

## **9 FEBRUARY 2007**

### **Appointments Announced**

James M. Hughes, Gary W. Mast and Constance C. Jackson were appointed to positions with the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) this week.

Hughes was announced as the acting director of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which manages 258 million acres of public land and 700 million acres of subsurface mineral resources.

Hughes, who has been BLM's deputy director for programs and policy since 2002, will serve until a new BLM director is nominated by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as provided by law. Former Director Kathleen Clarke resigned to return to her home state of Utah to rejoin her family.

The USDA announced Mast as deputy under secretary for natural resources and environment. Mast succeeds Merlyn Carlson, who retired from the position on Jan. 5, 2007.

NRE ensures the health of the land through sustainable management and works to prevent damage to natural resources and the environment, restore the resource base and promote good land management.

As Foreign Agricultural Service associate administrator, Jackson will be instrumental in helping the agency manage its market development programs and support U.S. agriculture in both the negotiations of new trade agreements and their enforcement after they go into effect.