

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN ARIZONA**

AMONG

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)
FOREST SERVICE (USFS)
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION (CE)
FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA)
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS)
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (BOR)
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD)
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)
ARIZONA STATE LAND DEPARTMENT (SLD)
ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT (AGFD)
ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (AACD)
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (ADEQ)
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (ADWR)
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (ADA)
ARIZONA STATE PARKS (ASP)

A. PURPOSE

This Arizona Memorandum of Understanding for Coordinated Resource Management provides the mechanism for private land owners, Native American Tribes, land users, Conservation Districts and state and federal resource management agencies and their cooperators, permittees and leasees to develop coordinated resource management plans for farms, ranches, wildlife habitat, watersheds, or similar resource management units. It also provides the mechanism for agencies with resource management responsibilities in Arizona to work together, share resource information, and develop complimentary policies, procedures, and methodologies where possible. It is intended to foster cooperation and coordination in development and implementation of sound resource management and conservation programs where objectives are of mutual concern.

This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to supplement existing Memorandum of Understanding between and among agencies, tribes, conservation districts, and local governments for coordination of resource management in Arizona.

This Memorandum of Understanding supersedes the February 1991 Arizona Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding for coordinated resource management between the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Arizona Cooperative Extension, Soil Conservation Service, Arizona State Land Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts.

B.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Bureau of Land Management administers public lands within a framework of numerous laws. It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.
2. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service manages public lands in national forests and grasslands. The Forest Service also conducts forestry research, and provides technical and financial assistance to state and private forestry agencies.
3. The Cooperative Extension Service works to enhance agriculture, the environment, the natural resource base, family and youth well-being and the development of local communities. They accomplish this mission by the integration, dissemination, and application of knowledge in agricultural and life sciences.
4. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is a federal agency that works in partnership with the American people to conserve natural resources on private lands, and other non-federal lands, through scientific and technical expertise, and partnerships with Conservation Districts and others.
5. The Farm Service Agency mission is to stabilize farm income, help farmers conserve land and water resources, provide credit to new or disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and help farm operations recover from the effects of disaster.
6. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for migratory birds, endangered species, freshwater and anadromous fish, the National Wildlife Refuge System, wetlands, conserving habitat, and environmental contaminants.
7. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has a trust responsibility emanating from treaties and other agreements with federally recognized Indian tribes to enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of Indian tribes
8. The Environmental Protection Agency mission is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment. Their purpose is to ensure clean air, clean water, safe food, pollution prevention, and better waste management.
9. The Bureau of Reclamation manages water related resources west of the Mississippi River. Their mission is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.
10. The National Park Service promotes and regulates the use of the national parks, whose purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.
11. The Department of Defense mission is to support the military readiness of the United States armed forces, improve the quality of life for military personnel, and comply with environmental laws to protect human health and the environment.
12. The US Geological Survey provides the Nation with reliable, impartial information to describe and understand the earth, to minimize loss of life and

property, manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources, enhance and protect the quality of life, and contribute to wise economic and physical development.

13. The Agricultural Research Service is the research arm of the United States Department of Agriculture. The Service provides access to agricultural information and develops new knowledge and technology needed to solve technical agricultural problems of broad scope and high national priority to ensure adequate availability of high quality, safe food, a viable and a competitive food and agricultural economy.
14. The Arizona State Land Department is responsible for administering the use and management of Arizona's State Trust lands and for coordinating the Natural Resource Conservation District program in Arizona.
15. The Arizona Game and Fish Department, acting pursuant to and under the authority of the Arizona game and Fish Commission, is responsible for the use and management of Arizona's wildlife resources. The mission of the AGFD is to conserve, enhance and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs, and to provide wildlife resources and safe water craft recreation for the enjoyment, appreciation and use of present and future generations.
16. The Arizona Association of Conservation Districts represents the Conservation Districts in Arizona, which are legal subdivisions of State or Tribal government. Conservation Districts provide locally led leadership and assist agencies in determining priorities for conservation work.
17. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality mission is preserving, protecting and enhancing Arizona's environment, as well as safeguarding the public health. ADEQ is responsible for air quality, water quality, and waste management in Arizona.
18. The Arizona Department of Water Resources administers state water laws (except those related to water quality), explores methods of augmenting water supplies to meet future demands, and develops policies that promote conservation and equitable distribution of water. The Department also oversees the use of surface and groundwater resources in Arizona. Other responsibilities include management of flood plains and non-federal dams to reduce loss of life and damage to property.
19. The Arizona Department of Agriculture is responsible for controlling dangerous plant infestations, ensuring the quality of fresh fruits and vegetables, and for protecting Arizona's native plants. The Department is also responsible for protecting the public from contagious and infectious diseases in animals. The Department enforces laws concerning the movement, sale, importation, transport, slaughter, and theft of livestock, and administers feed, fertilizer, and pesticide registration, licensing and compliance.
20. Arizona State Parks manages and conserves Arizona's natural, cultural and recreational resources for the benefit of the people in Arizona's parks, and through cooperation with their partners.

C. OBJECTIVES

1. To recognize that the lands and natural resources administered by the participants of this agreement are part of larger ecosystems that cross administrative and ownership lines.
2. To recognize that effective management of Arizona's lands, natural resources and ecosystems requires cooperation between many federal and state agencies, Conservation Districts, Native American Tribes, local governments, private land owners, and land users.
3. To acknowledge the significance of local objectives and resource concerns in the management and use of resources.
4. To promote coordinated resource management planning where land ownership, resource management responsibilities, and technical assistance responsibilities are intermingled or where coordination is essential to develop and implement a sound resource management plan.
5. To recognize that land owners, land users or agencies are entitled to request that agencies work together on resource planning and management where land ownership, resource management responsibilities, and technical assistance responsibilities overlap.
6. To encourage coordinated collection and use of resource information and monitoring data for making scientifically based resource management decisions, and to promote complimentary policies, procedures, and methodologies where possible.
7. To insure that consultation between agencies and land owners occurs before decisions are made which may affect the use and management of other lands and resources.
8. To provide for a framework for communication and scheduling of coordinated resource management planning, implementation, and monitoring activities on a case-by-case basis, and for a periodic review of planning progress and updating of coordinated resource management plans to insure goals and objectives are being met.

D. SCOPE

1. This Memorandum of Understanding provides the mechanism for agencies, landowners, and land users in Arizona to develop coordinated resource management plans. It also provides the mechanism for resource management agencies in Arizona to work together, share resource information, and develop complimentary policies, procedures, and methodologies where possible.
2. Coordinated resource management plans are developed on a case by case basis by appropriate members of local working groups, and are signed by the participants to document agreement on common goals and objectives for use and management of the resources within a management unit. Coordinated resource management plans represent agreement on a plan of action to achieve common goals and objectives for a specific management unit, and agreement on methods that will be used to evaluate progress toward the goals and objectives.

3. Coordinated resource management plans do not hinder agencies, private land owners, or land users from making necessary decisions to protect the lands or resources they own or administer or to comply with local, state, or federal laws or agency policy. Rather, coordinated resource management plans constitute a mutual agreement on a plan of action, and a willingness of agencies to consult, whenever possible, with all involved participants before making decisions, to insure that all resource and human concerns are adequately considered before decisions are made.

E. COORDINATED PLANNING GROUPS

The following groups are established to implement coordinated resource management in Arizona:

1. EXECUTIVE GROUP

- a. The Executive Group is made up of the state or regional executives of the participating agencies to this agreement, who are responsible for administering the resource management activities for their agency in Arizona.
- b. The Executive Group is responsible for insuring that cooperation among agencies and other groups exists for the benefit Arizona's natural resources. They are responsible for directing personnel at all levels of the organizations to be knowledgeable of, and adhere to the purpose, objectives, and scope of this agreement. They will develop, review and adopt uniform policy and procedures and supplemental agreements for coordination and cooperation in Arizona.

2. STATE TASK GROUP

- a. The State Task Group is an extension of the Executive Group. Membership of the Task Group will include state or regional level resource specialists appointed by the Executive Group. The State Task Group will meet at least annually, and other times during the year as appropriate.
- b. The purpose of the State Task Group is to assist the Executive Group in planning, implementation and monitoring coordinated resource management program in Arizona; to exchange information on policies, programs, methodologies and procedures, and issues; and to provide training, technical advice and assistance to the field groups and special working groups.
- c. This group will convey the status of statewide coordinated planning to the Executive Group. They will establish the work areas for each Field Group and maintain the current personnel lists for each Field Group. They will

review local planning progress and assist in building goal oriented consensus, help establish priorities for planning, and provide assistance in conflict resolution.

- d. The State Task Group will identify and work on opportunities, issues and problems in coordinated resource management planning and inter-agency training. They will also develop and maintain Arizona Coordinated Resource Management Handbook and Guidelines, and exchange and distribute resource data mutually beneficial to each agency.

3. FIELD GROUPS

- a. The Field Groups are made up of field staff from appropriate agencies and conservation districts within an Field Group Area designated by the State Task Group. The agencies involved in each field group will vary, depending on the land ownership and administrative responsibilities within each Field Group Work Area. The Field Groups will normally only include those agencies who will be directly involved in prioritizing, developing, implementing, and/or monitoring coordinated resource management planning activities.
- b. Field groups will formally meet at least once each year to exchange information and update, prioritize, schedule and assign agency roles for coordinated resource management activities.
- c. The State Task Group will maintain a working list of management units with planned or existing coordinated resource management activity in each Field Group Area. At the annual meeting the Field Groups will update the status of these management units, make additions or deletions to the list, and prioritize the workload as needed. Problems and areas of conflict should be brought up, discussed, and resolved by the group whenever possible. A member of the State Task Group will keep minutes of these meetings and to provide copies to Field Group participants and to the Executive Group.

4. SPECIAL WORKING GROUPS

- a. The Executive Group may establish, and appoint representatives of their respective agencies to a Special Working Group. The Executive Group may invite other agencies, local governments, universities, publics, producer groups or environmental organizations to participate in the Special Working Group as appropriate.
- b. The Special Working Group will address resource related issues and problems involving the need for a process of conflict resolution and public involvement at the field level which are beyond the traditional scope of the

field groups. The Executive group may form a Special Working Group by its own action, or at the request of anyone with valid issues or problems which are presented to the Executive Group.

- c. The Special Working Group will define the issue or problem, establish operational guidelines, and develop a goal oriented process for addressing the issue or problem through the building of group consensus.
- d. The Special Working Group may call upon the State Task Group for assistance as necessary and will keep the Executive Group informed of progress and recommendations as they are developed.

F. MEETINGS

1. The State Task Group is responsible for scheduling, organizing, and facilitating the meetings of Executive Group, the State Task Group, and the Field Groups. The State Task Group will designate one person to organize the time and location for each meeting, a member to send out notification of the meeting to all participants, a member to solicit agenda items, and develop the agenda for each meeting, a member to facilitate each meeting, and a member to keep and send out minutes following each meeting. The State Task Group will call special meetings when requested by any party to this agreement with 15 days notice.

G. COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCEDURE

1. A request for a coordinated resource management plan can be initiated at any time by a resource management agency, a Conservation District, a private land owner, a Native American Tribe, a land user or other appropriate party. The requests will be communicated to the appropriate members of the Field Group and arrangements will be made to hold an initial planning meeting. If a Field Group does not exist in the area, the State Task Group will establish the group.
2. At the initial planning meeting the involved parties will make arrangements to organize and execute the planning and implementation process. The development and implementation of a coordinated resource management Plan normally includes the following steps.
 - a. Determine the area involved, agree on the lead agency, and identify all other parties that should be invited to participate on a case-by-case basis.
 - b. Develop time schedules and responsibilities for completion of inventory, plan development, and monitoring activities.
 - c. Conduct necessary resource inventories. Inventory and monitoring methods, proposed improvements and land treatment, and responsibilities for implementation, will be agreed upon during the coordinated planning process. Coordinated resource management planning is accomplished

through a team approach, involving all appropriate agency representatives, land owners, and/or the land user.

- d. Develop the coordinated resource management plan. Record inventory data, decisions and other appropriate information on appropriate mosaics, maps, sketches, forms, or other documents. Responsibility for funding and the schedule of implementation, as appropriate, will be shown. It is recognized that funding as recorded indicates intent, but performance depends on yearly finances of the responsible party.
- e. All participants sign the coordinated resource management plan. Each group or agency will designate the appropriate representative who will sign coordinated resource management plans. The signed plan represents a mutual agreement on the plan of action that will be taken for the management unit. A copy of the inventory data and coordinated resource management Plan will be provided to all participants involved.
- f. Implement the coordinated resource management plan. All participants will normally agree to participate in planned monitoring to determine if the objectives of the coordinated resource management plan are being achieved. Management adjustments or changes should be based on monitoring data. Copies of all monitoring data will be provided to all participants.

H. MODIFICATIONS TO THIS AGREEMENT

1. This agreement can be modified in writing upon the consent of the parties at any time. It is re-negotiable at the discretion of any one of the parties.

I. DURATION OF THIS AGREEMENT

1. The Executive Group will formally review this agreement five years after its execution, and each two years thereafter. The continued participation of any party to this agreement is subject to cancellation at any time, upon written notification.

J. FINANCING

1. This agreement is a Memorandum of Understanding of the parties responsible. Any work under this MOU and any amendment pursuant thereof will be regulated by the laws, policies and funding provisions governing the activities of the parties.
2. Nothing herein shall be construed as obligating the parties to expend funds or be involved in any contract to other obligation for the future payment of money in excess of legal appropriations which are authorized and allocated for this planning and work.

K. GENERAL POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Federal parties to this agreement, except those exempted agencies, are required by the policies of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to ensure that environmental impacts receive full consideration during the planning process. Procedures for environmental assessment and preparation of environmental documents required for compliance with NEPA, where applicable have been developed by each agency.
2. Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 35-214 all parties shall retain all books, accounts, reports, files and other records pertaining to this agreement for five (5) years after completion of a project and shall make them available to the State for inspection and audit at reasonable times.
3. This Agreement is subject to cancellation by the Governor of Arizona pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-511, the provisions of which are incorporated herein.
4. All parties to this Agreement shall comply with State of Arizona Executive Order No. 75-5 "Prohibition of discrimination in State contracts--Nondiscrimination in employment by government contractors and subcontractors", which is made a part of this Agreement.
5. The program conducted will be in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions as contained in the Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other nondiscrimination statutes, namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7 CFR-15, Subparts A & B) which provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity, receiving federal financial assistance from the Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.
6. To the extent permitted by federal law, parties shall use arbitration, after exhausting applicable administrative review, to solve disputes arising out of this Agreement as required by A.R.S. Section 12-1518.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN ARIZONA

APPROVED BY	TITLE	DATE
<u>Denise P. Meridith</u> FOR DENISE P. MERIDITH BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)	STATE DIRECTOR	12/8/97
<u>W. D. [Signature]</u> FOREST SERVICE (USFS)	Acting (Resources) Deputy Regional Forester	3-31-98
<u>James A. Christman</u> COOPERATIVE EXTENSION (CE)	Director, Cooperative Extension	6-18-98
<u>Robert A. Picant</u> FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)	State Executive Director	12/4/97
<u>Wayne Nordwall</u> BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA)	AREA DIRECTOR	4/13/98
<u>Michael [Signature]</u> NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)	STATE CONSERVATIONIST	11/31/97
<u>Alexis Strauss</u> ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)	Acting Director, W & S Div	23 June 98
<u>Dr. Jeffrey S. Haskett</u> FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS)	Acting Regional Director	3/10/98
<u>[Signature]</u> BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (BOR)	Regional Director	5/27/98
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD)		
<u>[Signature]</u> NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)	Regional Director	6/6/98
<u>Shub B. Mehta</u> U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)	USGS Directors Representative Authorized Departmental Officer	6/2/99 11/6/98
<u>Charles C. [Signature]</u> AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)		
<u>Dennis Wells</u> ARIZONA STATE LAND DEPARTMENT (SLD)	State Land Commissioner	12/11/97
<u>Quane S. [Signature]</u> ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT (AGFD)	AZ Game & Fish Director	11/28/98
<u>Eric J. Hayes</u> ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (AACD)	Executive Director	11/28/97
<u>Kit P. Finson</u> ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (ADWR)	Director	6/10/98
<u>[Signature]</u> ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (ADEQ)	Director	1/12/98
<u>Sharon [Signature]</u> ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (ADA)	DIRECTOR	12/24/97
<u>Charles R. Eatherly</u> for Ken [Signature] ARIZONA STATE PARKS (ASP)	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	12-22-97