



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1834
Sacramento, CA 95825
www.ca.blm.gov

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8100 CA930(P)

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Instruction Memorandum No. **CA-2006-015**

To: All Field Office Managers, CA Desert District Manager, CA State Archaeologists

From: State Director

Subject: Instruction Memorandum for the Roll Out of the Cultural Resources Geodatabase and Associated Tools

The Cultural Heritage Section has recently completed the first step of an initiative to develop archaeological resource (site) and investigation (survey) information within a Geographic Information System (GIS). As part of the initiative, database architecture has been developed on the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) ArcGIS9.x software platform, along with manuals and audio visual training modules.

Two key developments of the architecture are a personal geodatabase named BLM_Cultural.mdb which contains both spatial and aspatial attributes of point, line and polygon resource and investigation feature datasets, and the Cultural Resources Toolbar which allows for seamless data entry and copying. The geodatabase and toolbar have been installed and are integrated into our corporate GIS and is housed within the corporate GIS data structure at, M:\gis\development\basic\archeology\geodatabases\blm_cultural.mdb. Access to the geodatabase has been restricted to each Field Office's Archeology access control group.

The geodatabase and tool will be installed by the State Office and accessed through the Citrix Farm. No installation or maintenance is required by the Field Offices.

This initiative has been implemented to meet best business practices in the management and consistency of BLM's cultural resources data and to fulfill program development activities with regard to data sharing and management pursuant to Section III.C of the our Protocol with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Implementation of this initiative is critical for the cultural heritage program mission. In particular, it makes possible better management by the cultural heritage staff of their data and thus much faster responses to real-time demands for cultural data in planning, fire, cultural resource evaluations, reporting and day-to-day business practices and customer services.

Each Field Office will be responsible for implementation and the cultural specialist will need to work closely with their GIS and system administrators to ensure that they have access to the ESRI software needed to begin use of the geodatabase. All fiscal year 2006 resource and investigation data should be entered or copied into the database. To ensure full implementation, training sessions on the use of the geodatabase and the associated attributing and copying tool will be scheduled for NorCal, CenCal and the CDD during the winter and spring of 2006.

Please contact Ken Wilson, Deputy Historic Preservation Office, CA-930, or Kirk Halford, Bishop Field Office Archaeologist, CA-170, if you have questions regarding this initiative and its implementation.

Signed by:
James Wesley Abbott
Associate State Director

Authenticated by:
Richard A. Erickson
Records Management