

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Forest Service R-6

OR/WA

**Bureau of Land
Management**

**United States
Department of
the Interior**

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FS-Memorandum

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To: Forest Service, Forest Supervisors, RO Staff Directors, CRGNSA Manager; Bureau of Land Management, District Managers, Deputy State Directors, and Staff Chiefs

Subject: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the USDA Forest Service Merging GIS Programs

Last year Linda Goodman (Forest Service Regional Forester) and Elaine M. Brong (BLM State Director) took a look at the Forest Service Data Resource Management (DRM) organization and decided that there needs to be a joint leader for BLM and FS Geospatial programs. The implementation of this blending will start to become a Service First reality.

This implementation will occur in two parts, the first of which will move the DRM organization under the leadership of the BLM Chief Information Officer, Chris North, in November 2005. It is important to note that DRM employees will remain Forest Service employees. A temporary position will be created to supervise Geospatial and other activities currently in DRM, in addition to the BLM's Information Management Section Geographic Information System (GIS) activities.

Wayne Elven, who has been the Acting Director for DRM, accepted a new assignment to manage the Financial Business Management System project for BLM Oregon/Washington. To fill in behind him until a temporary Service First position is created and filled; Kim Rivard (DRM Data Assets Program Leader) is the Acting DRM Director.

Within the next two years, the second phase of this plan will involve integration into a joint organization with one leader, common policies, budget, and service level agreements.

Our two Geospatial and Information Management organizations continue to be healthy and productive with a desire to provide a valuable range of services. We feel confident this change will have a positive impact on both organizations. Service First continues to be a successful way to formulate partnerships across agency boundaries in order to deal with the land in an integrated way and provide quality service to our publics. We want to thank everyone for your efforts in continuing in our regional Service First commitments.

/s/ James G. Kenna
for ELAINE M. BRONG
State Director, OR/WA
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/s/ Michael Ash
for LINDA GOODMAN
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cc:
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