

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
COLORADO STATE OFFICE  
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LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 80215-7093  
October 29, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
CO-931  
1610 (P)

EMAIL TRANSMISSION 10/29/2003  
Instruction Memorandum No. 2004-012  
Expires: 09/30/04

To: Field Office Managers  
From: State Director  
Subject: Implementation of Washington Office (WO) Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. 2003-275 Consideration of Wilderness Characteristics in Land Use Plans and IM No. 2003-274 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Implementation of the Settlement of Utah v. Norton Regarding Wilderness Study

The following guidance brings Colorado BLM into compliance with the policy outlined in WO IM-2003-275 and IM-2003-274.

1). Rescission of Colorado BLM IM's Regarding Citizens' Wilderness Proposal (CWP).

-IM No. 2002-07 (Review of Colorado Environmental Coalition (CEC) Information Regarding Snaggletooth, Cow Ridge, and Grand Hogback) has expired and is no longer to be used as guidance.

-IM No. 2001-06 (Notification and Review Policy regarding CWP) has expired and is no longer to be used as guidance.

-IM No. 1999-13 (Processing Actions Proposed in the Remaining Areas in the CWP) has expired and is no longer to be used as guidance.

-IM No. 1998-17 (Policy for Review of Roadless Areas on BLM Public Lands in Colorado) has expired and is no longer to be used as guidance.

-IM No. 1997-44 (Policy for the Management of Lands Described in the CEC Wilderness Proposal for BLM Lands) has expired and is no longer to be used as guidance.

2). Notification of Interested Parties

BLM Colorado will notify those interested parties in accordance with the public involvement requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1506.6). For proposed actions within the CWP, interested parties who have requested notice will be notified at the initiation stage. Once a decision is made, the environmental document will be made available to interested parties.

3). Reviewing New Information

When implementing land use plans, the BLM must, as with any new information, determine if the BLM wilderness inventories or public wilderness proposals contain significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or impacts that have not previously been analyzed. Since every land use plan and supporting NEPA document is different, this determination will need to be done on a case-by-case basis. New information or changed circumstances alone, however, or the failure to consider a factor or matter of little consequence, is not a sufficient basis to require additional NEPA

consideration prior to implementing a previously approved decision. If the new information is sufficient to show that the action will affect the quality of the human environment in a significant manner or to a significant extent not already considered, then a supplemental NEPA document shall be prepared (40 CFR 1502.9).

To help determine whether the new information or circumstances are significant, the BLM should look at the definition of “significantly” at 40 CFR 1508.27, which requires consideration of both context and intensity. The BLM should look at Attachment #2 “Review of New Wilderness Information During Plan Implementation” in WO-IM-2003-275 for more information regarding the review of new wilderness information during plan implementation.

This direction is effective immediately, and WO IM-2003-275 and IM-2003-274 will be used as guidance.

Signed by  
Ron Wenker  
State Director

Authenticated by  
Don Snow  
EMS Operator