



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Instruction Memorandum No. **CA-2009-020**
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To: Deputy State Directors, District Managers, and Field Office Managers

From: State Director

Subject: Interim Policy on Management of Donated Lands and Lands Acquired with Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF)

BLM-California is very fortunate to have a large number of non-governmental organizations assisting in acquisition of sensitive lands by donation or by supplementing acquisitions made with LWCF. We also are accepting or acquiring lands as mitigation/compensation for projects. We value these partnerships and must ensure that the lands so acquired are appropriately managed.

To ensure consistency statewide, this interim policy is established:

- Lands acquired by BLM under donation agreements, acquired for mitigation/compensation purposes and with LWCF funds, are to be managed as avoidance/exclusion areas for land use authorizations that could result in surface disturbing activities.
- Should BLM-California managers have use authorization applications pending, or receive new applications on lands that meet the above criteria, they are required to notify the State Director and set up a briefing to address how to respond to those applications.
- Should managers have inquiries related to pre-application activities for any land use authorizations on lands that meet the above criteria, please notify applicants regarding the location of these lands as soon as possible and advise them to avoid these lands or provide details on how they would plan to operate or mitigate their project in a manner consistent with the values of the lands donated or acquired for conservation purposes.

We will be providing more comprehensive policy direction and guidance related to these issues in the near future.

Signed by:
James Wesley Abbott
Acting State Director

Authenticated by:
Richard A. Erickson
Records Management