



**Shared Stewardship
Memorandum of Understanding**
Between
THE STATE OF ARIZONA
And the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

This Shared Stewardship Memorandum of Understanding is hereby made and entered into by and between the State of Arizona (State), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service.

A. Purpose

The Purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to memorialize the importance and the mutual interest of the State of Arizona and the USDA Forest Service in recognizing shared priorities and goals for forest management occurring on National Forests in Arizona.

Whereas; There is a need and desire for the State and the USDA Forest Service to share in the stewardship of National Forests in Arizona; and to work closely and collaboratively with each other to proactively resolve issues, identify creative funding opportunities, and to prioritize forest restoration treatments across Arizona;

Whereas; Collaboration is paramount to both the short and long-term success of land management in Arizona;

Whereas; Landscape scale restoration of the National Forests in Arizona will directly protect communities, homes, watersheds, and infrastructure from devastating wildland fire;

Whereas; Successful forest restoration on USDA Forest Service lands will promote continued supplies of clean air and water for the citizens of Arizona;

Whereas; Successful forest restoration on USDA Forest Service lands will protect and preserve aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that provide sustainable habitats for species of interest and support recreational hunting, fishing, scenic viewing, and other sustainable recreation opportunities for Arizona residents and visitors;

Whereas; Successful forest restoration on USDA Forest Service lands will positively impact local economies including tourism, recreation, and wood product and grazing industries in Arizona;

Whereas; In the next twenty years landscape scale restoration of National Forests in Arizona is expected to include projects such as the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI), Bill Williams Mountain Restoration Project, the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project, the C.C. Cragin Watershed Protection Project, the Pinaleno Ecosystem Restoration Project, and the Joint Chiefs Prescott Basin Cross Boundary Project;

Whereas; The State of Arizona and the USDA Forest Service have a long and successful record of working collaboratively to accomplish shared stewardship objectives throughout Arizona;

Whereas; It is in the mutual interest of the State of Arizona and the USDA Forest Service to cultivate and expand this partnership;

Now therefore,

B. Statement of Mutual Benefit and Interest

The State of Arizona and the USDA Forest Service agree that it is in their mutual benefit and best interest to:

1. Accelerate the pace and scale of implementation of forest restoration, including under projects such as 4FRI, Bill Williams Mountain Restoration Project, Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project, C.C. Cragin Watershed Protection Project, Pinaleno Ecosystem Restoration Project, and Joint Chiefs Prescott Basin Cross Boundary Project.
2. Meaningfully execute on the concept of shared stewardship where the State participates in the development of jointly agreed upon priorities while respecting the USDA Forest Service's regulatory requirements to retain final decision enactment.
3. Collaborate closely to ensure that the 4FRI project remains a national priority for implementation. Work together on funding and resource availability in regard to sharing financial resources, leveraging resources and exploring all partnerships to the greatest extent possible to accomplish work in priority areas.
4. Expand the innovative collaborative approach during the implementation phase of 4FRI with the partners in the recent novel development of the Phase 2 4FRI landscape scale Request for Proposals (RFP)

C. The Parties Shall:

1. The Parties shall execute a subsequent Shared Stewardship Agreement that further details how the Parties will meet the statement of Mutual Benefit and Interest memorialized in this MOU
2. Under the Shared Stewardship Agreement, the Parties shall collaborate to establish, in accordance with applicable law, appropriate mechanisms that allow the Partners involved in the development of the 4FRI RFP, and representation from collaborative stakeholders groups and other collaborators to participate in spatial and temporal recommendations on prioritization of treatments, tracking of the implementation of annual restoration treatments objectives, recommendations on implementation strategies, and joint monitoring of the desired ecological objectives and social-economic outcomes as permitted by applicable law. Such mechanism under the State Forester and the USDA Forest Service within the Shared Stewardship Agreement framework, or any other appropriate mechanism as agreed upon by the Parties, may include, for example, relevant State Agencies, Local Government, tribes, and representatives of the NGOs actively involved in the 4FRI NEPA process.
3. The Parties shall rely on any applicable existing and new authorities and respect the jurisdictional oversight of the respective agencies.

D. Termination of the Agreement

Either of the parties may terminate this MOU in whole, or in part, at any time. Such termination shall be in writing.

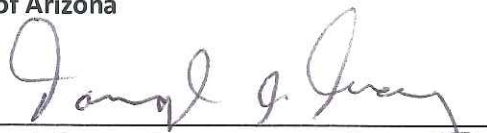
E. Commencement, Modifications, and Periodic Review of Agreement

This agreement is executed as of the date of the last signature and is effective until expiration or termination. The State of Arizona and the USDA Forest Service agree to review this agreement no less than every five (5) years to evaluate the mutual commitments identified and make necessary adjustments as appropriate.

F. Authorized Representatives

By signing below, each party certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representative of their individual parties are authorized to act in their perspective areas for matters related to this Memorandum of Understanding.

State of Arizona



Douglas A. Ducey, Governor State of Arizona

Date 7/7/20

United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service



Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture

Date July 7, 2020