

1982 BLM – FHWA INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT**FHWA & BLM Interagency Agreement**AA 851-IA2-40
INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTBureau of Land Management
And
Federal Highway Administration**I. Purpose**

This Interagency Agreement provides procedures by which the Secretary of Transportation acting through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) may appropriate public lands for highway rights-of-way and sources of materials for the Federal-aid Highway System and those classes of highways provided for in Chapter 2, 23 U.S.C. The lands appropriated are for use by the States for highways and/or highway material purposes. The appropriation is subject to conditions the Secretary of the Interior acting through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) may deem necessary for adequate protection and utilization of the public land and protection of the public interest.

II. Authority

- A. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 90 Stat. 2766, 43 U.S.C. 1737.
- B. The Act of August 27, 1958, as amended, 23 U.S.C., Sections 107(d) and 317.

III. Procedures

BLM and FHWA recognize the need for streamlined procedures by which the FHWA may appropriate BLM--administered public lands for highway and highway materials for the Federal-aid System and those classes of highways provided for in Chapter 2, 23 U.S.C. To accelerate the appropriation process, FHWA and BLM agree to the following procedures:

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- A. FHWA will notify BLM, as far in advance as possible, of any highway project being contemplated and arrange a meeting with the BLM authorized officer and the participating State agency to discuss the proposed project to ascertain whether or not the appropriation of the lands for highway or highway materials is consistent with BLM resource management programs and develop a plan of action to complete the appropriation within a reasonable time.
- B. It will be the responsibility of FHWA to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and other legal requirements in arriving at its determination that the lands are necessary for the project.
- C. FHWA shall submit to the authorized officer of BLM a written request for appropriation, accompanied by a map showing the location of lands it desires to appropriate, a statement of its determination that the lands are necessary for the project, a copy of the environmental assessment, and/or a copy of the environmental impact statement.
- D. The authorized officer of the BLM, after receipt of the request and attachments, shall review the material and, within a period of four months, notify FHWA, in writing, either (a) that the appropriation would be contrary to the public interest or inconsistent with the purposes for which the public lands or materials are being managed or (b) that BLM is in agreement with the appropriation subject to conditions of adequate protection and utilization of the public lands. If within a period of four months, the Bureau of Land Management has not responded, in writing, to the request for appropriation, such lands may be considered appropriated by FHWA and transferred to the State for right-of-way purposes as requested.
- E. Disagreement to the appropriation will be in the form of a letter, from BLM to FHWA, clearly stating the reasons why such an appropriation would be contrary to the public interest or inconsistent with the purposes for which the public lands or materials are being managed.
- F. Agreement to the appropriation will be in the form of a “Letter of Consent” which clearly states the conditions under which the agreement is given. These conditions involve the following:
1. Resolution of existing valid claims and use authorizations.
 2. Granting authority to FHWA within the appropriation is limited to rights-of-way for the Federal-aid Highway System and those classes of highways provided for in Chapter 2, 23 U.S.C.

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3. BLM retains the authority to grant additional right-of-way uses within and across the appropriated highway or material site right-of-way. Such additional uses include, but are not limited to, transportation and utility systems for water, power, communications, oil and gas, or any other facilities which are in the public interest, are not directly associated with highway use, operation and related highway purpose, and are not inconsistent with Title 23 of the U.S. Code. The FHWA shall be consulted prior to the issuance of such authorizations.
 4. The appropriation will automatically terminate if construction is not started within ten (10) years or sooner if agreed upon.
 5. Conditions providing for development and use of the adjacent public lands, such as, reasonable access and signing.
 6. Conditions protecting the adjacent public lands from right-of-way construction and maintenance activities which may cause off right-of-way adverse effects, such as, wildfire, chemical control of vegetation and animals, runoff drainage and re-vegetation with non-native species.
- G. FHWA, when transferring the highway right-of-way or highway material appropriation to the State, will make it subject to BLM's conditions as contained in the "Letter of Consent." FHWA will administer these conditions. BLM will work with or through FHWA when they observe non-compliance to the appropriation "Letter of Consent" conditions.
- H. When the need for the appropriation no longer exists and the State has reasonably rehabilitated the area to protect the public and environment, FHWA will notify BLM in writing. Upon receipt of this notice and acceptance of the rehabilitation, the lands appropriated shall revert to the BLM.
- I. A copy of the right-of-way use document from FHWA to the respective State shall be furnished to the BLM authorized officer.
- J. Amendments to or modifications of this Interagency Agreement may be initiated by either party, but shall not become effective or binding until agreed upon by both parties.

