

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANUAL TRANSMITTAL SHEET

| Release | |
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Subject

6523 - NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

- 1. Explanation of Material Transmitted: This release revises Bureau policy and procedures concerning wildlife-related programs on the public lands which may involve nongovernmental organizations.
- 2. Reports Required: None.
- 3. <u>Material Superseded</u>: The Manual Section superseded by this release is listed under "REMOVE" below. No other directives are superseded.
- 4. Filing Instructions: After the attached sheets have been filed as directed below, this Transmittel Sheet may be discarded.

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Associate Director

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- •••• 01 Purpose. This Section provides basic procedures and guidance for cooperative efforts with nongovernmental conservation organizations.
 - .02 Objectives and Background.
 - A. Objectives. To stimulate and guide a course of planned action that ensures cooperation with nongovernmental conservation organizations.
 - B. Background. Public support normally influences the effectiveness of management actions and program accomplishments. Thus, cooperation with organizations interested in wildlife and resource conservation is essential in achieving wildlife program objectives. Most people who use the public lands enjoy hunting, fishing, or observing wildlife. Many, however, may lack understanding of land management principles and practices. Consequently, the public land manager is constantly faced with the need to inform the public as to BLM's wildlife responsibilities and what is being done to get the job done.
 - .03 Authority. (See BLM Manual Section 6500.03.)
 - .04 Responsibility. (See BLM Manual Section 6500.04.)
 - .05 Definitions. (See BLM Manual Section 6500.05.)
 - .06 Policy. (See BLM Manual Section 6500.06.)
- →.07 Public Participation. One of the keys to achieving true multiple use on the public lands is the consideration of resource "importance" from the viewpoint of our conservation or interest groups of which BLM has many. Each of the categories of conservation or "interest" groups has its own "resource priorities." There are many ways that these interest groups are, and must continue to be, involved in helping to shape the nature and extent of BLM's wildlife effort on the public lands. For example, citizens, public, and private organizations are encouraged to participate in the Bureau's Planning System. Through public participation plans prepared by BLM field offices, a concerted effort should be made at the State, district, and area office levels to ensure that the public and concerned organizations have the opportunity to participate in formulation of land-use and resource allocation plans. Other ways for public and conservation group participation include informal meetings and consultations; participation through advisory committees, public hearings, and public service projects. Conservation group participation is particularly vital to the BLM's wildlife effort from the standpoint of advice and knowledge contributions and for feedback regarding program effectiveness.

- .1 Private Wildlife and Conservation Organizations. Cooperation with conservation organizations is a "two-way street." It helps them understand our programs and policies, and we obtain their views, ideas, and assistance in achieving wildlife program objectives. Although membership dues or fees cannot be paid by the Bureau (see BLM Manual Section 1511.22B11), active membership in one or more such organizations is encouraged. Attendance at local meetings is strongly recommended and should be considered a vital part of regular
- BLM wildlife work to inform the public of our programs and to obtain feedback on program effectiveness.

•2 Professional Societies. Active participation in professional societies, such as The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society, American Society of Range Management, and Society of American Foresters, is encouraged. Attendance at local, regional, and national meetings is considered part of regular BLM work activities; however, advance approval or Bureau authorization is required (see BLM Manual Section 1788).

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•3 Schools, Colleges, and Universities. Communication with schools, colleges, and universities with wildlife-related programs is encouraged to help officials and others with such institutions to understand the nature of BLM programs, responsibilities, and scientific/biological needs. These institutions obviously are a source of new talent and expertise for the Bureau. BLM officials are encouraged to serve as guest lecturers or featured speakers when possible to do so.