

**ROLE OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
IN ENFORCING FEDERAL ANTIQUITIES
LEGISLATION AND POLICIES**

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SUMMARY

In the course of managing the public lands, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) must work within the context of more than 1,000 different laws, regulations, executive orders and departmental directives. Among these are more than 20 different laws, opinions, decisions, executive orders and federal regulations related to the archaeological and historical resources on lands managed by the Bureau.

How to resolve the conflicts, real or apparent, inherent in this mass of material is a very real problem.

A typical example is the conflict between the steps required under Executive Order 11593 to preserve cultural resources, spelled out in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 800, and the executive order and policy statement to the effect that we will be energy independent by 1985. If preservation requirements were strictly followed, Tracts C-a and C-b would not have been leased until after all the information needed to evaluate cultural resources and environmental impacts was in hand. Instead, some individual within the Bureau went ahead and took a chance: leasing was authorized while the steps required for preservation were going on. Because of this type of action, the BLM sees itself more as an interaction agency than as an enforcer.

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BLM's highest priority program is minerals, especially energy minerals; livestock is second. The Bureau also manages other resources: watersheds, wildlife, forestry, recreation, and transfers and exchanges of land to help oil shale development. It facilitates the development of natural resources and, at the same time, makes sure that the environment, the cultural heritage and even the visual appearance of the public lands are protected.