

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN

**BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN AIR
FORCE STATION, FORT CARSON/PIÑON CANYON MANEUVER
SITE, FRANCIS E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, HEADQUARTERS
AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND, PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE,
PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT, SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE,
THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY, AND
THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**



FOR

**AN ECO-REGIONAL APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT OF
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
ALONG THE FRONT RANGE OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS**

March 2007

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Front Range lies within the Temperate Steppe Division/Great Plains/Palouse Dry Steppe Province eco-region. This eco-region is characterized by rolling plains and tablelands of moderate relief in a broad belt that slopes gradually eastward from an altitude of 5,500 ft (1675 m) near the foot of the Rocky Mountains to 2,500 ft (760 m) in the Central States. The plains are notably flat, but contain occasional valleys, canyons, and buttes. In the northern section, badlands and isolated mountains break the continuity of the plains. The Palouse region occupies a series of loess-covered basalt tablelands with moderate to high relief, ranging in altitude from 1,200 to 6,000 ft (365 to 1830 m).

1.2 The proximity of Buckley Air Force Base (BAFB), Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station (CMAFS), Fort Carson/Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS), Francis E. Warren Air Force Base (FEWAFB), Peterson Air Force Base (PAFB), Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD), Schriever Air Force Base, U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Management Assistance Office, provides reasonable conditions for sharing equipment, manpower, expertise and resources to collectively enhance natural and cultural resource conservation efforts.

2.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to improve management of natural and cultural resources on Department of Defense (DoD) installations. The scope of this MOU covers DoD installations and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices directly involved in management of these military lands along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. The DoD installations along the Front Range exhibit similar natural and cultural resource management concerns and constraints because their geographic locations lie within the same eco-region. The capabilities of the respective natural and cultural resources programs at these installations will be enhanced by cooperative and collaborative efforts.

3.0 GOALS

The following goals are expected to be reached by implementing specific management actions detailed in existing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs), Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plans (ICRMPs), and other cooperative agreements between participating military installations. Activities shall be carried out in cooperation with state, federal and local agencies where needed and appropriate.

3.1 Enhance mission support through conservation of natural and cultural resources on military lands.

3.2 Promote sound stewardship of natural and cultural resources.

- 3.3 Work cooperatively on common initiatives to save resources and achieve common goals while eliminating duplication of efforts.
- 3.4 Enhance local and regional planning by implementing an eco-regional approach.
- 3.5 Share information to promote cost effective solutions and networking relationships.
- 3.6 Improve compliance with federal, state, and local agency regulations and policies.
- 3.7 Reduce contract and administrative costs by sharing effective contract mechanisms and increasing scopes of existing contracts.
- 3.8 Provide DoD representation at local and regional meetings that may affect Front Range installations.
- 3.9 Provide collaborative education and outreach to the public through local and regional publications.
- 3.10 Learn from proven partnering concepts and successes.
- 3.11 Provide improved flexibility to achieve compliance with natural and cultural resource laws and regulations.
- 3.12 Enhance regional fire management planning, monitoring and implementation.

4.0 OBJECTIVES

To achieve these goals, the following objectives are provided:

- 4.1 Expand an existing cooperative agreement between Fort Carson and Texas A&M for biological control of invasive plants, and develop a new contract for development of a forest pest strategy and for hazardous fuel management.
- 4.2 Develop and field the Front Range ECO-Regional Partnership Web Site.
- 4.3 Sponsor an Installation Commander forum designed to enhance involvement of all Front Range installation leadership.
- 4.4 Develop, produce and distribute pamphlets and posters to enhance installation and stakeholder involvement.
- 4.5 Work cooperatively towards developing a DoD regional, multi-agency wildland fire team to enhance fire management programs at all installations within the MOU for wildland fire suppression, prescribed burning and monitoring of fire effects.

5.0 AUTHORITY

5.1 The signatory parties enter into this MOU under applicable federal and state laws and DoD policy.

5.2 All parties to this MOU recognize that they each retain specific statutory responsibilities that cannot be delegated, particularly with respect to the management and conservation of wildlife and its habitat, and the management, development and allocation of water resources. Nothing in this MOU is intended to abrogate any of the parties' respective responsibilities.

5.3 This instrument in no way restricts the parties involved from participating in similar activities with other public or private organizations or individuals.

6.0 TERMS

An installation may terminate its participation in this MOU if the installation determines that the collaborative approach of this MOU is no longer effective. This MOU does not obligate resources from any of the participating installations; rather it provides a means to collaborate with installations to enhance implementation of natural and cultural resources management plans.

7.0 RESOURCES

Collaborative efforts may focus on the eco-regional management of grazing and cropland, fish and wildlife, forestry, threatened and endangered species, wildland fire, prescribed burning, historic properties/archeological resources, bird aircraft strike hazard, ecosystem monitoring, urban forestry, invasive species, nuisance wildlife, and other conservation management activities.

8.0 REQUESTING SUPPORT FROM OTHER INSTALLATIONS

8.1 An installation may request support from another installation by submitting a written request to the natural or cultural resources manager at the installation that has identified their capability of providing a specific resource. A letter, fax, or e-mail constitutes a written request. The request must be received by the supporting installation at least 60 days before the need date, or within a timeframe agreed upon by the participating installations. The request must include a general statement of need outlining the required resources for the project, proposed timelines, the legal authority for sharing the resource, the contracting mechanism (if any) to provide the resource, and any identified funding.

8.2 The supporting installation shall provide a written reply to the requesting installation within 30 days after receipt of the request. The reply shall indicate the capability to support the request within the specified timeframe.

9.0 REPORTING

9.1 All installations shall maintain permanent records of all partnering efforts. These records should include the following at a minimum: staff hours required/expended, equipment hand receipts, MIPRs and other funding documents, statements of need, official correspondence, comparative cost estimates and deliverables if applicable.

9.2 All records shall be available to participating installations upon request.

10.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Collaborating installations should attempt to resolve disputes under this MOU at the lowest possible level. If any such dispute cannot be resolved after evaluating it through the respective installation’s natural and cultural resources functions, the installations may request informal mediation by one or more of the installations signatory to this MOU. The final level for attempting resolution shall be at the affected Major Commands.

11.0 DURATION

The initial term of this MOU shall be five (5) years. Before the end of the five-year period, the signatories to this MOU shall conduct a thorough analysis of actions completed. If the signatories agree that sufficient progress has been made, this MOU may be extended upon written agreement of the parties. Any party may withdraw from this MOU by providing sixty (60) days written notice to the other parties.

12.0 SIGNATORY INSTALLATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

For the United States Air Force Academy:

JIMMY E. MCMILLIAN, COL, USAF
Commander, 10th Air Base Wing
U.S. Air Force Academy

For Fort Carson and Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site:

EUGENE B. SMITH, COL, FA
Garrison Commander
Fort Carson

For Pueblo Chemical Depot:

JOHN M. RILEY, COL, U.S. Army
Commander, Pueblo Chemical Depot

For Peterson Air Force Base:

JAY G. SANTEE, COL, USAF
Commander, 21st Space Wing
Peterson Air Force Base

For Francis E. Warren Air Force Base:

MICHAEL J. CAREY, COL, USAF
Commander, 90th Space Wing
Francis E. Warren Air Force Base

For Schriever Air Force Base:

JOHN E. HYTEN, COL, USAF
Commander, 50th Space Wing
Schriever AFB

For Buckley Air Force Base:

DAVID W. ZEIGLER, COL, USAF
Commander, 460th Space Wing
Buckley Air Force Base

For Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station:

JOYCE R. JENKINS-HARDEN, COL, USAF
Commander, 721st Mission Support Group
Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station

For Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Environmental Division:

CHARLOTTE A. GARRETT, YF-03, DAFC
Chief of Environmental
Headquarters Air Force Space Command