

ORDER NO. 3185

SIGNATURE DATE: January 5, 1995

Subject: Mission and Activities of the National Biological Service

Sec. 1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this Order is to set forth the mission and activities of the National Biological Survey and to reflect accurately that mission by changing the name to National Biological Service. This Order supersedes Order No. 3173, Establishment of the National Biological Survey, issued on September 29, 1993, and amended on September 29, 1994.

Sec. 2 **Authority.** This Order is issued in accordance with the authority provided by Sections 2 and 5 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262; 5 U.S.C. App).

Sec. 3 **Name Change.** The name of the National Biological Survey is hereby changed to National Biological Service (NBS).

Sec. 4 **Mission.** NBS is an independent bureau devoted to providing quality biological science. The mission of the NBS is to work with others to provide the scientific understanding and technologies needed to support the sound management and conservation of our Nation's biological resources. The primary role of the NBS is to meet the biological research needs of other organizations within the Department of the Interior, other Federal agencies, States, local entities, Tribes, and private and nonprofit users.

Sec. 5 **Organization.** The current organization structure remains in effect.

Sec. 6 Relationship of the NBS to States and Other Organizations.

a. The NBS is primarily responsible for accomplishing biological research and collecting, analyzing and disseminating the biological information needed by the Interior Department and other Federal agencies to meet responsibilities related to the sound management of the Nation's resources, including specific responsibilities for trust species.

b. States have significant resource management responsibilities, including species other than those entrusted to the Federal government. Also, they hold much of the information necessary to understand important resource issues. NBS will work with States to understand the biological resource issues and share data, working with them to establish common protocols and standards for data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

c. The NBS will seek advice from relevant Federal agencies, States, nongovernment organizations concerned with natural resources, and professional and scientific associations in setting

priorities for biological research.

Sec. 7 **Private Property Access.** NBS employees are required to obtain permission from the land owner, lessee, or other lawful occupant before undertaking any work on private land. No new surveys will be initiated on private land without the prior written permission of the land owner. There will be no charge for any data collected on private property that is provided to the land owner lessee, or other lawful occupant upon his or her request.

Sec. 8 **Volunteers.** NBS uses only trained and qualified volunteers. No NBS volunteer may enter private property unless authorized by an NBS supervisor with the approval of the land owner, lessee or other lawful occupant. All information collected by NBS volunteers will be verified by the supervisor or another qualified NBS employee.

Sec. 9 **Peer Review.** Rigorous scientific peer review is critical to the mission of the NBS. NBS requires peer review for all scientific publications and research plans.

Sec. 10 **Delegations.** The Director of the NBS is delegated, through the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, the administrative and program management authority necessary to implement the mission of the NBS. This delegation is subject to the limitations contained in Part 200 of the Departmental Manual.

Sec. 11 **Effective Date.** This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until its provisions are converted to the Departmental Manual or until it is amended, superseded or revoked, whichever comes first. In the absence of the foregoing action, the provisions of this Order will terminate and be considered obsolete on September 30, 1996.

/s/ Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of the Interior

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