

Providing Scientific and Technical Support for Land and Natural Resource Management Decisions

Introduction and Business Relationships

Argonne National Laboratory (Argonne) is a large multi-purpose research center operated by UChicago Argonne, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The Laboratory has over 3,000 employees, including about 1,800 scientists and engineers. The Environmental Science Division (EVS) is responsible for supporting integrated assessment, environmental management, natural resource, and basic science programs. The division has in-depth disciplinary strength in atmospheric science, computer science, ecology, ecosystem services evaluation, environmental engineering, environmental and human health risk assessment; geography, geology, hydrology, social and cultural sciences, and spatial analysis.

As a DOE-owned laboratory, under the Economy Act of 1932 Argonne can work with another federal agency by developing an overarching description of potential technical support (Proposal) and a memorandum of understanding or an interagency agreement with DOE. These documents enable Argonne to provide technical support at all levels of an agency. For any specific project, an Individual Work Plan (IWP) is developed jointly by the federal agency and Argonne; the IWP describes the tasks, products, schedule, and budget for the assistance required. An inter-agency fund transfer from the agency to DOE then allows Argonne to assign the necessary staff and resources to the project. Through such business relationships, Argonne has provided significant technical and scientific support to a number of important federal land management programs throughout the nation over the past 30 years, particularly as related to energy development.

Examples of Recent Land Management and Natural Resource Projects

The following are representative land management and natural resource assessment projects that Argonne has supported:

- Aspen Free Air Carbon Dioxide and Ozone Enrichment Facility (FS)
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Renewal of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System – Alaska (BLM)
- Geothermal Technologies Life Cycle and Water Use Studies (BLM, DOE)
- Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan EIS (BOR, NPS)
- Individual-Based Modeling of Wind Energy Development Effects on Greater Sage-Grouse (DOE)
- Long-term Monitoring Strategy Development including Remote Sensing Methods (BLM, DOE)
- Military Training Effects on Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat (BLM)
- Off-Shore Alternative Energy Development PEIS for the Outer Continental Shelf (MMS)
- Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resource Development on Federal Lands EISs (BLM)
- Renewable Energy and Transmission Visual Resource Inventory Development and Impact Studies (BLM, NPS)
- Regional Mitigation Strategies for oil and gas and renewable energy development (BLM)
- Solar and Wind Energy Development Programmatic EISs on Public Lands in the Southwest and West (BLM and DOE)
- Web-based Mapping Applications for analysis of energy project siting issues (BLM, DOE)
- West-wide Energy Corridors for Federal Lands in the West – Programmatic EIS (BLM, DOD, DOE, FS, FWS)

Agencies: BLM-Bureau of Land Management; BOR-Bureau of Reclamation; DOE-Department of Energy; FS-Forest Service; FWS-Fish and Wildlife Service; DOD-Department of Defense; NPS-National Park Service

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Type and Location of Land Management and Natural Resource Projects Conducted by Argonne National Laboratory

