Forest Service | Washington Office | 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250

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Route To:

Subject: Service-wide Memorandum of Understanding with Xerces Society

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Directors

Mr. Scott Hoffman Black, Executive Director, Xerces Society, Inc. and Chief Tom Tidwell finalized a new service-wide memorandum of understanding (MOU). This MOU recognizes our longstanding partnership and mutual interest in the conservation and management of pollinators, other invertebrates and their habitats and associated ecosystems, and our common desire to expand our cooperative work throughout the country. The Forest Service and the Xerces Society have worked together through our mutual partnerships with the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) and Butterfly Conservation Initiative (BFCI).

The Xerces Society's mission is to act as a catalyst for stewardship and conservation of invertebrates. The Xerces Society works with scientists, land managers, and citizens to conserve and protect invertebrates by producing informational materials, presenting educational activities, implementing conservation activities, and advocacy.

Our new partnership will focus on teaching our employees to understand and value pollinators and the ecosystem service they provide. We know that by managing for native invertebrates and their habitats, we help ensure conservation of our Nation's biodiversity, and create a healthier environment for both wildlife and people on our national forests and grasslands.

I know that partnerships take valuable time, effort, and energy; but they are worth it, and are in the Forest Service's and the public's interest. Partnerships such as these allow the Forest Service to do more of the important conservation work that benefits the public.

I encourage you to review the enclosed MOU, visit Xerces Society website at http://www.xerces.org/, and become more involved with the Xerces Society and our NAPPC and BFCI partners.

Gloria Manning

for JOEL D. HOLTROP
Deputy Chief, National Forest System

Enclosures (2)

cc: Larry Stritch

FS Agreement No. 09-SU-11130121-091
Cooperator Tax ID No.
Cooperator Agreement No.

MASTER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between
The Xerces Society, Inc.
and the
United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is made and entered into by and between The Xerces Society, Inc. (Xerces Society) and the United States Department of Agriculture, FOREST SERVICE ("FOREST SERVICE").

I. AUTHORITY

Under the provisions of the by-laws and other governing documents for THE XERCES SOCIETY, and under the provisions of the following for the U. S. FOREST SERVICE: P. L. 86-517, Multiple-Use, Sustained-Yield Act (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.), P. L. 95-307, Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1641 et seq.), National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Act of 1977, as amended by The Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 3318), Granger-Thye Act of April 24, 1950 (16 U.S.C. 572) Section 5., and Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 as amended (16 U.S.C. 2101-2114, P. L. 95-9-313, The International Forestry Cooperation Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C 4501, P.L. 101-513) Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stst. 884, as amended: 16 U.S.C. 1531), Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 4301-4309), P.L. 100-691, and Volunteers in the National Forest Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 558a-558d) P.L. 92-300. This Agreement is without prejudice to other existing or potential agreements between the U. S. FOREST SERVICE and THE XERCES SOCIETY.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the MOU is to provide a framework for cooperation and coordination between THE XERCES SOCIETY and the U. S. FOREST SERVICE in achievement of the mutual goals. Cooperation and coordination may involve a wide range of activities, including, but not limited to, the following: training, conducting assessments, inventory, research, monitoring, protection, restoration and other activities necessary to conserve and restore invertebrates and their habitats and ecosystems. The framework for cooperation and coordination is especially needed for restoration and conservation of threatened, endangered and sensitive invertebrate species and species with special habitat requirements, such as pollinators.

III. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND BENEFIT.

Both THE XERCES SOCIETY and the U. S. FOREST SERVICE have responsibilities and interests in the conservation, and management of invertebrates and their habitats and associated ecosystems.

The U. S. FOREST SERVICE is a natural resource agency dedicated to the sustained management of the Nation's natural resources, service to people, and through Federal law and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture has major responsibility for conserving biodiversity through the management of fish, wildlife, and plant habitats, including providing special protection for threatened, endangered, and sensitive/rare plant and animal species. The U. S. FOREST SERVICE accomplishes much of this work by initiating and developing cooperative relationships and effective partnerships through its National Forest System, Research and Development, International Programs, and State and Private Forestry branches.

THE XERCES SOCIETY is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the diversity of life through the conservation of invertebrates. The Xerces Society works with scientists, land managers, and citizens to protect invertebrates and their habitats by producing informational materials, presenting education activities, implementing conservation projects, and advocacy. Its main program focus is on endangered species, aquatic biomonitoring and pollinator conservation.

Where appropriate, it is the desire of both parties to cooperate with each other, including exchange of personnel and other resources, in matters relating to the management and conservation of invertebrates and the ecosystems that depend upon them through cooperative efforts including, but not limited to:

A. Conducting inventories, assessments, and surveys of invertebrates and their ecosystems;
B. Identification of special management areas, (Research Natural Areas and Special Interest Areas, for example);
C. Production of grants and agreements, reports, abstracts and other materials;
D. Conducting research to identify factors influencing invertebrate populations;
E. Providing input to natural resource planning, project development and implementation efforts.
F. Terrestrial and aquatic invertebrate habitat improvement, restoration, or maintenance:
G. Mitigation, restoration and rehabilitation activities;
H. Demonstration of innovative management practices associated with sustainable forestry and the protection of plant and animal diversity, recreation, and Ecotourism values through prevention and control of species invasions, use of techniques such as prescribed fire, grazing, forest thinning, and herbicide application, and facilitation of international conservation of forests, parks, watersheds and protected areas:
I. Monitoring and evaluation of invertebrate habitats and populations;

J. Assistance to and partnerships with foreign, state and tribal governments, private landowners, communities, and other non-governmental organizations;
K. Development of interpretive programs and displays;
L. Community-based outreach, training, education and partnerships.
M. Identifying pollinators for threatened, endangered, and Forest Service sensitive plant species.

IV. THE XERCES SOCIETY SHALL

A. Cooperate with the U. S. FOREST SERVICE in carrying out the projects and other collaboration which the parties thereto provide support.
B. Provide the U. S. FOREST SERVICE with expertise for the implementation of agreed-upon inventory, monitoring, habitat projects, education, outreach, or research efforts; information regarding the status of invertebrate populations; and assessment of progress of implementing mutual invertebrate conservation objectives.
C. Enter into specific agreements or contracts to accomplish agreed upon work projects.
D. Meet annually or as required with representatives of the U. S. FOREST SERVICE to plan collaboration and negotiate guidelines for project proposals to meet the purposes of this MOU.
E. As determined by specific agreement, provide support for the implementation of projects that further THE XERCES SOCIETY'S mission of conserving invertebrates and their habitats.
F. Inform the general public about invertebrate conservation projects conducted cooperatively with the U. S. FOREST SERVICE.
G. Assist in the training of U. S. FOREST SERVICE personnel relative to invertebrate conservation and management.

V. THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL

A. Make National Forest System lands available for the furtherance of this partnership, subject to the National Environmental Protection Act and other applicable federal law, regulations, forest plans, and approval by the appropriate Forest Service official.
B. Cooperate with THE XERCES SOCIETY to identify, define and carry out programs and activities of the National Forest System, Research and Development, International Programs, and State and Private Forestry, including designing and conducting research; developing and implementing forest plans, watershed and other ecological assessments, and conducting local, and international projects, and restoring conserving and managing invertebrates and their habitats.

C. Conserve and manage invertebrates and their habitats according to applicable federal law, regulations, and specific direction in Forest Land and Resource Management Plans.
D. Enter into specific agreements or contracts to accomplish agreed upon work projects.
E. Meet annually or as needed with representatives of THE XERCES SOCIETY to develop collaborative strategic plans and discuss and reach agreement on guidelines for the project proposals to meet the purposes of this MOU.

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

1. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). Any information furnished to the Forest Service under this instrument is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

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. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION/TERMINATION. This MOU takes effect upon the signature of the Forest Service and Xerces Society, Inc. and shall remain in effect for five years from the date of execution. This MOU may be extended or amended upon written request of either the U. S. Forest Service or Xerces Society, Inc. and the subsequent written concurrence of the other(s). Either the U. S. Forest Service or Xerces Society, Inc. may terminate this MOU with a 60-day written notice to the other(s).

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES. The U. S. Forest Service and Xerces Society, Inc. and their respective agencies and office will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner.

5. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. The principal contacts for this instrument are:

U. S. Forest Service Project Contact
Larry Stritch
USDA Forest Service
Range Staff, mailstop 1103
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202-205-1279
FAX: 202-205-1096
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Xerces Society, Inc Project Contact.
Scott Hoffman Black
Xerces Society, Inc.
4828 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97215

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E-Mail: sblack@xerces.org

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U. S. Forest Service Administrative Contact	*Cooperator Administrative Contact*
Altonia McGuire	Scott Hoffman Black
USDA Forest Service	Xerces Society, Inc.
Range Staff, mailstop 1103	4828 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
1400 Independence Avenue, SW	Portland, Oregon 97215
Washington, DC 20250	
Phone: 202-205-0982	Phone: 503-232-6639
FAX: 202-205-1096	FAX: 503-233-6794
E-Mail: amcguire@fs.fed.us	E-Mail: sblack@xerces.org

6. NON-FUND OBLIGATING DOCUMENT. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate either the U. S. Forest Service or Xerces Society, Inc. to obligate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the various agencies and offices of the U. S. Forest Service and Xerces Society, Inc. will require execution of separate agreements and be contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of each such agreement must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations.

7. ESTABLISHMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY. This MOU is not intended to, and does not create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

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8. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. By signature below, the cooperator certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the cooperator are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement.

THE PARTIES HERETO have executed this instrument.

XERCES SOCIETY, INC.	U. S. Forest Service
7/14/09 SCOTT HOFFMAN BLACK DATE Executive Director	9/10/09 THOMAS L. TIDWELL DATE Chief U. S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
The authority and format of this instrument has been reviewed and approved for signature. 7/9/09 DATE FS Agreements Coordinator	

THE XERCES SOCIETY
FOR INVERTEBRATE CONSERVATION

Xerces Society and USDA Forest Service: Partnership Opportunities

CONNECTING SCIENCE WITH CONSERVATION

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is an international, nonprofit organization that protects wildlife through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitat. Established in 1971, the Xerces Society is at the forefront of invertebrate protection, harnessing the knowledge of scientists and the enthusiasm of local citizens to implement conservation and education programs. Over the past three decades, we have protected endangered species and their habitats, produced ground-breaking publications on insect conservation, trained thousands of farmers and land managers to protect and manage habitat, and raised awareness about the invertebrates of forests, prairies, deserts, and oceans.

The **USDA Forest Service** is a natural resource agency dedicated to the sustained management of the nation's natural resources and service to people. Managing public lands in national forests and grasslands, it is the largest forestry research organization in the world, and provides technical and financial assistance to state and private forestry agencies. The Forest Service is responsible for managing habitat to maintain populations of threatened, endangered, sensitive, and other species of plants and animals on national forests and grasslands. The agency is involved in acquiring, developing and disseminating up-to-date information on the status, distribution, population trends, ecology, conservation needs, and stewardship of these species and habitats to accomplish needed management and conserve natural resources.

MUTUAL GOALS, MUTUAL BENEFITS

For over 20 years the Xerces Society and U.S. Forest Service have jointly partnered together to conserve invertebrates and their habitat. Recognizing the opportunity to expand on these collaborations, in 2009, the Forest Service and Xerces Society are signing a service-wide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU provides a framework for cooperation between the two organizations to help achieve our mutual goals of ensuring the sound management of the nation's national forests and grasslands, and protecting the biological resources essential for pollinator, rare butterfly, and other invertebrate conservation that these lands and waters sustain.

A TRACK RECORD OF COLLABORATION

- Since the late 1980s, the Xerces Society and the Forest Service have partnered on invertebrate conservation projects in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. The Xerces Society provided technical assistance on the Northwest Forest Plan and has provided feedback on management of old forests for the benefit on invertebrate diversity.
- Over the last 20 years, the Xerces Society has provided information on management for rare prairie dependent butterflies on Forest Service lands. The Xerces Society has worked with the Forest Service through cost shares to survey for rare and at-risk butterflies on Forest Service lands and has conducted research that allows the Forest Service to make informed decisions on land management.

- Over the last 10 years, we have worked to provide tools and training to Forest Service staff on how to assess water quality using macroinvertebrates. To that end we have produced *A Guide to Pacific Northwest Macroinvertebrate Monitoring and Identification* an interactive CD-ROM that includes detailed identification guides and descriptions of nearly 500 Pacific Northwest macroinvertebrates (http://www.xerces.org/identification-guides/).
- Recently, the Forest Service joined with the Xerces Society to 1) identify and map the locations and habitat of 49 Forest Service sensitive invertebrate species, and to develop an appropriate process for surveying within these habitats, and 2) conduct inventories of the Siuslaw hairy-necked tiger beetle (*Cicindela hirticollis siuslawensis*) and the Oregon plant bug (*Lygus oregonae*).
- The Xerces Society has also worked with Forest Service managers across the U.S. to provide pollinator conservation management recommendations and developed *Pollinators in Natural Areas: A Primer on Habitat Management* http://www.xerces.org/guidelines-pollinators-in-natural-areas/ as an aid to management on these lands.
- Working with the Butterfly Conservation Initiative and the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, the U.S. Forest Service and the Xerces Society continue to highlight the importance of conserving and protecting rare butterflies and pollinators.

Mutual Interests and Partnership Opportunities

The new MOU between the Forest Service and Xerces Society provides a framework for expanding collaborations related to the conservation and management of pollinators, rare butterflies, other invertebrates, and their habitats.

Xerces Society Strengths:

- The Xerces Society is a leader in invertebrate conservation and provides expertise and supportive facilitation to address Forest Service management issues such as habitat restoration and management of ecosystems dependent on healthy pollinator populations.
- The Xerces Society is a willing partner in initiating and facilitating cooperative efforts with the U.S. Forest Service, other agencies, non-government organizations, and private industry to complete conservation efforts in a collaborative and cost-effective manner.
- The Xerces Society can work with the U. S. Forest Service nationally, regionally, and locally to identify and support priorities for research, education, and management that will meet mutual objectives for species conservation and public outreach, including state and private wildlife and forestry training.

Project areas of mutual interest to USFS and Xerces include:

- Management for Pollinators
  Native pollinators are critical to healthy ecosystems. Economically, these services contribute to the production of valuable timber products such as Black Cherry, which is pollinated by bees, and a number of plants such as Chipotle peppers and Beargrass which are culturally important. In addition, conserving pollinators is an important part of managing Forest Service sensitive plant species. Wild areas such as Forest Service lands can also serve as refuge for pollinators to recolonize adjacent farmland, where they act as important crop pollinators.

- At-risk Invertebrates
  A rare or endangered species of insect is unlikely to determine the fate of a large ecological system, but as a group they may have a large effect. Ecosystem functions, such as the recycling of nutrients, often are done by specialists like the American burying beetle rather than generalists. Endangered species also can play a linchpin role in small, specialized systems, such as caves, oceanic islands, or some pollinator–plant relationships. For example, some plant species rely on one or a few pollinators. Decreased abundance or loss of any of these pollinators can have dramatic consequences, especially if a plant depends on a single, obligate pollinator. The Forest Service and Xerces Society are interested in conserving endangered insects and other invertebrates through this mutual arrangement.

- Healthy Forests