



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT

MANUAL TRANSMITTAL SHEET

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Date
07/16/2026

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Subject: MS9260 Law Enforcement General Order 15 - Firearms

FOIA
Designation P
Letter:

1. Updates, supersedes, or rescinds:

Updates General Order (GO) 15 - Firearms Release 9-385. This version of GO-15 will be made available externally.

2. Explanation of Materials Transmitted:

This release creates MS-9260, Chapter 15, referred to as GO 15. This manual establishes policy and procedures for the law enforcement firearms program to be followed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Law Enforcement Officers authorized to carry firearms to fulfill law enforcement responsibilities.

3. Reports Required:

None

4. Delegations of Authority Updated:

None.

5. Filing Instructions: File as directed below.

REMOVE

All of GO 15 (Rel. 9-385)
(Total: 17 Pages)

INSERT

All of MS-9260-15 (Rel. 9-456)
GO 15
(Total: 3 Pages)

ERIC KRILEY Digitally signed by ERIC KRILEY
Date: 2026.07.16 11:45:27
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Eric A. Kriley
Director
Office of Law Enforcement and Security



FIREARMS

Order Number	15
Dated	07/16/2026
Number of Pages	3

Issued by

Director, Bureau of Land Management, Office of Law Enforcement and Security

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish standards for the law enforcement firearms program to be followed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) authorized to carry firearms to fulfill law enforcement responsibilities.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all BLM LEOs and their supervisors. Nothing in this policy is intended to supersede applicable law, regulation, and/or Department of the Interior (DOI) policy. In the event of conflict, applicable laws, regulations, and policies of the DOI shall govern.

3. AUTHORITY

- a. 43 U.S.C § 1733
- b. 49 C.F.R. § 175.10
- c. 49 C.F.R. § 1544.219

4. DEFINITIONS

Authorized Duty Ammunition: Ammunition that has been approved by Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES) for use in authorized firearms.

Firearm: Any weapon which is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile using an explosive charge as a propellant.

Law Enforcement Officer (LEO): A BLM employee who has been individually delegated law enforcement authority by the Director, BLM OLES to enforce all Federal laws and regulations pertaining to the use, management, and development of the public lands and their resources.

5. FILE AND RECORDS MAINTENANCE

Law enforcement records will be maintained in accordance with the Law Enforcement General Orders and Handbooks, and the Bureau Records Retention Catalog.

6. POLICY

Only BLM LEOs are authorized to carry firearms for law enforcement purposes. Trainees hired as LEOs, and not yet delegated law enforcement authority may carry firearms only during authorized training exercises.

6.1. FIREARMS ISSUANCE

BLM-issued law enforcement firearms will only be purchased by the BLM OLES.

All BLM-issued firearms will be recorded and tracked in the Financial and Business Management System (FBMS). OLES will reevaluate all issued handguns upon reaching their standard service life of ten (10) years from the original date of procurement. All other firearm platforms, including rifles and shotguns, will be continuously evaluated by OLES and replaced as necessary, based on operational requirements and equipment conditions.

6.2. AUTHORIZED DUTY AMMUNITION

BLM LEOs will only carry and qualify with authorized duty ammunition.

6.3. FIREARMS WAIVERS

When authorized firearms are deemed unsuitable for specific law enforcement activities (e.g., undercover operations, special assignments), the Director, BLM OLES may waive authorized firearm requirements and approve the issuance of alternative firearms.

6.4. FIREARMS DISPOSAL

The Chief, BLM OLES Policy and Training will authorize personnel designated to dispose of any BLM Law Enforcement issued firearms. Disposal will be completed in accordance with all applicable BLM, DOI and General Services Administration (GSA) regulations.

6.5. LEOs REQUIRED TO CARRY FIREARMS

6.5.1. LEO REQUIRED TO CARRY FIREARMS WHILE ON DUTY

All delegated BLM LEOs will carry BLM authorized firearms while on duty.

6.5.2. OFF-DUTY CARRIAGE OF HANDGUNS

LEOs are authorized (but not required) to carry any approved handgun when off-duty.

6.5.3. LIGHT DUTY FIREARMS CARRIAGE

BLM LEOs placed on a light duty status may carry BLM-issued firearms but are prohibited from taking any law enforcement action except when the LEOs reasonably believe there is imminent danger of loss of life or serious bodily injury to themselves or others.

6.5.4. FIREARMS CARRY ON COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT

BLM LEOs are authorized to carry any approved firearm(s) while traveling on a commercial aircraft within the United States. LEOs authorized to carry firearms must have completed “Law Enforcement Officers Flying Armed” training.

6.5.5. LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY SUSPENSION

Any BLM LEO with a suspended law enforcement authority is prohibited from carrying BLM-issued firearms.

6.6. OPTICS

The Director, BLM OLES may authorize use of optical devices (scopes, red-dot sights, holographic sights, and other sighting systems) on any firearm systems.

6.7. SUPPRESSORS

The Director, BLM OLES may authorize duty use of suppressors on BLM issued rifles. Only BLM-issued suppressors may be authorized for duty use.

6.8. FIREARMS STORAGE, SECURITY AND HANDLING

BLM LEOs are responsible for ensuring their BLM-issued firearms are secure at all times.

6.9. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

6.9.1. INTENTIONAL OR UNINTENTIONAL/NEGLIGENT DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS

The intentional or unintentional/negligent discharge of an authorized firearm must be documented and reported in accordance with the applicable Departmental and Bureau policies.