



IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL JOINT BOARD MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission &
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Board
June 12, 2015, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. MT

The Boise Hotel & Conference Center
3300 Vista Ave., Boise

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE

The meeting will be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please contact the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission at (208) 332-1790 or Info@swc.idaho.gov so advance arrangements can be made.

Members of the public may address any item on the Agenda during consideration of that item. Those wishing to comment on any agenda item are requested to indicate so on the sign-in sheet in advance. Copies of agenda items, staff reports and/or written documentation relating to items of business on the agenda are on file in the office of the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission in Boise. Upon request, copies can be emailed and will also be available for review at the meeting.

	1.	WELCOME, SELF-INTRODUCTIONS, AND ROLL CALL	IASCD President Tillotson, Chairman Wright
*#	2.	CONSERVATION DELIVERY SYSTEM OF THE FUTURE MOA ACTION: For consideration and possible action	President Tillotson, Chairman Wright
*#	3.	PARTNERSHIP FY 2016 & LONGTERM GOALS & OBJECTIVES ACTION: For consideration and possible action	President Tillotson, Chairman Wright
	4.	REPORTS ACTION: For information only	Board, Commissioners
	8.	ADJOURN SPECIAL JOINT BOARD MEETING.	President Tillotson, Chairman Wright

(*) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission Consideration

Fri. June 12, 2015 Special Joint Mtg. Agenda

Date of Notice::June 5, 2015



IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item #2

TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, SLICHTER, AND TREBESCH
FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: APRIL 16, 2015
RE: CONSERVATION DELIVERY SYSTEM OF THE FUTURE MOA

The National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) executive director, Mike Brown, recently notified member agencies that a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Conservation Delivery System of the Future (CDSF) has been signed by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), the National Association of Resource Conservation & Development (NARC&D), NASCA, the National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA), and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Attached is a copy of the cover letter on the CDSF and the MOA that was sent out to national conservation partners.

According to the letter, the MOA's purpose is to encourage strong national, Tribal, regional, state, and local level partnerships, as well as to strengthen cooperation among the parties which results in coordinated interagency delivery of conservation assistance to private landowners, communities, and others to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's natural resources... The MOA was signed at the February 2015 NACD National meeting in New Orleans.

As much of the Board will remember, in 2011, Idaho's conservation partners signed the attached briefer Partnership agreement. It did not include RC&Ds or refer to Tribal conservation efforts. You may wish to consider approving an update to that agreement, substituting the attached more detailed MOA.

I have distributed it to IASCD, IDEA, and NRCS for their review and consideration. If all parties are amenable, it could be signed at upcoming joint Board meetings in June.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorize Chairman to sign

Attachments:

- CDSF Cover Letter
- MOA between NACD, NARCDC, NASCA, NCDEA, USDA NRCS
- Idaho Conservation Partnership Agreement

To: State-level Conservation Partners
From: USDA NRCS, NACD, NCDEA, NASCA, NARC&DC
Subject: Conservation Delivery System of the Future

Greetings, state-level Conservation Partners. We are seeking your participation in a process and/or conversation including leading to a state-level only Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) should that be needed to strengthen our historic partnership in a time of change. Please take the time to review the attached state MOA template and consider joining the list of states that have recently adopted something similar or that will soon adopt some version of this draft. Also note the attached National MOA signed in February 2015. States that already have an active agreement in place, will not need to secure a new agreement but are encouraged to review their existing one on an annual basis and take the necessary steps to update as needed.

The conversations leading to a signed national MOA and subsequent actions signal our mutual recognition that increased coordination and collaboration are necessary if we are to provide effective and efficient conservation assistance to a changing customer base. The MOA will be a tool to help build upon the strengths of our partnership and the world class federal/state/local government conservation delivery system that provides an array of private lands conservation services and supports local-level and private landowner/landuser conservation decision-making.

Why the need for conversations and agreeing on an MOA at this time? Mainly because, the goal is to continue to improve as we move forward, by helping our partnership address conservation challenges and opportunities at the national, Tribal, state, and local levels that we could not have anticipated even a few years ago.

As an example, statutory programmatic responsibilities have grown for our federal partner, NRCS, as well as for many states. While that has helped direct more resources to conservation needs, it has put even more emphasis on the need for a strong local delivery system. The Conservation Partnership faces an array of challenges as the demand for services grows.

The state MOA template outlines paths to enhance our collective and individual work. It is modeled after the national MOA signed by representatives of the above organizations at the 2015 NACD Annual Meeting.

Specifically, the MOA commits the parties to finding ways to improve operations in order to enhance their collective and individual conservation missions and goals. Signatory Parties agree they will work to address identified national, Tribal, state, and local conservation priorities. Examples of the kinds of activities the Parties will address include but are not limited to:

- Continuing to support the delivery of excellent and innovative service
- Strengthening and modernizing conservation delivery
- Broadening our reach for customers and partners
- Supporting science-based decision making as the foundation for addressing resource concerns and opportunities
- Encouraging a voluntary approach as the primary means of accomplishing conservation goals
- Using sound approaches to strengthen each Party and its role in the delivery of natural resources conservation across the nation

These examples serve as general guidance and offer a great deal of state and local flexibility in fashioning plans that recognize national, Tribal, state, and local priorities.

Again, some might ask “Why now?”

Some of the answers can be found in the attached document, “Conservation Delivery System of the Future: Building Blocks for a Changing World.” This NACD white paper was an outgrowth of the 2012 NACD/NRCS Field Office of the Future Exercise, which asked each state and territory to take a reasoned, careful look at the many changes impacting the

delivery of conservation services and to develop plans for addressing an array of conservation needs amidst these changes. This effort later evolved into a “Conservation Delivery System of the Future” activity.

Individual state responses were analyzed and other input was sought as NACD’s District Operations/Member Services Committee formulated the white paper. Accepted by NACD’s Board of Directors in February 2015, the white paper provides insights about how to move forward in key areas, including:

- District office configurations and service areas
- Conservation planning
- State technical advisory committees and local working groups
- Service delivery in a time of rapid technological change
- Partnership coordination and communication
- Skill levels and capacity
- Progress and achievement reporting
- Decision making authorities, scope and accountability

The document is included in this communication as a road map, offering items to consider and **possible** routes to take as state partners move forward.

As mentioned above, also included in this communication is a copy of the national MOA. Upon review, it will be obvious that the national and state MOAs are complementary documents. They are intended to help us move forward together to address new conservation challenges and opportunities with a reinvigorated partnership. The purpose of an MOA is to have a written understanding of agreement among parties.

Nothing in the state-level MOA shall obligate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the various partners and offices of the Parties would require a separate agreement, i.e. a Cooperative Agreement or other type of obligating document.

The purpose of this message from national leaders, and the follow up activities related to it, is to ensure that we are collectively doing all we can to keep the delivery of conservation in this country as effective and viable as we possibly can. The conversations, the development of an MOA where one does not exist, and the continued activities to strengthen our partnership are what we hope to be foundational moves to maintain our world class conservation delivery system. We hope it can also serve as a launching pad for innovative strategies that address natural resource-based state and local conservation needs and the delivery of services to address those needs.

Please consider moving forward by convening as state level partnership leaders, reviewing this message, including the enclosures, and taking steps to review a similar existing agreement and/or work toward signing a new state-level MOA, especially if you don’t already have a similar document in place.

Best wishes to you for a strong conservation effort in the future.

Lee McDaniel, President, National Association of Conservation Districts

Olga Walter, President, National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils

Shana Joy, President, National Association of State Conservation Agencies

Tim Riley, President, National Conservation District Employees Association

Jason Weller, Chief, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Enclosures/Attachments: Signed National MOA; State MOA Template; “Conservation Delivery System of the Future, Building Blocks for a Changing World”, an NACD white paper.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Among the

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

And the

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

And the

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE CONSERVATION AGENCIES

And the

NATIONAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

And the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is made by and entered into among the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), the National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils (NARC&DC), the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA), the National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), hereinafter referred to as “the Parties or Party.”

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOA is to encourage strong national, Tribal, regional, State, and local level partnerships, as well as to strengthen cooperation among the Parties which results in coordinated interagency delivery of conservation assistance to private landowners, communities, and others to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s natural resources. The Parties share a long-term commitment to the voluntary

Federal, Tribal, State, and local government conservation delivery system to help private landowners, communities, and others conserve natural resources across the Nation. This system supports local level and private landowner decision making and capacity for conservation planning assistance that will result in sound science solutions that are practical and economical and lead to wise use and management of natural resources. This mutual goal is to support locally-led natural resource conservation that also addresses national, Tribal, regional, and State priorities while optimizing efficiency and effectiveness. As a partnership, we will put quality first, enable people to make sound conservation decisions, demonstrate professionalism and dedication, and strive for continuous improvement.

II. BACKGROUND

Importance of Natural Resources to the Nation's Welfare

The Parties recognize the importance of natural resources, sound resource conservation development, and the wise use and management of the Nation's natural resources. The Parties further recognize that our Nation's resources are finite and under increasing pressure from a variety of natural resource related stressors. Soil, water, air, plants, animals, and energy are all addressed under the programs, initiatives, and partnership efforts of the Parties.

Examples of activities the Parties will address include, but are not limited to:

- A. Continuing to support the delivery of excellent and innovative service;
- B. Strengthening and modernizing our world class conservation delivery to optimize efficiency and effectiveness;
- C. Broadening our outreach to new and existing customers and partners;
- D. Supporting science-based decision making, as close to the resource issue/opportunity as possible;
- E. Encouraging a voluntary approach as a the primary means of accomplishing conservation goals; and
- F. Using sound approaches to strengthen each Party and its role in the delivery of natural resources conservation across the Nation.

Collaborating to Meet Customer Needs

The Parties recognize that the owners and managers of farmland, rangeland, forestland, and other lands are key customers for our programs and activities. Increased coordination and collaboration is essential so that we can provide effective and efficient assistance to a changing customer base. The Parties believe that a strong partnership among them will make it possible to be more effective in assisting decision makers, thereby increasing agricultural production while improving natural resource benefits.

III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This MOA commits the Parties to increase cooperation at the national, regional, State, local, and other geographic scales to ensure coordinated delivery of conservation assistance. The actions taken under this MOA are expected to enable the Parties to accomplish their individual and collective conservation missions and goals more effectively.

The Parties recognize the unique and complementary role that each Party brings to the partnership:

- NACD is the non-profit organization that represents America's 3,000 conservation districts, 58 State and Territory associations, and the 17,000 women and men who serve on their governing boards.
Conservation districts are local units of government established under State law to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level. Districts work with millions of cooperating landowners, managers, and operators to help them manage and protect land and water resources and related resources on all private lands and many public lands in the United States.
- NARC&DC is a nonprofit organization that represents and coordinates the efforts of hundreds of RC&D Councils, and thousands of volunteers, as they create successful delivery systems that benefit local communities. Local Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils are unique non-profit organizations made up of volunteers who identify unmet needs in their communities and create solutions that work. The women and men who make up an RC&D Council are neighbors. They know how to blend Government programs with local needs to produce results.

- NASCA’s mission is to strengthen members’ capacity and influence national programs and policies by providing leadership, focus, and direction. State conservation agencies serve to coordinate all available resources within each State for effective soil and water conservation delivery, thereby strengthening conservation districts and enhancing locally-led conservation.
- NCDEA is a nonprofit organization whose vision is a professionally accepted and integrated work force dedicated to the cause of conservation. The NCDEA mission is to strengthen and promote the conservation district programs by providing assistance, information, and representation, and by supporting the professionalism of conservation district employees. The objectives to accomplish this vision and mission include:
 - Strengthening the conservation district programs of the United States and its territories.
 - Providing assistance, information, and support to conservation districts, employees, and their governing boards.
 - Promoting the professional development of conservation districts and their employees.
 - Assisting any agency, association, organization, municipality, group, or individual who supports the conservation organization. Its function will be to develop, strengthen, and promote conservation district programs within the United States.
- NRCS draws on a long history of helping people help the land. NRCS works in close partnerships with individuals, groups, communities, land users and landowners, local and State Governments, and other Federal agencies to maintain healthy and productive working landscapes. NRCS recognizes the historic relationship it has with the National Conservation Partnership Parties, and is a source of interdisciplinary technical expertise and financial assistance in support of national, Tribal, regional, State and local natural resources conservation in every county across the United States.

The Parties will work to address conservation priorities through a joint action plan and individual organization actions. This joint action plan will be reviewed on an annual basis and will include such actions as:

- A. Encouraging the development of MOAs or other actions to strengthen the conservation delivery system partnerships (e.g. at the national, Tribal, regional, State, and local levels) to facilitate implementation of this MOA.
- B. Encouraging Parties at the national, Tribal, regional, State and local level to jointly pursue innovative pilot projects/demonstration areas, and share and publicize success stories consistent with the objectives of this MOA.
- C. Monitoring and reporting on implementation of this MOA. The following agency contacts or their designees will meet at least annually to review performance under this MOA and provide recommendations as appropriate.

IV. AGENCY/ORGANIZATION CONTACTS

NACD: Mr. John Larson
Chief Executive Officer
509 Capitol Court, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone: (202) 547 6223

Fax: (202) 547 6450

Email: John-larson@nacdnet.org

NARC&DC: Mr. Andy Gordon

Executive Director

444 N Capitol St. NW, Suite 618

Washington, D.C. 20001

Telephone: (202) 434 4780

Fax: (202) 434 4783

Email: agordon@sso.org

NASCA: Mr. Mike Brown

Executive Director

P.O. Box 211

Hartly, Delaware 19953

Telephone: (302) 492 8881

Email: mike-brown@nascanet.org

NCDEA: Mr. Rich Duesterhaus

Executive Director

NCDEA

509 Capitol Court, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone: (202) 547 6223

Fax: (202) 547 6450

Email: Rich-duesterhaus@nacdnet.org

NRCS: Mr. Thomas W. Christensen
Associate Chief for Operations
USDA, NRCS, Office of the Chief
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 5110-S
Washington, D.C. 20250
Telephone: (202) 720 5811
Fax: (202)-720-7690
Email: thomas.christensen@wdc.usda.gov

V. AUTHORITIES

This MOA is entered into in accordance with the following laws and organization policy:

- A. The Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, Public Law 103-354, 7 U.S. C. 6901-7014.
- B. Secretary's Memorandum 1010-1, Reorganization of the Department of Agriculture, dated October 20, 1994.
- C. Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, Public Law 74-461, 16 U.S.C. 590, as amended (16 U.S.C. 590a, et seq.).
- D. NACD By-Laws
- E. NARC&DC By-Laws
- F. NASCA By-Laws
- G. NCDEA By-Laws
- H. Section 1242(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 as amended, 16 USC 3842(d).

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. This MOU takes effect upon the signatures of the Parties and remains in effect for 5 years from the date of execution. In the event of termination by one of the parties, the other parties will continue the MOA among them.
- B. This MOA is not intended to, and does not create any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by any party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.
- C. This MOA does not affect or modify existing regulations or agency responsibilities and authorities. It specifically does not commit agency activities beyond the scope of its mission and authorities under its organic statutes.
- D. NRCS, NACD, NARC&DC, NASCA, NCDEA and their respective officials will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including expenditures of their own funds, in pursuing the purposes of this MOA. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner.
- E. Nothing in this MOA shall obligate NRCS, NACD, NARC&DC, NASCA, or NCDEA to expend or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the various agencies and offices of the Parties will require execution of separate agreements, and be contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOA does not provide such authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of each such agreement must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations.
- F. Any information furnished to NRCS under this agreement is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U. S. C. 552).
- G. All activities and programs, conducted under this MOA shall be in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions contained in Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Civil Rights

Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-250); and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. They also will be in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7 C. F. R. 15.3, Subpart A), which provide that no person in the United State shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination from USDA or any agency thereof.

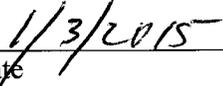
- H. All activities conducted under this MOA shall be in compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-690), Title V, Subtitle D.

VI. APPROVAL

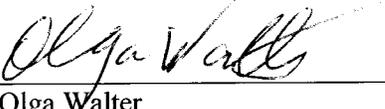
The undersigned Parties hereby agree to the terms and conditions specified.



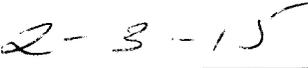
Earl Garber
President
National Association of Conservation Districts



Date



Olga Walter
President
National Association of Resource Conservation
& Development Councils



Date

Irene Moore

Irene Moore
President
National Conservation District Employees Association

2/3/15

Date

Shana Joy

Shana Joy
President
National Association of State Conservation Agencies

2/3/15

Date

Jason Weller

Jason Weller
Chief
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2/3/15

Date

The Idaho Conservation Partnership Statement

We believe in strong, independently led conservation districts fully exercising their role to lead non-regulatory conservation efforts throughout the State of Idaho.

We seek to strengthen the delivery of non-regulatory natural resource conservation programs throughout the State of Idaho through an active partnership with Idaho's conservation districts.

Through our independent responsibilities, and working together, we will provide leadership to the State of Idaho on natural resource conservation issues and successfully deliver services and programs.

We share a common set of guiding principles to achieve our common goals. These are:

- Building alliances with Idaho's agriculture and natural resource conservation partners to expand the partnership, therefore strengthening the importance of non-regulatory, voluntary conservation efforts to enhance agriculture production and the protection of natural resources in Idaho.
- Working together to provide support to Idaho's fifty individual conservation districts, and supporting their non-regulatory efforts of natural resource conservation and protection.
- Promoting economically viable environmental practices to enhance, maintain and conserve Idaho's natural resources.
- Ensuring local control and decisions regarding natural resource conservation.
- Involving each partner in the decision making process when and where appropriate.
- Sharing the leadership, ownership, the credit and responsibility for natural resource protection and preservation in Idaho.
- Communicating, collaborating, coordinating and cooperating.

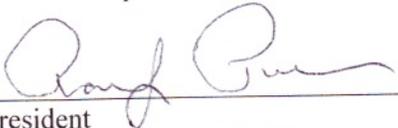
Functions of the Partners

Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD) will represent Idaho's conservation districts as the primary entities to coordinate voluntary, locally led efforts to sustain and enhance Idaho's natural resources, and strengthen Idaho's conservation districts and thereby the non-regulatory approach to conservation. IASCD will be the unifying voice of member districts to state and federal officials, and assist districts in sharing their work and the need of protecting natural resources with other land owners and the public at large.

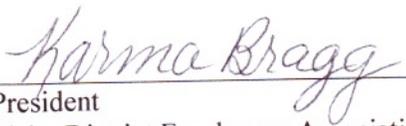
Idaho District Employees Association (IDEA) will increase the effectiveness of conservation districts by increasing the effectiveness of conservation district employees. IDEA recognizes conservation districts as the primary local entities to lead non-regulatory conservation efforts. IDEA supports conservation districts and conservation district employees by promoting professional development, communication, partnerships, and educational outreach.

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWC), serving with the soil and water conservation districts as Idaho's primary entities to lead coordinated conservation efforts, will facilitate coordinated non-regulatory, voluntary, and locally-led conservation by federal, state, and local governments including Idaho's conservation districts and other partners to conserve, sustain, improve, and enhance soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

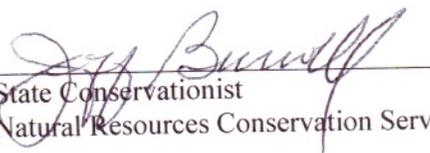
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will use 75 years of experience to work in assisting owners of Idaho's private land with conserving their soil, water and other natural resources. NRCS's expertise is available to the partners to educate local, state and federal agencies and policymakers. Their technical assistance will be based on sound science and suited to a customer's specific needs.



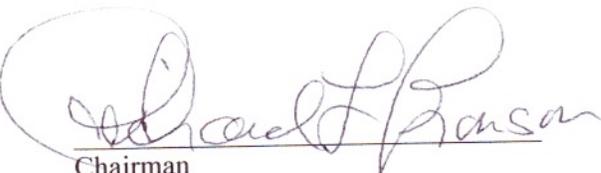
President
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts



President
Idaho District Employees Association



State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Chairman
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission



**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Item #3

TO: IASCD PRESIDENT TILLOTSON, BOARD MEMBERS BROWN, BECKER, GIER, BEAL, AND BAGLEY, AND CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, SLICHTER, AND TREBESCH
FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: JUNE 5, 2015
RE: PARTNERSHIP FY 2016 & LONGTERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

IDAHO CONSERVATION SUMMIT, July 23, 24, 2015

The Commission will host a Conservation Summit in Boise on July 24th. Governor Otter has been invited to speak, and Amos Eno, executive director for Resources First Foundation and Private Landowner Network has agreed to be the keynote speaker at our July 24 Conservation Summit (see attached info). He will talk about the need to keep working lands working, and the launch of the online Idaho Conservation Center – a resource website for private landowner conservation.

We've included IASCD (Kit) on a panel to discuss voluntary conservation in Idaho. There will be Conservation Commissions from Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Utah there. We'd like IASCD to focus on the considerable accomplishments of districts from all areas of the state – giving attendees a taste of the great things going on here. The joint presentation we gave germane committees in the Legislature would work well. We will be talking about the Whiskey Creek/Bear River project and hope to have a video of it to show, as well.

We begin the Conservation Summit Tour on Tuesday, July 21 with an optional tour of projects in southeastern Idaho. The following day, July 22, we will visit a dairy, have a talk on a winter cow/calf operation, visit some projects around Twin Falls, and head for Boise. IASCD Board members and districts are welcome to attend those days, as well as the 23rd tour and 24th meeting in Boise.

A draft schedule for the last two days of the week is as follows:

July 23	Tour projects in the greater Boise area	8 am – 4 pm
July 24	Conservation Summit, Zion's Bank Building, Boise	
	Welcome to Idaho <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governor Otter or Lt. Gov. Little• Commission Chairman	8-8:15 am
	Keeping Working Lands Working, the new Idaho Conservation Center , Amos Eno, Private Landowner Network <ul style="list-style-type: none">•	8:15 – 10:15 am
	BREAK	10:15 – 10:30 am



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	Voluntary Conservation in Idaho (panel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrator Murrison • NRCS State Conservationist Elke • IASCD Pres. Tillotson • Dustin Miller, OSC • Virgil Moore, IDFG • Brian Oakey, ISDA for Celia Gould 	10:30 – 12:00 pm
	LUNCH	12:00 – 12:30 pm
	MULTISTATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION JOINT MEETING , ID Chairman presiding Pacific Region State of Voluntary Conservation (Panel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington Commission (20 mins) • Oregon Commission (20 mins) • Utah Commission (20 mins) • Montana Commission (20 mins) 	12:30 – 2:00 pm
	BREAK	2:00 – 2:10 pm
	Water Quality Issues in Idaho & the Pacific Region (Panel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barry Burnell (new director?), DEQ • Allison Wiedeman, AFO/CAFO • Dennis McLarran, EPA Region 10 • James Werntz, Idaho EPA 	2:10 - 3:10
	National Association of State Conservation Agencies Report , Pres. Shana Joy, Exec. Dir. Mike Brown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update • Opportunities & challenges • Issues for follow up 	3:10 – 4:00 pm

PROPOSED PHOTO MONITORING PARTNERSHIP WITH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA) recently signed an MOU with the Idaho Bureau of Land Management (BLM) allowing ISDA to assist with and validate annual permittee photo monitoring on public lands allotments (see attached announcement and MOU). ISDA is interested in developing a cooperative relationship with the Commission and local conservation districts to conduct the photo monitoring/ train permittees to do their own monitoring.

Federal lands permittees are required to annually photo-document the condition of their rangeland under the BLM Rangeland Health Assessment Evaluation and Determination Process. BLM's monitoring protocols are followed and photos will be annually submitted to local BLM field offices and ISDA. The MOU covers permittee monitoring at existing BLM trend sites, establishment of new photo monitoring sites, and inclusion of permittee-established photo monitoring sites that are consistent with the processes identified in the MOU.



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The program is designed to fill in range condition data gaps over time, utilizes a scientifically credible protocol consistent with BLM regulations and policy, and will provide assistance to permittees to start and maintain photo monitoring throughout the life of the project.

Current requests for ISDA assistance total 184 sites on 377,527 acres under the jurisdiction of the Jarbridge, Burley, and Owyhee field offices, and there quite a few more interested permittees still in the discussion phase. Further, there is a prospect of the US Forest Service agreeing to a similar MOU which would significantly increase the workload.

ISDA will flesh out the program and request funding next legislative session. We will work with ISDA to determine what the Commission and districts need (in terms of resources) to assist them.

TENTATIVE FY 2016 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

The following are tentative dates for your Regular Meetings in FY 2016. Meetings can be rescheduled if necessary.

July 20-24	Conservation Summit (joint mtg. July 24, Boise) & Tour
August 17, 8 am	Boise
September 25, 8 am	Boise
October	Division meetings, no ISWCC mtg.
November 18	To coincide with IASCD Annual Conf., Riverside Inn, Boise
December	None scheduled
January	Date tba to coincide with JFAC presentation, Boise
February 15	Coincide with Ag Summit, Boise
March	Division meetings, no ISWCC mtg.
April 21, 8:00 am	Boise
May 19, 8:00 am	Boise
June 9, 8:00 am	Boise

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For information only

Encl.

- Resources First Foundation: Fact Sheet, 2014 Annual Report, and Amos Eno Resume
- NASCA Pacific Region Report
- BLM/ISDA Announcement re Monitoring Rangeland Health
- BLM/ISDA MOU re Monitoring Rangeland Health

FIFTEEN YEARS OF CONSERVATION

Resources First Foundation: 2000 to 2015

Celebrating 15 years of service and growth!

- ✓ Resources First Foundation's Private Landowner Network has more than 35,000 conservation resources.
- ✓ Six state Conservation Center websites, a Conservation Tax Center, and a Conservation Habitat Management Portal which engages landowners in habitat management for declining or threatened species.
- ✓ We are currently building three more conservation center websites: Idaho, Virginia, and Texas.
- ✓ Monthly E-news to landowners and land professionals.
- ✓ Monthly conservation blog - *Keep Working Lands Working*.
- ✓ More than 7 million page views annually to our website.
- ✓ Serving a million individuals annually in the U.S.
- ✓ Providing landowners with actionable conservation tools for 15 years!

"Resources First Foundation's Private Landowner Network (PLN) is an invaluable resource. I've relied on it as a ranch manager, a planning commissioner, and to support collaborative conservation among private landowners. There's a great deal more to managing land sustainably than many people realize, and the PLN is a go-to source for the many different types of necessary information."

Lesli Allison
Executive Director
Western Landowner's Alliance



RESOURCES FIRST FOUNDATION
Connecting People to Conservation

AMOS STEWART ENO

Employment

Jan. 2000 - Present: Resources First Foundation, Yarmouth, Maine
President/ Executive Director

Accomplishments:

- ✓ Builder of the internet portal www.privatelandownernetwork.org;
- ✓ Builder of White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation website:
www.cooperativeconservationamerica.org;
- ✓ Builder of the web-based USDA NRCS Energy Consumption Awareness Tools (eCat):
www.privatelandownernetwork.org/toolbox;
- ✓ Builder of Katrina Reforestation Outreach Program website:
www.katrinareforestation.org;
- ✓ Builder of the Conservation Tax Center: www.conservationtaxcenter.org;
- ✓ Builder of Maine State Conservation Center: www.stateconservation.org/Maine;
- ✓ Builder of the Houston Intra-Met: www.houstonintramet.org;
- ✓ Builder of the California Conservation Center: www.stateconservation.org/CCC;
- ✓ Builder of the Arkansas State Conservation Center www.stateconservation.org/ascc
- ✓ Builder of Mississippi State Conservation Center: <http://stateconservation.org/miss/>
- ✓ Builder of Louisiana Conservation Connection: www.stateconservation.org/louisiana
- ✓ builder of Conservation Habitat Management Portal: www.conservationhabitat.org
- ✓ Interactive database for the American Chestnut Foundation's tree breeding program.
- ✓ Supporting Community based and wildlife restoration projects across southern tier countries of Africa with the Wilderness Trust;
- ✓ Supporting purchase of interceptory salmon fisheries with the North Atlantic Salmon Fund, Iceland;
- ✓ Supporting conservation and education projects on Bequia, St. Vincent, West Indies

Dec. 2000 - Present: Resources First Group, Yarmouth, Maine

A consulting firm specializing in private sector solutions for the environment

Clients Include: OSD, Secretary of Defense (2000-2008, reporting to U/S Infrastructure and Environment), The Nature Conservancy (2000-2002), Island Conservation (CA, 2006), Resources Legacy Fund (CA, 2006-2013) on tax conservation tax policy.

Accomplishments:

- ✓ Consultant to Permian Basin Petroleum Association (PMBA), Ben Shepperd, President, January-March, 2014; on endangered species issues and federal agency liaison;
- ✓ Consultant to International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), David Barron, President, October 2011 to October 2012; on international program development and organizational management;
- ✓ Consultant to Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Raymond DuBois and successors (2000-2008) to address infrastructure, buffer and environmental, contaminant issues, and emerging contaminant/pollution issues;
- ✓ Worked with Senate Finance Committee and House and Ways Committee (2000-2011) on Pension Bill (H.R.4) to expand tax incentives for conservation easement donations, most recently Gerlach-Thompson bill (H.R.1964)
- ✓ Drafted S.1731, *Suburban and Community Forestry and Open Space Initiative Act of 2001*, for Senator Susan Collins. Passed the Senate twice in 2002;
- ✓ Secured over \$80 million of FY 2002 Congressionally appropriated funds for The Nature Conservancy from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Forest Legacy accounts;
- ✓ Developed contract with Secretary of Natural Resources, State of Louisiana, Jack Caldwell, to establish a public-private partnership to conserve coastal wetlands through a new foundation managing billions of dollars. Shell awards \$3,000,000 grant for coastal Louisiana restoration, Exxon awards \$1,000,000;
- ✓ Secured six million dollars of the \$28 million project goal for a 763,000 acre conservation easement for the New England Forestry Foundation's Pingree Forest Partnership in Maine (including a direct Congressional appropriation, a NAWCA grant, NRDA fine monies, and private contributions);
- ✓ Secured \$20 million of FY 2001 Congressionally appropriated funds for The Nature Conservancy's purchase of Palmyra Atoll and California projects;

- ✓ Prepared comprehensive review of the political landscape for federal funding of northern forest projects for the Open Space Institute (OSI); and
- ✓ Raised over \$500,000 to secure acquisition of Bliss Woods in South Freeport, Maine, for the New England Forestry Foundation.
- ✓ Raised venture capital for private offerings of Bait Co, LLC, Hydrophilix, LLC, LightStream, LLC and Common Census, LLC.

May 2002-Nov. 2005: New England Forestry Foundation, Littleton, Massachusetts and Yarmouth, Maine
Executive Director.

Accomplishments:

- ✓ Completed second largest forest conservation project in the United States, the Downeast Lakes Forest Partnership (approx. 342,000 acres);
- ✓ Created community forest initiative to utilize forest parcels in suburbia as open space alternatives to sprawling development and as educational platforms for local schools;
- ✓ Platformed the Private Landowner Network at NEFF to provide estate planning and legal conservation services to private landowners throughout New England;

1986 - 1999: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, DC. A private, non-profit 501(C)(3) foundation established by Congress in 1984 to protect and restore the Nation's fish, wildlife, and plant resources.

July 1991 - December 1999: Executive Director

November 1986 - July 1991: Director of Conservation Programs, Acting Executive Director

Responsibilities:

Directed staff of 64 and multi-faceted programs of the Foundation with annual budget of over \$200 million, allocating approximately 550 grants per annum to support the programs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA), Bureau of Reclamation (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), FS and NRCS (USDA), USAID, Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers (DOD), and other federal and state (California, Louisiana, Maine) natural resource agencies and to conserve fish, wildlife and plants throughout the United States, as well as Canada, Latin America, Caribbean Basin, and Russia. Represented the Foundation to Congress and the Executive Branch, including over twelve federal agencies with which the Foundation has programs and all 50 states. Supervised the annual publication of the *Federal Needs Assessments* and the Foundation's initiatives on: Neotropical Migratory Birds, Marine and Inland Fisheries, Dam Removal (Edwards Dam, Kennebec River, Maine and Neuse River, North Carolina), Pulling Together

(control of exotic weeds), and Pollinators. Responsible for annual fundraising of \$20-40 million to match federally appropriated funds, and for raising \$6 million annually to support general operations.

Accomplishments:

- ✓ In 1999 reoriented Foundation's thematic grant-making to a Regional Partnership office delivery system composed of 8 Regional Partnership offices and three priority grant portfolios:
 - Private Land,
 - Sustainable Communities, and
 - Education.

- ✓ Developed two Three Year Plans to focus Foundation programs and guide growth of major initiatives.

- ✓ Developed the Federal Needs Assessment project, involving the annual publication of a line-item by line-item analysis of the budgets, programs, and policies of the major U.S. natural resource agencies including: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the natural resource programs of the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and selected programs of the Department of Agriculture. This multi-volume, thousand-plus page publication was inspired by House and Senate Interior Appropriations staff who continued to request the Assessments annually. These documents are also used by OMB and the subject federal agencies to plan their budgets and conduct program audits. Published on April 1 each year for 12 years, the Assessments were also available to the conservation community, press and media, and educational institutions. NMFS' 1991 strategic plan was based on the Foundation's 1990 Assessment of that agency.

- ✓ Developed the Foundation's Marine Fisheries Initiative as an outgrowth of the 1990 NMFS Assessment to provide grants to restore the 78 declining marine fisheries in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Hosted the marine fisheries colloquia for other national foundations interested in investing in marine fisheries projects.

- ✓ Developed the Foundation's Neotropical Migratory Bird Initiative and established the Partners In Flight/Aves de las Americas partnership between the Foundation, 14 participating federal agencies, numerous state and non-governmental agencies, and the forest products industry to stabilize and recover populations of Neotropical songbirds. "Partners" established an interagency, public/private framework to coordinate all conservation management, research, monitoring, education and information programs relating to songbirds in North America breeding grounds and Latin American and Caribbean non-breeding grounds. The Foundation awarded over 500 grants totaling \$45 million during my tenure starting with the program's inception in July 1990.

- ✓ Developed the Foundation's Leadership Training Program for the FWS' senior management and the U.S. Forest Service's leadership training program curricula at selected universities. The program was developed to provide leadership skills in management, budget, marketing, enhanced interpersonal skills, Congressional and federal agency affairs, conflict resolution, and public outreach for a labor force trained primarily in biological sciences. With Whitney Tilt, designed and supervised for initial three years the curriculum of the FWS' Upper Management Development and Training Program. This program was underwritten by the Pew Foundation and led to the establishment by Congress and the Department of the Interior of the FWS' National Fish and Wildlife Training Center at Shepardstown, West Virginia.
- ✓ Financed removal of 3 main stem river dams: Edwards Dam, Kennebec River, Maine; Smelthill Dam, Presumpscot River, Maine; Quaker Neck Dam, Neuse River, North Carolina.
- ✓ Assisted drafting the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (1990) (P.L. 101-233) based on the Foundation's successful three year initiative and \$40 million grant stream to implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
- ✓ Instrumental in designing all Foundation programs and grant awards from 1986 to 1999, during which time the Foundation grew from less than \$500,000 to an annual budget in excess of \$200 million.
- ✓ Created and developed the Save The Tiger Fund, a special project of the Foundation launched in partnership with the Exxon Corporation. In the four years since its launch, the Fund has invested over \$6.8 million in 103 tiger conservation projects. The Fund is recognized as both a first rate conservation program and as an innovative example of the efficacy of corporate investment in endangered species protection and enhancement efforts.
- ✓ Established Gulf of Mexico Program with Shell Corporation to restore marine and estuarine habitats within the Gulf of Mexico. In two years 41 grants awarded for a total of \$5,412,927.
- ✓ Initiated an endowment for the Foundation that grew to nine million dollars without a Foundation membership or direct mail.

1981 - 1986 National Audubon Society, Washington, DC

Audubon, founded in 1905, is one of the largest conservation organizations in the country with more than a half a million members, 500 chapters, 10 regional offices, and a staff of 300.

July 1982 - October 1986: Director, Wildlife Programs

September 1981 - July 1982: Assistant Director, Department of Wildlife Affairs

Responsibilities:

Develop all public policy positions for the Society on wildlife and natural resource issues and represent the Society to Congress and the Executive Branch. Supervised a staff of six, including an attorney, resource specialists and interns. Creator and Project Director for the *Audubon Wildlife Report*, an annual book series cataloging the history and present scope of federal natural resource programs and including accounts of wildlife species of public interest.

Accomplishments:

- ✓ Created and raised all funds (\$200,000 annually) to sustain the *Wildlife Report* series for three years. Supervised publication and edited the 1985, 1986, and 1987 volumes which highlighted the programs of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management, respectively.
- ✓ Negotiated, with the Department of Interior, and drafted landmark conservation legislation (P.L. 99-294) to reformulate the Garrison Diversion Project of North Dakota, widely regarded as the Nation's most environmentally destructive water diversion project.
- ✓ Worked with the Department of Interior to establish the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (1982) and served for four years as the chief non-governmental representative at IGBC meetings. The IGBC directed all recovery programs for the grizzly bear and achieved recovery of the Yellowstone population in the ensuing decade.
- ✓ Established (1983) Audubon's Grizzly Reward Programs to support federal and state law enforcement efforts on behalf of the threatened grizzly bear.
- ✓ Successfully lobbied for the establishment of (1989) and funding (\$3.5 million construction; \$1.9 million annual operating) for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife Forensic Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon. The only one of the nation's 360 forensic laboratories devoted solely to the conservation of fish and wildlife, the Forensic Lab is a state-of-the-art, one-of-a-kind facility of world renown.
- ✓ Negotiated with State of Texas and Department of Interior (DOI) to establish Matagorda Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and drafted legislation (P.L. 98-66) August 4, 1983 (97 Stat 368) to ratify the Exchange Agreements between Texas and DOI. The legislation established a 55,000 acre refuge on this barrier island.
- ✓ Lobbied for the establishment of and funding for Buenos Aires NWR in southern Arizona (1986). Buenos Aires is a 120,000 acre refuge established primarily to support recovery of

the endangered masked bobwhite quail in historical habitat.

- ✓ Successfully lobbied for the 1982 amendments to the Endangered Species Act to codify the biological criteria for listing of endangered species and to provide for habitat conservation plans.
- ✓ Co-authored, with Whitney Tilt and Ruth Norris, the book *Wolf Recovery in the Northern Rockies*, which has become the standard reference and lexicon for subsequent wolf recovery efforts.
- ✓ Served as the principal consultant to the new *National Audubon/WTBS* Superstation wildlife specials. Involvement included editing all scripts, screening cuttings and advising on production of the first two years' production of 8 TV specials.
- ✓ Created and supervised Audubon's Adopt-A-Refuge program to provide constituent support for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge system.
- ✓ Annually submitted testimony before House and Senate Interior Appropriations Committee in support of federal fish, wildlife, and natural resource programs.
- ✓ Raised funds to sustain Audubon's wildlife program office in Washington.

1978 - 1981 Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. Office of Endangered Species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the federal government's lead agency for conserving and managing the nation's fish and wildlife resources. It manages over 90 million acres within the National Wildlife Refuge System and is the principal federal agency for conserving plant and animal species threatened with extinction.

July 1978 - August 1981: Special Assistant to Chief and Program Analyst

Responsibilities:

Coordinated the systematic identification, definition, analysis, prioritization and cataloging of all information needs and study proposals relating to Endangered and Threatened Species. Served as principal liaison between the Office of Endangered Species and all other organizations involved in information management, and research on listed or candidate species. As assistant to the Chief, performed special assignments, such as establishment of the California condor recovery program.

Accomplishments:

- ✓ Implemented the endangered species priority system to guide allocation of funds for federal listing and recovery programs.
- ✓ Supervised multi-million dollar grant program for listing, recovery and research projects for endangered species. Approved between 50 and 100 proposals per year for three years.

- ✓ Established the California condor recovery field program and the captive breeding facilities at the San Diego and Los Angeles zoos.
- ✓ Provided overall program and budget supervision for the Endangered Species program and established management oversight of endangered species research for the first time.

January 1974 - July 1976: Staff Assistant to Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC

Responsibilities:

Coordination of Assistant Secretary's office and travel schedule. Attended all Assistant Secretary's meetings with three bureaus under his supervision: National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Responsible for coordinating all policy and personnel actions. Reviewed all speeches and drafted many. Held personal responsibility for the following policy areas and programs: (1) migratory birds; (2) endangered species, (3) toxic substances; (4) National Wildlife Refuges; (5) National Park Service science program; (6) American Land Trust. Served as liaison to most conservation and environmental organizations and other non-governmental organizations.

Accomplishments:

- ✓ drafted many of Assistant Secretary's speeches and policy papers.
- ✓ Worked on the institution of new migratory bird policies including steel shot, the waterfowl point system and increased habitat protection programs (LWCF).
- ✓ Worked to implement new policies and research for endangered species including directing support for nontraditional research and management programs for whooping crane, peregrine falcon, and bald eagle. Also worked to establish Office of Endangered Species and formulation of policies following passage of the new Endangered Species Act (1973).
- ✓ Served as representative to all conferences with CEQ, EPA, and OMB in preparation of the legislative program for the Toxic Substances Act and coordinated the Department of Interior's policy formulation for toxic chemicals generally and specifically for PCBs.
- ✓ Assessed program effectiveness and reviewed policies of the National Wildlife Refuge System and was assigned policy supervision for controversies involving the following refuges: Back Bay NWR, Virginia; Ruby Lake NWR, Nevada; Malheur NWR, Oregon; Bosque del Apache NWR, New Mexico.
- ✓ Supervised policy review of National Park Service's science program and establishment of new science program and center at Everglades NP, Florida.
- ✓ Served as Assistant Secretary's representative to the American Land Trust program, established to sponsor corporate and increased private support for land acquisition in conjunction with celebration of the Nation's Bicentennial. Coordinated program development with The Nature Conservancy that became the incubator for TNC's

corporate support program.

Professional Activities

- 1972-1973 Field Technician at Virgin Islands Ecological Research Station, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands; Chitwan National Park, Nepal; and in Kenya and Tanzania, East Africa.
- 1977-1978 Travel to 25 countries to investigate wildlife and environmental issues including: Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Namibia, Republic of South Africa, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Brazil, Trinidad, and St. Vincent.
- 1985-1989 Consultant and production assistant to National Audubon Society's TV specials and *WTBS Superstation* for its wildlife films.
- 1985-1986 Consultant to President's Commission for Americans Outdoors.
- 1989 ACIL (American Center for International Leadership) U.S. Environmental Delegation to USSR and Poland. Toured Moscow, Kiev, Chernobyl, Warsaw, Krakow.
- 1991 Investor and partner in The Birding Game, a board game for entertainment and education.
- 1992-1998 Vice-Chair Scientific Advisory Board, Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (Department of Defense), (George Bush, Presidential appointee with high security clearance).
- 1992-1999 Statutory Member, North American Wetlands Conservation Council (DOI).
- 1996-1999 Board of Directors, Scientific Environmental Research Foundation (SERF).
- 1993-present Board of Directors, North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF).
- 1998-1999 Board of Directors, EcoTrust
- 2000-2002 Board of Directors, RARE Center for Tropical Conservation
- 1999-2002 Freeport Conservation Commission
- 2004-2005 Board of Directors, Grow Smart Maine
- 2005-present Technology Board of Directors, Maine Institute of Technology 2010-present Advisory Board, Ties to the Land

Awards

- 1992 Chevron Professional Conservation Award
- 1994 The Nature Conservancy President's Award
- 1996 National Audubon Society President's Award

Education

- 1977 M.A. Cornell University. Interdisciplinary masters' program emphasizing natural resources. Courses included ecology, wildlife management, and twentieth century and American history.
- 1972 B.A. Princeton University. Graduated cum laude in American History. Recipient of the Frederick Douglass, Afro-American Prize for thesis entitled: Radical Black Leadership 1960-1970.

Business Activities

- 1999-present President, Moonhole Company LTD., Bequia St. Vincent, West Indies

1999-present President, Thomas and Gladys Johnston Moonhole Conservation Trust, Bequia, St. Vincent, West Indies

2005-present Board of Directors, Maine Technology Institute, a private, non-profit created and funded by the state to enhance the competition of Maine's technology sectors, support clusters of industrial activity within those sectors and create new jobs for Maine people.

Publications

- 2000 Featured in: *The Timberline: Breaking New Ground, The Pingree Forest Partnership*
- 1999 Featured in: *Atlantis Rising: The True Story of a Submerged Land Yesterday and Today* by Bob Sullivan 1999
- 1992 *FY 1993 Federal Agency Needs Assessment*, 828 pages
- 1991 *FY 1992 Federal Agency Needs Assessment*, 1,144 pages
- 1990 *FY 1991 Federal Agency Needs Assessment and Assessment of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Program Needs 1990-1995*, 1,036 pages
- 1989 *FY 1990 Federal Agency Needs Assessment*, 537 pages
- 1988 *FY 1989 Federal Agency Needs Assessment and Assessment of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Program Needs 1988-1993*, 392 pages
- 1988 *Crossroads: Environmental Priorities for the Future*, Island Press
"Looking Backwards" with Nathaniel P. Reed
- 1987 *Wolf Recovery in the Northern Rocky Mountains* with Whitney Tilt and Ruth Norris
- 1987 *Audubon Wildlife Report*, featuring Bureau of Land Management, 697 pages
- 1986 *Audubon Wildlife Report*, featuring USDA. Forest Service, 1,094 pages
- 1986 *Report on the Advisory Panel on the Spotted Owl*, National Audubon Society
Technical Report No. 7, with American Ornithologists' Union
- 1985 *Audubon Wildlife Report*, featuring U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 671 pages.

Hobbies and Interests

Photography (still and video: 1975 first prize in annual photograph competition *Natural History Magazine*); bird watching; sports in general: tennis (2000 USTA New England Regional doubles champion, 2001 USTA third place National Doubles Championship), long-distance running (19 marathons - under 3 hours), swimming, hiking, SCUBA; reading history and literature; and drawing.

Personal Address

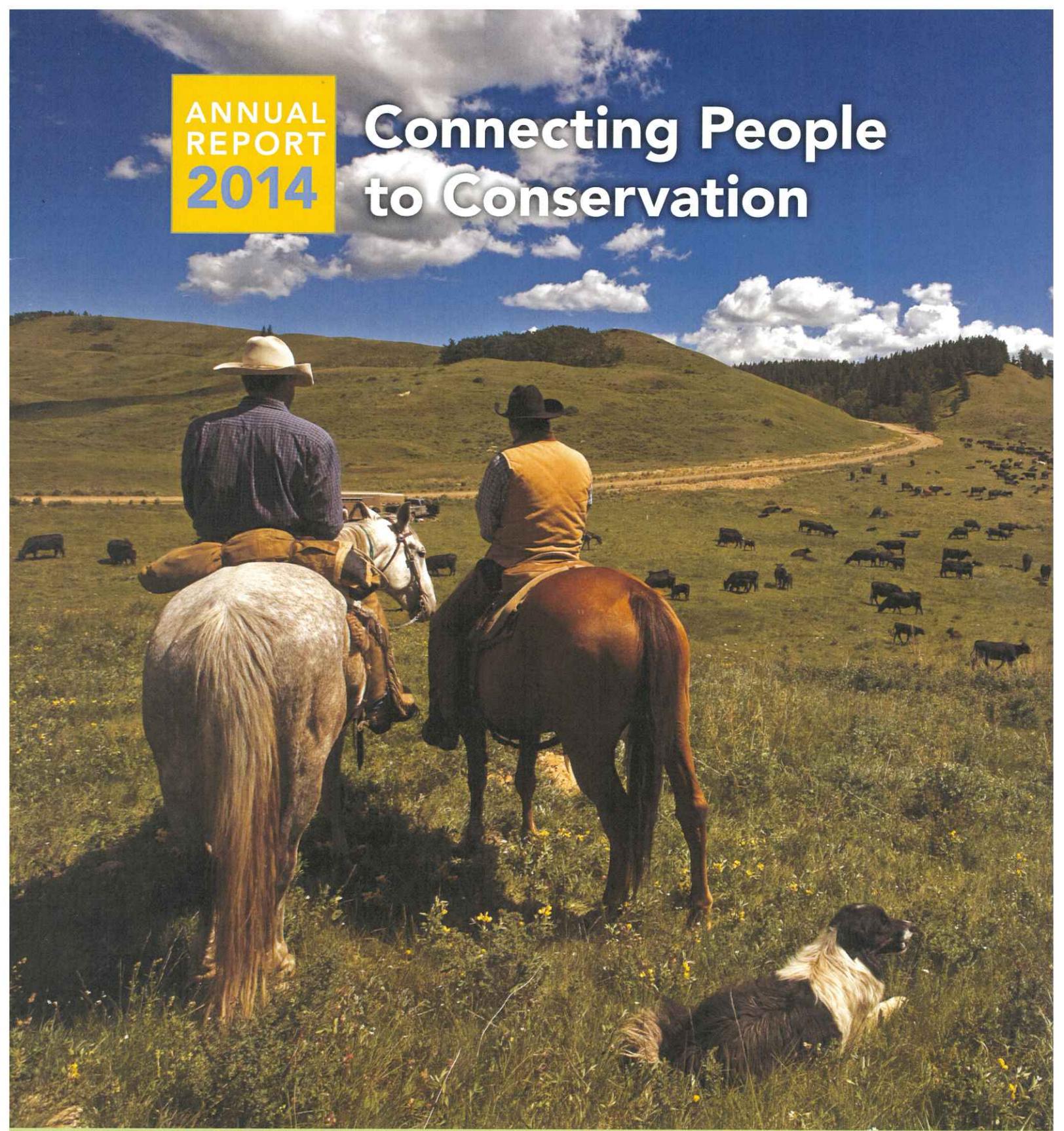
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Falmouth, Maine 04105
Telephone Number:
207-221-2753

ANNUAL
REPORT
2014

Connecting People to Conservation



RESOURCES FIRST FOUNDATION

www.resourcesfirstfoundation.org

Our Mission

The mission of the Resources First Foundation is to support and develop innovative conservation programs to strengthen and sustain rural communities, economies and green businesses, and to support private sector conservation initiatives.

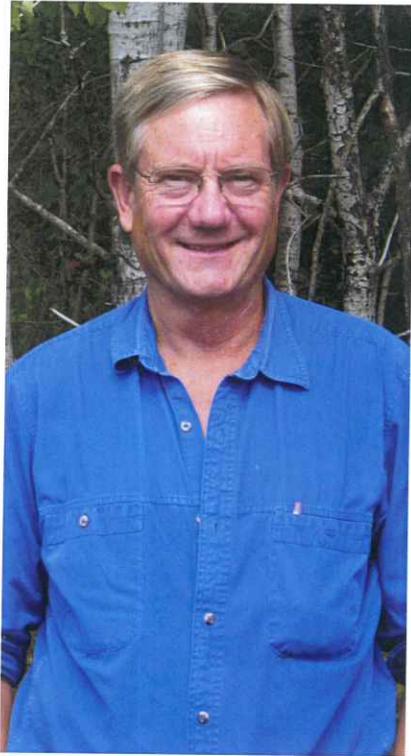
PRIVATE LANDOWNER NETWORK

We connect private landowners, who are the best and most efficient stewards of our country's land, to conservation through the Private Landowner Network, an extensive online database of conservation resources and information. Resources First Foundation engages with and educates farmers, forest owners and ranchers throughout the U.S. to inspire sustainable business and conservation practices.

Our program focus is to support and educate those who own our nation's critical lands, lead them to conservation, describe the benefits of conservation practices (both economic and environmental), and put it in a format that can be easily accessed and individualized.

Eagle Valley Ranch in Lemhi Valley, Idaho





Message From Amos S. Eno President And Founder

In 2000 when I established Resources First Foundation, I did so because of my conviction the market for conservation in the 21st century was going to shift from its historical public land acquisition focus to one where the private market place and privately owned lands would be both the most investible sector and the route to provide the highest conservation returns. The success of this shift requires a more inclusive approach to conservation; collaboration between private landowners, federal and state agencies, and private sector conservation organizations.

Just before Christmas, I read an article by Sallie Krawcheck, Chair of Ellevest Network and Ellevest Asset Management, entitled *The Big Idea 2015: Inclusive Capitalism = A More Prosperous Capitalism*, which reminded me that another essential element to this inclusivity is fostering the growth of underrepresented demographics in private lands conservation, namely women and millennials – both of whom polls have shown express a greater enthusiasm than men for conservation practices on their working lands.

A century ago, my stentorian relative Gifford Pinchot recognized the looming importance of women in conservation. He wrote: "The success of the conservation movement in the United States depends on the understanding the women have of it." Uncle Gifford was always a little wooden in his pronouncements but he was a prescient soul.

If you look around the country today the leadership presence of women in conservation is obvious. Last month we did a blog on the Malpais Group, which I funded in the 1990s while Director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Malpais' Executive Director, and heart and soul, was Wendy Glenn, who sadly passed away this past year. Sharon O'Toole, who is on my RFF advisory board, plays a similar role in her ranching community on the border of Colorado and Wyoming. If you look at the three fastest growing land trusts in the country: the first Executive Director of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust was Lynn Sherrod; Nita Vail is the founder and Executive Director of the California Rangeland Trust; and Texas Agricultural Land Trust's Director is Blair Fitzsimmons. Is this coincidence that the founding directors are all women? No. It is a sign of our times.

However, while there are many woman leaders in private sector conservation organizations, women represent only 14 percent of principal farm operators and 30 percent of all operators (principal, second and third operators). Although currently small, the good news is that the number of women principal farm and ranch operators is growing – up 19 percent in 2012 from 2002.

Fostering this growing of women farmers, ranchers and forest land owners is vital to forming a system of inclusive conservation that will create prosperous rural communities and a proliferation of natural resources and wildlife on productive working lands.

STAY CONNECTED

Read Eno's *Keep Working Lands Working Blog*, a newsworthy and inspirational blog featuring discussions of innovative programs, organizations, and private land conservation.



Photo by Edward Stojakovic

Idaho Conservation Connection

Idaho will be our first state conservation center in the Rocky Mountains, where public lands outnumber private, but farmers and ranchers manage a disproportionate amount of wildlife habitat. In the state's Lemhi Valley, ranchers are pioneering "inclusive conservation" on a scalable basis to restore endangered Pacific salmon species in the Columbia River drainage headwaters. One of these ranchers is Nikos Monoyios, Princeton '72 classmate of RFF President Eno, and the embodiment of the conservation leadership and stewardship of private landowners in Idaho.

According to Monoyios:

"In Idaho 66.6 percent of the land is owned by the Federal and State government which is the fourth highest percentage in the nation. In Lemhi County where we live, private lands are only 8% of the total. Yet 75 percent of Bald Eagle nesting sites and most of the redds (spawning nests) for endangered Chinook salmon and Steelhead are found on private lands. Private landowners are the economic engine for the State and the best stewards of the land. RFF is giving us the resources and information we need to better conserve our lands and way of life for future generations."

Given the outsized economic and ecological importance of private landowners such as Monoyios, Idaho is the natural place for Resources First Foundation to bring our innovative conservation tools and resources for working lands and rural economies.

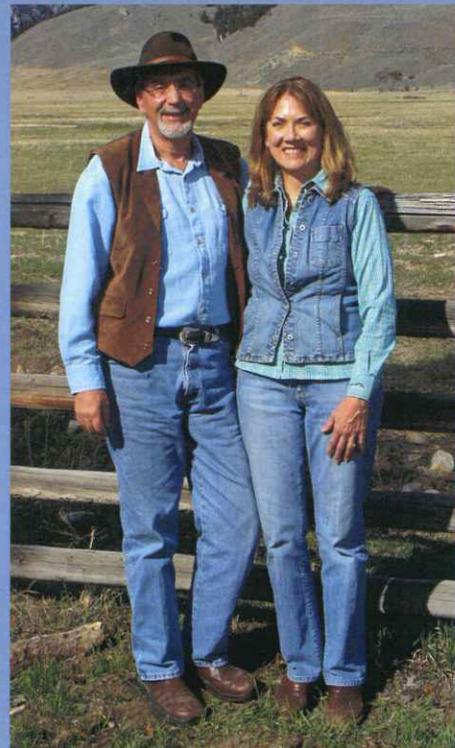


Photo by Steve Stuebner

"Private landowners are the economic engine for the State and the best stewards of the land. RFF is giving us the resources and information we need to better conserve our lands and way of life for future generations."

Nikos Monoyios
and Valerie Brackett

Conservation Habitat Management Portal

The Conservation Habitat Management Portal (CHMP) helps private landowners manage candidate, threatened and endangered species habitat on their land.

We first built the CHMP to assist the implementation of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' recovery plan for the lesser prairie chicken, a prairie, dry land grouse recently listed as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The prairie chicken's habitat is overwhelmingly (95 percent) on private farms and ranch lands ranging across Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma and Kansas.

We designed the CHMP website so that it readily can accommodate additional species the FWS is considering for listing under the Endangered Species Act. In June, we added the greater sage-grouse, the largest grouse species in North America, and a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The grouse inhabits eleven states from California to the Dakotas, including Idaho. As such, the new Idaho Conservation Center will be an important link to CHMP for Idaho landowners.

Greater Sage-Grouse

The largest grouse species in North America and a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.



The lesser prairie chicken's habitat is overwhelmingly (95 percent) on private farms and ranch lands ranging across Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma and Kansas.



Looking Forward: Future State Site Development

In 2015, we will build a state wide site for Texas to be called the Lone Star Conservation Center in honor of their unique history. Texas is over 95% privately owned and is a test bed for new approaches to conservation. In the mid-1990s, while working at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), RFF President Amos Eno gave the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TDWD) NFWF's largest grant to that date to create a Private Lands Program. Today the former Director of TPWD's Private Lands Program, Linda Campbell, is helping us design the Texas site. Because Texas is so huge, with 246 counties, we shall be building the Lone Star Conservation Center for the next two years.

Finally, we are building the Virginia Conservation Center in honor of Maggie Orhstrom Bryant, former chairman of the board at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



Photo by Kay Gaensler Photography

“Maggie was chairman of the board at NFWF for almost a decade while I was the organization’s executive director. She provided stalwart support through an era of difficult politics; she provided keen intelligence and insight on a monthly basis, and through her leadership she corralled unprecedented financial support from the board. Maggie embodies the leadership role that my Granduncle Gifford Pinchot envisioned for women in conservation.”

Amos Eno,
RFF President

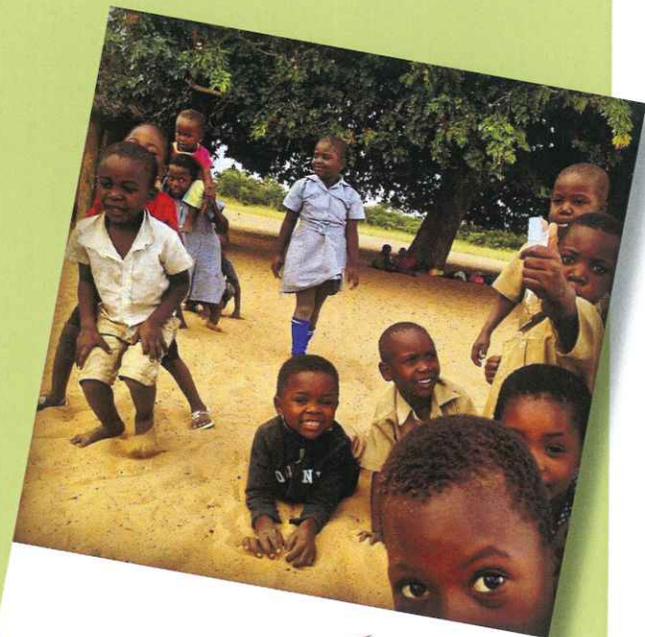


International Programs RFF Supports



Resources First Foundation acts in partnership with the Wilderness Wildlife Trust on successful grant programs for wildlife conservation, community infrastructure support and education to communities throughout southern Africa.

We are particularly proud of the efforts on the Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project, which raised nearly \$218,000. With the poaching of rhinoceros rampant across southern Africa, Wilderness Wildlife Trust is collaborating with Wilderness Safaris, Botswana's Department of Wildlife, and the Governments of Botswana and South Africa to reintroduce black and white rhinos into the relative safety of Botswana's Moremi Game Reserve.



CHILDREN IN THE
WILDERNESS



Children in the Wilderness (CITW) facilitates sustainable conservation through leadership development of rural children in Africa. This is achieved in a variety of ways, from running three- to five-day camps at Wilderness Safaris camps, to running Eco-Clubs and Follow-up Programs at schools, within the rural communities that live on the edges of the wild areas of Africa.

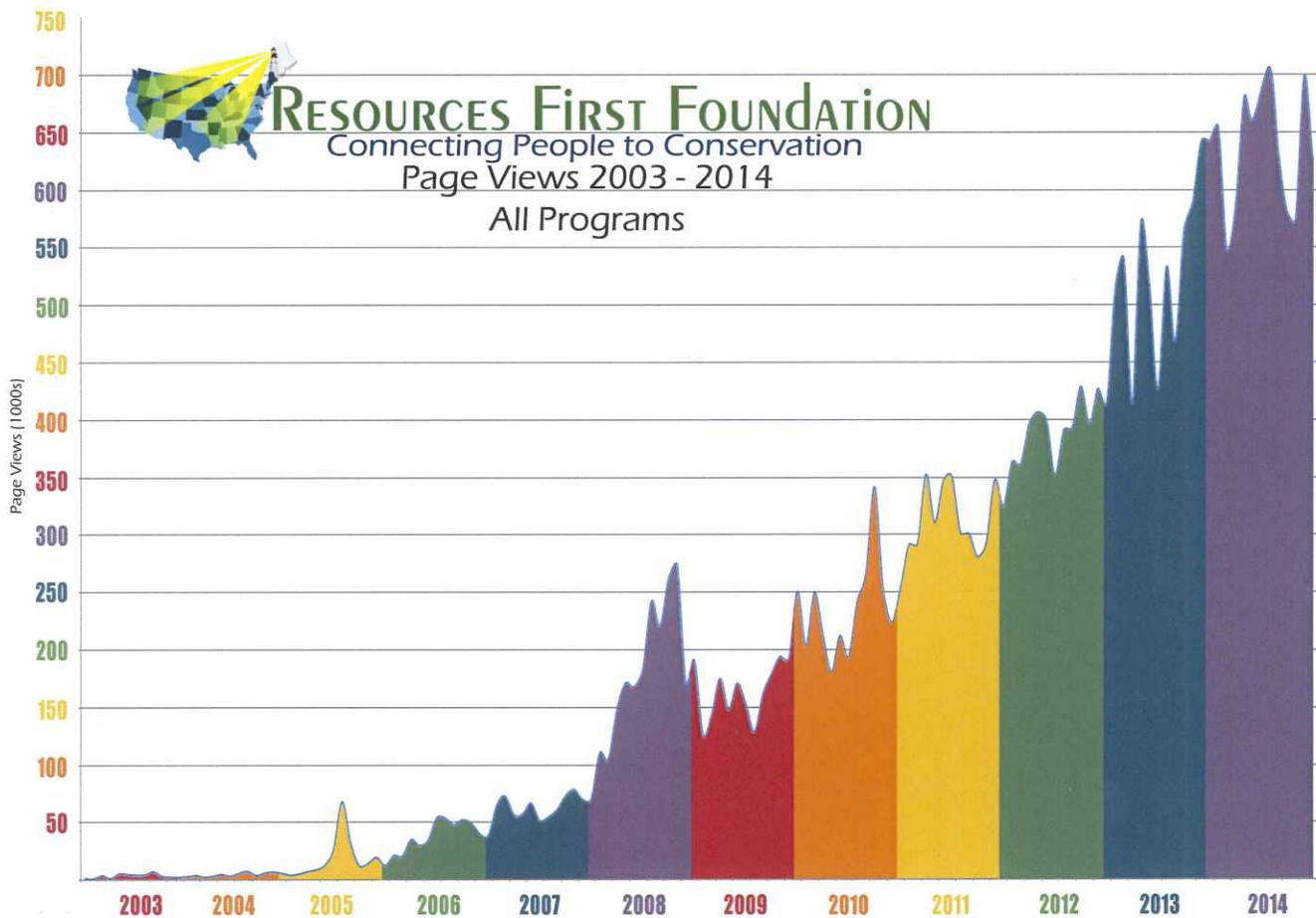
The camp program, run at Wilderness Safaris camps, combines leadership skills, environmental education and recreation – all in a unique and safe wilderness environment, where nature is both teacher and healer. The program aims at increasing the children's understanding and appreciation of the diversity of natural environments, as well as to encourage them by demonstrating the opportunities that exist for them.

Finally, the program is designed to increase self-esteem, teach new skills and impart knowledge to our children.



Landowner Outreach

Since Resources First Foundation's creation in 2001, we've enjoyed sustained growth in website traffic year after year. This past year was no different. Thanks to our continuous efforts at search engine optimization and internet media outreach, website traffic increased nearly 20 percent in 2014 over 2013.

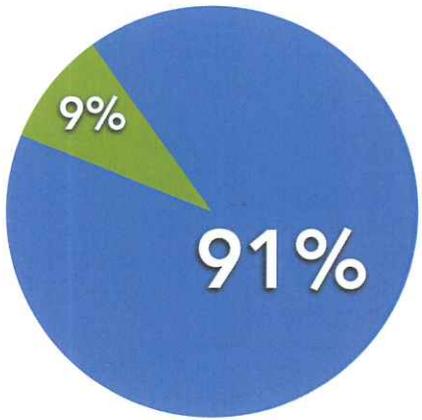


“The Private Landowner Network is an invaluable resource. I’ve relied on it as a ranch manager, a planning commissioner and to support collaborative conservation among private landowners. There’s a great deal more to managing land than many people realize and the Private Landowner Network is a go-to source for the many different types of necessary information. There is nothing else like it out there for landowners.”

Lesli Allison,
Western Landowners Alliance

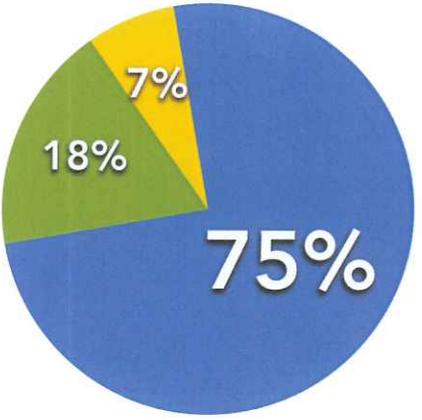


2014 FINANCIALS



Support & Revenue

- Contributions & Grants: \$908,264
- Interest & Dividends: \$87,144



Expenses

- Programs & Services: \$742,863
- Fundraising: \$182,902
- Management & General: \$68,905

Resources First Leadership

Board of Directors

Amos S. Eno

Founder and President

Pamela K. McClelland

RFF Secretary

Fishery/Riparian Specialist

Howard Burris

RFF Treasurer

Alex A. Beehler

Senior Advisor

Faegre Baker Daniels Consulting

Kenneth Berlin

CEO

Climate Reality Project

James W. Gorman, Jr.

L.L. Bean, Inc.

Robert E. Grady

Partner

Gryphon Investors

Mark Rey

Executive in Residence, Center for
Systems Integration & Sustainability,
MSU & The Livingston Group

Grace Terpstra

Terpstra Associates

Independent Government and
Public Affairs Advocacy

Michael Webert

Virginia House of Delegates 2012

David Weiman

AgResources

Adam White

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Elizabeth Butler

Joan Chevalier

Lawrence Clark

James Cummins

Tom Daniels

Diandra DeMorrell Douglas

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Carol Hamilton

Bruce Knight

Rick Knight

Sharon S. O'Toole

Keith Ross

Walter Sedgwick

Steven J. Shimberg

Steve Thompson

Bill Vail

Chandler Van Voorhis

Robert Wallace

Douglas Wheeler

Douglas E. Williams

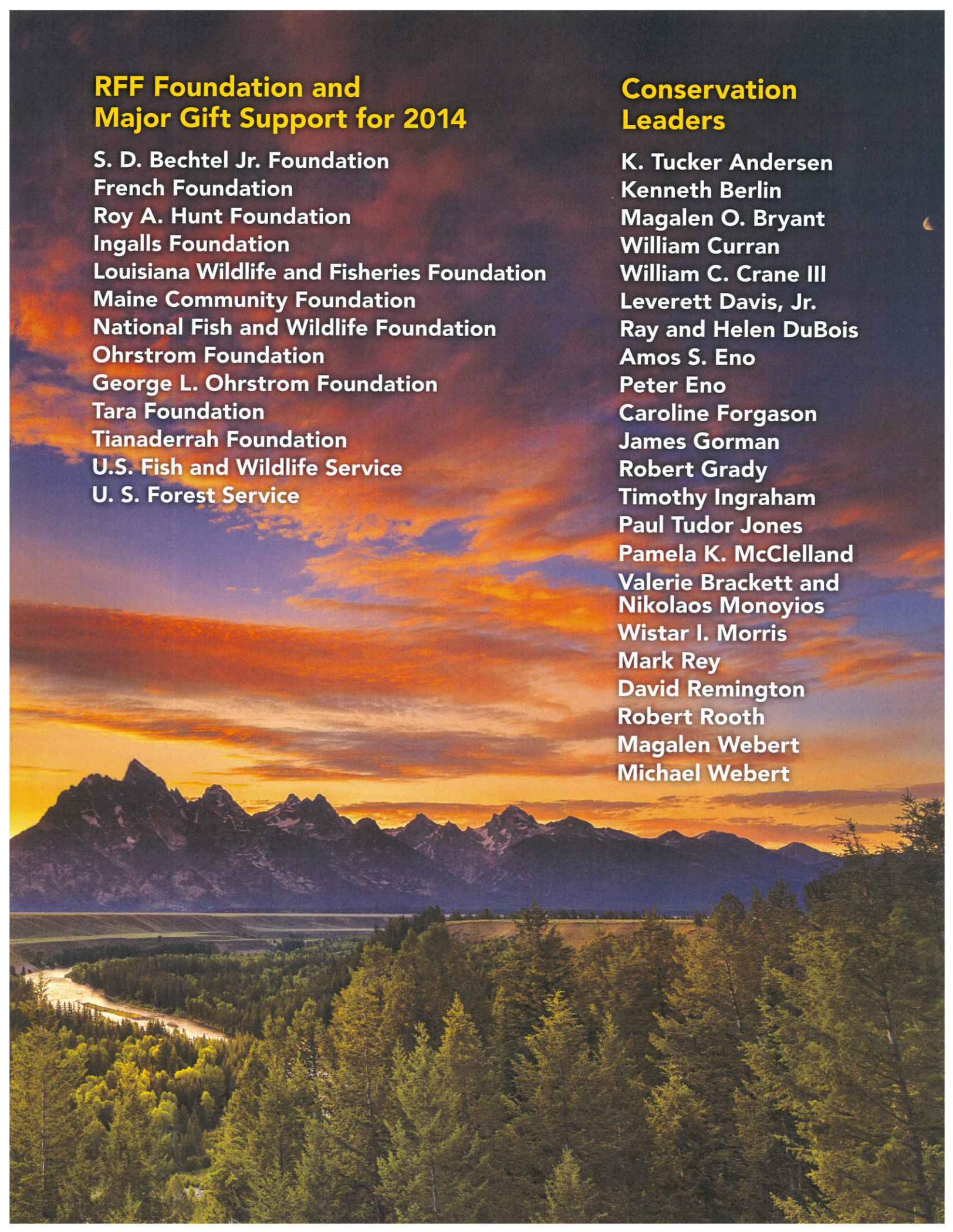
Robert R. Williams

RFF Foundation and Major Gift Support for 2014

**S. D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation
French Foundation
Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Ingalls Foundation
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation
Maine Community Foundation
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George L. Ohrstrom Foundation
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U. S. Forest Service**

Conservation Leaders

**K. Tucker Andersen
Kenneth Berlin
Magalen O. Bryant
William Curran
William C. Crane III
Leverett Davis, Jr.
Ray and Helen DuBois
Amos S. Eno
Peter Eno
Caroline Forgason
James Gorman
Robert Grady
Timothy Ingraham
Paul Tudor Jones
Pamela K. McClelland
Valerie Brackett and
Nikolaos Monoyios
Wistar I. Morris
Mark Rey
David Remington
Robert Rooth
Magalen Webert
Michael Webert**



Connecting People to Conservation

Harnessing the power of the internet, RFF has developed an extensive suite of web-based solutions for conservation.



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Tax
Center



Idaho
Conservation
Connection



Conservation
Habitat
Management
Portal



Louisiana
Conservation
Connection



Arkansas
Conservation
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Maine
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NASCA Pacific Region Report
May 2015

California

1. Issues

- Drought

2. Opportunities

- Ag Stewardship funding initiative approved by voters

3. Challenges

- Budgetary

4. Accomplishments

- Established a Sustainable Ag Land Conservation Program
 - \$20 to 40 million annual program, funded with Greenhouse gas reduction revenues (cap and trade), comprised of the following components:
 1. Planning to better protect the best crop and grazing lands
 2. Strategic Ag conservation easements
 3. Financial incentives for applying conservation practices that provide greenhouse gas and other "co-benefits"
 - Bi-state Sage Grouse listing not warranted due to voluntary conservation efforts

Idaho

1. Issues

- Pending drought
- Possible sage grouse listing
- Wildfire
- Resources Aging of conservation partnership - engaging next gen
- Federal regulation expansion (WOTUS, etc.)/ decision maker failure to support voluntary conservation as an alternative to regulation

*New State Con - Curtis Elke (SO)
ID Conserv Summit
July 20-24*

2. Opportunities

- Idaho Conservation Summit – July. Tour with EPA, Pacific Region+ states
- Engage new partners (i.e. RFF)
- Working with variety of partners on sage grouse voluntary conservation to avoid listing

3. Challenges

4. Partnership capacity (districts/ISWCC/NRCS, and partners)

- Staffing
- Implementation \$\$

5. Accomplishments

- Increased appropriations for districts/Commission in FY 2016
- Updating Idaho's Ag Pollution Abatement Plan w/19 stakeholders
- Whiskey Creek/Bear River Project, Tour, Stage Two of Thiess International River Prize Competition

Oregon

1. Issues

- District capacity
 - 40% (18 of 45) have 1 - 3 employees.

2. Opportunities

- Partnership expansion (watershed councils, federal, state, and nonprofit organizations)
 - Oregon already has a strong foundation of partners working well together. A trend among all levels of funders seems to be for even more partnering.

3. Challenges

- Workload - not enough staff &/or funding - continues to be a challenge, ODA is hopeful that the legislative proposals for additional funding and staffing will be approved for the 2015-2017 biennium.

4. Accomplishments

- Implementing programmatic changes in the Oregon Department of Agriculture's water quality program to enhance agricultural water quality compliance and enforcement based on a prioritization method.

Washington

1. Issues

- Drought

- Not as bad as California, but bad for us. Governor Friday extended our some area drought declaration to the entire state. Stream flows already at record lows in some areas and virtually all snowpack used for water in summer is gone.

2. Opportunities

- RCPP. We did manage to get five of them and the most money, but not without issues which have been communicated to NACD and the committee working them. Hopefully this will result in future improvements. Should be an ongoing discussion as we implement.

3. Challenges

- Dairy litigation. Mike is aware of the RCRA connection to the Dairies in Yakima. Those dairies did settle the lawsuit last week, however the terms may well cause standards to be much greater than really needed. The key point here is that none of the Dairies sued used any NRCS funding in their lagoons and so were not done to their standards initially...

4. Accomplishments

- Hired NASCA President, Shana Joy! No state budget as of this writing...more than halfway through the 1st special session. Our funding is pretty identical in all three budgets so if it stays we will be fine...just need to get it done.

5. Request Can NASCA take on a project to help clarify NRCS use of EWP?

Montana (in Northern Plains Region)

1. Issues & Challenges

- Drought
- Wildfire
- Sage Grouse listing

2. Opportunities

- Collaboration with all stakeholders on above issues & concerns.

3. Accomplishments

- Montana Greater Sage Grouse Stewardship Act signed by Governor Bullock May 8th, 2015. Appropriated \$10 million to sage grouse habitat mitigation of threats through the Montana Sage Grouse Stewardship Fund.
- Sage Grouse program to be administered by the Office of the Governor (coordinate with federal agencies with dedicated funding and/or resources to improve sage grouse habitat in Montana).

New state con?

Release Date: 08/11/14

Contacts: Nika Lepak (BLM) , 208-373-3810
John Biar (ISDA) , 208-332-8566

BLM and ISDA Partner with Ranchers to Monitor Rangeland Health in Idaho

BOISE, ID – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) announced the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will provide a framework for cooperative monitoring by ranchers and public land managers to improve the health of Idaho's public rangelands. The MOU demonstrates the proactive partnership effort by the agencies and participating grazing permittees for the cooperative collection and use of photo monitoring data, which are used to track changes in the health of public rangelands managed by the BLM in Idaho. The effort will be coordinated and facilitated by the ISDA, with the participation of the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Agency (U of I) and the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission (IRRC).

BLM Idaho State Director Tim Murphy said the overall purpose of this MOU is to increase the level of participation and coordination between the agencies and permittees in collecting Rangeland Health Assessment monitoring photos and data. The information supplements data collected by BLM and is used in ongoing adaptive rangeland management and for making management decisions on public land allotments during BLM's grazing permit renewal process.

"Repeated photographs taken at permanent locations are an effective and efficient component of rangeland monitoring," Murphy explained. "Repeat photographs of landscape locations and photo plots help provide basic documentation of range trends and help us interpret quantitative data. Ranchers are out on grazing allotments managing their livestock and fixing fences throughout the year; participation in photo monitoring increases the focus and emphasis on range conditions in their day-to-day management activities."

ISDA Director Celia Gould said, "All parties involved will benefit by realizing an increase in the frequency of photo monitoring at established sites, as well as an increase in the number of allotments and acres being monitored with photos. Photo points are especially well adapted for use by permittees who are interested in monitoring their allotments. The photo points require minimal equipment and are easy to set up and retake."

In signing the MOU, Gould said the Idaho State Department of Agriculture is excited about this new cooperative initiative and is committed to it because of the invaluable benefits the annual, long-term trend data will afford both the agencies and the ranching community in making timely, well informed resource management decisions based on credible information. "This additional information will provide us greater opportunities to collectively share and better interpret real-time, visible range conditions," she said.

Murphy said, "In working cooperatively like this with Idaho's ranchers, ISDA, the University of Idaho and the public, we are seeing a promising new era of collaboration and cooperation where together we are able to make more timely and effective management decisions and better utilize our collective resources."

"Another recent example of effectively working together is the continuing development of Idaho's Rural Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs)," Gould said. "RFPAs are eligible to apply for grants from the State of Idaho for additional firefighting equipment, while the BLM is providing the associations required firefighting training. By working together with ranchers, we are gaining additional firefighting resources in Idaho for quicker, more efficient first-response local rangeland firefighting capabilities."

Murphy said that while the professional expertise of rangeland resource professionals is used to evaluate and interpret all of the information collected and available during the Rangeland Health Assessment Evaluation and Determination process, photo monitoring data, historic knowledge and practical experience from the permittees is crucially important in the permit renewal process.

The BLM and ISDA are joining together to encourage grazing permittees and other interested parties to consider participating in this program, which will assist in maintaining the healthy rangelands and sustainable livestock grazing practices. Participating permittees would coordinate with ISDA and BLM to complete photo monitoring at selected sites on their grazing allotments each year throughout the term of

their grazing permit(s). Expected benefits include increasing the amount of information available to BLM for grazing permit renewal decisions, and increased mutual understanding of grazing allotment conditions and trends.

The IRRC and University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Agency have held several workshops since 2013 to provide photo monitoring training to ranchers and permittees. These workshops will be available again in 2015 in multiple locations throughout Idaho. In 2014, approximately 80 people participated in the workshops, which were held in Salmon and locations in the Magic Valley. Participants in the cooperative monitoring program will be expected to attend one of these one-day workshops to ensure training needs are met.

Anyone interested in participating in or learning more about more about the cooperative photo monitoring program is encouraged to contact: Brooke Jacobson, ISDA Rangeland Program Monitoring Specialist, at (208) 332-8561 email brooke.jacobson@agri.idaho.gov or John Biar, ISDA Range Program Specialist, at (208) 332-8566 email john.biar@agri.idaho.gov.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.

--BLM--

Last updated: 08-13-2014

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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN IDAHO STATE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND IDAHO BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT FOR THE COLLECTION AND USE OF PHOTO MONITORING
DATA IN RANGELAND HEALTH ASSESSMENTS**

Parties

This Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] is made and entered into by and between the Idaho State Department of Agriculture [ISDA], whose address is 2270 Old Penitentiary Road, P.O. Box 7249, Boise, Idaho 83707 and the Idaho Bureau of Land Management [BLM], whose address is 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho 83709. (The above parties are hereafter collectively referred to as the "Parties").

Introduction

43 CFR § 4100 defines monitoring as *"the periodic observation and orderly collection of data to evaluate (1) effects of management actions and (2) effectiveness of actions in meeting management objectives."* Idaho's Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management define monitoring as *"the orderly collection, analysis, and interpretation of resource data and information to evaluate progress toward meeting Standards for Rangeland Health and/or management objectives."*

A photo monitoring program involves the collection, analysis, and interpretation of repeat photography at designated locations. The Parties to this MOU agree that rangeland photo monitoring is an important tool to aid with livestock grazing management on public lands administered by the BLM, and that photos can supplement quantitative monitoring data. The Parties further agree that analysis of monitoring data and conclusions about resource conditions at the allotment level should be principally based on facts and data collected on the ground over time, using the best and most efficient scientific techniques available.

While the professional expertise of rangeland resource professionals is used to evaluate and interpret all of the information collected and available during the Rangeland Health Assessment Evaluation and Determination, information including photo monitoring data, historic knowledge, and practical experience from the permittee/lessee/landowners (hereafter permittees) is also necessary and important information to include in the permit renewal process.

To that end, the Parties agree that permittees or their representatives should be strongly encouraged to conduct photo monitoring in their allotments and actively participate in data collection efforts and rangeland health assessments with federal and State agency personnel during the permit renewal process. Permittees are

encouraged to work with BLM and ISDA in developing a photo monitoring program for their allotment(s). Photo monitoring at selected sites should be completed on an annual basis for the term of the associated grazing permit/lease.

It is the intent of ISDA and BLM that photos and data collected from photo monitoring sites should be provided to the BLM annually, or on another agreed-upon schedule, to be analyzed and incorporated into the Rangeland Health Assessments and during the evaluation/determination portion of the permit renewal process. Where feasible, photo monitoring should be conducted at existing long-term vegetation trend or photo trend monitoring sites. Where sufficient monitoring sites are not already in existence, establishment of photo monitoring sites on the public lands within specific allotment(s) would be in accordance with BLM policies and procedures.

Mutual Benefits and Interests: The Parties agree that:

- A. Repeated photographs taken at permanent locations are an effective and efficient method for monitoring. Repeat photographs of landscape locations and/or photo plots can provide basic documentation of range trend. The parties will benefit by realizing an increase in frequency of photo monitoring at established sites, as well as an increase in the number of allotments/acres being monitored with photos.
- B. Photo points are especially well adapted for use by permittees who are interested in monitoring their allotments. Photo points require minimal equipment, and are easy to set up and retake.
- C. They can encourage participation by external groups or permittees by providing assistance such as formal or informal training, duplication of photographs, or copies of photo cards and other necessary forms.
- D. They have a mutual interest in the BLM's photo monitoring process, photo monitoring data collection, and reporting methods for each area encompassed by the Photo Monitoring Program.
- E. They have a mutual interest in retaining an economically viable livestock industry by ensuring healthy rangelands through proper grazing management.
- F. Natural resources will benefit by management practices implemented as a result of the information obtained through this cooperative effort.
- G. The Parties will benefit from having additional knowledge of the condition or status of the:
 - (i) Resources,
 - (ii) Open space, and
 - (iii) Resource uses.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual promises and covenants herein contained, the Parties agree as follows:

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this MOU is to increase the level of participation, coordination, and cooperation between the Parties and permittees in the collection and review of data used in the rangeland health assessments during the permit renewal process, specifically including the use of rangeland photo monitoring on Idaho rangelands. This MOU is intended to provide a framework for photo point monitoring data to be collected, analyzed, shared with the public, and used by permittees, ISDA and the BLM. It also provides a framework for the use and incorporation of photo monitoring data by BLM in Rangeland Health Assessments; evaluations; determinations; and in making land management decisions on public land allotments permitted for livestock grazing in Idaho.

2. **Mutual Responsibilities of the Parties:** The Parties agree to:
 - A. Facilitate the orderly and timely collection of photo monitoring data by permittees.
 - B. Publicize and support the goals and objectives of the Photo Monitoring Program among the permittees/lessees/landowners in the State.
 - C. Continue to carry out their own separate activities and utilize their own resources in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner to pursue the goals and objectives of the Photo Monitoring Program.
 - D. Identify priority areas (i.e. allotments, watersheds, landscapes) where photo monitoring data is needed or where additional photo monitoring data collected by permittees can supplement ongoing monitoring efforts.
 - E. Contact permittees and encourage them to be active partners in photo monitoring of their allotments.
 - F. Incorporate the Photo Monitoring Program in additional allotments where photo monitoring does not exist or is limited each year, to the maximum extent reasonable, given the limits of available resources and level of permittee participation.
 - G. Meet annually during the fall or winter to review and discuss the Photo Monitoring Program's completed and upcoming activities, and to develop a brief status report.

- H. Work cooperatively with each other and the permittees participating in the Photo Monitoring Program to develop more refined monitoring plans.
- I. Work cooperatively to improve the consistency of the photo monitoring process, data standards, and data management.
- J. All photo monitoring will be in accordance with the protocol outlined in Attachment A of this MOU entitled **Photo Monitoring Methods**.
- K. Any data collected in the process identified in this MOU on lands managed by the BLM shall be reviewed and validated by BLM in coordination with ISDA. The review and validation process will ensure that accepted data has been collected in accordance with the applicable protocols, photographs are of acceptable quality, and any supporting information is accurate and legible.

3. Responsibilities of the BLM:

BLM agrees to:

- A. Provide permittees participating in cooperative monitoring with site locations for all existing monitoring sites on the applicable allotment(s).
- B. Provide participating permittees a copy of any existing photo monitoring site data in the permittees' grazing allotment(s). If previous photos of the monitoring site(s) do not exist or do not provide a satisfactory baseline for repeat photography, BLM will take the initial set of photos at existing photo monitoring site(s), in coordination with ISDA and the permittees, and provide the permittees a copy of this data. Other parties to this MOU may also request a copy of the initial year's data and photos.
- C. After photos and supporting information collected and provided by the permittee are validated and accepted, the data will be placed in the BLM official record and given the same consideration as any other data of record to be used in the permit renewal process. Photo monitoring data provided by the permittee in accordance with the identified photo monitoring process described in Attachment A of this MOU, will be considered in BLM's Rangeland Health Assessment(s) for the applicable allotment(s) and will be used as one source of monitoring data in BLM's evaluation and determination of the status of applicable Rangeland Health Standards (generally Standards 1, 4, 5, 6 and 8 for uplands, Standards 2, 3 and 8 for riparian areas). This

photo monitoring will contribute to BLM's evaluation process regarding whether rangelands are meeting standards, goals, and objectives for the specific allotment.

- D. In coordination with ISDA, identify current long-term monitoring sites and evaluate whether these locations are at appropriate locations that are representative of key areas within the allotment(s). If the parties agree that any existing site(s) is/are not truly representative of a key area within the allotment(s), new site(s) may be selected in accordance with BLM policies, including requirements for public involvement.
- E. In the event that a permittee is independently collecting photo monitoring data at other locations on public lands, and wishes have such data incorporated into BLM monitoring records, BLM agrees to review and record the site location(s) and data collection methodologies, and document the areas and/or resources the monitoring sites are representative of. BLM agrees to accept and use such photo monitoring data from these recorded location sites for incorporation into Rangeland Health Assessments, when photo monitoring data is provided to BLM annually and consistent with the photo monitoring processes identified in this MOU.

4. Responsibilities of the ISDA: ISDA agrees to:

- A. Administer the Photo Monitoring Program by soliciting and working closely with permittees to conduct photo monitoring on public land allotments.
- B. Work closely with the BLM to ensure photo monitoring data is collected accurately, in accordance with appropriate monitoring methods described in this MOU, and that the photo monitoring data is incorporated into the Rangeland Health Assessments, evaluation, and determination process for renewing grazing permits on public lands.
- C. Through the Photo Monitoring Program, strive to obtain the cooperation and participation with other state agencies, county governments, federal agencies, the University of Idaho, and private landowners in the assessment/evaluation on the condition or health of Idaho rangelands and resource management objectives.
- D. Work closely with the BLM State Rangeland Management Specialist on a regular basis to ensure that photo monitoring is being conducted

appropriately and data are being collected in accordance with processes outlined in this MOU.

- E. Work closely with permittees to ensure that permittees (or their representatives) are the responsible parties for taking annual photographs and collection of any other necessary data (field notes) at photo monitoring site(s) with assistance from ISDA if necessary.
- F. Upon request, provide assistance to permittees with their photo monitoring program.

5. **Term of MOU:** This MOU shall become effective upon the day and date last signed and executed by the duly authorized representatives of the parties to this MOU and shall remain in full force for ten (10) years from the effective date of this MOU. This MOU may be terminated, without cause, by any party to this MOU upon forty-five (45) days written notice, which notice shall be delivered by hand or by certified mail to the principle contacts listed below.

6. **Payment:** This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement, contribution of funds, or transfer of anything of value between parties to this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for government procurement. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority.

7. **Special Provisions**

A. **Freedom of Information Act [FOIA].** Any information collected and furnished to the BLM under this MOU is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

B. **Participation in Similar Activities.** The MOU in no way restricts any party from participating in similar activities with other public agencies, organizations and individuals.

C. Third Party Participation in the Program. While recognizing that the Parties have a responsibility to coordinate, consult, and communicate with many different entities concerning management of lands administered by the BLM, this MOU only addresses the interaction among ISDA and BLM as it pertains to this Monitoring Program.

D. Principle Contacts. The Parties' principal contacts for this MOU are:

(i) United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Idaho State Office, BLM
Rangeland Management Specialist – Dominika Lepak
1387 S. Vinnell Way
Boise, Idaho 83709
(208) 373-3810
dlepak@blm.gov

(ii) Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Rangeland Program Specialist - John Biar
2270 Old Penitentiary Road
Box 790
Boise, Idaho 83701
(208) 332-8566
john.biar@agri.idaho.gov

8. General Provisions

A. Amendments. Any party may request changes in this MOU. Any changes, modifications, revisions, or amendments to this MOU which are mutually agreed upon by the Parties to this MOU shall be incorporated by written instrument, executed and signed by all Parties to this MOU.

B. No Enlargement of Rights. This MOU is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit or trust obligation, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees or agents, or the State of Idaho, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

- C. Entirety of MOU.** This MOU, consisting of 9 pages, represents the entire and integrated agreements between the Parties and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations and agreements, whether written or oral.
- D. Prior Approval.** This MOU shall not be binding upon any parties unless this MOU has been reduced to writing before performance begins as described under the terms of this MOU, and unless this MOU is approved as to form by all Parties.
- E. Severability.** Should any portion of this MOU be judicially determined to be illegal or unenforceable, the remainder of the MOU shall continue in full force and effect, and any of the Parties may renegotiate the terms affected by the severance.
- F. Sovereign Immunity.** The State of Idaho, ISDA, and BLM do not waive their sovereign immunity into this MOU, and each fully retains all immunities and defenses provided by law with respect to any action based on or occurring as a result of this MOU.
- G. Third Party Beneficiary Rights.** The Parties do not intend to create in any other individual or entity the status of third party beneficiary, and this MOU shall not be construed so as to create such status. The rights, duties, and obligations contained in this MOU shall operate only between the Parties to this MOU and shall ensure solely to the benefit of the Parties to this MOU. The provisions of this MOU are intended only to assist the parties in determining and performing their obligations under this MOU.
- H. Indemnification.** Each party to this MOU shall assume the risk of any liability arising from its own conduct. None of the Parties agree to insure, defend, or indemnify any of the other parties.

Signatures The parties to this MOU, through their duly authorized representatives, have executed this MOU on the dates set out below, and certify that they have read, understood, and agreed to the terms and conditions of this MOU as set forth herein.

The effective date of this MOU is the date of the signature last affixed to this page.

IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Celia Gould

Celia Gould, Director

7/17/14
Date

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Timothy M. Murphy

Timothy Murphy, Acting Idaho State Director

06/30/2014
Date

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Photo Monitoring Methods

Attachment B: Study Location and Document Data Form

Attachment C: Study and Photograph Identification

Attachment D: Photo Identification Label

Attachment A: Photo Monitoring Methods:

The following is a brief guide to establishing and monitoring photo monitoring sites, and is not meant to replace approved BLM technical references. For additional guidance, refer to Interagency Technical Reference 1734-4, Sampling Vegetation Attributes [(1996) TR 1734-4].

General Description: Photographs can be valuable sources of information in portraying resource values and conditions. Comparing repeat photography of the same site taken over a period of years furnishes visual evidence of vegetation and soil changes. General landscape photographs can be taken at photo plots or photo points. Photo plots include a permanently marked plot on the ground that is photographed from a close distance, in addition to the landscape photograph(s).

In some situations, photo points or plots may be the primary vegetation monitoring tool, while in other situations they are used in conjunction with other qualitative and quantitative monitoring methods.

When using repeat photography for monitoring, it is vital to

1. Use consistent techniques;
2. Identify the date and location with the picture;
3. Take the picture at the same stage of plant growth each consecutive year; and
4. Include the same skyline in the landscape picture with the previous photo taken.

Equipment:

The following equipment is required for collecting repeat photography at established photo monitoring sites.

- Photo Identification Label (See Attachment D)
- Frame to delineate the 3x 3-foot, 5- x 5-foot, or 1- x 1- meter photo plots. Frames can be made of PVC pipe, steel rods, or any similar material (see TR 1734-4, Illustrations 1 and 2, pages 34 – 35).
- Four rods to divide the 3- x 3-foot and 1- x 1- meter photo plot into nine square segments
- Digital camera with removable SD memory card, or 35-mm camera with a 28-mm wide-angle lens and film
- Small step ladder (for 5- x 5-foot photo plots)
- Felt tip pen with waterproof ink

- Geographic positioning system (GPS) unit (optional)
- For established sites, site location information, including photographs taken in previous years
- Yellow or orange spray paint (optional, to remark plot markers)

In addition to the equipment required for collecting repeat photography at established photo monitoring sites, the following equipment is needed for the establishment of new permanent photo plots:

- Stakes of $\frac{3}{4}$ - or 1-inch angle iron not less than 16 inches long
- Hammer
- Tape measure
- Compass
- Study Location and Documentation Data Form (See Attachment B)
- A 6' steel T-post and post driver
- A GPS unit is highly recommended when setting up a new site

Establishing a Site: New sites for cooperative monitoring may be established in coordination with permittees, BLM, ISDA and any other interested parties. The site selection process is outlined in TR 1734-4 (pages 3-4).

Once a site has been identified, document its location so that it can be relocated in future years. If possible, determine the site coordinates using a GPS unit, and record the coordinates on the Study Location form. If GPS data is not available, a map, legal description and detailed written directions should be created and filed with the photos Study Location form to assist with site relocation.

Use a T-post approximately 50 feet away from the photo point as a marker to assist in relocating the site. Record the distance and compass bearing from the T-post to the photo point, and any other instructions that will assist others in finding the site in subsequent years.

Generally a 3 X 3-foot square frame is used for photo plots; however, a different size and shape frame may be used. Where new studies are being established, a 1-meter x 1-meter photo plot is recommended. Angle iron stakes (or digger bars) are driven into the ground at two diagonal corners of the frame to permanently mark a photo plot (see illustration 2, Sampling Vegetation Attributes, Interagency Technical Reference 1996). Paint the stakes with bright-colored permanent spray paint (yellow or orange) to aid in relocation. Repaint these stakes if needed when subsequent pictures are taken.

If a linear design is used, general view pictures may be taken from either/or both ends of the transect. The points from which these pictures are taken are determined at the

time the studies are established. Document the location of these points on the Study Location and Documentation Data Form to expedite relocation (see Attachment B).

Proceed with taking the necessary photos and collecting any supporting notes or data, as described below.

General View Photos: General view photographs are taken from a permanent reference point and visually portray dominant landscape vegetation. Photographs that include a distinctive and permanent landmark in the background or horizon are easier to relocate and accurately replicate. The photograph must include a legible photo card identifying the site location and photo date, a reference point in the foreground (fencepost, boulder, etc.) and a distant landmark on the skyline.

1. The Photo Identification Label is placed in an upright position so that it will appear in the foreground of the photograph (see attachment D).
2. To take general view pictures, stand at the selected points and include the photo label, a general view of the site, and some sky in the pictures.
3. Take a picture of a study site from the nearest road at the time of establishment of the study to facilitate relocation.

Plot Photos: Close-up plot photos show the soil surface characteristics and the amount of ground surface covered by vegetation and litter. Close-up photographs are usually taken of permanently located photo plots. Copies of previous photographs taken from photo points should be brought to the field to assist in finding the photo point and to ensure that the same photograph is retaken. Photographs should be taken at approximately the same time each year to assist in interpreting changes in vegetation.

1. The Photo Identification Label is placed flat on the ground immediately adjacent to the photo plot frame (see attachment D.)
2. The camera point or the location from which the close-up picture is taken, should be on the north side of the photo plot so that repeat pictures can be taken at any time during the day without casting a shadow across the plot (Illustration 3, page 36, Sampling Vegetation Attributes, Interagency Technical Reference 1996).
3. To take the close-up pictures, stand over the photo plot with toes touching the edge of the frame. Include the photo label in the photograph.

Repeat Photography: When repeat pictures are taken in following years, follow the same process used in taking the initial pictures. Previous photos should be brought to the field to assist in relocating the site, and replicating the view shown in the photograph as closely as possible. Include the same area and landmarks in the repeat general view pictures that were included in the initial pictures.

Field Notes: Recorded field notes to supplement photographs are also helpful. General observations concerning the sites on which photos are taken can be important in interpreting the photos. Factors such as rodent use, insect infestation, animal concentration, fire, vandalism, or other site uses can have considerable impact on the vegetation and soil resources. This information should be recorded and documented while taking the photograph for the specific year.

Timing: Monitoring photos should be taken from the same designated point at approximately the same time each year (during the same stage of plant growth each year). Photo monitoring may also be conducted at specifically agreed-upon times during the year, such as when livestock are removed from a pasture, to meet specific monitoring objectives.

ATTACHMENT B: Study Location and Document Data Form

Page ____ of ____

Study Location and Documentation Data

Study Method				Study Number													
Allotment Name & Number Pasture				Pasture													
District				Field Office													
Ecological Site				Plant Community													
Date Established		Established by (Name)		Map Reference – GPS Coordinates													
Elevation		Slope		Exposure		Aerial Photo Reference											
Township	Range	Section	¼	¼	¼	scale: ____ inches Equals one mile											
Key Species				<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>													
1	2	3															
Distance and bearing between reference post or reference point and the transect location stake, beginning of transect, or plot				<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>													
Distance and bearing between location stake and bearing stake																	
Transect Bearing				Vertical Distance Between Ground & Aligned Tape													
Length of Transect				Plot/Frame Size													
Sampling Interval				Total Number of Samples													
Notes (Description of study location, diagram of transect/plot layout, description of photo points, etc. If more space is needed, use reverse side or another page.)																	
<p>Note: Depending on the study method, fill in the blocks that apply when a study is established. This documentation enables the examiners to conduct follow-up studies in a consistent manner to provide comparable data for analysis, interpretation, and evaluation.</p>																	

ATTACHMENT C: Study and Photograph Identification

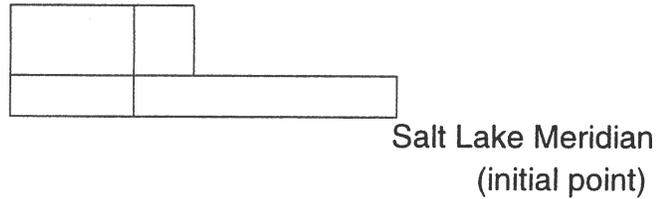
The following guidance is provided for reference only, and does not supersede local study and photograph identification systems already in use at Idaho BLM field offices.

A. Numbering Studies. Studies should be numbered to assure positive identification. These numbers can also be used to identify photographs. Following are three alternative schemes for numbering studies:

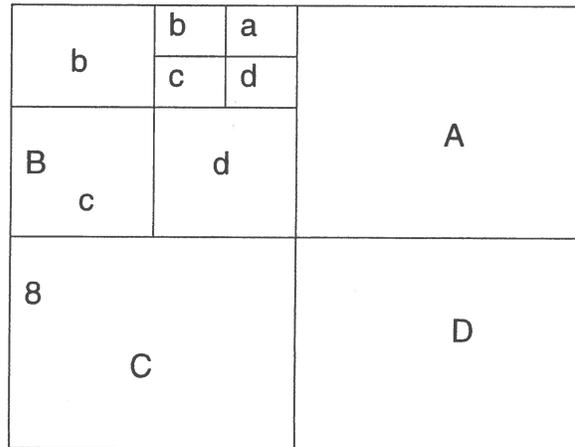
Numbering Scheme 1. Consecutive numbers may be assigned to studies within an allotment. For example, Mooncreek #1 and Moon Creek # 2 would be studies Number 1 and 2 within the Mooncreek Allotment. A disadvantage to using the names of allotments in a numbering scheme is that these names can, an often do, change.

1. Numbering Scheme 2. Studies may be numbered based on their location within a township, range, and section. A 10-character number can be assigned in the following manner:
 - a. The first three characters are the township (03S), the second three are the range (27W), and the next two are the section (08), and the last two are simply a series number (01) assigned to a study based on the number of studies located within a section.
 - b. The numbers for studies located in Section 8 would be 03S-27W-08-01, 03S-27W-08-02, and so forth.
 - c. Depending on the local situation, this scheme can be modified by adding characters to the code where there are fractional townships or ranges, where there are more than 99 sections/tracts within a township, and/or where there is more than one public land survey principal meridian and baseline within the area of jurisdiction.
2. Numbering Scheme 3. Studies may be numbered based on their location relative to the initial point of survey (principal meridian and baseline governing public land survey).
 - (a) Under this scheme, the first character is a letter assigned to a principal meridian and baseline quadrant. Using the initial point of the survey as the center point, the northeast quadrant (townships located to the north and east of the initial point) is coded "A". The northwest, southwest, and

southeast quadrants are coded "B", "C", and "D", respectively. For example:



- (b) The next characters are the townships numbers (3, 16, etc.) followed by the range number (7, 32, etc.) and the section number (8, 21, etc.).
- (c) The next three characters are used to identify the subdivisions within a section (down to 10 acres) in which a study is located. These subdivisions have letter designations as follows:



- (d) The last character(s) is (are) simply a series numbers (1, 2, 3 . . . 10, 11, etc.) assigned to a study based on the number of studies located within the smallest subdivision.
- (e) For example, Studies 1 and 2 located in the SE1/4NE1/4NW1/4 of Section 8, Township 3S, R12E would be numbered (D-3-21)8Bad-1 and (D-3-21)8Bad-2.
- (f) Depending on the local situation, this scheme can be modified by adding characters to the code where there are fractional townships or ranges, where there are more than 99 sections/tracts within a township, and where there is more than one public land survey principal meridian and baseline within the area of jurisdiction.

B. Identifying Photographs. In most cases, the number that has been assigned to a study is the number used to identify the photographs associated with that study. Following is a description of three labels that can be used to include the study number in the photographs:

1. Label 1. The Photo Identification Label included as Appendix C can be copied and used to identify photographs. This label provides space for documenting the date, number, and location (Field Office, Allotment, and pasture) of a study. A large black felt-tip pen should be used to print the information on the label.
2. Label 2. A slotted sign board with a black felt background and movable white plastic letters can be used as a photo identification label. Room permitting, the user may include any information desired on such a label. A 9- x 12-inch board with slots running lengthwise at a spacing of ¼ -inch and 1-1/2-inch white letters makes a highly visible label for most photographs.
3. Label 3. A placard on which identifying characteristics can be entered can be developed to meet local field needs. The placard can be constructed of heavy white cardboard on which such things as Date, "T" (township), "R" (range), Section Number, etc. are preprinted. The specific identifying information can be hand printed on the mylar with a heavy grease pencil or other readily removable, highly visible, marking material. After taking the desired photographs, the mylar can be wiped clean and the placard reused for the for other photographs. A more permanent placard can be constructed of plywood and painted enamel white (or light blue to prevent glare). The grease pencil markings can be wiped from the enamel surface and the placard reused for other photographs. Caution must be exercised in the placement of the placard to prevent glare from the mylar or enameled surface.

NOTE – Labels can be placed flat on the ground immediately adjacent to photo plots for close-up photographs.

- Labels can be placed in an upright position in the foreground of general view photographs.

Attachment D: Photo Identification Label (Photo Card)

DATE _____

NO. _____

FO. _____

ALLOT. _____

PAST. _____