



United States Department of the Interior



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In Reply Refer To:
8100 (NV933) P

MAY 14 2012

EMS TRANSMISSION **MAY 14 2012**
Instruction Memorandum No. 2012-044
Expires: 9/30/2013

To: District and Field Office Managers, Nevada

From: Raul Morales
Deputy State Director, Natural Resources, Lands & Planning

Subject: Review of Draft National Scenic and Historic Trails Manual (6260/6270)

**/S/ J. TAGUE
Acting**

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum requests formal agency review of the draft national policy guidance for management of National Scenic and Historic Trails.

Background: The 2006 National Scenic and Historic Trails Strategy and Work Plan directs the BLM to develop program policy. In 2009, the Executive Leadership Team reiterated support for National Scenic and Historic Trails program policy development and directed the NLCS Division to complete the manual series with the aid of an agency team. A BLM manual series team was assembled in 2010 and includes a network of subject matter professionals representing an array of BLM programs. Throughout development of the manual, the core team has been used extensively, the expertise of satellite team members has been sought on an issue-by-issue basis, and information has been gathered from Federal Trail Administrators.

The draft manual has undergone an internal informal agency review. Comments were received from several State and Field Offices, the Washington Office, the National Operations Center, and the Solicitor's Office. Programs commenting on the draft manual included lands and realty, planning, engineering, recreation and visitor services, cultural resources, travel and transportation management, visual resources, NLCS, healthy lands, and minerals.

The National Scenic and Historic Trails are designated by Congress and are a component of the NLCS. The BLM is responsible for over 5,300 miles along 11 National Historic Trails and over 660 miles along 5 National Scenic Trails.

Policy/Action: The attached draft manual contains general BLM policy guidance for the administration and management of congressionally designated National Scenic and Historic

Trails. When finalized, this manual will provide the BLM its first unified policy for the National Scenic and Historic Trails program.

Instruction: District and Field Offices have 21 days after issuance of this Instruction Memorandum to review and comment on the draft manual using the attached comment form. The draft manual can be found at the following URL: <http://web.blm.gov/internal/wo-500/directives/dir-12/im2012-114.html> District and Field Offices are encouraged to review and provide comments on the draft policy guidance. The Nevada State Office (NSO) shall consolidate District comments and submit one set of comments for the State.

Please send your District consolidated comments to Bryan Hockett, Associate State Archaeologist & BLM Nevada National Historic Trails Lead, at b50hocke@blm.gov.

Budget Impact: None.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None.

1 Attachment: Comment Template