

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) AMONG

- Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the Desert Research Institute
- Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Park Service
- Idaho State University
- Oregon State University
- State of Nevada, Department of Wildlife
- State of Utah, Department of Natural Resources
- Utah State University
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Agricultural Research Service
- USDA Cooperative States Research Education and Extension Service
- USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station
- USDA Forest Service, Region 4
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

These above-named parties (parties) hereby agree to support development of The Great Basin Research and Management Partnership (GBRMP). GBRMP coordinates interdisciplinary, multi-organizational, research and management teams to develop solutions to ecological and socio-economic problems in the Great Basin. “Research” refers to organizations and individual conducting research activities, and “management” refers to organizations and individuals conducting land management activities.

Statement of Need: The Great Basin is considered to be one of the most endangered ecoregions in the United States. The human population is expanding at the highest rate in the nation, and major sociological and ecological changes there are occurring across the Great Basin. These changes can be attributed to numerous interacting factors including urbanization, changing technology and land use, climate change, limited water resources, altered fire regimes, invasive species, insects, and disease. Managers across the Great Basin are increasingly challenged to maintain or improve the ecological condition of these systems and the services that they provide while meeting the needs of a growing number of user groups with diverse and often opposing interests. Sustaining the ecosystems, resources and human populations of the Great Basin will require strong collaborative partnerships among research and management organizations in the region.

Goals and Desired Outcomes: The GBRMP promotes comprehensive and complementary research and management collaborations to sustain ecosystems, resources and communities across the Great Basin. The specific goals of the GBRMP are to:

1. Maximize integration of science and management through partnerships and technology transfer.
2. Provide leadership and commitment to an integrated organizational framework linking science and management to address priority natural-resource and socio-economic issues in the Great Basin.
3. Expand and facilitate inter-disciplinary, multi-organizational teams focused on problem solving through collaborative management and research.
4. Identify opportunities to leverage resources, minimize duplication, and pursue additional support and resources toward shared goals.
5. Implement communication and information sharing that enhances problem solving, demonstrates measurable results, and increases public support for Great Basin sustainability.
6. Produce measurable and meaningful outcomes in support of its mission and goals.

General Provisions: It is mutually agreed and understood by and between the Parties that:

1. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document for any involved parties including federal and state agencies, universities, or other signatories. Nothing in this agreement may be construed to obligate federal agencies, the United States, state agencies, or universities or other partners to any current or future expenditure of resources. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the Parties to this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable regulations and procedures. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the Parties and shall be independently authorized in accordance with appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Additionally, this instrument does not establish authority for the noncompetitive award to the Parties of any contract or other agreement. Any contract or agreement for training or other services must fully comply with all applicable requirements for competition.
2. This MOU in no way restricts the Parties from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
3. **Term and Review:** This MOU is executed as of the date of last signature and will remain in effect for a period of three years from its original date of execution.

4. Any signatory, Great Basin Research and Management Partnership members may propose changes to this agreement. Modifications within the scope of this MOU shall be made by the issuance of a mutually executed modification prior to any changes being performed. The modification will be executed upon receipt of a majority of the signed modifications.
5. Adding participants: New participants may be added to this agreement in accordance with provisions outlined under #4 above. The majority of the parties to the MOU must agree to the addition of new participants. This can be accomplished via email or verbal concurrence.
6. Cancellation: This MOU may be cancelled at any time during its term by mutual agreement among the participants. Any party to this MOU may withdraw with a 60-day written notice.
7. In any advertising done by any of the Parties, this MOU should not be referred to in a manner that states or implies that any Party approves of or endorses unrelated activities of any other.
8. During the performance of the MOU the participants agree to abide by the terms of Executive Order 11246 on nondiscrimination and will not discriminate against any person because of race, age, color, religion, gender, national origin or disability.
9. No member of, or delegate to Congress, or resident Commissioner, shall be granted membership in the Great Basin Research and Management Partnership, or receive any benefit that may arise from the Partnership.
10. The Parties agree to implement the provisions of this MOU to the extent personnel and budgets allow. In addition, nothing in the MOU is intended to supersede any laws, regulations or directives by which the Parties must legally abide.
11. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Any information furnished to any federal agency under this MOU is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).
12. Responsibilities of Parties. All parties will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner.
13. Establishment of Responsibilities. This instrument is not intended to, and does not create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the last written date below. The individuals listed in this document are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this instrument.

Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the Desert Research Institute	Date
Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Date
Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno	Date
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	Date
National Park Service	Date
Idaho State University	Date
Oregon State University	Date
State of Nevada, Department of Wildlife	Date
State of Utah, Department of Natural Resources	Date
Utah State University	Date

<hr/> U.S. Geological Survey	<hr/> Date
<hr/> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	<hr/> Date
<hr/> USDA Agricultural Research Service	<hr/> Date
<hr/> USDA Cooperative States Research Education and Extension Service	<hr/> Date
<hr/> USDA Forest Service, Region 4	<hr/> Date
<hr/> USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station	<hr/> Date
<hr/> USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	<hr/> Date

The authority and format of this instrument has been reviewed and approved for signature.

Grants and Agreements Specialist Date