

Western States Tourism Policy Council (WSTPC) MOU

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
International Trade Administration
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Army Corp of Engineers
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish and Wildlife Service
National Park Service
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
and the
WESTERN STATES TOURISM POLICY COUNCIL

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by and be among the Department of Agriculture: Forest Service (FS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Department of Commerce: International Trade Administration (ITA); Department of Defense: Army Corps of Engineers (COE); Department of the Interior: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS); Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereinafter referred to by their initials or collectively as the agencies; and the consortium of western states government tourism offices (Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming) collectively known as the Western States Tourism Policy Council (WSTPC) hereinafter referred to by their name or initials.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a general framework for cooperation between the FS, NRCS, ITA, COE, BIA, BLM, BOR, FWS, NPS, FHWA, EPA and the WSTPC. The agencies and the WSTPC propose to continue to work together to coordinate and support projects and conferences such as the Western Summit on Tourism and Public Lands, the Conference on Beyond the Boundaries: Building Gateway Partnerships for the 21st Century, and Partnerships in Transportation and Tourism. The agencies and the WSTPC desire to work together to achieve the common goals of advancing the domestic

and international public's awareness of the travel and tourism opportunities on the public lands, and to encourage the responsible use of these travel and tourism opportunities in an environmentally sensitive manner to produce long-term economic, educational, and recreational benefits with an emphasis upon rural areas. This collaborative effort is to encourage economic viability, promote a healthy environment and enhance the quality of life in America through travel and tourism. The agencies and the WSTPC shall cooperate with state, local, tribal, regional and private entities in support of the following:

Promote and enhance the experience of visitors;

Support the long-term economic viability of western communities and the local travel and tourism industries that serve the region.

Protect, mitigate and interpret as appropriate, the natural, environmental, cultural and historical resources which serve as the foundation for travel and tourism; and

Respect the needs and values of citizens living in the West.

II. APPLICABLE LAWS

All assistance provided under this MOU and subsequent interagency and WSTPC agreements shall be in accordance with U.S. laws and regulations. Unless otherwise provided by law, all contract work undertaken by the parties in furtherance of this MOU shall be performed in accordance with federal and state procurement and claims policies and procedures.

The Department of the Interior has authority to enter into this agreement pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 16 460l (b), 460l (f), 464, 661; and 43 U.S.C. 1737 (a).

The Department of Transportation has authority to enter into this agreement pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 101 and 301.

The Department of Commerce has authority to enter into this agreement pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 1512 and 22 U.S.C. 2122.

III. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND MUTUAL BENEFITS

The cooperating agencies responsible for the management of the federal resources and lands are dedicated to wise management of the Nation's natural and cultural resources, and as such are responsible for increasing the public's knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of these resources and their management. Encouraging responsible travel and tourism on these lands is an appropriate way of furthering public knowledge, awareness and appreciation. Public awareness and the potential benefits derived

therefrom extend beyond the United States' borders to the international community as well.

The cooperating agencies who are not responsible for federal land management are dedicated to providing technical assistance to help insure sustainable development and use of non-federal lands.

American Indian Nations present a rich and powerful heritage, infusing diverse cultures into the fabric of America, while inspiring visitors from throughout the world. The cooperating agencies respect and recognize the sovereignty of tribal nations and each tribe's approach to tourism development.

The mission of the Western States Tourism Policy Council is to foster and encourage a positive environment for travel and tourism by serving as a forum to identify, research, analyze, and advocate the travel and tourism related issues of public policy and opinion in the western United States.

Travel and tourism to federal lands provide significant, economic, educational, and recreational benefits for the United States in general and the rural communities in particular. Federal lands provide an important component of the travel and tourism opportunities which appeal to traveling United States citizens and international visitors.

International visitors to the United States produce important economic benefits, including a positive impact on the national balance of trade, and receive a better understanding of United States society and culture.

Visitors and residents of the rural areas of the United States can be better served by the cooperating organizations working together toward mutually developed objectives. These objectives contribute to the sustainability of local communities through the protection and management of America's public land heritage now and in the future.

IV. THE COOPERATING AGENCIES AGREE AS AVAILABLE FUNDING ALLOWS, TO:

Work to develop and distribute information about the travel and tourism opportunities in western states particularly on the federally managed lands.

Provide assistance to travel and tourism organizations for use in planning, development, marketing and management of travel and tourism.

Organize, encourage, and participate in community activities that enhance understanding about the use of travel and tourism to diversify the economic base of the community.

Organize and conduct assessments and educational programs that enhance the ability of

agencies to manage travel and tourism activities in balance with stewardship responsibilities.

Work together with federal, tribal, state, local, and regional organizations, public and private, to provide tourism opportunities in a coordinated manner.

Promote sustainable management practices to protect natural, environmental, historic and cultural resources.

V. THE WSTPC AGREE, AS AVAILABLE FUNDING ALLOWS, TO:

Provide assistance to the resource and land managing agencies and to the communities involved in travel and tourism projects.

Assist in the development and presentation of educational materials and resource assessments related to travel and tourism and their use in rural development.

Help the cooperating agencies in defining what information is needed by the travel and tourism industry and how best to deliver the information.

Assist the cooperating agencies in their efforts to plan, develop, market and manage travel and tourism.

VI. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND AMONG THE COOPERATING AGENCIES THAT:

They will cooperate in carrying out activities to facilitate development of sustainable projects and policies such as those recommended at the Western Summit on Tourism and Public Lands, the Conference on Beyond the Boundaries: Building Gateway Partnerships for the 21st Century and the Partnerships in Transportation and Tourism Conference. The cooperating agencies and the WSTPC will meet three times a year to develop recommended actions and research for the coming fiscal year.

Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the parties to this MOU will require the execution of separate agreements or contracts, contingent upon the availability of funds from the WSTPC or as appropriated by Congress. Each subsequent agreement or arrangement involving the transfer of funds, services, or property between the parties to this MOU must comply with all applicable

statutes and regulations, including those statutes and regulations applicable to procurement activities and must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority.

This MOU in no way restricts the FS, NRCS, ITA, COE, BIA, BLM, BOR, FWS, NPS, FHWA, EPA and the WSTPC from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies.

Nothing in this MOU shall obligate the cooperating agencies to expend funds or to enter into any contract or other obligations.

This MOU may be modified or amended upon written request of any party and the concurrence of the others. Participation in this MOU may be terminated with a 60 day written notice of any party.

Nothing in this agreement may be interpreted to imply that the United States Department of the Interior, United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Commerce, the United States Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency or the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers endorse any product or service of the WSTPC. The WSTPC will not take any action or make any statement that suggest or implies such an endorsement.

The WSTPC will obtain prior approval of all press releases, published advertisements or other statements intended for the public that refer to this agreement or the United States Department of the Interior, the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Commerce, the United States Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Army Corp of Engineers or the name or title of any federal employee in connection with agreement.

Additional agencies may be added to this MOU with the concurrence of the present cooperators.

Unless terminated under the terms of this section, this MOU will remain in full force and in effect until November 15, 2006.

VII. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

To provide for consistent and effective communication among the cooperators, each of the cooperators shall appoint a representative to discuss and consider activities that may be pursued under this MOU. The following persons will be the principal contacts for their respective agencies for the purposes of this agreement at the time of execution.

Federal Interagency Team on Public Lands Tourism

Kit Kimball/Doug Domenech
Department of the Interior

Bruce Brown
Bureau of Reclamation

Phil Million
Fish and Wildlife Service

Georgette Tolbert
National Park Service

George Tabb
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Helen Marano
International Trade Administration

Angela West
Bureau of Land Management

Bob Sachs
Environmental Protection Agency

Floyd Thompson
Forest Service

Ed Hall
Bureau of Indian Affairs

George E. Schoener/Paul Los
Federal Highway Administration

James A. Maetzold
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Western States Tourism Policy Council

Mark McDermott, Chair, Western States Tourism Policy Council, Director, Arizona Office of Tourism

Todd Davidson, Vice Chair & Secretary, Western States Tourism Policy Council, Executive Director, Oregon Tourism Commission

Debra Sedwick, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development

Caroline Beteta, Deputy Secretary, California Division of Tourism

Bruce Bommarito, Executive Director, Nevada Commission on Tourism

Richard L. Humphreys, Chief Executive Officer, Hawaii Tourism Authority

Mark A. Simonich, Director, Montana Department of Commerce

Janet Green, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Department of Tourism

Laurie Green, Director, Wyoming Office of Travel and Tourism

Peter McMillin, Director, Business and Tourism Development
Washington State Office of Trade and Economic Development

Dean Reeder, Director, Utah Travel Council

Carl Wilgus, State Tourism Director, Idaho Division of Tourism Development

VIII. SIGNATORIES

Gale A. Norton, Secretary, Department of the Interior

Donald L. Evans, Secretary, Department of Commerce

Norman Y. Mineta, Secretary, Department of Transportation

Ann M. Veneman, Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Linda Fisher, Deputy Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

Lt. General Robert B. Flowers, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer

Mark McDermott, Chair, Western States Tourism Policy Committee,
Director, Arizona Office of Tourism

Todd Davidson, Vice Chair, Western States Tourism Policy Council,

Executive Director, Oregon Tourism Commission

Debra Sedwick, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development

Caroline Beteta, Deputy Secretary, California Division of Tourism

Bruce Bommarito, Executive Director, Nevada Commission on Tourism

Richard L. Humphreys, Chief Executive Officer, Hawaii Tourism Authority

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Janet Green, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Department of Tourism

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Peter McMillin, Director, Business and Trade Development
Washington State Office of Trade and Economic Development

Dean Reeder, Director, Utah Travel Council