



## DoD Coordination of Conservation Issues with the Bureau of Land Management

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### Background:

As DoD continues its conservation efforts throughout the United States, increased coordination with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), especially within the West, is a requisite for success on many potential projects. In order to better collaborate with such a critical agency, OSD-Installations and Environment tasked ManTech SRS Technologies with providing a study on BLM's history, organizational structure, priorities, current and potential means of collaboration, and a GIS analysis on priority areas of joint conservation. A large proportion of DoD operating areas are adjacent to or near BLM-managed lands, so the impact of a stronger relationship with BLM on the military mission could prove tremendously beneficial.

### Objective:

This project provides a background on BLM's internal structure and agency priorities, an analysis of current collaborative efforts with DoD, and a GIS analysis of potential geographic areas for mutual conservation efforts. The main objectives are: 1) provide DoD with a better understanding of BLM as an agency, 2) a better understanding of where gaps exist within their current relationship in order to strengthen collaborative efforts,



and 3) highlight potential areas of interest for collaborative conservation for both agencies. This paper serves as a foundation for strengthening the existing relationship between DoD and BLM.

### Summary of Approach:

This project is laid out in three papers. The first provides an overview of BLM's structural organization and

historical background and lays the foundation for better understanding of how this key agency functions. The second paper analyzes several current collaborative efforts between BLM and DoD as well as offers recommendations for further collaboration. The final paper presents an exploratory analysis of geospatial information, including key maps, intended to facilitate collaborative research between the two agencies. That research is intended to identify cooperative conservation areas of interest.

### Benefit:

This project benefits DoD by providing pertinent background information on one of its key partner agencies as well as an analysis of their current working relationship. Our conservation mission benefits through the identification of potential conservation areas of interest. This project provides further benefit by identifying other policy and partner-level potential collaborative efforts. A stronger, more robust relationship between the two agencies will ultimately yield positive results for both organizations' missions.

### Accomplishments:

To date, DoD held a successful first meeting of the Western Regional Partnership, at which BLM was present. Local, state, and headquarters level representatives demonstrated interest in partnering at the regional level, including on GIS projects. OSD successfully engaged BLM headquarters leadership on the WRP and will continue to interact with officials to keep all levels of the organization updated on regional collaboration. DoD and BLM representatives are currently providing comment on the wind energy MOU, an interagency collaboration BLM is co-leading with DoE, which will circulate throughout the agencies again for further review and approval for leadership signing. Several other key recommendations are currently under review by DoD representatives with the intention of providing a timeline for potential implementation.

### Contact Information:

Name: Jonathan Weiss  
Title: Senior Analyst  
Org: OSD I&E, MSRS Technologies  
Address: 3865 Wilson Blvd  
Phone: (703) 351-7272  
Fax: (703) 312-0433  
Email: Jonathan.Weiss@wg.srs.com