

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

FOR

MANAGEMENT OF FOREST SERVICE AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FOREST LAND WITHIN THE RANGE OF THE NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

I. PARTIES

This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the following parties:

US Army Corps of Engineers	USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs
USDA, Forest Service, Region 5	USDI, Bureau of Land Management
USDA, Forest Service, Region 6	USDI, Fish & Wildlife Service, Pacific Region
USDA, Forest Service, PNW Research Station	USDI, Fish & Wildlife Service, Pacific SW Region
USDA, Forest Service, PSW Research Station	USDI, Geological Survey
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service	USDI, National Park Service
USDC, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service	US Environmental Protection Agency

II. BACKGROUND

In 1993, a comprehensive forest plan was initiated to end the impasse over management of Federal forest land in the Pacific Northwest within the range of the northern spotted owl. The 1994 Northwest Forest Plan Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines (NWFP) used an innovative approach based on ecosystem and watershed management. The NWFP transcended traditional administrative boundaries while addressing resource management, economic, and social issues. Implementation of the NWFP has required cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among the participating Federal agencies, and with States, Tribes, and local governments.

III. PURPOSE

Sixteen years after Forest Service (FS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land and resource management plans were amended by the NWFP, the parties to this MOU are committed to continued cooperation, coordination, and collaboration, while recognizing that both the FS and BLM are required to periodically revise their land and resource management plans. The purpose of this MOU is to maintain an interagency framework to achieve two distinct goals. The first goal is cooperative planning, improved decision making, and coordinated implementation of the NWFP as revised in subsequent Federal agency plans within the range of the northern spotted owl. The second goal is improved coordination and collaboration with State, Tribal, and local governments as they seek to implement management approaches that support or complement Federal agency goals within that range. Fulfillment of both of these goals is integral to an ecosystem management approach that is scientifically sound, ecologically credible, and legally responsible.

The parties to this MOU agree to:

- Continue to refine and implement a cohesive vision and shared sense of mission for the management of Federal forest lands that balances multiple objectives, including the restoration and conservation of forest ecosystems and the production of sustainable economic and social benefits from the forests;
- Improve their ability to monitor and evaluate their progress toward established goals, and to adapt to change, as appropriate, in a cohesive manner;
- Cultivate greater trust, coordination, and collaboration among Federal agencies, within individual agencies, and with State, Tribal, and local governments;
- Integrate the best scientific information available from research and monitoring into adaptive management decisions;
- Continue to work toward building a seamless, current, and accessible information network to support ecosystem management on Federal lands;
- Share information, technology, and expertise, and pool resources in order to make and implement better-informed decisions related to ecosystem and adaptive management across jurisdictional boundaries;
- Improve integrated application of agency budgets to maximize efficient use of funds toward the implementation and monitoring of sound forest management strategies;
- Coordinate Federal forest management activities with related or complementary efforts of State, Tribal, and local governments;
- Coordinate the ecosystem management aspects of sound forest management strategies with related or complementary socio-economic opportunities at appropriate scales including the community level;
- Communicate and coordinate among Regional Interagency Executive Committee executives and their respective Washington Offices regarding the status of tasks associated with the Department-level “Memorandum of Understanding between the US Department of the Interior, US Department of Agriculture, and US Department of Commerce on BLM Forest Management in Western Oregon” (signed by the Secretaries in September 2010).

IV. STRUCTURE

The following interagency groups will continue to develop, monitor, and oversee the implementation of comprehensive forest management strategies for Federal forests within the range of the northern spotted owl. They will support the development, implementation, and periodic adjustment of land and resource management plans of the FS and BLM. This agreement does not substitute for or alter the line authority of individual agencies.

It is the intent of this MOU to describe the functions of only the primary coordination structures, with the understanding that the Federal agencies may establish additional coordination mechanisms and modify existing ones as needed.

This MOU is intended to enable and encourage the signatory agencies to be creative and to consider a full range of approaches to achieve intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration.

A. Regional Interagency Executive Committee (RIEC):

The RIEC serves as the senior regional entity to ensure prompt, coordinated, and successful implementation of Federal forest management strategies at the regional level, including ecosystem-scale monitoring and adaptive management. The Chair of the RIEC will alternate between the FS and BLM executives. The RIEC may, at its discretion:

- Alter its membership;
- Refer issues to the Interagency Steering Committee (identified in the NWFP) for coordination or resolution;
- Consult with other Federal agencies, and State, Tribal, and local governments in appropriate situations;
- Conduct periodic reviews of interagency groups and structures and implement appropriate changes;
- Convene and seek advice from an Intergovernmental Advisory Committee constituted under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

B. Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC):

If convened, the role of the IAC will be determined by the RIEC. The RIEC will periodically review and evaluate the need for an IAC and make recommendations on chartering to the Secretary of Agriculture under the provisions of the FACA.

C. Regional Ecosystem Office (REO):

The REO serves as staff for, and acts under the direction of, the RIEC. In support of the RIEC, the REO will:

- Fulfill remaining REO responsibilities identified in the NWFP and not otherwise re-delegated;
- Be responsible for developing, evaluating, and recommending resolution of consistency and implementation issues assigned by the RIEC.

D. Research and Monitoring Group (RMG):

An RMG may be convened as needed to present an independent science perspective in intergovernmental forums. If convened, the role and membership of the RMG will be determined by the RIEC. (All duties for this group outlined in the 1994 NWFP have been accomplished.)

E. Provincial Interagency Executive Committees (PIECs):

The PIECs serve as the senior provincial entities to ensure the prompt, coordinated, and successful implementation of Federal forest management strategies at the province level. PIECs are under the general direction of the RIEC. Each PIEC may, under guidance from the RIEC, undertake specific activities within its province, including but not limited to:

- Coordinate landscape analyses to assess the health and condition of watersheds and to consider socio-economic conditions in local communities;
- Share information to support better decisions regarding the health of the ecosystem, including watersheds and local communities;
- Identify mutual goals, objectives, and priorities to support coordinated watershed restoration and conservation strategies;
- Share technology and expertise within the province;
- Coordinate and conduct monitoring within the province;
- Encourage complementary ecosystem management among Federal and non-Federal landowners;
- Coordinate ecosystem management activities in concert with Federal, State, Tribal, and local programs for economic, labor, and community assistance;
- Convene and seek advice from a Provincial Advisory Committee constituted under the provisions of the FACA.

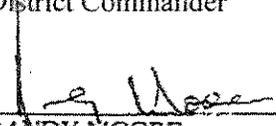
F. Provincial Advisory Committees (PACs):

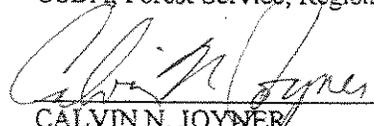
If convened, the role of a PAC is to advise its corresponding PIEC regarding implementation of Federal forest management strategies at the province level and to provide a forum for better integration of forest ecosystem management activities across jurisdictional boundaries at that level. PAC roles and charters will be periodically reviewed and evaluated by the RIEC in coordination with the PIECs. Recommendations for chartering PACs will be made to the Secretary of Agriculture under the provisions of the FACA.

V. TERM

The term of this agreement is five years from the date of execution. Each agency's participation in this agreement shall be subject to the availability of funds. The RIEC will consider annually whether modifications to this agreement are appropriate.


 STEVEN R. MILES, P.E. 14 March 2011 Date
 Colonel, Corps of Engineers
 District Commander


 RANDY MOORE 3/28/11 Date
 Regional Forester
 USDA, Forest Service, Region 5

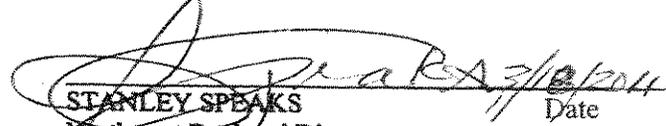

 CALVIN N. JOYNER 3/19/11 Date
 Regional Forester (Acting)
 USDA, Forest Service, Region 6


 BOV B. EAV 3/21/11 Date
 Station Director
 USDA, Forest Service, PNW Research Station


 DEANNA J. STOUDE 3/16/2011 Date
 Station Director
 USDA, Forest Service, PSW Research Station

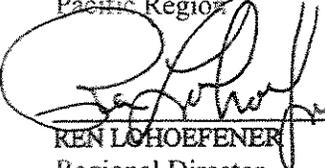

 RONALD ALVARADO 04/11/11 Date
 State Conservationist
 USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service


 WILLIAM W. STELLE, JR. 3/18/11 Date
 Regional Administrator
 USDC, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service

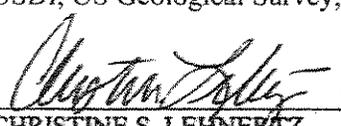

 STANLEY SPEAKS 3/18/2011 Date
 Northwest Regional Director
 USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs


 EDWARD W. SHEPARD 3/11/11 Date
 State Director
 USDI, Bureau of Land Management, OR/WA


 ROBYN THORSON 4/4/11 Date
 Regional Director
 USDI, Fish & Wildlife Service
 Pacific Region


 REN LOHOEFENER 3/14/2011 Date
 Regional Director
 USDI, Fish & Wildlife Service
 Pacific Southwest Region


 LESLIE DIERAUF 3/14/11 Date
 Regional Executive
 USDI, US Geological Survey, NWA


 CHRISTINE S. LEHNERTZ 04/11/11 Date
 Regional Director, Pacific West Region
 USDI, National Park Service


 DAVID POWERS 3/14/2011 Date
 Regional Manager for Forests & Rangelands
 Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10