

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>

December 10, 2007

In Reply Refer To:
1610 (210) I

EMS TRANSMISSION 12/12/2007
Instruction Memorandum No. 2008-041
Expires: 09/30/2009

To: All Field Office Officials

From: Director

Subject: Guidance for Establishing Implementation Priorities for Land Use Plans

Program Area: All program areas.

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) replaces the “collaborative four-step method for developing an implementation strategy...” found in Section IV, E “*Developing Strategies to Facilitate Implementation of LUPs*” in the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1 (03/11/05). This guidance has been developed through a pilot program tested in over 20 National Land Conservation System (NLCS) units and Field Offices (FO), for identifying implementation priorities for Land Use Plans (LUP). It is designed to better integrate with subsequent steps of LUP monitoring and evaluation. The guidance provided in this IM is a step toward meeting the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) obligation to better implement, monitor, and evaluate LUPs, as identified in a recent Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) audit.

Policy/Action: Land Use Plans (LUPs) completed on or after the date of this IM will identify LUP implementation priorities within four months of signing the Record of Decision (ROD). The implementation process, which has been successfully tested in pilot offices, will now be utilized Bureau-wide. The process offers program specialists, managers, and others involved in the LUP process the opportunity to identify and communicate future funding and work priorities at the FO and NLCS unit levels. This is achieved by completing a systematic, two-step LUP implementation workshop conducted by trained implementation facilitators. Subsequently, offices submit the completed materials to the appropriate State Office (SO) personnel so they may be incorporated into budget considerations, and LUP monitoring and evaluation reports. Unlike the process it replaces, which was “suggested,” this policy will be implemented with each new LUP completion.

Background: The need for the BLM to better implement, monitor, and evaluate LUPs has been recognized for some time. The BLM's evaluation by the OMB PART requires that steps be taken immediately for improvement. Adoption of this implementation strategy for LUPs is the first step in revised guidance that will better integrate implementation, monitoring, and evaluation and provide the BLM with a logical method to track and report performance and effectiveness of LUPs. The purpose of the OMB PART is to examine performance and efficiency of Federal programs and encourage managers to connect budget to outcomes. This accountability tool determines the strengths and weaknesses of Federal programs through an assessment worksheet completed by the Federal program manager. The purpose of the PART is to better integrate budget and performance and the results may lead to favorable or unfavorable budget adjustments.

When a PART Assessment was conducted in 2004, the BLM was rated "results not demonstrated," the lowest of the ratings, since the BLM does not have a systematic program in place to monitor and evaluate LUP effectiveness based on budget and performance. Like BLM, however, 50 percent of Federal programs received this rating and were given the opportunity to develop performance measures with which to better evaluate their effectiveness.

Pursuant to the PART directive for programs rated "results not demonstrated" (and sections IV and V of the LUP Handbook) the BLM is required to develop and institute an efficient system of LUP implementation and evaluation based on a well-organized interdisciplinary thought process. The approach, entitled "Establishing Resource Management Plan Implementation Priorities," has been successfully tested in a variety of FOs and NLCS units. This program provides the BLM a systematic method for planning for and achieving the desired outcomes for LUPs based on anticipated funding. Additionally, this implementation strategy will create a uniform structure across the BLM to help monitor and evaluate LUP effectiveness as well as generate opportunities for ongoing collaboration with the public.

"Establishing Resource Management Plan Implementation Priorities" is a four-step process. The first two steps are achieved through a workshop in which the FO or NLCS unit outlines its workload and establishes priorities based on anticipated budget and personnel. In steps three and four the same office will integrate specific tasks with required funding and budget sub-activities and create a communication strategy to describe the action and funding priorities.

As this implementation program is phased in through new LUP completions, the BLM will utilize the results to analyze and report on LUP effectiveness. During the workshop phase, spreadsheets are created which are used to monitor the quality of plan implementation over time. These spreadsheets will be updated annually by the FO or NLCS unit in consultation with the SO. These abbreviated annual updates will aid the preparation of the five-year evaluations for each LUP. Guidance for the implementation program is provided in a workbook entitled "Establishing Resource Management Plan Implementation Priorities," which will be provided along with training as each office

completes a LUP. Additional guidance for the successive steps of monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management (H-1610-1, Section V) is being prepared and will integrate each step in a logical process to evaluate the effectiveness of LUP decisions.

Timeframe: This IM is effective immediately.

Budget Impact: The overall impact to budget development workload is minimal. Implementation of this guidance should improve identification and reporting of priority actions to implement and evaluate LUPs.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: This policy replaces the “collaborative four-step method for developing an implementation strategy...” found in Section IV, E “*Developing Strategies to Facilitate Implementation of LUPs*” in the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1 (03/11/05).

Coordination: The process identified in this policy was developed with the assistance of multiple BLM Field and State Offices, WO-830, WO-880, WO-210, WO-170.

Contact: For further information, contact Sandra Meyers, Branch Chief, Planning and Science Policy at (202) 452-5151.

Signed by:
James L. Caswell
Director

Authenticated by:
Robert M. Williams
Division of IRM Governance