



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**AND**  
**COALITIONWILD**  
**IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH INITIATIVE**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into between the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and CoalitionWILD (CW). The DOI and CW are sometimes referred to herein as a Party or the Parties to this MOU.

**ARTICLE I – BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of this MOU is to formalize a relationship for coordination and collaboration between the DOI and CW to provide mentorship, advice, and expertise to young professionals working in the conservation field in communities around the world. Through this MOU, DOI will actively engage with CW in connecting professionals and experts working on conservation, restoration, and other environmental issues within the DOI with young professionals participating in CW programs, both domestically and in other countries.

The Obama Administration has made climate change a priority and has actively been working with the global community to create a shared vision for improving the health of our planet. In December 2015, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, 195 countries agreed by consensus to the final global pact. Sharing the knowledge and expertise of professionals throughout the DOI with young professionals and leaders working in environmental careers across the globe reinforces our commitment to work together toward reaching our goals for a healthier planet.

The DOI is the steward of more than one-fifth of our Nation's lands, which include thousands of miles of streams, rivers, and the headwaters of many major watersheds, and is charged with protection of those ecosystems, including fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitat. The DOI also oversees the responsible development of more than 20 percent of U.S. energy supplies and is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 Western States. The DOI maintains relationships with 567 federally recognized Tribes and provides services to more than two million American

Indian and Alaska Native peoples. The success of DOI's work and conservation vision relies on the involvement and ownership of all, most particularly the next generation of leaders, stewards, and champions who must be inspired to find their own connection with America's natural, cultural, and historic resources.

The DOI's workforce has developed extensive experience and expertise in conservation and climate change issues in a broad spectrum of areas, such as geology, hydrology, invasive species, and management of land, water, and wildlife resources. Sharing this knowledge with young professionals working on conservation issues throughout the global community will help reinforce a holistic strategy to addressing environmental health of our planet.

The DOI's goals will be accomplished through collaborative and coordinated mentorships to improve conservation strategies being developed by young professionals on a global scale. The DOI and CW will work together connecting young professionals in the conservation field with subject-matter experts at DOI to serve as mentors, advisors, and counselors in the development of strategic and effective conservation plans.

## **ARTICLE II – AUTHORITIES**

The DOI has broad authority under the various Federal laws that authorize it to manage, preserve, and protect the Nation's land as well as natural, historical, and cultural resources, including the Take Pride in America Act, 16 U.S.C. § 4601 et seq., which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a number of activities in support of the Nation's land and resources. This MOU is consistent with these authorities and represents a recognition by DOI that the issues these authorities concern often have a global scale. The DOI anticipates that employees who volunteer in support of this MOU also will gain a broader understanding of their own fields of expertise.

CoalitionWILD galvanizes and connects the world's young change makers to tackle our planet's greatest conservation and sustainability challenges; and is a project within The WILD Foundation (WILD), a tax-exempt corporation organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code based in Boulder, Colorado, which works to protect and promote wilderness, wildlife, and people throughout the world and has a history of involvement with projects that demonstrate the value of wild nature and its ecological services.

## **ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF WORK**

The DOI and CW will collaborate to leverage the strengths and resources of their organizations to achieve mutual goals, empowering young people, and leading to stronger conservation strategies throughout the global community. Where appropriate and subject to applicable laws, regulations, on-the-ground capacity, and availability of funding, DOI and CW will develop initiatives to further the purpose and objectives of this MOU, including general implementation actions outlined below:

**1. The DOI and CW MUTUALLY AGREE TO:**

- Connect young conservation leaders with experts who are working on conservation issues at DOI, including but not limited to removing invasive species, protecting critical habitat, managing water resources, working with Native communities on environmental issues, and preparing the next generation of environmental stewards.
- Create opportunities for young leaders to increase knowledge and professional networks to develop and implement effective conservation strategies.
- Lay the groundwork for young adults to become the 21st Century stewards of cultural, historical, scientific, and recreational resources on a global scale.
- Provide young leaders with career and leadership development opportunities via mentorship.
- Create opportunities for DOI employees to broaden their skills and experience through engagement with future conservation leaders in the global community.

**2. DOI WILL SUPPORT THIS COLLABORATION BY:**

- Promoting this new national collaboration with CW throughout its bureaus.
- Providing opportunities for subject-matter experts within DOI to volunteer to serve as mentors and advisors to young leaders working on conservation issues both domestically and internationally.
- Encouraging DOI bureaus to develop relationships with CW program participants, and provide opportunities to engage directly with them or connect at a distance using technology.
- Providing opportunities for CW program participants to participate in DOI volunteer and educational programs.

**3. CW WILL SUPPORT THIS COLLABORATION BY:**

- Raising the visibility of DOI's youth initiative among conservation professionals by highlighting and publicizing the collaboration through CW's extensive network, utilizing a broad range of communication vehicles at its disposal.
- Selecting up to 15 program participants annually to participate in the mentorship program, including their area of interest for mentorship.
- Leveraging knowledge and relationships, drawing upon the extensive global networks it has developed and exploring possible ways to encourage young conservation professionals to participate in a mentorship program.

- Stimulating and supporting progress by identifying promising efforts benefiting from this collaboration and creating mechanisms or venues through which other conservation leaders can learn from each other.

#### **ARTICLE IV - TRADEMARKS, PRESS RELEASES, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

1. Use, reproduction, or redistribution of the other Parties' brands, trademarks, and logo is strictly prohibited without written permission from the Party owning or controlling such brands, trademarks, and logos, or as stipulated by this MOU.
2. No Party shall use the other Party's brands, trademarks, or logos in the following ways:
  - a. In a product name or publication title not owned, controlled, or approved by the Party with rights to the brands, trademarks, or logo used;
  - b. In, as, or as part of each Party's own trademarks;
  - c. To identify products or service not owned, controlled, or approved by the other Party;
  - d. In a manner likely to cause confusion; or
  - e. In a manner that disparages the other Party.
3. Each Party's Marks may not be used in any manner that expresses or might imply the other Party's affiliation, sponsorship, endorsement, certification, or approval, other than as contemplated by this MOU.
4. No Party shall use the other Party's Marks in association with any third party trademarks in a manner that might suggest co-branding with the third party or is otherwise likely to create confusion as to the source or sponsorship of any of the Party's Web pages, or ownership of the other Party's Marks.
5. No Party's Marks may be incorporated into or used as part of any trade name, business name, domain name, product or service name, log, trade dress, design, slogan, nor other trademark not owned, controlled, or approved by the other Party. This restriction applies whether each Party's Mark(s) are used alone or are combined with any other symbols, be they words, logos, icons, graphics, photos, slogans, numbers, or other design elements.
6. Each Party may use the other Party's logo only in the forms provided electronically or in the hard copy by the owning or controlling Party of such logo. Except for the size and subject to the restriction herein, such logos may not be altered in any manner, be it in proportion, color, movement, element, etc., or animated, morphed, or otherwise distorted in perspective or dimensional appearance. Any changes in size of a Party's logo made by another Party shall retain the full graphical integrity of the original image.

7. Unless otherwise agreed to in separate agreements, materials (such as but not limited to curriculum, training materials, logos, and outreach materials) that are created jointly by the Parties or otherwise created in furtherance of this MOU shall be jointly owned. In the event that joint ownership cannot be achieved, each Party grants to the other a perpetual, royalty-free full-use rights on all materials created pursuant to this MOU and subsequent agreements arising from this MOU. In the event that either Party proposes to use or incorporate pre-existing materials, that Party must obtain appropriate use rights prior to incorporation into materials produced in support of this MOU. Specific rights shall be memorialized as appropriate in subsequent documents.

## **ARTICLE V - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

The Parties hereby further agree as follows:

1. They will meet annually, or as needed, to discuss the purpose and objectives of this MOU. They will develop and implement authorizations including general agreements, cooperative agreements, and other assistance agreements (Authorizations) that define specific projects and initiatives in furtherance of this MOU and permit the sharing of resources and funding in support of those projects and initiatives in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies of all Parties.
2. This MOU in no way restricts DOI or CW from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public agencies, academic institutions, non-profits, private enterprise, or individuals, or to enter into Authorizations with those entities and individuals.
3. Nothing in the MOU may be construed to obligate DOI or CW to any current or future expenditure of resources in advance of the availability of appropriations from Congress or funding from philanthropic sources. Nor does this MOU obligate DOI or CW to spend funds on any particular project or purpose, even if funds are available. The participation of DOI volunteers will not exceed a limited or *de minimis* level of commitment of DOI resources.
4. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds-obligation document. Any endeavor or transfer of anything of value involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between or among the Parties will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for government procurement and printing. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements or contracts that shall be made in writing by representatives of the Parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide authority to transfer anything of value involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between or among the Parties. Any contract or agreement for services must comply with all applicable requirements for competition.

## **ARTICLE VI - EVALUATION AND REPORTING**

The Parties will jointly review the results and effectiveness of this MOU at the end of each calendar year. The MOU may be amended at any time by the written, mutual consent of the Parties. The approved amendment(s) will immediately become a part of this MOU.

## **ARTICLE VII - TERM OF MOU**

This MOU shall be executed as of the date of the last signature and shall remain in effect for five (5) years unless terminated or otherwise extended through a modification of this MOU.

## **ARTICLE VIII - KEY OFFICIALS**

Key officials are essential to ensure maximum coordination and communication among the parties regarding the work being performed. Communications regarding this MOU will be maintained between the Parties by the following officials:

The key official for DOI is Ms. Mary Pletcher, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Capital & Diversity.

The key official for CW is Ms. Crista Valentino, Director.

## **ARTICLE IX – MODIFICATION& TERMINATION**

1. This MOU may be modified or extended only through a written instrument, signed, and dated by the Parties.
2. Any Party may terminate this MOU by providing the other Party with sixty (60) days advance written notice. In the event that one Party provides notice of its intention to terminate, the Parties will meet promptly to try to resolve their differences.
3. Additional Federal agencies or bureaus may join in this MOU by notifying all Parties in writing, and upon the mutual agreement of the Parties through a written modification to this MOU.

## **ARTICLE X – STANDARD CLAUSES**

**Civil Rights** - During the performance of this MOU, the participants agree to abide by the terms of U.S. Department of the Interior - Civil Rights Assurance Certification, nondiscrimination, and will not discriminate against any person. The participants will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed without regard to their race, color, sexual orientation, national origin, disabilities, religion, age, or sex.

**ARTICLE XI – SIGNATURES**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding on the date(s) set forth below.

FOR the Department of the Interior, approved and accepted:

_____	_____
Sally Jewell	Date
Secretary of the Interior	

FOR CoalitionWILD, approved and accepted:

_____	_____
Crista Valentino	Date
Director, CoalitionWILD	