

THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Among the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (WO-410-2016-07)

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (19821)
UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE (16MU11132422004)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

and the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is entered into by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), National Park Service (NPS), and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); the United States Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service (USFS); the United States Department of the Army, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); and the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), collectively “the agencies.”

I. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTEREST

The National Trails System Act of 1968 (NTSA), 16 U.S.C. 1241-1251, as amended, provides for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population; promotes the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas, and historic resources of the United States; provides the means for attaining these objectives by instituting a National Trails System (NTS); prescribes the methods and standards for adding NTS components; and encourages partner involvement in the planning, development,

operation, maintenance and, where appropriate, management (hereinafter “development, operation, and maintenance”) of NTS components.

The NTS, including National Scenic, National Historic, National Recreation, and Connecting and Side Trails, commemorates America’s rich scenic, historic, natural, and cultural heritage, supported by a complex mosaic of partnerships among citizens; landowners; trail users; Federal, State, and local governmental entities; and Tribal governments.

This MOU applies to National Scenic and National Historic Trails (NSHTs) because they are congressionally designated, are typically interstate, and cross lands under the jurisdiction of multiple Federal agencies. In addition, this MOU applies to National Recreation Trails (NRTs), which include National Water Trails pursuant to United States Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 3319 of February 29, 2012, and Connecting and Side Trails (CSTs) because they are also governed by the NTSA and because all the Federal land management agencies manage NRTs or CSTs. For purposes of this MOU, NSHTs, NRTs, and CSTs will be referred to collectively as “National Trails.”

Since passage of the NTSA, BLM, NPS, and the USFS have become administrators of one or more National Trails, a special trail-wide role delegated to these agencies by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Interior. These agencies will be referred to collectively in this MOU as the “National Trail administering agencies.” BLM, USBR, NPS, USFS, FWS, and USACE serve as “National Trail managing agencies” that are responsible for many of the sites and segments along NSHTs and dozens of NRTs and CSTs. Federal transportation funds, administered by the States through FHWA [which does not own or manage any trails itself], are a major funding source for National Trails and National Trail-related projects through Federal surface transportation funding programs.

This MOU builds on three previous interagency MOUs regarding the NTS:

- National Trails System Memorandum of Understanding (06-SU-11132424-196) among the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service; United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; United States Department of the Army, United States Army Corps of Engineers; and the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, spanning 2006-2016;
- Memorandum of Understanding for the Administration and Management of National Historic and Scenic Trails signed by BLM, NPS, FS, FHWA, and the National Endowment for the Arts, spanning 2001-2005; and

- Service-Wide Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative Management and Administration of National Historic Trails between the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, spanning 1995-2000.

II. AUTHORITIES

This MOU is entered into under the NTSA and facilitates implementation of Executive Order 13195, Trails for America in the 21st Century, signed January 18, 2001.

III. PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES

National Trails serve communities best when they integrate recreational, environmental, cultural, economic, and transportation objectives, so that National Trails showcase the rich diversity of America's natural and cultural heritage and retain significance for all Americans and international visitors. This MOU promotes these objectives by facilitating, encouraging, and assisting long-term interagency cooperation at the national, trail-wide, regional, State, and local levels in implementing the NTSA. In particular, this MOU supports the interagency coordination and collaboration necessary to implement the NTSA; identifies the roles and responsibilities of the agencies to support administration and management of National Trails; reaffirms the responsibility of the agencies to work together in administering and managing the NTS and NTS components as seamlessly as possible at all organizational levels across multiple jurisdictions for public benefit; and supports agency cooperation with NTS partners in support of National Trails.

A. MOU Objectives

The objectives of this MOU are to:

1. Promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the NTS and NTS components.
2. Develop programs and policies for the NTS and promote consistency in National Trail planning, development, administration, management, maintenance, protection, acquisition, identification, certification, and operation.

3. Facilitate the development, conservation, and protection of the cultural resources and recreational, scenic, historic, and natural qualities, values, and settings along National Trails and National Trail corridors.
4. Encourage and assist involvement by private organizations and individuals in the development, operation, and maintenance of the NTS and NTS components, as appropriate.
5. Promote interagency collaboration to support, facilitate, and implement NTS programs and standards.
6. Raise public, NTS partner, and agency awareness of the NTS and NTS components.
7. Provide consistent program support, guidance, and policy direction for National Trails.
8. Broaden and facilitate seamless administration and management of National Trails across Federal, State, Tribal, and other jurisdictional boundaries.
9. Develop and support diverse partnerships and volunteerism with private entities and nonprofit trail organizations to enhance development, operation, and maintenance of National Trails.
10. Support and promote funding programs related to the NTS and eliminate duplication and increase effectiveness in implementing specific projects relating to National Trails.

B. General Responsibilities of the Agencies

1. Administration of NSHTs

Either the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as designated by Congress, assigns the administration of each National Scenic or National Historic Trail to one (occasionally two) National Trail administering agencies, which include BLM, USFS, and NPS. Subject to available funding, these National Trail administering agencies exercise trail-wide authorities and responsibilities under the NTSA and the enabling legislation for the National Trail under their responsibility, as delegated by the relevant Regional Foresters, Regional Directors, or State Directors for that National Trail. These responsibilities include comprehensive planning, oversight, and technical support for activities such as trail right-of-way selection, trail site and segment development and protection, trail maintenance, trail marking, Historic Trail site and segment certification, trail resource and setting protection, trail-wide resource inventories and monitoring, trail data management, trail-wide mapping, trail interpretation, and cooperative and interagency agreements, including cooperative agreements with governmental agencies,

landowners, organizations, and individuals to support development, operation, and maintenance of National Trails.

2. Management of National Trail Sites and Segments

Many governmental entities, organizations, and individuals own or manage lands along National Trails. National Trail management includes local trail activities such as land use planning, trail site and segment development and protection, trail maintenance, trail marking, trail resource and setting protection, trail resource inventories and monitoring, trail data management, trail mapping, trail interpretation, cooperative and interagency agreements to support development, operation, and maintenance of National Trails, appropriate mitigation of resource damage along National Trails, provision of appropriate public access to National Trails, and management of visitor use and experiences along National Trails.

3. Interagency Cooperation

Interagency cooperation enhances National Trail administration and management, protection of National Trail resources, qualities, values, and settings, and National Trail recreational opportunities and experiences. Under this MOU, the agencies will strive to coordinate development of NTS policies and procedures to enhance interagency consistency in interpretation and implementation of the NTSA. The agencies will work together to ensure that jurisdictional boundaries are as seamless as possible for sound resource management, quality recreational opportunities, and similar public services along National Trails.

C. General Involvement of NTS Partners

The agencies recognize the critical role of NTS partners in encouraging many aspects of National Trail development, operation, and maintenance. NTS partners include private organizations, Tribal, State, and local governments, private landowners, and trail users and volunteers. Written instruments such as cooperative agreements, assistance agreements consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1246(h)(1), volunteer agreements, and memoranda of understanding should be used to formalize these National Trail partnerships at the relevant agency level.

Examples of NTS partners include:

- The Partnership for the National Trails System (represents National Trail organizations such as the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Oregon-California Trails Association, and Nez Perce Trail Foundation).
- American Hiking Society (supports hiking trails in the NTS).
- American Trails (supports all kinds of National Trails).

- Backcountry Horsemen of America (supports equestrian trails in the NTS).
- Rails to Trails Conservancy (supports rail trails in the NTS).
- International Mountain Bicycling Association (supports mountain bicycling trails in the NTS).
- The Wilderness Society (supports National Trails in wilderness).
- American Rivers (supports National Trails that are associated with rivers).

NTS partners are generally represented by an executive director or individual with a similar title and leadership function (“the executive director”). The executive director and the organization-appointed public lands government liaison are encouraged to attend 2 specified biannual NTS Council meetings, as appropriate, to exchange National Trail information (see paragraph IV.D.1.a). The executive director, the government liaison, a senior staff member, or a staff member with particular expertise may serve on NTS Council standing committees and ad hoc teams, as appropriate (see paragraph IV.D.1.b). All roles, responsibilities, functions, and meetings with NTS partners will be conducted in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as applicable.

IV. Federal Interagency Council on the National Trail System

The 1969 interagency Memorandum of Agreement for the Development and Operation of the National Trails System (1969 Memorandum of Agreement) established an interagency task force consisting of representatives of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to provide for interagency coordination of administration and management of the NTS. Executive Order 13195, Trails for America in the 21st Century, refers to this interagency task force as the “Federal Interagency Council on Trails” or “Council” and recognizes it as a long-standing interagency working group. Executive Order 13195 provides that the Council’s core members represent BLM, NPS, USFS, and FHWA. Other Federal agencies, such as those representing cultural and heritage interests, may join the Council. Leadership of the Council may rotate among its members as decided among themselves at the start of each fiscal year.

Per this MOU, the Council is renaming itself the “Federal Interagency Council on the National Trails System” or “National Trails System Council” (NTS Council). Use of the “National Trails System,” rather than “Trails,” in the Council’s title affirms the Council’s mission, purpose, and scope, reemphasizing its direct connection with the NTSA and NTS components.

The NTS Council will be the primary forum through which initiatives or actions related to this MOU will be carried out and from which any reports concerning accomplishments related to the MOU will originate.

The following provisions address the mission, scope, purposes, and organizational structure and functions of the NTS Council.

A. Mission

The NTS Council's mission is “to coordinate information and program decisions, as well as policy recommendations, among all appropriate Federal agencies (in consultation with appropriate nonprofit organizations) to foster the development of America’s trails....” Executive Order 13195.

B. Scope

The NTS Council’s charter acknowledges, supports, and reemphasizes the NTS Council’s fundamental focus on the NTSA, NTS, and NTS components.

C. Purposes

The purposes of the NTS Council are to:

- Facilitate interagency interpretation and implementation of the NTSA;
- Develop, maintain, and implement the interagency NTS MOU;
- Develop, maintain, and implement the NTS annual operating plan;
- Conduct meetings to share and coordinate NTS information and support NTS management; and
- Develop, recommend, and implement NTS policies and procedures.

1. Interpretation and Implementation of the NTSA

The NTS Council facilitates interpretation and implementation of the NTSA. In particular, the NTS Council promotes interagency cooperation and consistency in interpretation and implementation of the NTSA in agency policies and procedures.

2. Development, Maintenance, and Implementation of the Interagency NTS MOU

The NTS Council, through the NTS program leaders (see paragraphs IV.D.2.a(1), IV.D.2.b(1), and IV.D.2.c(1)), as led by the NTS Council Chair or the Chair’s designee, will develop,

maintain, and implement the interagency NTS MOU. The interagency NTS MOU will support NTS operations nationwide through interagency cooperation and collaboration and agency work with NTS partners.

3. Development, Maintenance, and Implementation of the NTS Annual Operating Plan

The NTS Council, through the NTS program leaders, as led by the NTS Council Chair or the Chair's designee, will develop, maintain, and implement the national NTS annual operating plan. The NTS annual operating plan will include the NTS workload for the covered year determined to be most strategic, urgent, or critical to program success or standard operating procedures. NTS projects, strategies, reports, and other NTS documents and initiatives will stem from the NTS annual operating plan.

4. Conducting NTS Meetings

The NTS Council will conduct meetings to share and coordinate NTS information and support NTS administration and management. The NTS Council will make operational decisions by consensus among the NTS program leaders, as facilitated by the NTS Council Chair or the Chair's designee. NTS Council decisions will be informed by NTS program leaders, appointed NSHT administrators, and NTS Council standing committees and ad hoc teams (see paragraph IV.D.1.b). Voting procedures may be set, if necessary, by the appropriate NTS program leaders, as led by the NTS Council Chair or the Chair's designee, to effect decision-making.

5. Development, Recommendation, and Implementation of NTS Policies and Procedures

Led by the NTS Council Chair or the Chair's designee, NTS Council level 1 representatives (see paragraph IV.D.2.a(1)) will make policy recommendations to NTS line officers based on the consensus of the NTS program leaders with substantive or material involvement in the underlying policy issues. For the purposes of this MOU, an "NTS line officer" refers to the agency supervisor of record for an NTS program leader.

D. Organizational Structure and Functions

1. Overview

NTS Council work will be performed under the supervision and guidance of the responsible NTS line officers.

The NTS Council will consist of NTS line officers, NTS program leaders, and appointed NSHT administrators.

NTS Council meetings may be conducted or attended by conference call, webinar, or other electronic media. The NTS Council may conduct in-person meetings in Washington, D.C., or at any location in the U.S. deemed appropriate. The NTS Council may hold meetings in concert with other national NTS conferences, workshops, meetings, or related events to enhance efficiency. The NTS Council Chair or the Chair's designee will prepare and distribute draft meeting agendas at least one week prior to quarterly meetings.

a. Quarterly Interagency Meetings

The full NTS Council (all 3 levels) will meet quarterly each fiscal year. The NTS Council Chair or the Council's designee will schedule the meetings to synchronize with fiscal year planning and reporting and to support timely development and execution of the NTS annual operating plan.

Quarter 1: October – December (issue NTS annual operating plan)

Quarter 2: January – March (NTS annual operating plan status)

Quarter 3: April – June (NTS annual operating plan status)

Quarter 4: July – September (develop and report on NTS annual operating plan)

For purposes of information exchange and NTS support, NTS partners may attend 2 quarterly meetings as specified by the NTS Council. To accommodate the biannual inclusion of NTS partners and to maximize efficiency, NTS conferences, workshops, or other events may be used to facilitate in-person engagement and NTS ad hoc team or project work, as appropriate. As a result, 2 quarterly NTS Council meetings may be scheduled outside their regular timeframe.

b. NTS Council Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Teams

Existing NTS Council standing committees may continue, and new standing and ad hoc teams may be established, to implement the NTS annual operating plan. Standing committee or ad hoc team leadership will derive from NTS Council program leaders from levels 1, 2, or 3, with the concurrence of the NTS Council Chair and line officer approval. Other representatives on these committees and teams may come from NTS Council agencies, NSHT administrators, agency staff with the necessary skills, or NTS partners, as appropriate. The NTS program leader facilitating each NTS Council standing committee or ad hoc team will ensure its objectives and timelines are met, including making recommendations to the NTS Council Chair or Chair's designee. Any NTS Council standing committee or ad hoc team must comply with applicable Federal Advisory Committee Act requirements.

c. NTS Line Officers

NTS line officers will monitor NTS Council activities; ensure sufficient representation is provided for each NTS Council level, including standing committees or ad hoc teams; provide budget, policy, and supervisory support for the NTS Council; engage in issues or ad hoc team development as needed by the NTS Council; and refer approved NTS Council policy recommendations to the agency heads for action through each respective agency chain of command, as appropriate.

2. NTS Council Levels, Representation, Roles and Responsibilities, and Meetings

The following chart depicts the organizational structure of the NTS Council, including NTS line officers; the interrelationship and basic functions of the 3 levels; and the frequency of internal meetings and meetings with NTS partners at each level.

| Federal Interagency Council on the National Trails System | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|-----------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| (National Trails System Council) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Trails System Line Officers (National Level) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Level 1: NTS Congressionally Designated National Trails: National Trails System Oversight, NSHT Administration and Management, and Policy Development (National Scenic and Historic Trails) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Level 2: NTS Components: Information Exchange, Management Expertise, or Financial Support (National Trails System Components) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Level 3: NTS Secretarially Designated Trails: Standing Committees for Program Development & Support (National Recreation, Water, and Connecting and Side Trails) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nat'l Program Leads: NPS USFS BLM | | | NPS USFS BLM | | | USFWS USACE USBR FHWA | | | NPS USFS BLM USFWS USBR USACE | | | | | | | |
| Trail Admin Reps: NPS USFS BLM | | | Invited Agencies: CDC USGS ACHP BIA NOAA | | | FHWA | | | | | | | | | | |
| Level 1 Agencies Meet Monthly | | | Level 1, 2, and 3 Agencies Meet Together Quarterly | | | | | | | | | | | Level 3 Each Standing Committees Meets Annually | | |
| Agencies Meet with NTS Partners (as planned) | | | Agencies Meet with NTS Partners Biannually (as specified) | | | | | | | Subcommittees may include NTS Partners (annually) | | | | | | |
| National Trails System Partner Organizations* (National Level) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

*Federal Advisory Committee Act compliance required.

The following paragraphs describe the 3 levels of the NTS Council, including agency representation, roles and responsibilities, and frequency of meetings at each level.

a. Level 1: NTS Oversight, NSHT Trail Administration and Management, and Policy Development

(1) Representation

NTS Council level 1 will include the 3 National Trail administering agencies: USFS, BLM, and NPS. The NTS program leaders from these 3 agencies who are responsible for administration and management of congressionally designated NTS components for their agency at the national level will provide primary leadership on the NTS Council. Additional staff may be assigned by NTS line officers to support the work of the NTS program leaders at level 1.

Level 1 will include the NTS Council Chair, who will be responsible for oversight of NTS Council operations, facilitating determination of NTS workload needs and priorities, and leading NTS Council meetings. An NTS Council Chair assistant may be assigned to take meeting notes and assist the Council Chair, as needed. The Chair assistant may come from any NTS Council level or other source. An NTS program leader may serve as the designee for the NTS Council Chair to develop or effectuate work identified in the NTS annual operating plan.

NTS Council Chair leadership will rotate at the beginning of each fiscal year per Executive Order 13195 in the following order, starting with fiscal year 2017:

- USFS
- NPS
- BLM

NSHT administrators (Superintendents in NPS) lead interagency implementation of relevant NTSA authorities and responsibilities for the NSHT assigned to them pursuant to delegation of authority by the Secretary of the Interior or Agriculture. NST Council level 1 will appoint one NSHT administrator (representative) from USFS, BLM, and NPS, each serving a term of 1 calendar or fiscal year, as determined at the start of the new fiscal year by the respective NTS program leaders. The appointed NSHT administrators will provide leadership, expertise, and work on NTS issues via NTS Council standing committees and ad hoc teams, or as deemed needed by the NTS Council Chair and NTS program leaders. Prior to making the appointments, NTS program leaders will confer to determine the appropriate mix of scenic, historic, and critical skills needed to implement the NTS annual operating plan, and consult with NTS line officers and the prospective NSHT administrator's supervisor.

(2) Roles and Responsibilities

NTS Council level 1 representatives will serve as the primary governing body for the NTS Council. Their responsibilities will include:

- Providing overall strategic guidance, vision, and guiding principles for the NTS Council.

- Prescribing regulations, policies, and procedures for administering and managing National Trails and conducting feasibility studies consistent with the NTSA and other applicable laws, regulations, executive orders, and policies.
- Developing and approving strategies for addressing controversial issues and undertaking large-scale efforts relating to the NTS.
- Recommending action to NTS line officers on controversial and potentially precedent-setting issues relating to the NTS.
- Implementing this MOU.
- Developing the NTS annual operating plan to guide NTS Council level 1 work; providing functional support for NTS Council level 2 meetings; providing advisory support for level 3; and supporting NTS Council standing committee and ad hoc team activities.

(3) Meetings

NTS Council level 1 representatives will meet monthly to implement the NTS annual operating plan and address administration, management, or policy issues as necessary or needed. These meetings will generally be 1 to 2 hours in length and will take place via conference call or video-conference, with periodic field-based meetings as opportunities arise. The level 1 NTS program leaders will meet as planned with various NTS partners on national initiatives or collaborative projects supported by separate agreements.

b. Level 2: NTS Information Exchange, Management Expertise, and Financial Support

(1) Representation

NTS Council members at level 2 will include NTS program leaders who are responsible for management of NTS components for their agency at the national level or provide direct or indirect national support for NTS components for their agency at the national level. Agencies represented at level 2 will include:

- USFS
- USACE
- BLM
- USBR
- NPS
- USFWS
- FHWA

The following agencies will be invited to become level 2 NTS Council representatives or participate in the quarterly level 2 NTS Council meetings by the Council Chair or designee: the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and United States Geological Survey; United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Other agencies may be invited as appropriate.

(2) Roles and Responsibilities

NTS program leaders at level 2 manage their respective NTS program at the national level or area of responsibility supporting the NTS at the national level under the guidance of their respective NTS line officers. NTS program leaders at level 2 share information, identify opportunities, discuss challenges, and lead, participate, and report on the work of NTS Council standing committees and ad hoc teams.

(3) Meetings

NTS Council level 2 representatives meet quarterly as part of the full NTS Council to report on progress of NTS Council standing committees and ad hoc teams and to share information, exchange ideas, identify opportunities, and discuss challenges relating to the NTS within their areas of responsibility.

c. Level 3: Program Development and Support for National Trails

(1) Representation

NTS Council members at level 3 include NTS program leaders for secretarially designated NTS components who develop and execute programs for those NTS components and are responsible for managing key aspects of those NTS components at the national level. Agencies represented at level 3 will include:

- USFS
- USACE
- BLM
- USBR
- NPS
- USFWS
- FHWA

Level 3 representatives for the following NTS Council standing committees and ad hoc teams will be determined by the NTS line officers involved, with guidance from NTS Council level 1 representatives, as requested:

- National Recreation Trails Roundtable (NTS Council standing committee with representatives from BLM, NPS, USFWS, USFS, USACE, USBR, and FHWA. USFS delegates the authority for NRT designation to Regional Foresters, but is encouraged to participate on the standing committee to ensure program consistency).
- National Water Trails Interagency Working Group (NTS Council standing committee with representatives from BLM, NPS, USFS, USBR, USFWS, USACE, and FHWA).
- Connecting and Side Trails Task Force (NTS Council ad hoc team with representatives from BLM, NPS, and USFS that can be established as a standing committee when deemed necessary).

(2) Roles and Responsibilities

- Pursuant to Sections 3 and 4 of the NTSA, 16 U.S.C. 1242 and 1243, the National Recreation Trails Roundtable facilitates recognizing, inventorying, and promoting Federal, State, local, and private trails by establishing a process for creating, connecting, protecting, and marketing a national network of trails. The group encourages the use of existing trails and fosters and enhances development of new trails to realize the long-term goal of a trail for all Americans within 15 minutes of home or work.
- Pursuant to Sections 3 and 4 of the NTSA, 16 U.S.C. 1242 and 1243, and United States Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 3319, the National Water Trails Interagency Working Group facilitates connecting Americans to the National Water Trails System and oversees a designation process for National Water Trails. The group strives to promote and restore America's rivers, shorelines, and waterways; conserve natural areas along waterways; and provide increased access to outdoor recreation on shorelines and waterways. Through the mutual support and cooperation of Federal, State, local, and nonprofit entities, the National Water Trails System helps protect and restore the health of local waterways and surrounding lands and build a community that mentors and promotes the development of National Water Trails and shares best management practices for those trails.
- Pursuant to Sections 3 and 6 of the NTSA, 16 U.S.C. 1242 and 1245, a CST Task Force establishes guidelines and procedures for designation of CSTs. CSTs can provide additional points of public access to or connections between other National Trails and

may be established, designated, and marked by the appropriate Secretary as components of those National Trails.

(3) Meetings

NTS Council level 3 standing committees will meet at least annually outside of the NTS Council quarterly meetings or as directed by the NTS line officers. NTS Council level 1 representatives or level 3 standing committees may also recommend that additional meetings be scheduled in the NTS annual operating plan or as necessary. NTS Council standing committee and ad hoc team meetings may take place in person or via teleconference or video conference, as deemed appropriate.

V. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

The following are the principal contacts for this MOU:

BLM:

National Trails System Program Leaders
Bureau of Land Management
20 M Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003-3503

USBR:

Program Analyst
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center Building 67
Denver, CO 80225

NPS:

National Trails System Program Leaders
National Park Service
1201 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

USFWS:

Assistant Transportation Program Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041

USFS:

Program Manager for Trails and Congressionally Designated Areas
USDA Forest Service
14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1125

USACE:

National Recreation Program and Business Line Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
HQUSACE (CECW-CO)
441 G Street, NW, Suite 3H59
Washington, DC 20314-1000

FHWA:

Community Planner
Federal Highway Administration
FHWA HEPH-10, E74-474
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

VI. Miscellaneous Provisions**A. Effective Date**

This MOU becomes effective when it is fully executed and will remain in effect for 9 years for USACE and 10 years for the other agencies, at which time it will be subject to reissuance. Three years after it becomes effective, the agencies will review this MOU to determine if any modifications are appropriate.

B. Modifications

Modifications to this MOU must be made in writing and must be signed and dated by all the agencies.

C. Additional Signatories

Additional Federal agencies may be added to this MOU with the concurrence of all the agencies. Concurrence may be given in writing, including by e-mail, or by vote of the agencies at a

meeting. The addition of a Federal agency will be effected by attaching to the MOU a signature page signed and dated by the agency head or designee.

D. Termination

Any agency may withdraw from this MOU after 60 days written notice to the other agencies.

E. Non-Fund-Obligating Document

This MOU is not a fiscal or fund-obligating document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between or among the agencies will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures, including those governing Federal procurement and printing. These endeavors will be outlined in separate written agreements by representatives of the agencies and must be independently authorized by statutory authority. This MOU does not provide that authority.

F. Lack of Benefit to Members of Congress

Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 22, no member of or delegate to Congress may benefit from this MOU, either directly or indirectly.

G. Participation in Similar Activities

This MOU in no way restricts any of the agencies from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

H. Obligation to Comply With Applicable Law

Nothing in this MOU abrogates the obligation of any agency to manage any trails under its jurisdiction, including National Trails, in accordance with applicable law.

I. Conduct of Activities

The agencies will handle their own activities and use their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing the objectives enumerated in this MOU. In implementing this MOU, each agency will be operating under its own laws, regulations, and policies, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

J. Existing Authority

Nothing in this MOU is intended to alter, limit, or expand the agencies' statutory and regulatory authority.

K. No Enforceable Rights

This MOU does not create any substantive or procedural right that is enforceable at law or equity against the United States or its officers, agents, and employees.

L. Superseded MOU

This MOU supersedes the interagency NTS MOU dated December 19, 2006 (06-SU-11132424-196).

M. Dispute Resolution

Any disputes relating to this MOU will, subject to any applicable law, Executive Order, Directive, or Instruction, be resolved by consultation between the Parties, and will be elevated through the Parties' chain of command as necessary.

VII. Signatories

By signing below, the respective agencies certify that the individuals listed in this MOU are their representatives and are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this MOU.



Neil Kornze, Director
Bureau of Land Management

11/21/16

Date



Estevan López, Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation

12/13/16

Date

Jonathan B. Jarvis

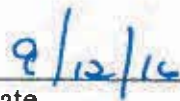
Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director
National Park Service

8.17.16

Date



Daniel M. Ashe, Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Date



Thomas L. Tidwell, Chief
U.S. Forest Service

1/4/17
Date

The authority and format of this memorandum of understanding have been reviewed and approved for signature.

RONALD
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Date: 2016.07.08 09:22:44 -0400

U.S. Forest Service Grants and Agreements Specialist
16MU1132422230


7/8/2016
Date




Steven L. Stockton, P.E., Director of Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

25 FEB 2016

Date



Gregory G. Nadeau, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration



Date