

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

January 5, 2006

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Instruction Memorandum No. 2006-060
Expires: 09/30/2007

To: All Washington Office and Field Office Officials

From: Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning

Subject: Incorporating Benefits-Based Management within Recreation and Visitor Services Program Policy Changes

Program Areas: Recreation and Visitor Services

Purpose: This IM affirms the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) program direction approved by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) to adopt an expanded conceptual framework for planning and managing recreation on public lands. Strategies and policy for planning and managing recreation-tourism use is described in two key documents: "*The BLM's Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services*" (see WO IB No. 2004-072) and in Sections II.C and II.D of Appendix C to the Land Use Planning (LUP) Handbook (H-1601-1, Release 1-1693, dated March 11, 2005). The BLM's recreation constituents and gateway communities have affirmed these changes are appropriate direction for the future management of recreation and visitor services at both the 2004 BLM National Recreation and 2005 Western States Tourism Policy Council forums.

Action/Policy: This IM affirms BLM's corporate commitment to change its framework and emphasis to benefits-based recreation management. All new and on-going LUPs shall incorporate and implement policy contained in Appendices C and D of the LUP Handbook. Until LUPs incorporating Appendices C and D policies have been approved -- and for completed LUPs which do not incorporate Appendices C and D policies, Field Managers will assess and evaluate effects of proposed projects in Special Recreation Management Areas on activities, experiences, beneficial outcomes and recreation setting character to ensure consistency with benefits-based management concepts.

Program planning and management direction are outlined in “*The BLM’s Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services*”. The policy for management planning and plan implementation is contained in Appendices C and D of the LUP Manual Handbook. Subsequent to LUP Appendices C and D, specific policy guidance integrating the BLM’s Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services will be forthcoming. This IM is critical to the future of maintaining quality recreation opportunities, providing appropriate public access and meeting growing recreation demand.

Timeframe: This policy is effective with the date of this IM. Further direction will be provided through subsequent information, Manual Section, Handbook, Unified Strategy for Recreation and Visitor Services and appropriate training.

Coordination: Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning (WO-200), Director, National Landscape Conservation System (WO-170), and Group Manager, Public Affairs (WO-610).

Manual/Handbooks Section Affected: 8300

Contact: Gary G. Marsh, Acting Deputy Chief, Division of Recreation and Visitor Services (WO-250) at (202) 452-7795 or Bob Ratcliffe, Chief, Division of Recreation and Visitor Services (WO-250) at (202) 452-5040.

Signed by:
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