



AGREEMENT FOR SHARED STEWARDSHIP
Between
THE STATE OF UTAH
And the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

This agreement for Shared Stewardship is hereby made and entered into by and between the State of Utah (State) and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (Forest Service).

Introduction

The State of Utah and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service have developed mutual commitments to advance Shared Stewardship in Utah. This document supports the national vision and framework for Shared Stewardship. These mutual commitments developed jointly by the State and the Forest Service adapt Shared Stewardship to Utah's unique conditions and environment. This document stands as an enduring model of the relationships and mutual commitments agreed upon that will persist over time.

It is agreed that this document does not serve as an authorizing tool. The State and the Forest Service will rely on all available authorities to implement priority projects (including, but not limited to, Good Neighbor Authority, Farm Bill Authorities, Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act). Specific authorities for actions will be identified prior to project implementation and development.

A National Vision and Framework

In August 2018, the Forest Service released a document outlining a new strategy for land management called *Toward Shared Stewardship Across Landscapes: An Outcome-Based Investment Strategy*. The new strategy responds to the urgent and growing challenges faced by managers and owners of forests across the Nation, among them catastrophic wildfires, invasive species, drought, and epidemics of forest insects and disease. Of particular concern are longer fire seasons and the increasing size and

severity of wildfires, along with the expanding risk to communities, water sources, wildlife habitat, air quality, and the safety of firefighters.

Through Shared Stewardship, the State and the Forest Service have an unprecedented opportunity to work together to set landscape-scale priorities, implement projects at the appropriate scale, co-manage risks, share resources, and learn from each other, while building long-term capacity to live with wildfire. This approach helps meet the greatest short-term needs and builds upon opportunities towards long-term desired outcomes. Nationally the concept for an outcome-based investment strategy has three core elements:

1. *Determine management needs on a State level.* The States and the Forest Service will set priorities together and combine mutual skills and assets to achieve desired cross-boundary outcomes. States will take lead roles in convening stakeholders to discuss issues, priorities, and strategies. State Forest Action Plans can provide guidelines for coordinating activities across jurisdictional boundaries.
2. *Doing the right work in the right places at the right scale.* The States and the Forest Service will use new mapping and decision tools to identify the highest priority areas for treatment.
3. *Using all available tools for active management.* The States and the Forest Service will use every available authority and tool to do more work on the ground, including timber sales, mechanical treatments, prescribed fire, hazardous fuels reduction, long-term stewardship contracts, innovative wood-product utilization, carefully managing fire, and working with partners.

Mutual Commitments for Shared Stewardship in Utah

Utah and the Forest Service Intermountain Region have a long history of cooperation across the State's public and private lands to address forest management and conservation issues, such as managing wildland fire, reducing community wildfire risks, protecting and restoring watersheds, improving wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities, and stimulating forest-based economic development. Shared Stewardship provides an opportunity to strengthen our collaboration in the State to advance landscape-scale efforts.

The State and the Forest Service Intermountain Region have developed six mutual commitments for Shared Stewardship in Utah. These commitments will guide our immediate efforts and long term strategies toward implementing Shared Stewardship on priority landscapes across all forestlands in the State.

The State and the Forest Service make the following mutual commitments to advance Shared Stewardship in Utah:

1. We are committed to existing partnerships, programs, and initiatives that have been successful in Utah. (past and ongoing)

Utah has a solid foundation for Shared Stewardship built on years of cooperation between the State and the Forest Service through a variety of programs, several unique to the State. These partnerships and programs provide a strong basis to further advance Shared Stewardship in Utah:

State Initiatives Including:

- Governor Herbert's Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy (CatFire), Utah's approach to the National Cohesive Strategy;
- The Utah Department of Natural Resource's Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI) and Utah Partners for Conservation and Development;
- The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands' Utah Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (UWRAP), Wildland Urban Interface Program, and Cooperative Wildfire Management System.

Forest Service Initiatives Including:

- Forest Stewardship, Landscape-Scale Restoration, Forest Legacy, Forest Health, Urban & Community Forestry, Volunteer Fire Assistance, State Fire Assistance including Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Wildland Fire Prevention, All-Lands coordination meetings, Joint Chief's projects with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Fire Plan and the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.

2. We are committed to working together to identify and map shared priorities for protecting at-risk communities and watersheds across all lands. (present and ongoing)

The State and the Forest Service are sharing technical tools and data in order to map priority landscapes for wildfire risk reduction and watershed restoration treatments. We are identifying risks and trade-offs using all tools available, such as the Scenario Investment Planning tool. Initial key objectives are to identify the highest risk communities and water sources, and set priorities for treatment state-wide.

3. We are committed to making joint decisions and sharing resources for immediate and ongoing work in priority areas. (present and ongoing)

The State and the Forest Service are working together to determine where and how to use new legal authorities and management tools, share financial resources, and leverage those resources to the greatest extent possible to accomplish work in

priority areas. Of note, is the Utah Legislature's first-ever appropriation during the 2019 legislative session intended specifically to be used to enhance forest management on National Forest System lands in Utah.

- 4. We are committed to engaging local communities in dialogue and learning about active management and desired landscape-scale outcomes, including capacity building and economic development opportunities. (present and ongoing)**

The State and the Forest Service seek to unify groups and efforts across the state so that we are all working together towards shared stewardship. We agree to engage tribes, collaboratives, partners, and local communities in Shared Stewardship dialogue through existing initiatives, such as the Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy's six regional work groups. Strategies will aim to include local communities in planning and decision-making as well as addressing broader goals, such as developing capacity for forest work, utilizing wood products for innovative businesses and economic development, and supporting fire adapted community development.

- 5. We are committed to shared planning efforts, including the integration of Utah's Forest Action Plan and the Forest Service's 5-Year Vegetation Management Plans. (future)**

The State and the Forest Service are developing long term five-year vegetation management plans on the five National Forests in Utah and on non-federal forest lands through the Utah Forest Action Plan revision process. Through this agreement, the State and the Forest Service are committed to integrating these planning efforts to reflect landscape-scale, cross-boundary priorities for all forest lands in Utah. The purpose of this groundbreaking shared planning approach is to leverage resources across landscapes to address the threats and risks at a strategic, meaningful level that will ultimately protect communities, restore watersheds, and improve forest conditions.

- 6. We are committed to co-managing wildfire risks and supporting each other in decisions that we have made together. (future)**

The State and the Forest Service recognize that fire is an integral part of the landscape and ecosystem. There are opportunities to manage wildfire on the landscape in the right place at the right time. We are committed to supporting each other when we have identified managing wildfire as an opportunity to reduce fuels and create a safer working environment for our firefighters.

Modifications and Periodic Review of Agreement

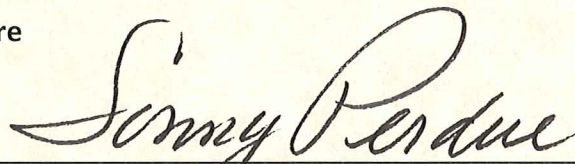
The State and Forest Service agree to periodically review this agreement every 5 years or earlier to evaluate the mutual commitments identified and make necessary adjustments as appropriate.

Authorized Representatives

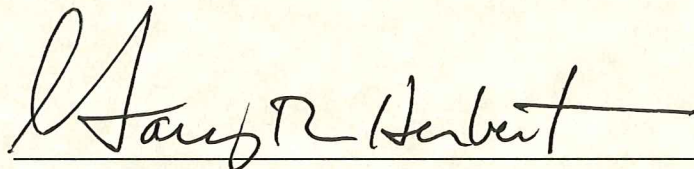
By signing below, each party certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the individual parties are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement for shared stewardship.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last date written below.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Date: 5/22/2019 
Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture

State of Utah

Date: 5/22/19 
Gary R. Herbert, Governor of Utah