

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Office of Fire and Aviation

3833 South Development Avenue

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In Reply Refer To:

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Instruction Memorandum No. OF&A 2000-007

Expires: 09/30/2001

To: All State Directors

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Wild Horse & Burro (WH&B) Aviation Management Handbook

Program Area: Wild Horse & Burro/Aviation Management

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) establishes the WH&B Aviation Management Handbook as aviation policy for WH&B activities utilizing aircraft procured through the Office of Aircraft Services.

Policy/Action: The Handbook is published by the National Aviation Office and several copies will be delivered to each State Office (State Aviation Manager). New policies contained in the handbook are highlighted below.

- 1). The aviation management requirements contained in this handbook apply only to WH&B aviation operations conducted with aircraft procured through the Office of Aircraft Services (OAS).
- 2). This handbook does not apply to WH&B projects completed with BLM Service/End-Product contracts. Specific aviation policy regarding BLM Service/End-Product contracts will be addressed in a separate document.
- 3). Helicopters powered by reciprocating engines are allowed for use in accomplishing WH&B missions. However, all helicopters must meet the minimum performance requirements outlined in the OAS Operational Procedures Memorandum, 00-32.
- 4). OAS On-Call WH&B helicopter contracts are to be utilized, whenever possible, for all WH&B aviation requirements. OAS Aircraft Rental Agreements (ARA) may be utilized for census activities only if On-Call Contractors are unavailable or cost-prohibitive.

5). BLM aircrew during Special Use WH&B activities are allowed only when essential to mission accomplishment. BLM aircrew during specific flight profiles must be identified and justified in the Special Use Aviation Plan and approved by a Line Manager (Field Office Manager or State Director, depending on local delegation). Regardless of BLM approval, pilots retain the authority to disallow BLM aircrew during maneuvers where aircraft performance is critical.

Timeframe: The WH&B Aviation Management Handbook will serve as interim policy from the date of this IM until revised editions are published. Field personnel are encouraged to submit suggestions for changes and improvement through their State Aviation Managers.

Budget Impact: It is expected that compliance with the Handbook will improve safety, efficiency and reduce over-all cost associated with WH&B aircraft procurement and utilization.

Background: WH&B census and capture activities require some of the Bureau's most hazardous flight profiles where aircrews and ground personnel are frequently subjected to a high level of risk. Line Management approval and procedural policy are appropriate to mitigate risks during WH&B aviation operations. The WH&B Aviation Management Handbook is the result of review, revision and collaboration by many WH&B Specialists and Aviation Managers during the past year. This handbook replaces the National Wild Horse & Burro Aviation Operations Plan issued 04/01/93.

Manual Sections: BLM Manual Section 9400, Aviation Management, authorizes the issuance of Handbooks as policy to detail technical and procedural material.

Coordination: The National Aviation Office will deliver ten copies of the handbook to each State Aviation Manager. The states are responsible for disseminating handbooks to appropriate Managers, WH&B Specialists and Aviation Management Personnel in the Field Offices. State Directors and Field Office Managers should be briefed by Aviation Managers concerning the contents of the handbook and their role in approving/disapproving specific WH&B aviation activities. Additional copies of the handbook are available upon request at the National Aviation Office.

Contact: Any questions or response to this IM or the Handbook should be directed to respective State Aviation Managers or Kevin Hamilton (FA-140) 208-387-5173.

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