

FS Agreement Number: 00-SU-11130142-080

**MASTER SERVICE-WIDE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between the
EASTERN LANDS AND RESOURCES COUNCIL
THE WESTERN STATES LAND COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION
And the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE**

This Master Service-wide Memorandum of Understanding (SU) is made and entered into by and between the following non-profit organizations, the Eastern Lands and Resources Council and the Western States Land Commissioners Association, hereinafter referred to as ELRC/WSLCA, and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, hereinafter referred to as the Forest Service.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this SU is to provide a general framework of cooperation between the parties concerning activities necessary to maintain and enhance the management of public lands and resources of the United States. It is believed that such cooperation will benefit public lands and their resources, the parties, and the public.

II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFITS AND INTERESTS

The ELRC/WSLCA are two national non-profit associations of State land commissioners, directors, and administrators.

The WSLCA consists of 23 States, which together manage more than 390 million acres of surface and subsurface State land throughout the West. The objectives of WSLCA are to maximize earnings while preserving the assets of the member States' educational trusts and to encourage prudent administration of those trusts; to obtain and assess information regarding public land, water, and resource management policies; to develop prudent public land and water management policies; and to provide information, education, and assistance concerning the foregoing to the member States and interested parties.

The ELRC is an organization that provides public land professionals in the Eastern United States a forum for enhancing land stewardship and conservation. The ELRC fosters communication, strengthens professional development, and promotes sound policies and practices among those involved in the management and administration of public lands, records and natural resources.

The Forest Service is a public land management agency that manages 191.6 million acres of national forests and grasslands. The Forest Service conducts the world's largest forest research program, cooperates with State, local, and tribal governments, communities and private forest landowners, and participates in a range of international forestry activities. The mission of the Forest Service is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable, multiple-use management concept in order to meet the diverse needs of people.

The Forest Service and members of the ELRC/WSLCA represent adjoining or intermingled public lands and a wide range of matters of mutual interest, concern, and responsibility. These matters include providing benefits to the citizens of the Nation and promoting the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for present and future generations.

The Forest Service and ELRC/WSLCA agree that the future health, diversity and productivity of public lands are dependent upon the application of ecosystem management. In consideration of these goals, the parties will strive to work together effectively on common issues while demonstrating the value of public service. Through our actions, we aim to increase respect and confidence in all levels of Government.

III. ERLC/WSLCA SHALL:

1. Make available to its membership information about Forest Service programs and proposals.
2. Advise the Forest Service of ERLC/WSLCA perceptions including the needs and concerns of their members and/or proposed resolutions that might directly impact the Forest Service.
3. Invite the Forest Service to attend regional and national meetings.
4. Communicate with Forest Service personnel at appropriate levels on issues of mutual importance.

IV. THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL:

1. Share information with ELRC/WSLCA about its programs and proposals.
2. Strive to attend and actively participate in the annual ELRC/WSLCA joint spring conference and the annual meetings of ELRC/WSLCA.

3. Encourage Regional Foresters and Forest Supervisors to meet annually with their respective State land commissioners/directors/administrators and to communicate with ERLC/WSLCA personnel at appropriate levels on issues of mutual importance, as needed.

V. ALL PARTIES AGREE TO:

1. Improve the planning, coordination and management of forest and grassland managed by all parties to stabilize, enhance and restore ecosystem integrity on both State and Federal lands.
2. Increase communication and coordination of activities that improve community sustainability.
3. Identify and promote consistency and compatibility between State and Federal technology management standards and techniques including computer systems, electronic mail, mapping, satellite imagery, geographic information system, land records, surveys, library reference material and related systems to share information on natural resource management issues.
4. Improve efficiency while reducing duplication of services related to land management issues such as fire control, emergency fire suppression and insect and disease programs.
5. Meet annually and agree on specific regional/State activities that will contribute to achieving the above goals including training, educational programs, development of environmental statements, wildfire management, trespass enforcement, land use planning, access management, management of invasive species, and inventories of threatened and endangered species and pest control.
6. Work cooperatively on land exchanges that consolidate ownership patterns, on the issuances of easements necessary to provide reasonable access to respective ownerships and to address other mutual benefits through cooperative land and resource management.

7. Consider participating in mutually agreed upon natural resource projects, land exchange projects, road and recreational trail projects, signage, projects involving archeological, paleontological, cultural and historic resources, projects to maintain and restore habitat for wildlife, including threatened and endangered species and educational efforts. All cooperative projects will be in compliance with State and Federal rules, procedures, and policies. Examples of these efforts include: development, distribution, delivery, and cooperation with educational programs or media products about the management and conservation of natural resources.
8. Coordinate press releases that reference this SU, or the relationship between the parties of this SU. Press releases shall have the approval of all parties prior to publication.
9. Meet periodically to discuss and identify opportunities for mutually beneficial projects and activities that contribute to the intent of this SU. When necessary, work to be performed under this SU will be initiated through separate fund-obligating documents that will specify the work to be accomplished and set forth the responsibilities of all parties. All exchanges for sharing of information will be in compliance with State and Federal rules, procedures, and policies.

VI. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY THE PARTIES THAT:

1. NON-FUND OBLIGATING DOCUMENT. This instrument is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds, or transfer of anything of value between the parties to this instrument will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for Government procurement and printing. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing to representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by the appropriate statutory authority. This instrument does not provide such authority. Specifically, this instrument does not establish authority for noncompetitive awards to the cooperator of any contract or other agreements. Any contract or agreement for training or other services must fully comply with all applicable requirements for competition.

2. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This instrument in no way restricts the Forest Service or the Cooperator(s) from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
3. MODIFICATION. Changes within the scope of this instrument shall be made by the issuance of a bilaterally executed modification.
4. TERMINATION. Either party, in writing, may terminate the instrument in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration.
5. COMPLETION DATE. This instrument is executed as of the last date below and expires no later than April 15, 2005, at which time it is subject to review and renewal, or expiration.
6. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS.

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ELRC/WSLCA/FS-SU
April 11, 2000

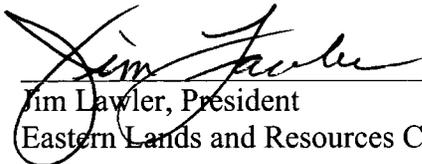
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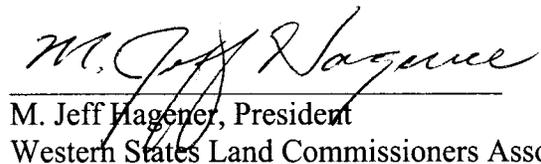
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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this SU as of the last written date below.



Jim Lawler, President
Eastern Lands and Resources Council

April 11, 2000
Date



M. Jeff Hagener, President
Western States Land Commissioners Association

4/11/2000
Date



Mike Dombeck, Chief
USDA Forest Service

4/11/2000
Date