



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office

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In Reply Refer to:

9260 (OR914) P

June 12, 2007

EMS TRANSMISSION 06/20/2007

Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2007-065

Expires: 9/30/2008

To: All District Managers, Law Enforcement Rangers, Agents

From: State Director, Oregon/Washington

Subject: Oregon/Washington BLM Law Enforcement Tow Policy

Program Area: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Law Enforcement.

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) is to transmit the Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) law enforcement vehicle tow policy. The purpose of this IM is to provide policy and guidelines for BLM Rangers and Agents when towing a motor vehicle on public land that has been abandoned, seized or recovered. The existing Bureau policy found in the Law Enforcement General Orders, Handbook 2, Chapter III.A.f gives some direction in regard to processing seized motor vehicles, but does not cover other circumstances. This Law Enforcement Tow Policy includes procedures for processing vehicles under a variety of situations including: seizures, abandoned vehicles, owner requested tows, and tows for safekeeping.

Policy/Action: The attached Law Enforcement Tow Policy is being implemented to provide procedures for an existing, persistent problem with vehicles on public lands in Oregon and Washington. From 2000 through 2006, BLM officers documented the following vehicle incidents: 354 recovered stolen vehicles left on public land; 6 recovered stolen off-highway vehicles; and 1,282 abandoned vehicles.

Timeframe: This IM is effective upon signature of all parties.

Budget Impact: There is no additional impact to the budget.

Background: This policy was field instigated by the Tillamook Field Office Ranger with assistance from the other Rangers and Agents in the OR/WA program. The policy is based on existing tow procedures used by Oregon Sheriff's Offices.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None.

Coordination: The attached Law Enforcement Tow Policy was reviewed by the local Departmental Solicitor’s Office and was returned with this comment: “Proposed Policy is well written – is legally sufficient.”

Contact: If you have any questions concerning this IM, please contact Phil Rheiner, Tillamook Resource Area Ranger (503) 815-1138; or Jim Huff, State Staff Ranger (503) 808-6410.

Districts with Unions are reminded to notify their unions of this Instruction Memorandum and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by
James G. Kenna
Associate State Director

Authenticated by
Rita Wallberg
Records Section

1 Attachment(s)

1 - [OR/WA BLM Law Enforcement Tow Policy](#) (9p)

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