

Collaboration – Federal and Intergovernmental

This case study focuses on practices that have proven successful in building collaboration among federal agencies and with the public in managing public lands.

Project: Las Cienegas National Conservation Area

Practice: Consensus-based Management

Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Involved Parties: Local communities including Sonoita, Elgin, Patagonia, Huachuca City, Sierra Vista, Nogales, Tucson and Phoenix; the Forest Service; National Resources Conservation Service; US Fish and Wildlife Service; US Geological Survey; Arizona Game and Fish; Arizona State Land Department; Pima County Parks and Recreation; Santa Cruz County; and numerous user groups and private citizens.

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Dates: *Began:* 1995. *Ended:* Collaboration is ongoing.

Project Description: In the early 1990s, BLM began a traditional planning process following its acquisition of public lands in what was then called the Empire-Cienega Resource Conservation Area. The process failed due to the limited public participation opportunities and increasing public polarization and divisiveness over issues. Recognizing the need for increased stakeholder involvement, BLM reinitiated the process in 1995. Instead of relying on traditional planning methods, BLM initiated a consensus based, collaborative management approach. The objective of this project was to create a land use plan for a 170,558 acre area that included 49,000 acres of public lands. BLM successfully overcame historical culture clashes and resource conflicts through partnership with citizens, local governments and conservation and user groups concerned about the health of the Cienegas Creek Watershed. The collaboration resulted in the creation of the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership and the successful establishment of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

Value as a Practice:

Results: Achieved community oriented resolutions to local and national issues affecting public land resources. Achieved consensus and stakeholder buy-in on potentially controversial land use issues such as recreation opportunities, conservation areas, endangered species management and livestock grazing.

Challenges Overcome: Previously unsuccessful attempts to initiate land use plans for this area were overcome by increasing stakeholder involvement in all aspects of planning through consensus based management and an open participatory process. Conflicts resulting from rapid urban growth and increased demands on land resources were overcome through partnership and collaboration.

Challenges Remaining: Continuing the successful implementation of the goals and management prescriptions articulated in the land use plans.

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These examples of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and other agreements that represent different approaches to structuring the relationships and collaboration among federal agencies and other stakeholders including tribes and local governments are provided as useful examples that have provisions for agencies to consider using when drafting new agreements

1. [Memorandum of Understanding Between Beaverhead County, Montana And The United States Department of Agriculture Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest](#)
2. [Memorandum of Understanding Between The U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, Shoshone and Arapahoe Tribes Joint Business Council and Fremont County, WY Board of Fremont County Commissioners: Concerning Agency and Tribal Cooperation on the Wind River Gas Development Environmental Impact Statement](#)
3. [Memorandum of Understanding Between United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Bighorn National Forest, and The State Of Wyoming](#)
4. [Memorandum of Understanding Between Bureau of Land Management \(Lewistown Field Office\) and Blaine, Chouteau, Fergus and Phillips Counties, Montana](#)
5. [Memorandum of Understanding Between The Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office And Catron County Commission, New Mexico: Regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for the Socorro Resource Management Plan Revision](#)
6. [Cooperating Agency Agreement Between The Federal Aviation Administration and The Hualapai Indian Tribe](#)
7. [Memorandum of Understanding Between Fremont County By and Through The Fremont County Board of County Commissioners and The United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management by and Through The Wyoming BLM State Director: Regarding Development Of The Environmental Impact Statement\(s\) For The Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan](#)
8. [Memorandum of Understanding Between Madison County and Dillon Field Office, Bureau of Land Management United States Department of the Interior](#)

9. [Memorandum of Understanding Between The State of Montana as a Cooperating Agency And the Montana Bureau of Land Management](#)
10. [General Agreement Between National Park Service, Curecanti National Recreation Area and US Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Region: Relating to the Resource Protection Study and Associated Environmental Impact Statement for the Curecanti National Recreation Area](#)
11. [Memorandum of Understanding Among The National Park Service State Of Montana, U.S. Forest Service, and the Animal And Plant Health Inspection Service](#)
12. [Memorandum of Understanding Between USDA Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, and Seven Conservation Districts that Border the Medicine Bow National Forest](#)
13. [Cooperative Agreement Between The United States Department Of Agriculture, Forest Service, and Wallowa County](#)
14. [Memorandum of Understanding Between The State of Wyoming By and Through The Director of the Wyoming Office of Federal Land Policy and the Board of Commissioners, Big Horn County, Board of Commissioners, Johnson County, Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Board of Commissioners, Washakie County, Lake DeSmet Conservation District, Powder River Conservation District, Sheridan County Conservation District, Shoshone Conservation District, South Big Horn Conservation District, and Washakie County Conservation District](#)
15. [American Indians Nevada Test Site: A model of Research and Consultation](#)
16. [Memorandum of Agreement between Utah Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office and the Ute Indian Tribe Business Committee: Cooperating Agency Agreement](#)
17. [Memorandum of Understanding between Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria and Bureau of Land Management, United States Department of the Interior regarding California Coastal National Monument Resource Management Plan](#)
18. [Interim Cultural Resources Consultation Protocol between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Washington](#)
19. [Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Aviation Administration, the Hualapai Tribe, The Hualapai Historic Preservation Officer, the National Park Service and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding the "Special Flight Rules Area in the Vicinity of the Grand Canyon National Park"](#)

20. [Fish and Wildlife Service MOU Template](#)