

**FIRE FOREST & RANGE SUPV. DIV.**  
P. O. BOX 245  
BERKELEY, CALIF. 94701

March 3, 1975

Colorado State University  
Department of Earth Science  
c/o Professor J. A. Hayward  
Fort Collins, Colorado  
80523

Attention: Mr. G. Hughes

Dear Mr. Hughes:

I am looking forward to seeing you in Berkeley on March 12th.

Sincerely

**E. I. SHAW**

Range Conservationist

ALHORNAY:ng

Form 1541-1  
(May 1967)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SHORT NOTE TRANSMITTAL

March 7, 1975

(Date)

TO : Gus Hormay, Berkeley

FROM : Richard J. Holland, Carson City District Office

SUBJECT: Bitterbrush Seed

The bitterbrush seed which you have received by now, I hope, is the total amount of seed to be treated for the spring planting. The seed for the fall planting is stored in our yard in rodent proof containers and marked with your name.



*Note:* Return this form when action is completed or attach it to data requested



# United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

4100  
(N-060)

District Office  
P. O. Box 194  
Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

March 26, 1975

Mr. A. L. Hormay  
Bureau of Land Management  
c/o Pacific Southwest Forest  
and Range Experiment Station  
P. O. Box 245  
Berkeley, CA 94701

Dear Gus,

Enclosed is an Allotment Management Plan and maps for the Mount Airy AMP. I would appreciate it if you would review the AMP and provide me with your candid comments.

I am concerned with the amount of rest that this system provides, the initial impact (grazing capacities) and the key species identified.

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you ever get to Battle Mountain, I would appreciate seeing you again.

Sincerely yours,

GENE NODINE  
District Manager

Encl: AMP/Maps

*Returned all maps and other information  
May 23 1975*



*Save Energy and You Serve America!*



## United States Department of the Interior

1790 (220)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

March 25, 1975

Instruction Memorandum No. 75-140

Expires: 6/30/75

To: AFO's

From: Assistant Director, Legislation and Plans

Subject: Use of the Interdisciplinary Approach in Environmental Analysis

This memorandum provides instructions which will be followed in the Bureau's Environmental Analysis.

ANALYSIS

An analysis of field office operations indicates that the interdisciplinary approach is being implemented in one of the following ways:

1. Using the interdisciplinary approach seldom, if ever (one person writes the EAR and any review is done independently by each reviewer).
2. Using the interdisciplinary approach only on very complex actions; or
3. Using the interdisciplinary approach very often.

Seldom if Ever Using the Interdisciplinary Approach

Either the person doing the EAR's is considered the best one in terms of skills to do the job, or is someone (often a newcomer to BLM) who is "stuck with the job." In the first instance, the writer is often the one person who is responsible for planning and carrying out the project, so is the most biased toward it.

The emphasis in this situation is "writing" EARs, not in doing much actual analysis. With this emphasis there cannot be much utility in using the EAR as a management tool in making decisions that are environmentally sound. If EAR's are not used as intended, they become useless, costly, and the people writing them feel unproductive.

*Save Energy and You Serve America!*

Efficiency is the reason often given for one person's writing EAR's. In fact, with many EAR's, this method is costlier and more time-consuming. If one person writes an EAR that is even slightly complex, he is constrained by his own experience and education. When the EAR is reviewed by others (whether the review is interdisciplinary or not), the inadequacies become apparent and it must be reworked. This takes more time and cost, the original writer and the decisionmaker both may become frustrated and the reviewers may take on the role of "bad guys."

#### Using the Interdisciplinary Approach Only on Very Complex Actions

Some offices use this approach only for complex actions. However, it overlooks several benefits which could be gained by using the approach more often. First, if the approach were used more often on less complex actions, it could be more efficient - as described below. Second, if the interdisciplinary approach was used on the first of a series of actions, the quality material gained by the team in the first EAR could be utilized by fewer persons (or even one person) on subsequent EAR's.

#### Using the Interdisciplinary Approach Often

Many field offices use this approach often. As actions are planned - in advance of the decision, an analysis is made to determine the scope, what disciplines are needed to do the EAR, and when it should be done. This approach permits people to allocate their time and it assures that all environmental values will be considered in the decisionmaking process.

The emphasis is on analysis of impacts, not on writing an EAR. By having as many disciplines as needed, meeting all together at the same time, and jointly working on the analysis, several important results are achieved. First, the interaction among the disciplines provides an excellent analysis of first and second order impacts. That is, the total is greater than the sum of the parts. Second, the people become interested in putting quality material in the analysis in the beginning, not later in the review. Third, more people in the District become more knowledgeable and interested in the environmental aspects of actions on the ground.

Additionally, the interdisciplinary approach is often less costly because it doesn't have to be redone - the would-be reviewers become contributors. The team doesn't have to spend a great deal of time writing the EAR; the important thing is to have the team spend time together on the EAR Worksheet and provide good notes from which one person can write if necessary.

#### REQUIREMENTS

Section 102(2)(A) of Public Law 91-190 (NEPA) states:

- "(2) all agencies of the Federal Government shall -  
(A) utilize a systematic, interdisciplinary approach which will insure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences and the environmental design arts in planning and in decisionmaking which may have an impact on man's environment;"

## CONCEPTS

The concepts involved in the Interdisciplinary Approach are:

1. Involve the disciplines necessary to adequately assess all aspects of the environment; and
2. Develop the necessary interaction among disciplines to create a better total analysis than can be achieved by one discipline or several disciplines doing or reviewing an analysis independently.

In BLM Manual section 1791, the interdisciplinary team approach is defined as:

"a group of specialists representing different disciplines working together to identify, discuss, and learn more about the various aspects of a common issue or problem; as distinguished from a multi-disciplinary approach where team members represent their individual disciplines, without participating in group discussion and analysis and where the final documentation is simply an aggregation of the individual inputs."

The complexity of the particular action and the characteristics of the environment being impacted dictate the disciplines needed. In BLM environmental assessments, an interdisciplinary approach must be used to whatever extent is needed to adequately understand all aspects of the action, the environment being impacted, and the environmental impacts as well as the other requirements of EAR's or EIS's.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. State Directors, District Managers, and Area Managers will immediately analyze the basis for preparing EARs in their offices.
2. A determination will be made as to:
  - a. The use of the interdisciplinary approach in EAR preparation.
  - b. The use of EAR's in decisionmaking.
3. The definition of the interdisciplinary approach (found in BLM Manual section 1791 Glossary) will be explained to all employees involved in EAR preparation.
4. Each line official is responsible for providing the level of interdisciplinary input necessary to insure a full and comprehensive analysis of impacts sufficient for the decisionmaker to:

- a. Mitigate as many adverse impacts as possible.
  - b. Determine whether an EIS is required.
  - c. Determine whether to accept or reject the action based on unacceptable environmental impacts.
5. Adherence to these instructions will become effective at once and will become an important factor in program effectiveness, and in individual and organizational performance evaluations.

*James W. Monroe*