

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
regarding the
SACRAMENTO RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

and

**THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
regarding the
SACRAMENTO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA
and Feather River Wildlife Area**

and

**THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
NORTHERN BUTTES DISTRICT
regarding the
Sacramento River State Parks**

I. PARTICIPANTS

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is an agreement for land management purposes between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge (Service), the California Department of Fish and Game regarding the Sacramento River Wildlife Area and the Feather River Wildlife Area (Department), and the California Department of Parks and Recreation regarding the Sacramento River State Parks (State Parks). In addition to presently owned and managed lands, this MOU will also apply to any future acquisitions by the Service, Department, and State Parks within the designated units.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to formally document an agreement to mutually manage, monitor, restore and enhance lands managed for fish, wildlife, and plants along the Sacramento and Feather Rivers in Tehama, Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Sutter, and Yuba Counties, California. An additional

purpose is to communicate between agencies regularly to prevent duplicating or prescribing conflicting land management and acquisition efforts and to coordinate endangered species management.

III. AUTHORITY

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, 16 U.S.C. 661.

Migratory Bird Conservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 715i.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. 1531-1544.

IV. SCOPE OF ACTIONS

The affected area includes all lands owned and managed as the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, Sacramento River Wildlife Area, and State Parks located along the Sacramento River and the Feather River Wildlife Area along the Feather River in the designated counties. These lands have been identified in several documents as providing essential habitat for numerous species of fish and wildlife including many threatened and endangered species. The Service, Department, and State Parks mutually agree to manage these lands for the conservation of biological, cultural, and scenic values, and for promoting compatible wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities.

The Service, Department and State Parks agree to cooperate on the following items:

A. General Management:

- Combine efforts to mutually manage, monitor, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife management projects in the designated area.
- Coordinate management between agencies to prevent duplicating or prescribing conflicting management.

B. Public Use:

- Coordinate to provide public use opportunities that are consistent with the goals and needs of the agencies and their respective public.
- Provide clear, non-conflicting, straight-forward information to visitors.
- Cooperate in the development of public use plans. This would include cooperating with signing, brochures, use maps, and regulations.
- Promote mutual environmental education and special event opportunities.

In some instances, an agency may need to change its public use regulations in a specific area to protect natural resources (i.e. sensitive species) and provide a quality outdoor experience for the public. All public use will be offered in a manner that is consistent with land purchase and public trust documents, and is

compatible with Service, Department, and State Parks purposes and missions.

C. Acquisition:

- Coordinate on acquisition plans.
- Prevent duplicate or conflicting acquisition efforts.
- Pursue joint funding opportunities when applicable.

D. Maintenance:

- Coordinate and share maintenance equipment and staff, whenever possible.
- Negotiate transportation and maintenance/repairs of shared equipment.
- Combine maintenance work parties to address specific concerns in a timely manner and to reduce funding needs for joint project.

E. Biological Data:

- **SURVEYS.** Data collection will be coordinated and standardized between agencies whenever possible to strengthen study results and to aid interpreting trends in wildlife and plant populations. Agencies agree to coordinate efforts in research of threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, fish, wildlife (including predators), and plant surveys. Combining funds for a specific contract, arranging for volunteer and staff assistance, and sharing equipment (i.e. boats, ATV, etc.) may facilitate research projects.
- **RESEARCH.** Research needs will be identified and efforts combined to initiate and fund specific research projects.
- **MONITORING.** Monitoring of restoration project sites will be coordinated so that the information is comparable, consistent and complementary. Efforts may be combined to fund and staff specific monitoring components.

F. Permits:

The agencies will communicate and cooperate on permits. Combined or regional environmental documents and permits that could benefit all agencies will be considered. Special-Use Permits will be required for all activities on Service lands and the equivalent required for all activities on Department and State Parks lands.

G. Law Enforcement:

The agencies will communicate and cooperate on law enforcement issues. Efforts will be made to discuss issues, potential problems, needed support and to exchange phone numbers and current staffing information on a regular basis. Signing efforts will be mutually updated and implemented.

H. Coordination:

Formal meetings will be held semi-annually in spring and fall at a minimum. The agencies will alternate hosting and provide agendas and notification for the meeting. The meeting agendas (jointly developed) may be changed under mutual consent of the agencies and additional meetings may be held to discuss specific topics. Suggested agenda topics include:

- Discuss current issues/events
- Provide relevant updates on agency activities
- Highlight a main topic/training opportunity at each meeting
- Set next meeting location, time, and date

V. PROJECT OFFICERS

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Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
752 County Road 99W
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VI. MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION

This MOU agreement may be amended with consent of all agencies. Amendments will be attached to this document after concurrence of the agencies.

This agreement may be terminated as mutually agreed or upon 6 months written notice by any agency.

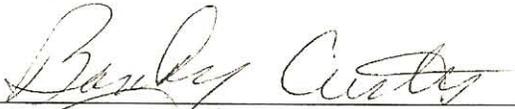
VII. APPROVAL

This MOU shall be effective on the date all signatures are received and will be in effect for a period of five years. At that time, the MOU may be reviewed, updated, and extended for an additional five-year period.



Don Koch, Regional Manager
Northern California - North Coast Region
California Department of Fish and Game
Redding, California

Date 12/13/04



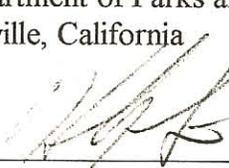
Banky Curtis, Regional Manager
Sacramento Valley - Central Sierra Region
California Department of Fish and Game
Rancho Cordova, California

Date 12/13/04



Robert Foster, District Superintendent
Northern Buttes District
Department of Parks and Recreation
Oroville, California

Date 12/14/04



Kevin S. Foerster, Project Leader
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Willows, California

Date 12/20/2004