



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Instruction Memorandum No. **CA-2006-005**  
Expires 9/30/07

To: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

From: State Director

Subject: California Request for Joint Oversight of BLM Apprentice Program

The California State Office (CASO) with the Branch of Fire and Aviation is proposing that oversight for the BLM Apprentice Program be transitioned from National to CASO. California has been the host for the Joint Apprenticeship Academy since its inception in 1988 by the US Forest Service (USFS). In the spring of 1990 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in California began to participate in the Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program. Before this time the program was utilized primarily by the USFS as a training platform for entry-level firefighters to transition into the federal system. Working together with a common goal, this integration was a milestone for the establishment of an interagency partnership between the BLM and the USFS in California. During the early stages of the BLM's participation in the Apprentice Program, and for many more years thereafter, the oversight provided to the program fell under the responsibility of the CASO. This was the logical relationship, particularly in the final years, given the close proximity of the CASO to the current training facility at McClellan Park.

In 2003, two BLM positions were co-located with the USFS at McClellan and the oversight for these employees was moved under the supervision of the National Office. As we approach the 2006 training academies, it has become clear that BLM's presence at the academy is suffering from shortfalls. The Bureau's primary training officer to the academy is currently detailed to the National Office, while the assistant has recently accepted a new position with another agency and will soon be vacating the program. These circumstances have created a favorable opportunity for positive transitional action.

The BLM California Branch of Fire and Aviation, through negotiations with the National Office, would like to reexamine the effectiveness and efficiencies of the BLM's oversight of the Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Program. In conjunction with the National Office, we believe that CASO can provide the oversight and leadership needed to continue this important training

platform and interagency partnership that is helping to develop the future of our fire program nationally.

Based on our close proximity to McClellan Park and our established interagency working relationship through the California Wildfire Coordinating Group, please consider our proposal to have CASO work in conjunction with the NIFC Training Unit to directly supervise the BLM Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Program Coordinator. California State Office and the Branch of Fire and Aviation proposes to move oversight of the BLM Apprentice Program to California. We feel this would be a positive step for the National Office as well as the BLM in California, and will continue to strengthen our interagency working relationship between the USFS and all of BLM fire training.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Signed by:  
Mike Pool  
State Director

Authenticated by:  
Richard A. Erickson  
Records Management