



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT,

THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION,

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,

THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE,

THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE,

THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,

And

THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Regarding the

EVERY KID IN A PARK FOURTH-GRADE PROGRAM

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is entered into between the National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Reclamation (BoR), United States Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the Every Kid in a Park Fourth-Grade Program (EKiP, Program).

I. BACKGROUND

The EKiP aims to provide an opportunity for every fourth grade student across the Nation (approximately four million children) to experience Federal lands and waters first hand through the availability of a no-cost Federal Lands Pass, supporting curricula and educational materials, and other promotional events and materials. Over the long term, the shared interagency goal is to have an annual commitment to encourage schools, families, and other partner organizations to bring fourth graders to their public lands and waters so that all children will have the opportunity to experience these places by the time they are 12 years old. This

Program will engage the next generation of supporters and beneficiaries of the public lands and waters we steward, directly aligning with our missions.

By introducing fourth graders to their public lands and waters at an early age, EKIP will help agencies build the next generation of outdoor stewards of our Nation's spectacular and diverse Federal lands and waters. Connecting our Nation's youth to the great outdoors is even more important at a time when 80 percent of American families live in cities and most children spend more time on computers and smartphones than exploring nature. The EKIP is slated to continue with each year's group of fourth graders to inspire successive generations to become responsible stewards of our Nation's natural and cultural heritage. Research shows that children ages 9 to 11 are at a unique developmental stage in their learning where they begin to understand how the world around them works in more concrete ways.

II. AUTHORITY

The work described in this MOU is pursuant to existing programmatic statutory authorities, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. § § 1701-1787), the National Parks Service Organic Act (16 U. S. C. § 1 et seq.), the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.), the Forest Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. § 551), the Coastal Zone Management Act, Section 315b (16 U.S.C. § 1461), and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA), 16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.

The interagency EKIP pass is authorized under section 805 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (REA), 16 U.S.C. § 6804, and the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. § 1535.

III. PURPOSE

The primary purpose of EKIP is to encourage fourth graders to visit public lands and waters with their schools and families and to provide support for their engagement. The EKIP is designed to support this overarching goal and provide an incentive for children to access recreational sites on Federal lands and waters. The secondary purpose is to encourage partnerships and provide opportunities for cooperative relationships, stewardship, and information about recreational and/or educational opportunities on Federal lands and waters.

The purpose of this MOU is to establish the framework for coordination, administration, development, and oversight of EKIP policies, operations, communication strategies, pass implementation, and other promotional activities or materials.

IV. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

This MOU establishes an interagency EKIP Steering Committee. The EKIP Steering Committee will consist of designated senior managers from each agency who oversee the Program. The EKIP Steering Committee will provide primary coordination and will facilitate timely decisionmaking at multiple levels regarding the Program. The EKIP Steering Committee

will also brief managers from each agency overseeing EKiP and will represent them in the development of program policies.

Initially, a single member of the EKiP Steering Committee will be designated as its Chair. The Chair will be responsible for coordinating all aspects of project implementation, interagency coordination, and communications with agency managers and staff. The Chair of the EKiP Steering Committee will rotate among willing members on an annual basis. The Chair will work with the Steering Committee members to identify a part-time detailee to serve as the program manager.

The EKiP Steering Committee will manage the EKiP program, which may include approving the annual pass designs, developing an annual work plan and corresponding budgets, updating the website, evaluating the program, developing outreach strategies, coordinating with the Interagency Pass Program Office, providing field training and guidance, cultivating partnerships, and implementing long-range program improvements. Guided by consensus of the EKiP Steering Committee, any agency may contract or enter into agreements with third parties for components of the program, including design and production, distribution, inventory control, outreach, advertising, the annual image competition, and associated accounting, data collection, website, and software services.

The National Park Service (NPS). The NPS will act on behalf of all the agencies in maintaining key infrastructure for EKiP. With oversight from the EKiP Steering Committee, and in consultation with all the other agencies, NPS will coordinate all administrative and financial requirements related to everykidinapark.gov, the Interagency Pass Program Office, and the quarterly assessment report, pending availability of funding.

Program Manager. The Program Manager will guide the coordination of the EKiP Steering Committee and implement decisions agreed upon by the EKiP Steering Committee.

The Program Manager will:

- act as the primary point of contact for the EKiP Steering Committee;
- coordinate EKiP Steering Committee meetings, public meetings, and management briefings at a national interagency level;
- coordinate, facilitate and prepare EKiP Steering Committee annual strategy, and budget for the program;
- administer Program operations and special initiatives;
- oversee funding mechanisms or fiscal instruments for program, such as interagency agreements, philanthropic partnerships, and project contracts, and
- manage program evaluation and coordinate metrics monitoring.

V. ANNUAL BUDGET

At least 6 months prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the interagency Steering Committee will agree on a work plan for the year and a notional budget. At least 3 months prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, agencies will provide the interagency Steering Committee with an

outline of their proposed contributions to implement the work plan. Agencies can consider supporting projects with non-profits and other partners, in line with their respective authorities and related programs, as part of their strategy to implement the EKIP work plan.

VI. AUDIT/EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM

Each agency reserves the right to request an independent audit/evaluation of the program covered by this MOU at any time. Audits or evaluations must be requested through the EKIP Steering Committee. Funding to conduct an audit or evaluation may be provided by the Program budget if funds are available and approved by the Steering Committee.

VII. MODIFICATIONS

Modifications to this MOU may be initiated by any of the agencies at any time, but must be made in writing and must be signed and dated by all the agencies. Additional or supporting interagency funding, cooperative or fiscal agreements will be established separately.

VIII. DURATION

This MOU will remain in effect for 5 years from its effective date. This MOU will be renegotiated every 5 years.

IX. DISPUTES AND TERMINATION

Any dispute concerning the Program arising among the agencies will initially be addressed by the EKIP Steering Committee. If the dispute remains unresolved, it will be addressed by agency leadership and, if necessary, by the Secretaries of the agencies involved in the dispute, or their designees. Agencies may withdraw from this MOU at any time, but must give at least 90 days written notice to the Steering Committee Chair and member agency representatives.

X. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Nothing in this MOU authorizes or requires the agencies to obligate or provide reimbursable funding. Specific projects or activities that involve funds, services, or property among the agencies require execution of separate agreements and are contingent upon the availability of Recreation Enhancement Act revenue or appropriated funds. These activities must be independently authorized by statute. This MOU does not provide that authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of these agreements must comply with all applicable laws.

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

XI. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

The principal program contacts and Steering Committee members for each agency for this MOU are:

National Park Service

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Bureau of Reclamation

Ms. Lauren Meredith
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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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National Ocean Service, NOAA
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US Fish and Wildlife Service

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US Forest Service

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US Army Corps of Engineers

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mary.j.coulombe@usace.army.mil

XII. SIGNATORIES

This MOU is fully executed as of the last date written below.



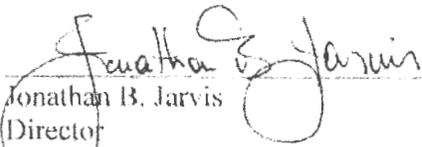
Neil Kornze
Director
Bureau of Land Management

11-15-16
Date

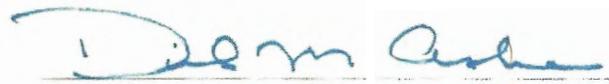


Dionne Thompson
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation

11-9-2016
Date


Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director
National Park Service

11-8-2016
Date


Daniel M. Ashe
Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service

11-7-2016
Date


Thomas L. Tidwell
Chief
US Forest Service

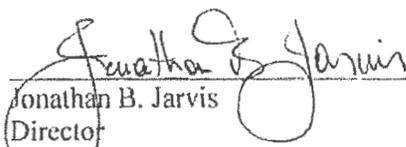
12/5/2016
Date

Eddie Belk
Chief, Operations and Regulatory Division
US Army Corps of Engineers

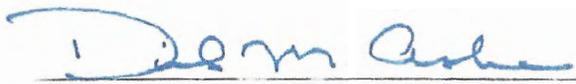
Date

Chris Cartwright
Deputy Assistant Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Date


Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director
National Park Service

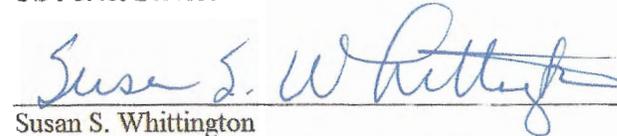
11-8-2016
Date


Daniel M. Ashe
Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service

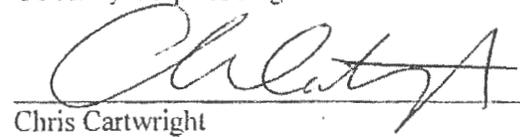
11.7.2016
Date

Thomas L. Tidwell
Chief
US Forest Service

Date


Susan S. Whittington
Chief, Operations and Regulatory Division
US Army Corps of Engineers

11/21/16
Date


Chris Cartwright
Deputy Assistant Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

11/17/16
Date