



## **Memorandum of Understanding**

among the

**United States Department of the Interior**  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Bureau of Land Management  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Park Service

**United States Department of Agriculture**  
United States Forest Service

**United States Department of Commerce**  
Office of Travel and Tourism Industries

**United States Department of Transportation**

**United States Department of the Army**  
United States Army Corps of Engineers

**Advisory Council on Historic Preservation**

**Southeast Tourism Policy Council**

and

**Southeast Tourism Society**

### **Regarding Tourism on Federal Lands in the Southeastern United States**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the National Park Service (NPS); United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), United States Forest Service (FS); United States Department of Commerce (Commerce), Office of Travel and Tourism Industries (OTTI); United States Department of Transportation (DOT); United States Department of the Army (Army), United States Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps); and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) (hereinafter referred to by their initials or collectively as “the Agencies,” the Southeast Tourism Policy Council (STPC),

and the Southeast Tourism Society (STS) (collectively referred to as “the Parties”).

## **I. Purpose**

Consistent with Executive Order 13597, “Establishing Visa and Foreign Visitor Processing Goals and the Task Force on Travel and Competitiveness,” dated January 19, 2012, the purpose of this MOU is to establish a general framework for cooperation between private sector tourism organizations in the southeastern United States and Federal Agencies with an interest in tourism. Specifically, implementation of this MOU will:

- Engender communication among the Parties to promote mutual understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities in providing recreation and sustainable tourism in the southeastern United States;
- Facilitate cooperative projects on Federal lands to improve recreation and sustainable tourism in the 12 states within the purview of the STPC;
- Endorse cooperation and coordination among and between the Agencies, members of the STPC, and affected state, tribal, and local governments to improve management and promotion of recreation and sustainable tourism opportunities on Federal lands in the southeastern United States; and
- Promote the exchange of information and coordinated planning and development of recreational and visitor facilities and services and interpretation of natural, cultural, and historic resources on Federal lands in the southeastern United States.

## **II. Authority**

The DOI has the authority to enter into this MOU pursuant to 16 U.S.C. §§ 1-3, 4601, 464, and 661 and 43 U.S.C. § 1737(b).

The BIA has the authority to enter into this MOU pursuant to the Education and Training Program, 23 U.S.C. § 6004.

The BLM has the authority to enter into this MOU pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1701-1782.

The FWS has the authority to enter into this MOU pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, 16 U.S.C. § 460k-2; Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980, 16 U.S.C. § 2901 *et seq.*; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. § 661; and the National Wildlife System Administration Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 668dd-ee.

The NPS has the authority to enter into this MOU pursuant to the General Authority to Take Actions That Promote and Regulate Units of the National Park System, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1-3.

The FS has the authority to enter into this MOU pursuant to the Organic Administration Act of 1897, 16 U.S.C. § 551, and the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act, 16 U.S.C. § 528 *et seq.*

The Department of Commerce has the authority to enter into this MOU pursuant to the XXX, 15 U.S.C. § 1512, and the XXX, 22 U.S.C. § 2122.

The Corps has the authority to enter into this MOU under the Flood Control Act of 1944, as amended, 16 U.S.C. §§ 460d, Federal Water Project Recreation Act, 460l-12 *et seq.*, and Water Resources Development Act of 1990, 33 U.S.C. § 2320.

The DOT has the authority to enter into this MOU pursuant to the Department of Transportation Act, as amended, 49 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 301.

The ACHP has the authority to enter into this MOU pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 470 *et seq.*

### **III. Statement of Mutual Interests and Benefits**

The Agencies that are responsible for the management of Federal lands and resources are dedicated to increasing public awareness and appreciation of these lands and resources and their management. Encouraging responsible travel and tourism on these lands furthers this goal. Potential benefits from encouraging responsible travel and tourism on Federal lands extend beyond the United States' borders.

The Agencies that are not responsible for Federal land management are dedicated to providing technical assistance to provide for sustainable development of Federal lands. As appropriate, these Agencies conduct their programs to preserve and promote cultural and natural resources on Federal lands.

American Indian nations have a rich heritage that enhances America's cultural diversity and inspires visitors from around the world. The Agencies respect and recognize the sovereignty of tribal nations and each tribe's approach to tourism development. The Agencies will work together with the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) to facilitate coordination, collaboration and communication with tribal tourism organizations.

Federal lands provide important travel and tourism opportunities that appeal to Americans and international visitors. Travel and tourism on Federal lands provide significant economic, educational and recreational benefits for the United States in general and rural communities in particular. Encouraging international tourism on Federal lands provides important benefits, including a positive impact on the national balance of trade and a better understanding of American society and culture.

Visitors to Federal lands and residents of rural areas in the United States can be better served if the Agencies, the STPC, and the STS work together toward mutually beneficial objectives. Meeting these objectives will contribute to the sustainability of local communities through the protection and management of America's Federal lands.

The mission of the STPC and the STS is to foster a positive environment for travel and tourism by serving as a forum for identifying, researching, analyzing and advocating travel and tourism related issues affecting public policy and opinion in the southeastern United States.

#### **IV. The Agencies will:**

A. Work with the STPC to develop and distribute information about sustainable travel and tourism opportunities in the southeastern United States, especially on Federal lands, and provide assistance to travel and tourism organizations for use in planning, development, marketing, and management of sustainable travel and tourism on Federal lands in the southeastern United States.

B. Collaborate with STPC to organize, encourage, and participate in activities that enhance understanding of how to utilize sustainable travel and tourism to diversify the economic base of communities and create jobs.

C. Organize and conduct research, resource assessments, and educational programs that enhance the ability of the Agencies to manage sustainable travel and tourism.

D. Work with Federal, tribal, state, local, and private organizations to provide sustainable travel and tourism opportunities on Federal lands in the southeastern United States in a coordinated manner.

E. Promote management practices that foster sustainable travel and tourism by protecting natural, cultural, and historic resources.

#### **V. The STPC and the STS will:**

A. Work with the Agencies to develop and distribute information about sustainable travel and tourism opportunities in the southeastern United States, especially on Federal lands, and provide assistance to travel and tourism organizations for use in planning, development, marketing, and management of sustainable travel and tourism on Federal lands in the southeastern United States.

B. Collaborate with the Agencies to organize, encourage, and participate in activities that enhance understanding of how to utilize sustainable travel and tourism to diversify the economic base of communities and create jobs.

C. Assist the Agencies in organizing and conducting research, resource assessments, and educational programs that enhance the ability of the Agencies to manage sustainable travel and tourism.

D. Enhance the understanding of visitors to Federal lands in the southeastern United States of the contributions to the quality of life and intercultural appreciation of the southeastern United States' natural and human resources, history, and diversity.

E. Support the economic viability of sustainable travel and tourism interests and communities near Federal lands in the southeastern United States.

F. Protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources that are the cornerstone for sustainable travel and tourism in the southeastern United States.

G. Promote the integrity and authenticity of sustainable travel and tourism related sites and activities and respect the values of the indigenous peoples of the southeastern United States.

H. Provide assistance and relevant information to the Agencies and to local communities involved in sustainable travel and tourism projects on Federal lands in the southeastern United States.

I. Help the Agencies determine the information needed by the travel and tourism industry regarding sustainable travel and tourism on Federal lands in the southeastern United States and how best to disseminate that information.

J. Obtain prior written approval of all press releases, published advertisements, or other statements intended for the public that refer to this MOU, the Agencies, or the name or title of any employee of the Agencies in connection with this MOU. No press release, published advertisement, or other statement intended for the public or any other action by the STPC or the STS may infer that the United States or the Agencies endorse any of the STPC's or the STS's products, services, or policies, nor may any such public communication or action imply that any preferential treatment, exclusive rights, or privileges are afforded to the STPC or the STS by any of the Agencies.

## **VI. Miscellaneous Provisions**

A. The Agencies, the STPC, and the STS will cooperate in carrying out activities to facilitate the development of sustainable projects and policies. The Agencies and the STPC will meet quarterly, including one meeting held in conjunction with the annual STS Congressional Summit in Washington, D.C. Other meetings may be held at times and locations as dictated by issues of mutual importance.

B. Nothing in this MOU obligates the Agencies to expend funds, to enter into any contract, financial assistance agreement, or other obligations, or to spend funds on any particular project or purpose, even if funds are available.

C. Projects or activities involving the transfer of funds, services, or property among the Parties will require execution of separate financial assistance agreements or contracts contingent on the availability of appropriated funds. Subsequent agreements or contracts involving the transfer of funds, services, or property between or among the Parties must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations, including Federal procurement and claims policies and procedures and financial assistance regulations,

and must be independently authorized by statute.

D. The Parties will handle their own activities and use their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing the objectives enumerated in this MOU. Each Party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner. In implementing this MOU, each Agency will be operating under its laws, regulations, and policies, subject to the availability of appropriated funds and each Agency's budget priorities.

E. Nothing in this MOU is intended to alter, limit, or expand the Agencies' statutory and regulatory authority.

F. This MOU does not create any substantive or procedural right or benefit that is enforceable in law or equity against the Parties or their officers or employees.

G. This MOU in no way restricts the Agencies from participating in activities or arrangements similar to those addressed in this MOU with other public or private agencies.

H. Any information furnished to the Agencies by the STPC and the STS under this MOU is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

I. Nothing in this MOU may be interpreted to imply that the Agencies endorse any product, service, or policy of the STPC, the STS, or their members. The STPC and the STS will not take any action or make any statement that suggests or implies such an endorsement.

J. Additional Federal Agencies may be added to this MOU with the written concurrence of the Parties.

K. No member of or delegate to Congress may benefit from this MOU either directly or indirectly.

L. This MOU will become effective when it is fully executed and will expire 5 years from its effective date. This MOU may be extended or amended upon written agreement of all the Parties.

M. Any of the Parties may terminate its participation in this MOU in whole or in part after 30 days written notice to all the other Parties.

## VII. Principal Contacts

The following persons will be the principal contacts for their respective Agencies and organizations for purposes of implementation of this MOU:

Gail Adams and Vicki Dixon	Julie Heizer and Isabel Hill
United States Department of the Interior	Office of Travel and Tourism Industries
<a href="mailto:gail_adams@ios.doi.gov">gail_adams@ios.doi.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:julie.heizer@trade.gov">julie.heizer@trade.gov</a>
<a href="mailto:vicki_s_dixon@ios.doi.gov">vicki_s_dixon@ios.doi.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:isabel.hill@trade.gov">isabel.hill@trade.gov</a>
Edward Hall	Aleta Best, Gary Jensen, and Cindi Ptak
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Department of Transportation
<a href="mailto:edward.hall@bia.gov">edward.hall@bia.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:aleta.best@dot.gov">aleta.best@dot.gov</a>
	<a href="mailto:gary.jensen@dot.gov">gary.jensen@dot.gov</a>
Angela West	<a href="mailto:cindi.ptak@dot.gov">cindi.ptak@dot.gov</a>
Bureau of Land Management	Mary Coulombe
<a href="mailto:awest@blm.gov">awest@blm.gov</a>	United States Army Corps of Engineers
	<a href="mailto:mary.j.coulombe@usace.army.mil">mary.j.coulombe@usace.army.mil</a>
Kevin Kilcullen	
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	Ronald D. Anzalone
<a href="mailto:kevin_kilcullen@fws.gov">kevin_kilcullen@fws.gov</a>	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
	<a href="mailto:ranzalone@achp.gov">ranzalone@achp.gov</a>
Dean Reeder and Jo Pendry	
National Park Service	Suzanne Moon
<a href="mailto:dean_reeder@nps.gov">dean_reeder@nps.gov</a>	Southeast Tourism Society
<a href="mailto:jo_pendry@nps.gov">jo_pendry@nps.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:suzanne@southeasttourism.org">suzanne@southeasttourism.org</a>
Jim Bedwell and Kristen Nelson	Betty Huskins
United States Forest Service	Immediate Past Chairman
<a href="mailto:jbedwell@fs.fed.us">jbedwell@fs.fed.us</a>	Southeast Tourism Policy Council
<a href="mailto:knelson@fs.fed.us">knelson@fs.fed.us</a>	<a href="mailto:brhuskins@gmail.com">brhuskins@gmail.com</a>

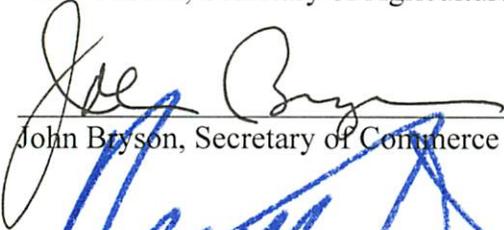
VIII. Signatories



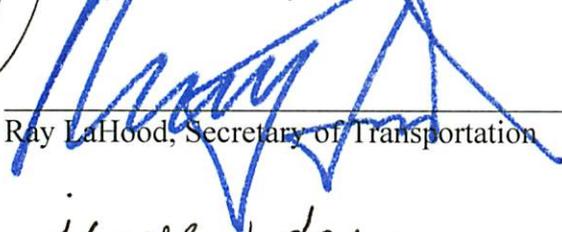
Ken Salazar, Secretary of Interior



Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture



John Bryson, Secretary of Commerce



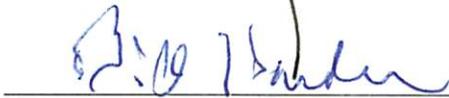
Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation



Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)



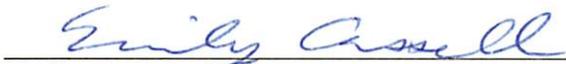
Milford Wayne Donaldson, Chairman  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation



Bill Hardman, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Southeast Tourism Society



Susan Thomas, Chairman  
Southeast Tourism Society



Emily Cassell, Chairman  
Southeast Tourism Policy Council