

ORDER NO. 3202

SIGNATURE DATE: September 30, 1996

Subject: Transfer of the National Biological Service to the U.S. Geological Survey as a new Biological Resources Division

Sec. 1 Purpose. The purpose of this Order is to consolidate the scientific research functions of the Department of the Interior by transferring the National Biological Service (NBS) to the U.S. Geological Survey and renaming NBS as the Biological Resources Division.

Sec. 2 Authority. This Order is issued under the authority provided by Sections 2 and 5 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat 1262; 5 U.S.C. App), as amended; and is consistent with Congressional direction contained in Public Law 104-134.

Sec. 3 Transfer of Organization and Functions. The National Biological Service is transferred to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and renamed the Biological Resources Division (BRD). The mission of the BRD 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 BRD's primary role is to meet the biological science needs of other bureaus within the Department of the Interior, as well as those of the States, other Federal agencies, local governments, tribes and private and non-profit organizations.

Sec. 4 Organization of the Biological Resources Division.

a. **Headquarters Organization.** The BRD is headed by the Chief Biologist, who reports to the Director of the USGS. The following positions report to the Chief Biologist: Deputy Chief Biologist, Associate Chief Biologist, Assistant Chief for Information, Assistant Chief for Operations; and Chief, Cooperative Units.

b. **Field Structure.** The BRD is divided into three regions conforming with the regional structure of the USGS. Each region is headed by a regional chief biologist, reporting to the Chief Biologist. Research center directors report to the regional chief biologist of the region within which they are geographically located. The cooperative units report to the Chief of Cooperative Units through three field supervisors.

Sec. 5 Delegations. Subject to the limitations contained in Part 200 of the Departmental Manual, the Director, USGS, is delegated, through the Assistant Secretary - Water and Science, all programmatic and administrative authority necessary to carry out the mission and functions of BRD.

Sec. 6 Administrative Provisions. The Assistant Secretary - Water and Science, working with the Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget as necessary, will ensure that appropriate steps are taken to transfer the personnel, records and property necessary to implement this Order. Unless otherwise modified, all agreements, contracts, and other documents committed to by the National Biological Service remain in effect and will be honored by the

USGS/BRD.

Sec. 7 Effective Date. This Order is effective October 1, 1996, 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 actions, the provisions of this Order will terminate and be considered obsolete on October 1, 1997.

/s/ Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of the Interior

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