

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
SCIENCE IN SUPPORT OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
between the  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
and the  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
of the  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

I. Introduction and Objectives

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to periodically and systematically inventory lands and natural resources under Bureau management, and manage them on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the research bureau of the Department of the Interior, provides natural resource information and technologies that are critical to achieving the missions of the Department's land and resource management bureaus. With this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the BLM and USGS agree to procedures and guidance for coordination and cooperation for application of science in support of the development and implementation of natural resource management programs. The USGS and the BLM will collaborate to ensure that the development and implementation of the BLM's natural resource management programs are based on objective science. The USGS will assist the BLM in identifying information needs, synthesizing data, and verifying relevance of information for specific natural resource management activities. These activities will be based initially on existing data. When information is inadequate to meet management objectives, the BLM and the USGS may agree to conduct new studies and produce required data as appropriate.

II. Scope

MOU provides a general framework for coordination and cooperation between the BLM and the USGS on obtaining and sharing scientific data and knowledge to facilitate the BLM's natural resource management programs. Coordination and cooperation pertaining to such applications are encouraged at the national, regional, and local levels, as needed, to ensure that the highest priority scientific information needs of the BLM are addressed. Areas of scientific research, data analysis, and information sharing will include all areas of science relevant to resource management activities.

### III. Agreements/Responsibilities

The BLM and the USGS agree to cooperate at the local, regional, and national levels to exchange data and information on the natural resource management goals, objectives, and data needs of the BLM and the science capabilities of the USGS in assisting the BLM in meeting these goals and objectives.

Mutual responsibilities as part of this coordination may include:

- Exchanging information relating to lists of priority natural resource science information needs and deadlines for inclusion of science information;
- Identifying bureau points of contact to ensure coordination and successful incorporation of science in support of resource management;
- Identifying resource issues specific to natural resource management activities;
- Working together to identify and deliver readily available information and data that are needed for natural resource management activities;
- Cooperating to interpret data and information to facilitate their availability and use in the natural resource management activities;
- Collaborating to identify information gaps and needs for new data, and plan and conduct studies and investigations to obtain new information where possible considering the time and budget limitations of the two bureaus.

### IV. Authority

The authorities to enter into this MOU include:

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.1701 et seq.) charges the BLM to plan for and manage the public lands for multiple use in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber and fiber, recreation and sustainable development.

U.S. Geological Survey Organic Act of 1879 (43 U.S.C. 31 et seq.) assigns the USGS the responsibility to examine the geologic structure, mineral resources, and products of the United States.

Economy Act of June 30, 1932 (31 U.S.C. 1535) provides agencies the authority necessary to provide or secure services of another Executive agency for in-house performance or performance by contract where there is no other statutory authority.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-47) requires Federal agencies to conduct environmental analysis, and inform the public, of proposed federal actions with significant environmental impacts, and to provide opportunities for review and comment on draft plans.

### V. Procedures

A. Both parties agree to:

- Hold at least one annual meeting at the national level where BLM priority science needs are discussed;
- 0. Meet annually, as needed, at the regional level, to discuss the scope of work, to review progress on joint science efforts, and to discuss further plans and developments;
- Prepare project proposals jointly to satisfy information needs;
- Determine financial capabilities and sources for preparation of the proposed plans and to discuss funding agreements for sharing or transferring resources as necessary;
- Cooperate and lend mutual support wherever and whenever feasible to facilitate the regional and national assessment efforts of both bureaus, such as the BLM Colorado Plateau Prototype Regional Assessment, the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative, the Great Basin Ecosystem Restoration and *The National Map* projects, which contribute new data and knowledge to support information needs of both bureaus;
- Resolve disagreements and seek mutually agreeable solutions to problems encountered while the two bureaus are working to implement the intent of the MOU;
- Develop additional agreements as necessary to support the intent and purpose of this MOU, and;
- Coordinate, as appropriate, with Departmental and bureau officials and advisory groups, including the Department Research and Development Council and the BLM and USGS Executive Leadership Teams.

**B.** The BLM agrees to:

- Coordinate with the USGS in project planning, collecting, analyzing and interpreting technical information and data for the BLM projects;
- Submit budget requests for funding to support approved priority information needs, and;
- Coordinate the participation of BLM personnel involved in joint information and data development efforts.

**C.** The USGS agrees to:

- Provide scientific and technical personnel, supplies and equipment to accomplish activities as agreed to in support of BLM resource management needs;
- Provide BLM with provisional data when specifically requested by the BLM project office,
- Coordinate with the BLM Office of Communication on any press releases for BLM-funded projects, and;
- Provide technical assistance to BLM management on natural resource management issues which are the subject of USGS investigations on the BLM's behalf.

## **VI. Administration**

**Authorized Representatives:** The BLM will annually designate a representative in each State Office. The USGS Regional Directors or other USGS-authorized representatives will provide liaison with the BLM State Office representative.

**Period of Agreement:** This Agreement will remain in effect for 10 years from the date of acceptance by both parties unless terminated. It is understood that conducting programs and projects supported by this Agreement is dependent on Congress providing the necessary

appropriations to fund future work. It is agreed that if Congress does not make such appropriations, both bureaus are released from any future commitment under this agreement.

**Termination:** Either party may terminate this Agreement by giving written notice of termination to the other party not less than ninety (90) days in advance of the effective ending date.

**Publication of reports prepared pursuant to this MOD:** Publications may be prepared by either party, or jointly, provided that both parties shall have an opportunity to review manuscripts prior to publication. Should differences of viewpoint occur an effort will be made to reconcile opposing opinions. Such disagreements shall not prohibit either party from publishing the data, provided it assumes sole responsibility and gives credit to the other party for cooperation furnished. Each party will furnish to the other such number of copies of publications as may be agreed upon.

**Financial:** This MOU is neither a fiscal nor funds obligation document. This MOU does not commit the BLM or the USGS to enter into any specific interagency agreements for the purposes of this MOU. Projects involving cost sharing or reimbursable funding between the two Bureaus, including billing procedures may be included in future interagency agreements. Both parties shall ensure that interagency agreements drafted pursuant to this MOU shall cite the statutory authority which authorizes the interagency agreement. When the authority cited on an interagency agreement is the Economy Act, both parties shall ensure that the interagency agreement complies with the provisions of the Economy Act.

**Conditions:** Nothing in this MOU will be construed as affecting the authorities of the participants or as binding beyond their respective authorities or to require any of the participants to obligate or expend funds in excess of available appropriations.

## **VII. Provisions**

All signatory parties intend that this MOU and any future agreements referencing it will comply with: the nondiscrimination provisions contained in Title **VI and VII** of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (public Law 100-259); and other nondiscrimination statutes, such as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. Regulations of the Secretary of the Interior (43CFR 17) provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, or disability, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance from the 001, or any agency thereof; and this MOU and any agreements will be in accordance with such regulations. Furthermore, this MOU shall comply with Executive Order 13087, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

**VIII: Approval**

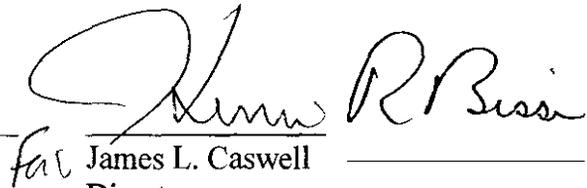
**U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**



Mark D. Myers  
Director

8/28/08  
Date



for James L. Caswell  
Director

8/28/08  
Date