The Agreements' Decision Tree

**Does the agreement include the exchange or expenditure of something of value (for example, funds or services)?**
- **NO**
  - **Is it a non-binding agreement?**
    - **YES**
      - Memorandum of Understanding
      - A non-FSM 1580 instrument. Seek advice from appropriate staff area (for example, property transfers).
    - **NO**
      - These questions above don't apply.

**SELECT APPROPRIATE QUESTIONS/RESPONSES**
- Does the FS procure goods and/or services for the direct benefit of the agency?
- Is there a mutual benefit, mutual interest, and cost sharing?
- Does the FS transfer anything of value, such as funds, to a recipient to accomplish a public purpose as authorized by law?
- Will the FS perform a service, or provide goods for a cooperator with cooperator funds?
- Does the project deal with Law Enforcement, Fire Protection, or Roads?

**ANSWER PRIMARY FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS**
- With a private vendor?
- With another Federal agency?
- With a college for training and teaching activities?
- Does the project cover one of the following:
  1. Pollution abatement?
  2. Manpower/job training?
  3. Publication of forestry history materials?
  4. Interpretive associations?
  5. Forest protection?
  6. Prescribed fire?
  7. Watershed restoration and enhancement?
- Will the FS cooperatively develop, plan, and implement a project with a cooperator that is mutually beneficial and enhances FS activities?
- Is the FS substantially involved?
- Is the cooperator a Federal agency?

**PRIMARY INSTRUMENT TYPE**
- Contract (non-FSM 1580)
- Interagency Agreement (outgoing funds)
- Cost Reimbursable Agreement
- Participating Agreement
- Challenge Cost Share Agreement
- Grant
- Cooperative Agreement
- Collection Agreement
- Interagency Agreement (incoming funds)
- Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement
- Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement
- Cooperative Forest Road Agreement

Note: This is a tool. Be sure to consult with FSH 1509.11 and your local G&A specialist for additional information.