



Date: January 12, 2009

Memorandum

To: Bureau of Land Management Executive Leadership Team
National Park Service National Leadership Council
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Directorate
Forest Service Regional Foresters, Station Directors, and Washington Office
Directors

From: Director, Bureau of Land Management
Director, National Park Service
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chief, Forest Service

Subject: Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 National Interagency Service First Awards - Call for
Nominations

For the third consecutive year, we invite you to nominate individuals, interagency teams, or offices that have made outstanding contributions to public service through the Service First partnership authority, achieved or completed during FY 2008, either on a sustained basis or through a single exceptional accomplishment. Service First is an authority for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Forest Service (FS) to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of attaining shared objectives. In addition, Service First allows agencies to implement the three goals of (1) improving customer service; (2) increasing operational efficiency; and (3) enhancing natural and cultural resources management. Service First authorizes interagency partnerships and joint projects that may cover a wide range of activities from permit administration, fleet management, collocation, sharing positions, preparing resource plans together, range management, and fire program management to name just a few.

If a project, team, or partnership meets both criteria listed below, please submit a nomination for the FY 2008 Service First award according to the following directions:

Award Criteria:

- (1) Nominees must demonstrate that their project or partnership meets one or more of the following Service First goals:
- Improving customer service;
 - Increasing operational efficiency; and/or
 - Enhancing natural and cultural resources management.

(2) Nominees must demonstrate an excellence in one or more of the following areas:

- Quantifiable improvements in customer service--one-stop shopping, common and seamless process, or customer satisfaction.
- Quantifiable improvements in natural or cultural resources management, such as common resource management plans, joint natural resource or energy and mineral projects, common databases, or common information technology systems.
- Use of creative solutions or efforts to achieve significant savings or increase efficiencies--decrease daily operational costs or demonstrated cost avoidances (rents, equipment, staffing, contracts, training, travel, etc.).

Eligible Nominees:

- Individual BLM, NPS, or FS employees;
- Interagency teams; and
- Service First offices.

Nominations Package: Nominations should be no longer than two pages and include:

- Name, interagency team, or Service First office;
- Narrative of the nominee's contribution to Service First in FY 2008, specifically identifying how the project meets the award criteria (see above).

Nominations Process: Nominations must be submitted by **March 2, 2009**, and have the approval of the appropriate agency's Regional or State Manager. A cover memorandum accompanying the nominations packet should reflect region and/or state management's approval. Nominations can be emailed electronically to Laura Ceperley, BLM Deputy Assistant Director, Business and Fiscal Resources at Laura.Ceperley@blm.gov. Hard copy nominations may also be mailed to the Bureau of Land Management (WO-800), Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Selection Process: An interagency selection team will be convened in early FY 2009 to evaluate award nominees and select official winners. Winners will be selected from the pool of nominations received by January 30, 2009.

Change to Future Awards Schedule: After FY 2008, the National Interagency Service First Awards will be awarded every 2 years. Following this new timeframe, the next call for nominations will be in fall 2010 and cover FY 2009 and FY 2010.

We look forward to seeing the applications and announcing the winners!

/s/ James L Caswell
James L. Caswell
Director, Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior

/s/ Mary A. Bomar
Mary A. Bomar
Director, National Park Service
Department of the Interior

/s/ Rowan Gould
Rowan Gould
Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior

/s/ Abigail Kimbell
Abigail Kimbell
Chief, National Forest Service
Department of Agriculture

cc:

Jennifer Eberlien, Interagency Service First Coordinator, BLM
Janine Velasco, Assistant Director for Business and Fiscal Resources, BLM
Chris Jarvi, Associate Director for Partnerships, Interpretation and Education Volunteers, NPS
Jerome Ford, Special Assistant to the Director, FWS
Jan Engert, Director, National Partnership Office, FS