

November 11, 1997

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FOR THE CRAIG MOUNTAIN COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AREA**

Between  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
and  
Idaho Department of Lands  
and  
USDI, Bureau of Land Management  
and  
The Nature Conservancy of Idaho

**I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provides a framework for coordination and cooperation between the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and The Nature Conservancy of Idaho (TNC) for management programs and projects within the Craig Mountain Cooperative Management Area (CMCMA).

Lands managed by the IDFG, IDL, BLM, and TNC within the CMCMA contain unique and valuable resources. These include high quality wildlife, fisheries, watershed, vegetative, forestry, cultural, and geologic resources, combined with recreation and research opportunities. The lands and resources contribute to the local and regional economy because of the demand for consumptive and non-consumptive uses.

The organizations represented in this MOU recognize that they each have distinct missions and unique abilities. They also acknowledge common management goals and areas of interest. A purpose of the MOU is to coordinate activities, recognizing that resource management within the CMCMA can best be approached on a landscape basis.

Nothing in this MOU will be construed as affecting the authorities and options of the participants, or as binding any participant beyond their respective authorities, or to require any participant to obligate or expend funds or staff time in excess of available or appropriated funds or staff time.

Map A, attached to this MOU, and made a part hereof, identifies the boundaries of the CMCMA. This MOU will only address lands administered by IDFG, IDL, BLM, and TNC; which are within the CMCMA.

**II. PARTNERSHIP MISSION STATEMENTS**

- A. IDFG will further its mission of protecting, mitigating, and enhancing fish and wildlife populations and habitat on the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area.
- B. The Mission of the Idaho Department of Lands is to manage endowment trust lands for the beneficiaries and protect natural resources for the people of Idaho.
- C. It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

- D. The Nature Conservancy is a private, non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to preserve the most significant plants, animals and communities by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

III. AUTHORITY

- A. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (P.L. 94-579)
- B. Sikes Act of 1974, (P.L. 93-452)
- C. Department of Interior and related agencies appropriation for fiscal year ending September 30, 1991, (P.L. 101-512, Challenge Cost Share).
- D. Idaho Code, Title 36, Fish and Game Laws of the State of Idaho.

IV. STATEMENT OF JOINT OBJECTIVES

The cooperators, IDFG, IDL, BLM, and TNC are committed to the following mutual objective:

Develop and implement landscape management on an integrated cooperative basis. This may include, but is not limited to the following actions:

- Maintain and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and populations
- Protect and enhance unique and rare plant species, communities, and habitats
- Protect, maintain, and enhance the outstanding recreation and scenic qualities of the area
- Protect and maintain the cultural and historic resources in the area.
- Provide and support educational and research opportunities in the area.
- IDL will manage State endowment lands to maximize economic returns to the owning beneficiaries. Where practical and feasible State endowment lands will be managed to be consistent with the above objectives.

When needed, applicable agreements will be drafted to satisfy legal obligations for activities requiring an obligation or transfer of funds, supplies, equipment, services, or data between cooperators. Supplemental agreements to this MOU are recommended between all or individual cooperators in this MOU to assist in program and project implementation.

Cooperators in this MOU should make reasonable efforts to obtain support for funding, materials, and volunteers to implement cooperative efforts. Grants and support will be prioritized for on-the-ground projects. Partnerships are encouraged with schools, environmental/conservation groups, and other interested parties.

Public information will be distributed to all cooperators prior to release to ensure that the timing and content is appropriate.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

- A. The IDFG, IDL, BLM, and TNC will meet at least once annually to discuss partnerships and opportunities. The meeting shall include all pertinent staff at administrative and field unit levels.
- B. The annual meeting will be held at the beginning of each calendar year (January/February). The Chair and responsibility for calling a meeting and developing the annual agenda will rotate each year starting with IDF&G, followed by IDL, BLM, and TNC. One agenda item to be included will be paragraph "D" from this section.
- C. Cooperators in this MOU will share annual work plans which will keep each other advised of planned activities (individual and cooperative projects). Dependent on program/project scope, some coordination may require the development of specific activity plans, cooperative agreements, or partnerships (i.e. Tri-State Demonstration Weed Management Area). The annual coordination meeting should include but not be limited to the following:
- Terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat enhancement projects.
  - Noxious weed control.
  - Road maintenance and access management (motorized vehicle restrictions).
  - Law enforcement and patrols.
  - Surveys, monitoring, research efforts, and needs.
  - Recreation management.
  - Public outreach/education and interpretive projects.
  - Facility maintenance and use.
  - Partnerships and coordination with other agencies, organizations, individuals, and volunteers.
  - Fire/Prescribed Burns
  - Land ownership adjustments
  - Timber Harvest
  - Timber Stand Improvement projects (thinning, cull removals, insect and disease control)
  - Grazing Coordination
- D. A three to five year inventory of potential cooperative projects and/or programs will be developed and prioritized relative to importance and feasibility with assistance from all interested cooperators.

VI. APPROVAL and PROCEDURES

This MOU shall become effective when signed by two or more participants and shall continue in effect until terminated. Any party to the MOU may withdraw from the agreement, however, the MOU will remain in full effect until terminated by mutual agreement of remaining parties.

Amendments to this MOU and/or the addition of other public or private participants may be proposed in writing by any participant and shall become effective upon written approval by other parties.

Cal Groen  
Cal Groen, Regional Supervisor  
Clearwater Region  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game

11-18-97  
Date

Stanley F. Hamilton  
Stan Hamilton, Director  
Idaho Department of Lands

11-24-97  
Date

Fritz U. Rennebaum  
Fritz U. Rennebaum, District Manager  
Upper Columbia-Salmon Clearwater Districts  
Bureau of Land Management

12/1/97  
Date

Guy Bonivier  
Guy Bonivier, State Director  
The Nature Conservancy of Idaho

12/12/97  
Date