**Topic:** Update to Existing Vegetation Classification and Mapping Technical Guide (GTR WO-67)

**Summary:** Updates to the Existing Vegetation Technical Guide require cross-deputy collaboration and concurrence that should be sponsored and chartered by the Sustainable Landscape Management Board of Directors (SLMBOD).

**Background:** The Existing Vegetation Classification and Mapping Technical Guide, was published in 2005. The Federal Geographic Data Committee has adopted vegetation classification standards that are not reflected in the current Technical Guide. Consistent procedures for compliance with FGDC standards are essential to facilitate landscape-scale coordination across administrative units and with our conservation partners.

In 2007 agency vegetation classification, mapping and inventory specialists met to discuss business needs that had changed and identify opportunities to improve the guidance in the Technical Guide. Workshop participants identified and recommended a series of action items for improvements to the guide. Those action items are the basis for a project proposal recently approved by the Information Resources Board (IRB).

Accurate and consistent information on existing vegetation is essential to a wide variety of agency programs. This is an important opportunity for the SLMBOD to facilitate success by sponsoring and chartering a well coordinated and managed effort.

**Key Points:** This effort includes the following deliverables:

1. **Phase 1** – Identify and make revisions that (1) ensure alignment with current FGDC standards, (2) remove policy statements more appropriately addressed in the FS directives system, and (3) remove information that is not relevant to the use and application of the Technical Guide (e.g., history of FS efforts to improve resource information management). This work is projected to be completed by the end of CY2010 and includes interim FS Directives needed to support the revisions.

2. **Phase 2** – Evaluate recommendations from the 2007 workshop and consult with the Steering Team to establish priorities for updates to the Technical Guide. Develop technical guidance needed to address priority recommendations, provide an opportunity for field and staff review, field test the procedures, and draft an updated Technical Guide. This work would be completed prior to the CY2012 field season.

3. **Directives Revision** - Identify and draft appropriate supplements or revisions to FS directives, specifically FSM 1940 and FSH 1909.14. This work will be completed prior to the CY2012 field season.

**Actions:** The following actions are requested:

(1) Sponsor and charter the Vegetation Classification, Mapping and Inventory Technical Guide Revision project.

(2) Establish a Steering Team to provide the project development team guidance and oversight.

(3) Designate an individual as the Steering Team Leader.

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