

Attachment 7:

Decision for Approval and Implementation of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM)
Geospatial Services Strategic Plan (GSSP) – November 2007

I approve the goals and objectives of the Geospatial Services Strategic Plan FY2008 (GSSP). The Geospatial Services Strategic Plan was prepared with the participation of BLM staff from the Washington Office, State Offices, Field Offices and Centers. The GSSP has been reviewed internally with comment periods from April 2, 2007, to May 18, 2007, and again during a second formal review and comment period from June 28, 2007, to August 1, 2007. The comments were reviewed and addressed by staff in the Division of Decision Support, Planning and NEPA.

The BLM will use the approved GSSP as a guide, as it addresses business requirements, resource data standardization, and the selection of geospatial technology. The GSSP will also provide a framework for implementing the geospatial data management components of the Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) Initiative and geospatial data management components for the projects undertaken in the Healthy Lands Initiative (HLI).

The GSSP will be reviewed and updated, if needed, annually to reflect changes to BLM priorities and the Department of the Interior's Geospatial Modernization Blueprint.

The GSSP is approved with the understanding that no systems will be retired from service until alternative systems are available to meet the business needs of the users of the retired system. I expect that the focus of effort for the people engaged in the development of the GSSP will now shift to the implementation of specific work products identified in the GSSP. Priority needs to be placed on those items that will generate significant cost savings both in the short and the mid term. The GSSP states that it can be fully implemented within five years. Tasks for FY2008 and FY2009 should focus on national data standards and developing national and regional data storage and warehousing capabilities. The Managing for Excellence Data Subcommittee and the Assistant Director for Renewable Resources and Planning will report estimated annual cost savings from actions implemented under this strategy.

Approved: _____ Date: _____
James L. Caswell, Director