

2015 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Washington State Coordinated Resource Management Partners

USDA Forest Service

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDI Bureau of Land Management

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Washington State Conservation Commission

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Washington Department of Ecology

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Washington Department of Natural Resources

Washington State University Extension

PREAMBLE

Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) is a consensus-based, collaborative process designed to (1) implement compatible use of our natural resources; including agriculture, fish and wildlife habitat, forage production, forest products, recreation, and land development; and (2) improve and perpetuate our land and water resources in a high quality condition. A Coordinated Resource Management plan covers all ownerships of the planned area. All major uses of the area are considered in an effort to coordinate activities and maximize resource management opportunities.

I. PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding establishes policy and general guidelines for use by the undersigned organizations and agencies, and for coordinating their activities in resource planning and working with conservation districts, federal, state and local agencies, and private landowners or users in developing and implementing sound resource management and conservation programs.

II. POLICY

The signatory parties agree to cooperate, to the extent possible, in preparing and implementing Coordinated Resource Management plans on operating units, allotments, sub watersheds, and other appropriate resource areas made up of private, federal, and state-administered land.

The agencies or organizations cooperating on particular management or planning units will vary depending on the land ownership pattern and resource values within the planning area. The signatory organizations and agencies will seek to cooperate with all owners or managers of land and resources within each specific area. Other agencies, organizations, and individual interests will be involved as needed and appropriate.

III. AUTHORITY

Authority for participation in this effort is covered by existing federal or state statutes or delegations of authority. Authority for federal agencies is also continued in a national Memorandum of Understanding between the USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Cooperative Extension Service (formerly Science and Education Administration - Extension) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) dated November 1987.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY OF AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

A. The **USDI Bureau of Land Management** and the **USDA Forest Service** plan and conduct multiple use resource management and conservation programs on lands under their jurisdiction. The Forest Service also has an interest in encouraging sound agriculture, forestry, and conservation practices on areas within and adjacent to national forests and grasslands, and to assist the responsible state agency in promoting forest land management practices on private forest lands.

B. The **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** helps its customers apply conservation practices and activities to conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources through its cost-share and conservation technical assistance programs.

C. The **Washington State Conservation Commission**, an agency of state government, assists and guides Conservation District supervisors and their organizations, state and local agencies, and the citizenry to plan and implement resource management systems needed to bring about an improvement in the quality of the resource base, environment, and life itself. Assistance and guidance include providing for technical expertise to individuals and groups and facilitating citizen involvement in community development activities and concerns to assure accelerated progress in the protection of the resource base and improvement of the quality of our environment and life.

D. The **Washington Department of Natural Resources** manages more than 5.6 million acres of state-owned, forest, range, commercial, agricultural, conservation, and aquatic lands. Of these, more than half are held in trust to produce income to support public schools, universities, prisons, and other state institutions. These state trust lands managed by DNR provide other public benefits, including outdoor recreation, habitat for native fish and wildlife, and watersheds for clean water.

E. The **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife** develops and implements statewide management programs designed to protect, restore and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats, while providing sustainable fish and wildlife-related recreational and commercial opportunities. All land or resource management

programs, particularly on Department of Fish and Wildlife-owned and controlled lands, are centered on these objectives.

F. Washington State University Extension is the outreach and applied research enterprise of the land grant university in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture National Institutes for Food and Agriculture, county government, and Washington State University. Guided by strategic plans and advisory committees we identify issues that the University's research and knowledge bases can address. Extension faculty are located in all 39 counties, at Research and Extension Centers, and at the four campuses of WSU to make the results of research conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, land-grant institutions, and other research agencies, available to farmers, businesses, communities, families and youth, and others to have a positive impact.

G. The Washington Association of Conservation Districts presently represents 45 member Conservation Districts across the state. WACD helps guide implementation of long-range programs; provides political access for CD's at the state level, helps CD's communicate with other agencies, helps CD's coordinate their programs and assistance with appropriate agencies and organizations; represents CD interests. When requested, WACD enables cooperative agreements that assist individuals, groups, and units of government in conservation planning and application. WACD provides a vehicle for presentation of Conservation District local attitudes and objectives to other agencies. WACD serves as a catalyst to develop and maintain local interests in and support for natural resource issue resolution.

H. The Washington State Department of Agriculture serves the people of Washington State by supporting the agricultural community and promoting consumer and environmental protection.

I. The Washington Department of Ecology protects, preserves and enhances Washington's environment, and promotes the wise management of our air, land and water for the benefit of current and future generations. The agency's goals are to prevent pollution, clean up pollution, and support sustainable communities and natural resources.

V SCOPE OF AGREEMENT AND ISSUES OF JURISDICTION

A. This Memorandum of Understanding does not modify or supersede existing agreements and/or memorandums of understanding except that this agreement revises and supersedes the current Washington State agreement.

B. The resource management agencies whose lands are included in any planning area will retain responsibility for meeting all requirements of the laws and regulations pertaining to the use and management of the lands under their respective jurisdictions. The agencies and all landowners retain final authority to

make management decisions on their land involved in a Coordinated Resource Management plan.

C. Contacts and follow-up assistance with those cooperating in a plan will normally be made by the agency having primary planning responsibility or will be mutually agreed upon by the local planning group.

D. When any practices, structures, or projects are to be applied or installed upon lands under the jurisdiction of a public agency, authorization must be obtained from the appropriate agency prior to initiation of the action.

E. The priorities and management objectives for federal or state-administered lands will be determined through the responsible agency's planning system. However, special consideration normally will be given to resource areas presenting opportunities for Coordinated Resource Management planning.

F. The Conservation Districts and the signatories of this Memorandum of Understanding are encouraged to communicate with each other to the end that each Conservation District, which has the opportunity to increase conservation effort through Coordinated Resource Management planning, enters into memorandums of understanding with the appropriate agencies.

G. When requested by the administering agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service may provide technical assistance on public land intermingled or adjacent to private lands covered by a Coordinated Resource Management plan.

H. Where state and private foresters managing related lands are involved, the Forest Service will discharge its responsibilities for forestry technical assistance through the Cooperative Agreement with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

VI. INITIATION, PLANNING AND SCHEDULING

A. **Initiation**—The State Executive Committee members will acquaint field personnel with this Memorandum of Understanding to assure mutual understanding and interpretation.

B. **Planning**—Individual planning groups will include representatives of landowners and/or managers, resource agencies and other appropriate organizations that are significantly involved in the operating unit, allotment, or resource area. A moderator to lead the planning process should be selected by the local group for each Coordinated Resource Management plan. Where full-time agency participation is not warranted, suitable arrangements for review should be made at the local level so planning can proceed with reasonable assurance that the final plan will be acceptable to all.

C. **Scheduling**—Coordinated Resource Management planning should be made acceptable to each participant's schedule. This requires a reasonable amount of give-and-take between participants in the selection and assignment of priority.

D. **Progress Reporting**—The Task Group will annually report progress to the Executive Group.

VII. COMMITTEES

A. State Executive Committee

Director—Washington State Department of Agriculture

Director—WSU Extension

District Manager—USDI Bureau of Land Management

Commissioner of Public Lands—Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Director—Washington Department of Ecology

Regional Forester—USDA Forest Service

State Conservationist—USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

President—Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Director—Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Executive Director—Washington State Conservation Commission

The Executive Committee will direct interagency planning activities in Washington; review progress and problems; facilitate this program by providing for training and scheduling of personnel; establish guidelines for priorities in planning; and otherwise achieve agency cooperation and coordination throughout the state. They will meet at least annually to conduct these functions. **The chair of this group will rotate annually, normally in the order listed above.** Representatives of other appropriate state and federal agencies or organizations will be invited to participate in the meetings of this group.

B. **State Task Group** will consist of agency- and organization-designated representatives. The Task Group may also invite representatives of the public at large or other groups not represented at the executive level to participate in Task Group activities. The group will promote Coordinated Resource Management planning; provide training and guidance to field personnel in planning procedures; and carry out specific assignments of the Executive Committee. The group will meet at least quarterly to conduct the above functions and prepare and submit progress reports to the Executive Committee chair. Normally, the Task Group chair will be the person selected as the agency representative corresponding to the Executive Committee chair.

VIII. MODIFICATION


This agreement shall remain in effect until modified by the parties in writing, and is renegotiable at the option of any one of the parties.

CRM MOU SIGNATURE PAGE




District Manager or Designee
USDI Bureau of Land Management

8/21/17
date



Commissioner of Public Lands or Designee
Washington Department of Natural Resources

8/2/2016
date



Director or Designee
Washington Department of Ecology

6/10/16
date



Regional Forester or Designee
USDA Forest Service

10/26/17
date



State Conservationist or Designee
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

10/29/17
date



Executive Director or Designee
Washington State Conservation Commission

6/16/2016
date



President or Designee
Washington Association of Conservation Districts

3/8/2018
date



Director or Designee
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

2/4/16
date



Director or Designee
Washington State Department of Agriculture

6/21/16
date



Director or Designee
Washington State University Extension

5/17/18
date