

BLM MOU WO480-9605

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE
and the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, hereinafter referred to as the BLM, the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, hereinafter referred to as the Forest Service, and the National Association of Counties, hereinafter referred to as NACo.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework for the BLM, the Forest Service and NACo to work collaboratively on initiatives that mutually benefit each organization's mission and objectives. In so doing, the organizations will strive to build or improve the lines of communication and support among the BLM, the Forest Service and counties having a direct interest in or involvement with public and national forest lands.

II. AUTHORITY

The MOU is entered into pursuant to the authority of Section 307(b) of the Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1737(b)), the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4201), the National Forest Management Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C., Section 7), the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (92 Stat 365), and the Farm Bill of 1990 (PL 101-624, Title 23, Subtitle G, Chapter 2).

III. MISSION STATEMENTS

The BLM is a Federal agency that manages approximately 270 million acres of public land, primarily in the West, and 570 million acres of Federal mineral resources. In addition, BLM is responsible for managing public lands scattered throughout the 31 states bordering on and east of the Mississippi River. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of these public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

The Forest Service is a land and resource management agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service is responsible for providing national leadership in forestry stewardship, conservation and research.

NACo represents county governments at the national level, serving as their liaison to other levels of government. It strives to improve public understanding of counties, acts as a national advocate for them, and helps counties find innovative methods for meeting

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challenges put before them. The organization enables elected and appointed officials to become participants in activities directed at improving county government.

IV. OBJECTIVES

The BLM Director, Forest Service Chief and NACo Executive Director will meet at least annually to identify and discuss issues of mutual concern and interest, facilitate cooperation, and explore mutual objectives. These meetings will provide the basis for an ongoing, cooperative relationship among the organizations.

The BLM Director and Forest Service Chief, or other agency representatives, will, to the extent practicable, attend NACo meetings and conferences and participate in whatever capacity is deemed beneficial by each organization.

Whenever possible, the BLM, Forest Service and NACo leadership will consult with each other before adopting policies or initiatives which might directly affect the land management responsibilities of the BLM and Forest Service.

The BLM, Forest Service and NACo agree to work cooperatively to identify and promote coordination among federal and county public land management systems and to coordinate, where appropriate and feasible, federal and local land management plans.

The BLM, Forest Service and NACo agree that federal, local and regional collaboration in stewardship is essential to achieve national policy objectives.

The BLM, Forest Service and NACo will identify pilot projects at the local or regional level to facilitate cooperation among the federal government and counties in implementing land management policies and directives.

The BLM, Forest Service and NACo will participate as active members of the National Rural Development Partnership in support of plans and policies to help communities identify new means to maintain or improve their economic vitality.

The BLM, Forest Service and NACo agree to identify and explore additional opportunities for cooperation including training, educational programs, land use planning, cooperation in land and resource management practices, access management, and interagency staff assignments/exchanges.

V. DURATION AND MODIFICATION OF AGREEMENT

This MOU becomes effective when signed by the three parties. The parties agree to review the MOU for possible revisions at least annually. This MOU shall remain in effect unless terminated by any party after 60 days prior written notice to the other parties.

This MOU incorporates by reference the provisions of the Forest Service Memorandum of Understanding #93-MOU-45.

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APPROVED:

Mike Dombek
 Director
 Bureau of Land Management
 United States Department of the Interior

May 23, 1996
 Date

David M. Wynn
 Associate Chief
 Forest Service
 United States Department of Agriculture

5/23/96
 Date

Larry E. Nade
 Executive Director
 National Association of Counties

5-23-96
 Date