

**Interagency Ecological Site  
Description Manual**  
presented by George Peacock

*Interagency Memorandum of Understanding*

*Dan Caudle, Rangeland Management Specialist*  
**USDA NRCS**  
*Central National Technology Support Center*  
*Fort Worth, TX*

# Memorandum of Understanding

- Signed by
  - Chief of Forest Service
  - Chief of NRCS
  - Director of BLM
- Last signature May 12, 2005

# Memorandum of Understanding

## PURPOSE

Establish Federal Interagency team (ESDM Team) that will be responsible for developing a standardized method to be utilized by BLM, FS, and NRCS to:

*Define, delineate, and describe  
terrestrial ecological sites*

# Memorandum of Understanding

## ■ Lead Team Members

- Sherm Karl - Range Ecologist, BLM, National Science and Technology Center, Lakewood, CO
- Jeff DiBenedetto - Range Ecologist, FS, Custer National Forest, Billings, MT
- Dan Caudle - Rangeland Management Specialist, NRCS, Central National Technology Support Center, Fort Worth, TX

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## ■ Some General Ground Rules

- Focus on Rangeland
- NRCS, BLM, and FS are the core group
- Other agencies are welcome to participate, provide input, and review
- Partner organizations will be included as the effort progresses

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## ■ Team Responsibilities

- Review existing agency policies, procedures, guidelines, definitions and interpretations
- Review each agency's business needs
- Review other existing classification systems
- Determine similarities and differences
- Agree on standard protocols and procedures

# Memorandum of Understanding

- Team Responsibilities
  - Cooperatively develop an ecological site description manual that contains the standardized method of defining, delineating, and describing terrestrial ecological sites
  - Manual will be ready for acceptance by the agencies within 2 years

# Memorandum of Understanding

- Team Responsibilities
  - Establish protocols for development of ESD Manual
  - Determine core components of ESD Manual
  - Develop outline of ESD Manual

# ESDM Team Activities

- 8/30/05 - Initial meeting in Washington, DC
- Team Members/Washington Leadership Team
    - Agency policies and guidelines
    - NGO policies and support
    - Agency expectations and timeframes
    - Agency Ecological Classification Framework and Processes
    - Budgets, staff assistance, support, etc.

# ESDM Team Activities

8/31/05 – Lead Team Members meeting to begin ESD Manual development process

## ■ Discussion items

- Meetings, status reports, etc.
- Work plan, outline, schedules, time commitments, priorities
- Budgets – travel, staff assistance, supplies, equipment, etc.
- Technical Editor – Linda Hill, BLM, Lakewood, CO

# ESDM Team Activities

Identify specialists to provide input and review work

- Soil Scientists
- Wildlife Biologists
- Foresters
- Hydrologists
- Ecologists

# ESDM Team Activities

- Monthly Teleconferences
- 11/14 -18/05 – ESDM Team Meeting (BLM – Lakewood, CO)
- 11/18/05 - Submit ESD Manual Outline to Washington Team
- 1/10-12/06 – ESDM Team Meeting (NRCS – Fort Worth, TX)
- 2/12/06 – SRM RAM Committee (Vancouver, BC)
- 2/16/06 - ESDM Team Meeting (Vancouver, BC)

# ESDM Team Activities

- 3/6-10/06 – ESDM Team Meeting (FS – Billings, MT)
  - Finalize FIRST DRAFT of ESD Manual
- 3/31/06 – FIRST DRAFT of ESD Manual due to Washington
- 4/11-12/06 – ESDM Team Meeting (Washington, DC)
  - Review FIRST DRAFT of ESD Manual with Washington Team
- 5/8-12/06 – ESDM Team Meeting & Field Review (South Dakota & North Dakota)

# ESDM Team Activities

- 8/15-17/06 - ESDM Team Meeting (Lakewood, CO)
  - Work on FINAL DRAFT of ESD Manual
- 9/29 - FINAL DRAFT of ESD Manual due to Washington Team
- 10/1-12/31/06 – National Review of DRAFT ESD Manual
- 1/31/07– Finalize ESD Manual

# ESDM Team Activities

Then the REAL WORK BEGINS

- Marketing
  - Acceptance and adoption by agencies
  - Implementation by agencies