Snow  
EMS Operator