

Bureau of Land Management Partnership Effectiveness Survey Study Report Summary

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) contracted with the Social Research Laboratory (SRL) at Northern Arizona University, through the Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit to conduct a survey of partners involved in current BLM assistance agreements. The primary goal of the survey was to assess the health, satisfaction and success of relationships between BLM and current partners, and to obtain a range of perspectives and experiences with partnerships. The results of the telephone survey provide a satisfaction rating that measures partnership effectiveness, and open-ended qualitative feedback was used to create a more in-depth picture of what constitutes and contributes to partnership effectiveness. These survey results identify areas and opportunities for improving the partnering process.

Methods

After receiving a sample of assistance agreement contract cover sheets from the BLM with contact information, the SRL conducted phone interviews with both BLM officers and current partners. Each interview lasted between 15-20 minutes. A total of 194 surveys were completed with agreement recipients and 250 surveys were completed with BLM officers. The final response rate for partnership recipients is 80 percent and 87 percent for BLM officers. The overall study response rate is 85 percent

Survey Findings

Both BLM and its partners agreed that:

- Partnerships are generally very successful
- Stated goals are met in partnerships
- Partnerships are effective
- They are very satisfied with the partnership
- Partnerships are expected to complete predefined tasks
- Both are highly committed to the partnership
- Communication skills are very important qualities of effective partnerships
- Personnel and funding are the most important resources for a successful partnership

Regarding the challenges faced in partnerships, both BLM and its partners agreed that:

- Consistent funding needs to be improved for the partnerships to be successful
- The public needs to become more aware of partnerships and their goals
- The administrative process for partnerships can and should be improved
- Reducing bureaucratic control would be helpful