



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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Information Memorandum 76-227  
Expires: 12/31/76

October 26, 1976

To: All W.O. and Field Officials  
From: Director, Bureau of Land Management  
Subject: A New Era for the Bureau of Land Management

I am pleased to inform you that President Ford has approved S. 507, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. This is the Bureau's "Organic Act" in a form somewhat different than proposed at the beginning of the 94th Congress but with many philosophies and sections supportive of our original intentions.

Public Law 94-579 will require significant change in many of the program areas. It places new responsibilities on all Bureau employees. It truly means a new era for management of the public's lands in their Third Century.

Important policies are established by the act founded on the principle that the public lands shall be retained in Federal ownership unless disposal of certain lands is in the national interest.

Over the next several months, and even years, an intense effort will be undertaken to implement sections of the legislation on a priority basis. Our first task is organizing to accomplish the many hundreds of actions to implement the act on a timely and orderly basis.

A Policy Committee with general oversight responsibilities to guide implementation efforts has been established. The Committee will be chaired by the Assistant Director for Legislation and Plans. The full membership is illustrated by the enclosed organizational chart.

The major functions of the Policy Committee are to set priorities for implementation of respective sections of the act; resolve disagreements on policy interpretations where possible; and guide the efforts of Washington Office divisions responsible for specific assignments through the existing line organization. Significant items will be reviewed with the Director.

Six overall tasks have been developed and approved to guide the implementation project. These are shown on the second enclosure to this memorandum.



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Various offices will be asked, through line organizational offices, to prepare documents or conduct research or perform other tasks. Requests to the field or other offices can be made by individual offices only on work projects approved by the Policy Committee. If other information is needed, the request must be cleared through the Policy Committee. Our overall intention is to avoid misinterpretation of the act and time lost in pursuing activities that are not consistent with Bureau policy determinations. All Bureau officials will refrain from unilaterally implementing or issuing interpretations of the act to the general public except as guided by the Policy Committee. It is extremely important that the Bureau maintain a uniform posture both in interpreting and implementing the various provisions of the act.

Just as we received the support of all Bureau employees in achieving passage of the act, I now ask for your continued assistance and dedication as we launch this new era.

By pulling together as never before, the Bureau can minimize delays and frustrations and realize achievements almost unparalleled in the 200 years of administration of the public lands.

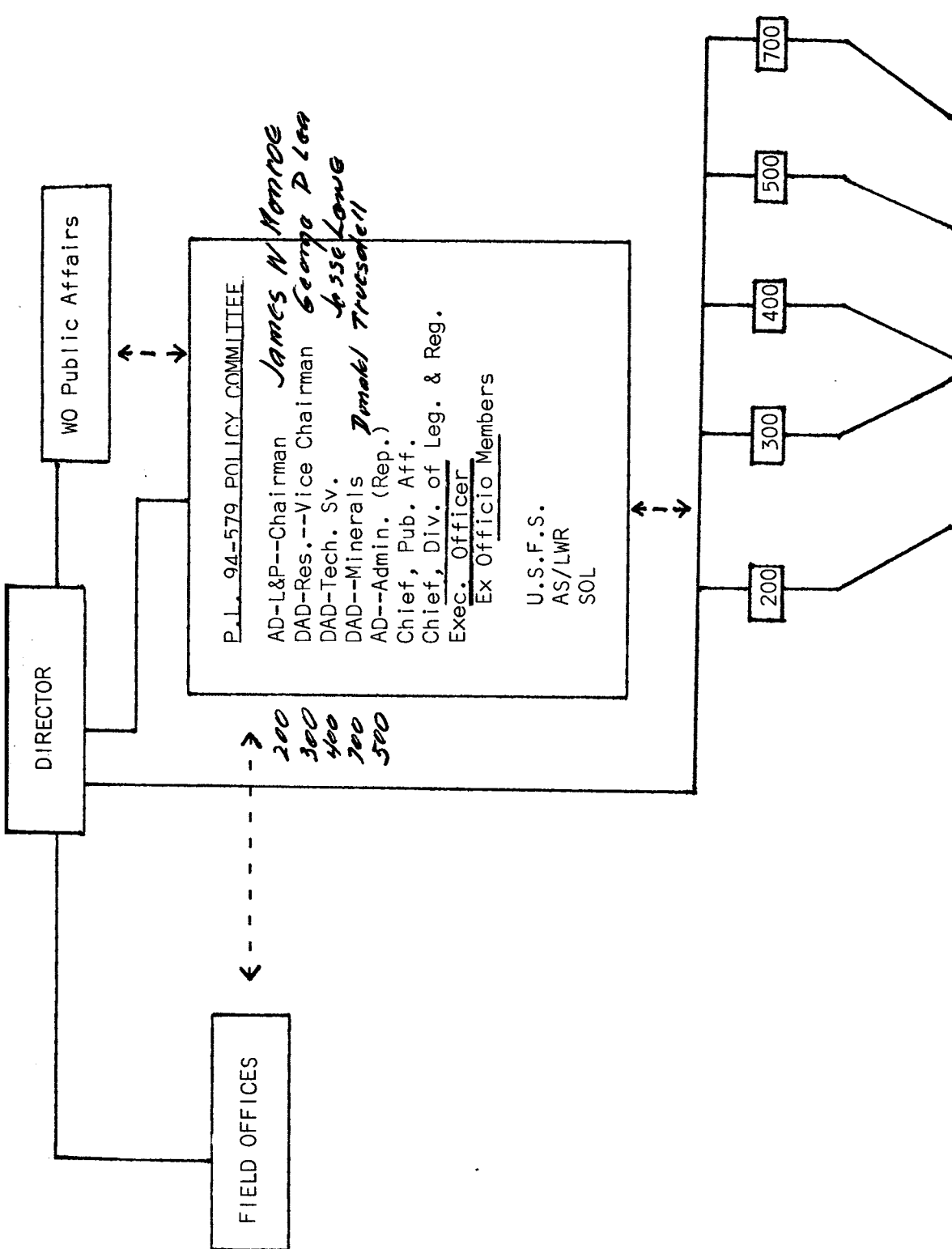
Thank you for your support.

*Curt Berkland.*

2 Enclosures

Encl. 1--Organizational Chart

Encl. 2--Strategy Paper



All Appropriate WO Divisions

BLM STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE FEDERAL  
LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976

Six major tasks will be initiated simultaneously:

- Task 1 -- Identify all aspects of the act that deal with pending applications, authorizations, or other rights and that require immediate interpretation and guidance. Identify pending applications, etc., for which authority to process no longer exists. Provide guidance.
- Task 2 -- Identify all items in the act that require action within a specific time frame. Assign responsibility and develop schedule and program for completion.
- Task 3 -- Identify existing regulations which are adequate. Assess manual procedures and identify any changes required to bring them into line with the act. Accomplish changes.
- Task 4 -- Identify areas where new starts are needed, not previously covered by law or regulation, and develop interpretations and strategies for proceeding.
- Task 5 -- Evaluate basic structure of 43 CFR, modify structure as needed to be responsive to the Act, and revise/add to the various regulations to accomplish full implementation of the Act.
- Task 6 -- Public Awareness--to facilitate understanding and implementation of the act through a public affairs program coordinated with the overall effort.