



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



This agreement for Shared Stewardship is hereby made and entered into by the State of Wyoming (State), and the United States Department of Agriculture – United States Forest Service (USDA Forest Service) to work towards shared interests and the national framework of Shared Stewardship.

Introduction

The State and the USDA Forest Service share mutual goals and commitments to advance Shared Stewardship in Wyoming. All parties in this agreement are committed to existing partnerships, programs, and initiatives. This document outlines the commitment of both entities, working in close partnership and good faith, to improve forests and grasslands across the state.

This agreement does not serve as an authorizing tool; the parties will rely on all available authorities to implement priority projects (including, but not limited to, Good Neighbor Authority, Farm Bill Authorities, and the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act).

The National Vision and Framework of Shared Stewardship

The USDA Forest Service initiative for cross-boundary land management is described in the 2018 document *Toward Shared Stewardship Across Landscapes: An Outcome-Based Investment Strategy*. This strategy addresses the increasing challenges faced by federal, state, and private managers of forests and rangeland, including catastrophic wildfires, invasive species, degraded watersheds, and insects and disease. Many of these challenges are not new but have changed in urgency, severity, frequency, or scale in recent years. Ecosystems and associated forest and grassland health, wildfire, watersheds, habitat, forage, and other resources are not strictly confined or defined by administrative boundaries, which make the concept and practice of Shared Stewardship vital to addressing these issues in a meaningful way.

Through Shared Stewardship, the State and the USDA Forest Service will work collaboratively to determine priorities, implement projects, share resources, and work towards identification of at-risk communities, watersheds, and priority areas across all lands with specific attention to appropriateness of scale. This approach addresses both, short term needs and long term desired outcomes. This concept of outcome-based investment strategy has three primary elements:

1. Strategize on a statewide level. The State and USDA Forest Service will work together to achieve desired cross-boundary outcomes by combining mutual skills and resources. The State will take the lead role in bringing stakeholders together to discuss strategies, issues, and priorities. Existing or newly developed statewide strategies will provide guidance for coordinating activities across jurisdictional boundaries, where appropriate.
2. Implement meaningful projects in the right places, at the appropriate scale. The State and the USDA Forest Service will utilize mapping and decision-making tools to identify the highest priority areas for projects to occur and work together to determine the appropriate scale for implementation.
3. Use all available tools for active management. The State and the USDA Forest Service will use all available authorities and tools in order to achieve desired outcomes and work towards implementation of strategies.

Mutual Commitments for Shared Stewardship in Wyoming

The State and the USDA Forest Service have developed the following mutual commitments for Shared Stewardship in Wyoming:

1. ***We are committed to joint planning and resource sharing, especially in overlapping decision space, for immediate and ongoing work across the landscape.*** The State and the USDA Forest Service will work together to determine where and how to use all legal authorities and management tools, share financial resources, and leverage resources to the greatest extent possible to accomplish work across jurisdictional boundaries. We jointly commit to building, maintaining and expanding our collective relationships with communities, counties, tribal organizations, collaborative groups, community groups, conservation groups, and other stakeholders; enabling us to plan and act in a coordinated manner. We commit to working with all our partners in order to identify shared outcomes for cross-boundary work and utilize Good Neighbor Authority as much as practicable.
2. ***We are committed to continuing existing successful partnerships and programs.*** Wyoming and the USDA Forest Service have a long history of working cooperatively across landscapes through both state and federal programs. These long-standing partnerships and programs provide a foundation from which Shared Stewardship in Wyoming can be advanced. Current partnerships and programs include, but are not limited to: Forest Legacy, Health, and Stewardship, Urban & Community Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Interagency Cooperative Fire Management and Response, Sage Grouse Implementation Team, Governor's Invasive Species Initiative, Bighorn National Forest Steering Committee, and the Programmatic Agreement on Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act on USDA Forest Service lands in Wyoming. The State and the USDA Forest Service agree to continue to collaboratively work in these partnerships and programs and will continue to identify and leverage other potential partnerships, initiatives, and programs in the future.

3. *We are committed to collaborative planning and management.* The State and the USDA Forest Service will continue to work cooperatively to implement and integrate Wyoming's Forest Action Plan, Wyoming's Strategic Wildlife Action Plan and Strategic Habitat Plan, the Statewide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Working Group plan, Wyoming's Greater Sage-grouse Executive Order, the USDA Forest Service's 5 year Vegetation Management Plans, land and resource management plans, and the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Parties will work to identify and map shared priorities across all lands and ensure the sharing of data and tools such as Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal, the Scenario Investment Planning tools, and recreation.gov with special attention to implementation of land and resource management plans.

Modifications and Periodic Review of Agreement

The State and the USDA Forest Service will communicate on a regular basis to facilitate implementation of items outlined in this Shared Stewardship Agreement. The parties mutually agree to periodically review and make appropriate adjustments to the identified mutual commitments. This agreement should be reviewed at least biannually, or as needs are identified, and is intended to be a "living document."

This agreement creates no right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity. The parties shall manage their respective resources in a separate but coordinated and mutually beneficial manner to meet the purpose(s) of this agreement.

Authorized Representatives

By signing below, each party certifies that the individuals listed are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to the Shared Stewardship Agreement. In Witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last date written below.

State of Wyoming

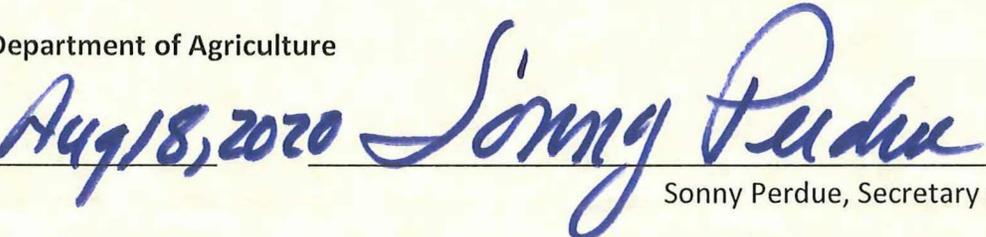
Date: 19 August 2020



Mark Gordon, Governor of Wyoming

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Date: Aug 18, 2020



Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture