



U.S. Department of the Interior



U.S. Department of Agriculture



U.S. Department of Defense

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November 12, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO AGENCY AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS

From: Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security)
Sherri Goodman

B. Babbitt
Dan Glickman
Sherri Goodman

Subject: Interagency Southwest Strategy Follow Up Direction

Thank you for meeting in Phoenix to discuss natural resource management and endangered species issues in the Southwest. Clearly, the issues discussed are complex and difficult. Yet each of us is convinced that through hard work and full collaboration, these problems can be resolved in a way that will best serve the needs of the public and our nation's natural resources.

The Federal agencies must achieve a consensus that respects individual agency mandates and professional perspectives. At the same time we must include in our problem-solving process representatives of the private sector, non-governmental organizations; and State, local, and tribal governments who are working to resolve these issues as well.

Your efforts should result in a community development and a natural resource conservation and management strategy for matters under your jurisdictions. The strategy should maintain and restore the region's cultural, economic, and environmental quality of life. In addition to being collaborative, the strategy should proceed in a manner that is scientifically based, legally defensible, and implementable given our agencies' current budget and staff climates. We expect the strategy to be developed at the field and regional levels with support and oversight from national offices.

To move forward on this strategy in a cohesive fashion, we ask you to take the following actions:

- (1) By November 14, 1997, submit to us a final prioritized list of issues that need immediate attention by Federal natural resource management agencies. This list should include a plan for managing these issues as you move forward in meeting the direction outlined below.

(2) By November 21, 1997, submit to us a proposal describing how Federal agencies will collaborate with each other at the local, regional, and national levels. The proposal should include: 1) a comprehensive list of agencies that will participate; 2) who will represent each agency at the decision making level; 3) who will staff each decision maker, and (4) a discussion on how agencies will manage split jurisdictions.

(3) Submit to us a proposal for collaborating with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and other State, local, and tribal governments. Representatives from these sectors should be involved in the development of this proposal. You should determine a reasonable deadline for accomplishing this task by December 10, 1997.

(4) The Federal collaborative organization that will be established and will collaborate with private, non-governmental, and other governmental sectors shall submit to us a comprehensive strategy for resolving southwestern issues. The strategy should: 1) list the issues to be addressed in the short-, mid-, and long-terms; 2) describe an approach for resolving the issues; 3) list the agencies and organizations that will be responsible for each issue; 4) address the scope of the issue being addressed; 5) outline a public involvement process; 6) include a timeline for resolving these issues; and 7) incorporate other items that you think are important. You should determine, by December 10, 1997, a reasonable deadline for accomplishing this task.

Nancy Kaufman, Regional Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and John Kirkpatrick, Acting Regional Forester of the Forest Service, will chair this effort in the region. The Department of Defense (DOD) regional environmental coordinators, RADM Veronica Froman for Region 9 and Mr. Ed Lopez for Region 6, will coordinate DOD participation in this process. Jamie Rappaport Clark, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and Mike Dombeck, Chief of the USDA Forest Service, will coordinate this effort in Washington, D.C. Tom Tuchmann, Western Director and Special Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, will facilitate the decision making process and advise on the strategic development of this effort.

We look forward to hearing back from you on these items. You have our full support and best wishes to you in this effort.

cc: Kathleen McGinty, Council on Environmental Quality
Dinah Bear, Council on Environmental Quality
James R. Lyons, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Donald J. Barry, U.S. Department of the Interior
Bob Armstrong, U.S. Department of the Interior
Patricia J. Beneke, U.S. Department of the Interior

istribution:

Jamie Rappaport Clark, Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Mike Dombeck, Chief, U.S. Forest Service
Robert Stanton, Director, National Park Service
Pat Shea, Director, Bureau of Land Management
Mark Schaefer, Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey
Paul Johnson, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Ehud L. Martinez, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Ada Deer, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
Elsie Munsell, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Environment and Safety
Tad McCall, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health
Nancy Kaufman, Regional Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
John Kirkpatrick, Acting Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service
Denver Burns, Rocky Mountain Station Director, U.S. Forest Service
John Cook, Regional Director, National Park Service
Denise Meridith, Arizona State Director, Bureau of Land Management
William C. Calkins, New Mexico State Director, Bureau of Land Management
Doug Buffington, Western Regional Chief Biologist, U.S. Geological Survey
Mike Somerville, Arizona State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Rosendo Trevino, New Mexico State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Charles Calhoun, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation
Bob Johnson, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation
annette Hanna, Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
RADM Veronica Froman, Commander, Naval Base San Diego
Ed Lopez, Director, Central Regional Office, US Air Force