

**Great Plains  
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT**

**COOPERATIVE and JOINT  
VENTURE AGREEMENT**

**between**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Geological Survey  
National Park Service**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency  
U.S. Forest Service  
Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers–Civil Works**

**Western Area Power Administration**

**and**

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA–LINCOLN (HOST)**

Black Hills State University  
Colorado State University  
Colorado State University–Pueblo  
Emporia State University  
Kansas State University  
Langston University  
New Mexico Highlands University  
North Dakota State University  
Oklahoma State University

**Agreement Number(s)**

**BIA #** \_\_\_\_\_

**BLM #** BLM-MOU-WY-2025-01

**USBR #** \_\_\_\_\_

**FWS #** \_\_\_\_\_

**USGS #** USGS-GRPL-CESU-2025

**NPS #** NPS-GRPL-CESU-2025

**FSA #** \_\_\_\_\_

**USFS R&D #** \_\_\_\_\_

**NRCS #** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOAA #** \_\_\_\_\_

**DOD #** \_\_\_\_\_

**USACE #** USACE-GRPL-CESU-2025

**WAPA #** \_\_\_\_\_

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology  
South Dakota State University  
Southwestern Oklahoma State University  
Texas A&M AgriLife Research  
Texas Tech University  
University of Minnesota  
University of North Dakota  
University of Oklahoma  
University of South Dakota  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
University of Wyoming  
Winona State University  
Biodiversity Research Institute  
Smithsonian Institution  
Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
World Wildlife Fund, Inc.

## ARTICLE I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

- A. This Cooperative and Joint Venture Agreement (hereinafter called Agreement) between the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, Farm Service Agency, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Defense—Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Civil Works, Western Area Power Administration (hereinafter called Federal Agencies) and University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Host University) and its Partner Institutions is a continuation for a five (5) year term to provide for the operation and maintenance of the Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU). This continuation of the Great Plains CESU is implemented by mutual consent of the parties and is consistent with the prior Agreement and the express intent of the request for proposals for that Agreement. The Great Plains CESU is associated with a national network of CESUs.
- B. The objectives of the Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit are to:
- Provide research, technical assistance, and education to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies and their potential partners;
  - Develop a program of research, technical assistance and education that involves the biological, physical, social, and cultural sciences needed to address resources issues and interdisciplinary problem-solving at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context at the local, regional, and national level; and
  - Place special emphasis on the working collaboration among federal agencies and universities and their related partner institutions.
- C. Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (hereinafter called BIA) is the oldest bureau of the United States Department of the Interior. Established in 1824, BIA currently provides services to approximately two million American Indians and Alaska Natives. There are 574 federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives in the United States. The mission of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is to: "... enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives." BIA has responsibility for the administration and management of 55 million surface acres and 57 million acres of subsurface minerals estates held in trust by the United States for American Indian, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives. BIA serves a special role, both serving tribes through trust management and by providing technical support and advice across a broad range of topics. The BIA is also the lead agency providing for federal management of the trust corpus held on behalf of tribal government and individual beneficial owners and as such is tasked with coordinating science, technical education, and management needs for those trust resources. The tribes, through the Indian Self-Determination

and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (Pub. L. 93-638), are authorized to contract BIA management functions and as such mission needs, research results, and education efforts serve and enable tribal and BIA staff. The Act also authorized the federal government to follow specific contracting regulations for Recognized Federal Indian Tribes, and with tribal approval, tribally chartered Indian colleges and universities.

BIA participation in the CESU Network will include support, coordination, and cooperation focused on science and education for climate and trust resource management, as well as other areas within its range of mission-related services and activities. BIA is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements under the general authority for climate change via the Snyder Act of 1921, as amended, 25 U.S.C. § 13; for FY14 (2-year funding) via Pub. L. 113-76, and FY15 (2-year funding) via Pub. L. 113-164, as amended (and subsequent annual budget appropriations as may be authorized during the term of the agreement); and for any potential Forestry and Wildland Fire Management program efforts, via the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101- 630. BIA has the authority to enter into this agreement pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 2; the Education and Training Program, 23 U.S.C. § 6004; and Snyder Act of 1921, as amended, 25 U.S.C. § 13.

- D. Bureau of Land Management. The Bureau of Land Management (hereinafter called BLM) administers public lands within a framework of numerous laws. The most comprehensive of these is the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). All Bureau policies, procedures, and management actions must be consistent with FLPMA and the other laws that govern use of the public lands. It is the mission of the BLM to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations (43 U.S.C. § 1701 et seq.). In accordance with 43 U.S.C. § 1737(b), the BLM is authorized to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements involving the management, protection, development, and sale of public lands; and is thereby authorized to enter into this cooperative agreement to continue the Great Plains CESU to assist in providing research, technical assistance and education.
- E. Bureau of Reclamation. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (hereinafter called USBR) manages, develops, and protects water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public (43 U.S.C. Chapter 12). In accordance with the authority delegated in 255 DM 14.1 (U.S. Department of the Interior, Departmental Manual), which states that the Commissioner is delegated so much of the authority of the Secretary under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. § 661 et seq.) as is necessary to provide assistance, through grants or cooperative agreements, to public or private organizations for the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat associated with water systems or water supplies affected by Reclamation projects; and in accordance with the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-11), Subtitle F- Secure Water, §§ 9502, 9504, and 9509, the USBR is authorized to enter into a

cooperative agreement to continue the Great Plains CESU to assist in providing research, technical assistance, and education.

- F. National Park Service. The National Park Service (hereinafter called NPS) manages areas of the National Park System “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations” (54 U.S.C. § 100101 et seq.). In support of this broad mission, the Secretary of the Interior “shall ensure that management of System units is enhanced by the availability and utilization of a broad program of the highest quality science and information” (54 U.S.C. § 100702), and “shall enter into cooperative agreements with colleges and universities, including land grant schools, in partnership with other Federal and State agencies, to establish cooperative study units to conduct multi-disciplinary research and develop integrated information products on the resources of the System, or the larger region of which System units are a part” (54 U.S.C. § 100703). The NPS is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with public or private educational institutions, States, and their political subdivisions, for the purpose of developing adequate, coordinated, cooperative research and training activities concerning the resources of the National Park System (54 U.S.C. § 101702(b)); with State, local and tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and private nonprofit organizations for the public purpose of carrying out National Park Service programs (54 U.S.C. § 101702(a)); with State, local, or tribal governments, other Federal agencies, other public entities, educational institutions, private nonprofit organizations, or participating private landowners or individuals for the purpose of protecting natural resources of units of the National Park System through collaborative efforts on land inside and outside of National Park System units (54 U.S.C. § 101702(d)) or to investigate, protect, preserve, maintain, or operate any historic or archeologic building, site, or object of national significance (54 U.S.C. §§ 320101-320103); and with any State or local government, public or private agency, organization, institution, corporation, individual, or other entity for the purpose of sharing costs or services in carrying out authorized functions and responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to any unit or program of the National Park System, any affiliated area, or any designated National Scenic or Historic Trail (54 U.S.C. § 101701). NPS is also authorized to provide conservation, recreation, and disaster assistance to partners to help them achieve goals of mutual interest (54 U.S.C. § 200103, 16 U.S.C. § 1723(c)), and support projects to be carried out on Federal, State, local, or private lands as part of disaster prevention or relief efforts in response to an emergency or major disaster declared by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 5121 et seq.). In accordance with the aforementioned authorities, the NPS is authorized to enter into this Agreement to continue the Great Plains CESU to assist in providing research, technical assistance, and education.
- G. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter called USFWS), working with others, is responsible for conserving, protecting, and

enhancing fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people through federal programs related to migratory birds, endangered species, interjurisdictional fish and marine mammals, inland sport fisheries, and the National Wildlife Refuge System. In accordance with 16 U.S.C. § 661, 16 U.S.C. § 742(f), and 16 U.S.C. § 753(a), the USFWS is authorized to cooperate with other agencies to assist in providing research, technical assistance, and education; and is thereby authorized to enter into this cooperative agreement to continue the Great Plains CESU.

- H. U.S. Geological Survey. The U.S. Geological Survey (hereinafter called USGS) serves the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth, minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters, manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources, and enhance and protect our quality of life. USGS has authority to enter into this Agreement pursuant to Pub. L. 99-591, that bestows permanent authority on the USGS to “prosecute projects in cooperation with other agencies, Federal, state, and private” (43 U.S.C. § 36(c)), the USGS Organic Act of March 3, 1879, as amended (43 U.S.C. § 31 et seq.), 16 U.S.C. § 1(a)(2)(j), 16 U.S.C. § 1(g), 16 U.S.C. § 5933, and 16 U.S.C. § 753(a) to continue the Great Plains CESU to assist in providing research, technical assistance, and education.
- I. U.S. Forest Service. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (hereinafter called USFS) Mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of the people (16 U.S.C. §§ 1641-1646) and to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands. The USFS is authorized to enter into agreements to cooperate with others in developing, planning, and implementing mutually beneficial projects that enhance Forest Service activities to meet the needs of present and future generations. In accordance with 7 U.S.C. § 3318(b), the USFS is authorized to enter into Joint Venture partnership agreements to assist in providing agricultural research and teaching activities (see Award article V.C.1). In accordance with the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-154), the USFS is authorized to enter into Challenge Cost-Share Agreements to cooperate with others in developing, planning, and implementing mutually beneficial projects that enhance Forest Service activities, where the cooperators provide matching funds or in-kind contributions. In accordance with Wyden Amendment (Pub. L. 105-277, Section 323 as amended by Pub. L. 109-54, Section 434), the USFS is authorized to enter into Cooperative Agreements or Participating Agreements for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural or cultural resources on public or private land; the reduction of risk for natural disaster where public safety is threatened; or a combination of both. Wyden Amendment agreements must provide a benefit to the natural or cultural resources on National Forest System lands within the watershed. In accordance with the aforementioned authorities, the USFS is authorized to enter into this Agreement to continue the Great Plains CESU to promote, conduct, and provide research, studies,

assessments, monitoring, technical assistance, and education. National Forest System funds are not authorized for research activities.

- J. Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (hereinafter called NRCS) improves the health of our Nation's natural resources while sustaining and enhancing the productivity of American agriculture. We achieve this by providing voluntary assistance through strong partnerships with private landowners, managers, and communities to protect, restore, and enhance the lands and waters upon which people and the environment depend. As part of this assistance, NRCS scientists and technical specialists identify, acquire, develop, and coordinate technologies and transfer them to field staff for recommending to America's farmers, ranchers, private landowners, and the public. Under 16 U.S.C. 590a et. seq. and 42 U.S.C. 3271-3274, NRCS is authorized to enter into this cooperative agreement to continue the Great Plains CESU to assist in providing research, studies, technical assistance, and educational services consistent with the mission of the NRCS and the CESU Network.
- K. Farm Service Agency. The USDA Farm Production and Conservation Business Center (hereinafter called FPAC) provides analytical support to the Farm Service Agency (hereinafter called FSA), whose mission is to equitably serve all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA administers the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The CRP is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. The CRP provides annual rental payments, technical assistance, and cost-share assistance to landowners who establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. FPAC oversees the Monitoring, Assessment, and Evaluation Project (MAE), which employs sound science to quantify CRP impacts on ecosystem services. FPAC, under 7 U.S.C. 2204b(b)(4), and CCC, under 15 U.S.C. § 714b(g), is authorized to enter into this cooperative agreement continuing the Great Plains CESU to assist in providing research, technical assistance and education.
- L. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (hereinafter called NOAA) is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs. Authorities to participate in and conduct activities through the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network include 33 U.S.C. 883e, which gives NOAA the authority to enter into cooperative agreements with States, Federal Agencies, public or private organizations or individuals for authorized surveys or investigations and other specified purposes. In addition, under 16 U.S.C. 661, NOAA has the authority to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies and organizations in the development, protection, rearing, and stocking of all species of wildlife, resources thereof, and their habitat, in controlling losses of the same from disease or other causes, in minimizing damages from overabundant species, among other things. NOAA also has the authority under 15 U.S.C. 2901 et

seq., to enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements for climate-related activities. Finally, the Coastal Zone Management Act at 16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq., grants NOAA the authority to coordinate with Federal Agencies and provide financial and technical assistance to states and territories to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore or enhance, the resources of the Nation's coastal zone for this and succeeding generations, among other things. In accordance with the authorities listed above, NOAA is authorized to enter into this cooperative agreement continuing the Great Plains CESU to assist in providing research, technical assistance, and educational services.

- M. Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment. The U.S. Department of Defense—Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment (hereinafter called DOD) manages nearly 27 million acres of land, and the natural and cultural resources found there, and for this Agreement includes the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Services, the Defense Logistics Agency, the National Guard Bureaus, and the Military Reserve Components. DOD's primary mission is national defense. DOD's conservation programs support this mission by ensuring realistic training areas, and managing its resources in ways that maximize available land, air, and water for testing, training and operational opportunities. DOD environmental stewardship activities are authorized under the Sikes Act, as amended. In accordance with one or more of the following: 16 U.S.C. § 670c-1, 10 U.S.C. § 4001, 10 U.S.C. § 2694, 10 U.S.C. § 2684, and Pub. L. 103-139 (FY 94 NDAA, page 107 Stat. 1422), DOD is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with States, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and other partners to support research, technical assistance, and educational services consistent with the mission of the DOD and the CESU Network. In accordance with the aforementioned authorities, the DOD is authorized to enter into this Agreement to continue the Great Plains CESU.
- N. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Civil Works. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program (hereinafter called USACE) provides assistance in the development and management of the nation's water resources. The main missions of USACE, i.e., the Corps, are 1) to facilitate commercial navigation, 2) to protect citizens and their property from flood and storm damages, and 3) to protect and restore environmental resources. The Corps carries out most of its work in partnership with Tribal, state, and local governments and other nonfederal entities. The Corps must rely upon using the best available science in the evaluation of water resources needs and in the development of recommendations for water resources management. The university and scientific institutions that comprise the CESU Network have knowledge and expertise of the latest scientific advances that will assist the Corps in reaching sound, scientifically based decisions. In addition, by participating in the CESU, scientists within the Corps will have access to university resources within the CESU Network and be able to interact with colleagues in various scientific disciplines, and thereby further their own professional development. Corps field offices may avail themselves of support from the regional



CESUs by collaborating with the Engineer Research and Development Center, who has the authority to enter into cooperative agreements with such CESUs, thus enabling these Corps offices to receive scientific support from regional CESU members. USACE is authorized to cooperate with other agencies in accordance with Title 33 U.S.C. § 2323(a) and 10 U.S.C. § 3036(d). Additionally, USACE may enter into transactions under the authority of 10 U.S.C. § 4021 in carrying out basic, applied, and advanced research projects. In accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 4001, USACE is authorized to enter into this cooperative agreement continuing the Great Plains CESU.

- O. **Western Area Power Administration.** Congress established the Western Area Power Administration (hereinafter called WAPA) in 1977. WAPA is a Power Marketing Administration within the United States Department of Energy. WAPA's mission is to safely provide reliable, cost-based hydropower and transmission to its customers and the communities it serves, which includes approximately 700 customers who in turn provide power to about 40 million Americans across 15 western states. Specifically, WAPA markets over 10,000 megawatts of power from 57 dams, operates and maintains over 17,000 miles of transmission lines with associated infrastructure (e.g., 291 transformers, 324 substations, 489 communication sites, and 661 buildings), access roads, and rights-of-way, and facilitates renewable projects with a nexus within its geographic footprint via independent borrowing authority. WAPA undertakes design, engineering, construction, operation, maintenance, education, interpretation, inventory, monitoring, ecological restoration, and biological and cultural resource stewardship activities in the context of fulfilling its mission to market and deliver clean, renewable, reliable, cost-based Federal hydroelectric power and related services. WAPA's statutory authority to enter into this cooperative agreement is provided in Public Law 95-91, U.S. Department of Energy Organization Act (i.e., Section 646; 42 U.S.C. § 7256). WAPA is thereby authorized to enter into this Agreement to continue the Great Plains CESU to assist in providing research, technical assistance, and education.
- P. **Host University.** The role of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (hereinafter called Host University) as the primary intellectual and cultural resource for the State is fulfilled through the missions of the University: teaching, research, and service. UNL pursues its missions through its nine colleges on its West Campus, the university-wide Graduate College, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Agricultural Research Division, Cooperative Extension, International studies, and its museums, press, and telecommunication services. Teaching, research, and service take on a distinctive character at UNL because of its land-grant university status, which ensures a commitment to the people of the State, the region, and the nation. UNL is dedicated to the pursuit of an active research agenda which benefits the agricultural environment and natural resources, the highest quality of post-secondary education, and exceptional service through its partnership with federal, state, and local agencies.

Q. Partner Institutions. The partner institutions to the Host University include Black Hills State University, Colorado State University, Colorado State University–Pueblo, Emporia State University, Kansas State University, Langston University, New Mexico Highlands University, North Dakota State University, Oklahoma State University, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, South Dakota State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Texas Tech University, University of Minnesota, University of North Dakota, University of Oklahoma, University of South Dakota, University of Wisconsin–Madison, University of Wyoming, Winona State University, Biodiversity Research Institute, Smithsonian Institution, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (hereinafter called Partner Institutions).

## **ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF WORK**

A. Each Federal Agency agrees to:

1. Provide administrative assistance, as appropriate, necessary to execute this Agreement and subsequent modifications;
2. Conduct, with the Host University and Partner Institutions, a program of research, technical assistance and education related to the Great Plains CESU objectives to the extent allowed by each Federal Agencies' authorizing legislation;
3. Provide opportunities for research on federal lands or using federal facilities in cooperation with Federal Agencies, as appropriate, and according to all applicable laws, regulations and Federal Agencies' policies;
4. Provide funds for basic support and salary for participating Host University and Partner Institution faculty, as appropriate and as available;
5. Provide project funds and/or collaboration to support specific research, technical assistance and education projects, as appropriate and as available;
6. Make available managers to serve on the Great Plains CESU Executive Committee and Federal Managers Committee;
7. Comply with the Host University's and Partner Institutions' rules, regulations, and policies regarding professional conduct, health, safety, use of services and facilities, use of animals, recombinant DNA, infectious agents or radioactive substances, as well as other policies generally applied to Host University and Partner Institution personnel;
8. Ensure its employees follow the Code of Ethics for Government Service (Pub. L. 96-303) and Standards of Ethical Conduct (5 CFR Part 2635);

9. Allow Federal Agency employees to participate in the activities of the Host University and Partner Institutions, including serving on graduate committees and teaching courses, as appropriate, and as specifically determined in modifications to the Agreement; and
10. Be individually responsible for their agency's role in administering the Agreement, transferring funds, and supervision of agency employees, as appropriate.

B. The Host University agrees to:

1. Continue, in consultation with the Federal Agencies and Partner Institutions, the Great Plains CESU;
2. Conduct, with participating Federal Agencies and Partner Institutions, a program of research, technical assistance and education related to the Great Plains CESU objectives;
3. Allow and encourage faculty to engage in participating Federal Agencies' research, technical assistance and education activities related to the Great Plains CESU objectives, as appropriate;
4. Provide basic administrative and clerical support as appropriate;
5. Provide access for Great Plains CESU Federal Agency staff to campus facilities, including library, laboratories, computer facilities on the same basis or costs as other faculty members of the Host University to the maximum extent allowable under state laws and regulations;
6. Provide suitable office space, furniture and laboratory space, utilities, computer network access and basic telephone service for Federal Agencies' personnel to be located at the Host University, as appropriate;
7. Offer educational and training opportunities to participating Federal Agency employees, in accordance with the respective policies of the Federal Agencies and the Host University;
8. Encourage its students to participate in the activities of the Great Plains CESU;
9. Coordinate activities, as appropriate, with the Partner Institutions and develop administrative policies for such coordination; and
10. Maintain a Great Plains CESU Executive Committee and convene a meeting of this committee, at least annually, to provide advice and guidance, review of the annual work and multi-year strategic plans, and assist in evaluating the Great Plains CESU.

C. Each Partner Institution agrees to:

1. Conduct, with participating Federal Agencies and the Host University, a program of research, technical assistance, and education related to the Great Plains CESU objectives and allow and encourage faculty to participate in the program as appropriate;
2. Offer educational and training opportunities to participating Federal Agency employees, as appropriate; and
3. Encourage students and employees to participate in the activities of the Great Plains CESU.
4. Ensure that reports and other formal materials (including publications and presentations) resulting from financial assistance awards issued under this Agreement acknowledge the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit and the funding agency or organization, and include the corresponding award number.
5. Provide project funds and/or in-kind collaboration to support specific research, technical assistance, and education projects, as appropriate and as available.

D. All Federal Agencies, the Host University and Partner Institutions agree to:

1. Maintain the Great Plains CESU closely following the mission and goals of the CESU Network as described in the *CESU Network Strategic Plan*, adapting key elements to local and regional needs, as appropriate;
2. Maintain a Great Plains CESU role and mission statement;
3. Operate under a multi-year strategic plan;
4. Issue individual financial assistance awards, in accordance with each agency's or partner institution's procedures, to this Agreement that individually include a specific "scope of work" statement and a brief explanation of the following:
  - a. the proposed work;
  - b. the project contribution to the objectives of the CESU;
  - c. the methodology of the project;
  - d. the substantial involvement of each party;
  - e. the project budget and schedule;
  - f. the specific project outputs or products.

Note: For BLM, FWS, USFS, and other agencies as appropriate, this Agreement is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor to transfer anything of value involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the

parties to this Agreement 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 task agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This Agreement does not provide such authority. Specifically, this Agreement does not establish authority for noncompetitive award to the cooperator of any contract or other agreement.

5. Provide data on CESU projects to the CESU Network National Office and/or Host University in accordance with CESU Council guidelines as posted on the CESU Network National Office website ([www.cesu.org](http://www.cesu.org));
6. Coordinate in obtaining all necessary state, federal, and tribal permits and/or permissions from private landowners in order to conduct projects occurring under this Agreement;
7. Engage in collaborative activities consistent with federal scientific and scholarly integrity directives and policies (e.g., Presidential and OSTP Scientific Integrity Memoranda; DOD Instruction 3200.20; DOI 305 DM 3; USDA DR 1074-001; NOAA AO 202-735D), as appropriate;
8. Follow 2 CFR 200, OMB Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), as appropriate; and the related federal agency regulations, as applicable, specifically 22 CFR 518 (Department of Defense), 32 CFR Parts 21, 22, 32, 33, and 34 (Department of Defense), 10 U.S.C. 4001, 10 U.S.C. 3036(d), 33 U.S.C. 2323a, DOD 3210.6-R, and Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (Department of Defense); and these documents are incorporated into this Agreement by reference.

### **ARTICLE III. TERM OF AGREEMENT**

- A. The effective date of this Agreement shall be 15 August 2025. This Agreement shall be effective for all signatory parties for a period of five (5) years from the effective date. Parties will have until 15 August 2025 to sign this Agreement and thereby express their intent to continue participation in the Great Plains CESU. Parties that do not sign this Agreement by 15 August 2025 will remain in “inactive” status and ineligible to process new projects under this Agreement until their official signature page has been received.
- B. By mutual consent and at the end of this Agreement, a new Agreement, for a separate and distinct five (5) year period, can be entered into to continue the activities of the Great Plains CESU.
- C. Amendments to this Agreement shall be made according to the following provisions:

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, Amendments are changes (edits, deletions, or additions) to the Agreement that do not involve the transfer of funds. Amendments may be proposed by any of the Federal Agencies, the Host University, or by the Host University on behalf of any of the Partner Institutions. Amendments shall be executed in writing by the CESU Network National Office. Amendments shall be signed by all signatories to this Agreement, except in cases described in Sections C.2. and C.3. (below). Unless otherwise specified, all terms and conditions of the CESU Agreement apply to the Amendment, and once fully executed the Amendment is made part of the Agreement.
  2. For Amendments for which the sole purpose is to add a Partner Institution and/or Federal Agency to this Agreement, the Partner Institution and/or Federal Agency being added to the Agreement and the Host University shall sign the Amendment. New Partner Institutions and/or Federal Agencies shall be approved and added in accordance with the CESU Council guidance, as posted on the CESU Network website ([www.cesu.org](http://www.cesu.org)). All partners shall receive prior notification of amendments.
  3. For amendments for which the sole purpose is to incorporate administrative changes that do not affect the intent, execution, and implementation of the terms of this Agreement, such as partner name changes or modifications as required by federal (e.g., OMB) financial assistance regulations, the Partner Institution and/or Federal Agency requesting the administrative change and the Host University shall sign the amendment. Such amendments shall be made at the discretion of the CESU Council and all partners shall receive prior notification of amendments.
- D. For the purposes of this Agreement, modifications or task agreements are specific two-party Agreements between one of the Federal Agencies and the Host University and/or a Partner Institution in support of the goals of this broad Agreement. Modifications or task agreements will be issued by a Federal Agency, will transfer funds to support the statement of work, and will conform to each Federal Agency's respective procedures.
- E. A separate Interagency Agreement is required to facilitate transfer of funds from one federal agency to another federal agency.
- F. The expiration of this Agreement will not affect the validity or duration of projects which have been initiated under this Agreement prior to such expiration.

#### **ARTICLE IV. KEY OFFICIALS**

A. The representatives for the Federal Agencies are as follows:

1. Bureau of Indian Affairs  
*Technical Representative(s)*

*Administrative Representative(s)*

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Zachary Jorgenson  
Regional Coordinator, Tribal Community Resilience  
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John Mosley  
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11. Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment

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12. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers–Civil Works

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C. The representatives for the Partner Institutions are as follows:

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## ARTICLE V. AWARD

- A. Upon signature of all parties to this Agreement, the CESU Network National Office shall administer support funding to the Great Plains CESU Host University in furtherance of the Agreement, to be authorized and executed by a modification to the Agreement. The amount of funding shall be determined in accordance with CESU Council annual Host University support guidelines.

- B. Payments will be made by the Federal Agencies for work in accordance with 2 CFR 200, as appropriate, and the related federal agency regulations, as applicable, specifically, 22 CFR Part 518 (Department of Defense), 10 U.S.C. § 4001, 33 U.S.C. § 2323(a), 10 U.S.C. § 3036(d), DOD 3210.6-R, and Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Civil Works).
- C. A maximum 17.5% indirect cost rate will be paid on work covered by the Agreement and all its modifications or task agreements, with exceptions listed in Article V. paragraphs C.1., C.2., and C.3. (below). Refer to agency-specific policy and guidance for additional information regarding approval and implementation under 2 CFR 200, as appropriate (e.g., DOI-AAAP-0007 [Department of the Interior]; FAM-2015-02 [Department of Commerce]).
1. For USFS Research & Development (e.g. Research Stations), the USFS cannot reimburse "state cooperative institutions" for indirect costs, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. § 3103(18) and 7 U.S.C. § 3319. Indirect costs may be used to satisfy USFS cost sharing requirements of at least a minimum of 20% of total project costs. It is recommended that cost-sharing is greater than 20% in accordance with the Forest Service Handbook FSH1509.11, Chapter 70.  
  
For USFS, Northern, Rocky Mountain, and Southern Regions – National Forest System (Partnership Agreements), indirect cost rate of 17.5% identified in the CESU agreement applies and can be reimbursed to the partner. Indirect costs may be used to satisfy a portion of USFS cost-share matching requirements as long as there are other direct cost and/or in-kind contributions, such as volunteer labor. Indirect costs cannot make up a majority of the USFS cost-share matching requirements. Partner cost-share matching contributions are negotiated for each agreement on its own merits, to attempt to negotiate a dollar-for-dollar cost-share match. Partner cost-share matching contributions cannot be less than 20% of total project costs.
  2. For NRCS, the indirect cost rate is limited to 10% of total direct costs for colleges, universities, and other nonprofit organizations pursuant to Section 704 of Pub. L. 116-260.
  3. No indirect cost will be charged by the Host University for funds transferred directly from a participating Federal Agency to a Partner Institution via a modification to the Agreement.
- D. Award of additional funds or in-kind resources will be made through modifications to the Agreement subject to the rules, regulations, and policies of the individual Federal Agency proposing the modification.
- E. Nothing herein shall be construed as obligating the Federal Agencies to expend, or as involving the Federal Agencies in any contract or other obligation for the future



payment of money, in excess of appropriations authorized by law and administratively allocated for specific work.

## **ARTICLE VI. PRIOR APPROVAL**

Prior approvals are in accordance with 2 CFR 200, as appropriate, and the related federal agency regulations, as applicable, specifically 22 CFR Part 518 (Department of Defense), 10 U.S.C. § 4001, 33 U.S.C. § 2323(a), 10 U.S.C. § 3036(d), DOD 3210.6-R, and Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers–Civil Works).

## **ARTICLE VII. REPORTS AND/OR DELIVERABLES**

- A. Reports in accordance with 2 CFR 200, as appropriate, and the related federal agency regulations, as applicable, specifically 22 CFR Part 518 (Department of Defense), 10 U.S.C. § 4001, 33 U.S.C. § 2323(a), 10 U.S.C. § 3036(d), DOD 3210.6-R, and Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers–Civil Works) establish uniform reporting procedures for financial and technical reporting.
- B. As appropriate, the Host University will convene periodic meetings of the Great Plains CESU Federal Agencies and Partner Institutions for the purpose of collaboration and coordination of CESU activities. Copies of the meeting minutes will be available to all parties to the Agreement.
- C. A current role and mission statement for the Great Plains CESU will be agreed to and maintained by all Great Plains CESU cooperators. Copies of the role and mission statement will be available to all parties to the Agreement.
- D. Annual work plans will be developed to guide the specific activities of the Great Plains CESU and will:
  - 1. Describe the Great Plains CESU's ongoing and proposed research, technical assistance, and education activities;
  - 2. Describe anticipated projects and products; and
  - 3. Identify faculty, staff, and students involved in the Great Plains CESU during the year.

Copies of the annual work plan will be available to all parties to the Agreement.

- E. A current multi-year strategic plan will be maintained to generally guide the Great Plains CESU. Copies of the strategic plan will be available to all parties to the Agreement.

## **ARTICLE VIII. PROPERTY UTILIZATION AND DISPOSITION**

Property utilization and disposition is in accordance with 2 CFR 200, as appropriate, and the related federal agency regulations, as applicable, specifically 22 CFR Part 518 (Department of Defense), 10 U.S.C. § 4001, 33 U.S.C. § 2323(a), 10 U.S.C. § 3036(d), and DOD 3210.6-R, Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Civil Works).

## **ARTICLE IX. TERMINATION**

Termination of this Agreement is in accordance with 2 CFR 200, as appropriate, and the related federal agency regulations, as applicable, specifically 22 CFR Part 518 (Department of Defense), 10 U.S.C. § 4001, 33 U.S.C. § 2323(a), 10 U.S.C. § 3036(d), DOD 3210.6-R, and Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Civil Works). Any party to this Agreement may terminate its participation by delivery of ninety (90) days advance written notice to each of the Federal Agencies and the Host University.

## **ARTICLE X: REQUIRED/SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

### **A. REQUIRED PROVISIONS:**

1. **NON-DISCRIMINATION:** All activities pursuant to this Agreement and the provisions of Executive Order 11246; shall be in compliance with applicable requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.); Title V, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 394; 29 U.S.C. § 794); the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (89 Stat. 728; 42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.); and with all other applicable Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination on grounds of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, or sex in providing of facilities and services to the public.
2. **CONSISTENCY WITH PUBLIC LAWS:** Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to be inconsistent with or contrary to the purpose of or intent of any Act of Congress establishing, affecting, or relating to the Agreement.
3. **APPROPRIATIONS (Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. § 1341):** Nothing herein contained in this Agreement shall be construed as binding the Federal Agencies to expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of appropriations made by

Congress, for the purposes of this Agreement for that fiscal year, or other obligation for the further expenditure of money in excess of such appropriations.

4. OFFICIALS NOT TO BENEFIT: No Member of, Delegate to, or Resident Commissioner in, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this Agreement or to any benefit to arise therefrom.
5. LOBBYING PROHIBITION: The parties will abide by the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 1913 (Lobbying with Appropriated Moneys), which states:

No part of the money appropriated by any enactment of Congress shall, in the absence of express authorization by Congress, be used directly or indirectly to pay for any personal service, advertisement, telegram, telephone, letter, printed or written matter, or other device, intended or designed to influence in any manner a Member of Congress, a jurisdiction, or an official of any government, to favor, adopt, or oppose, by vote or otherwise, any legislation, law, ratification, policy or appropriation, whether before or after the introduction of any bill, measure, or resolution proposing such legislation, law, ratification, policy, or appropriation; but this shall not prevent officers or employees of the United States or of its departments or agencies from communicating to any such Member or official, at his request, or to Congress or such official, through the proper official channels, requests for any legislation, law, ratification, policy, or appropriations which they deem necessary for the efficient conduct of the public business, or from making any communication whose prohibition by this section might, in the opinion of the Attorney General, violate the Constitution or interfere with the conduct of foreign policy, counter-intelligence, intelligence, or national security activities.

6. LIABILITY PROVISION:

a) Governmental Parties

- (1) The Federal Agencies (excluding the U.S. Forest Service), Host University, and Partner Institutions which are governmental parties, each accept responsibility for any property damage, injury, or death caused by the acts or omissions of their respective employees, acting within the scope of their employment, to the fullest extent permitted by their respective applicable laws, including laws concerning self-insurance.
- (2) To the extent work by governmental parties is to be performed through sub-contract by non-governmental entities or persons, the governmental party sub-contracting work will require that subcontracted entity or person to meet provisions (1), (2), and (3) for non-governmental parties stated below.

- (3) This provision is applicable to the U.S. Forest Service acting by and through the Forest Service, USDA does hereby recognize potential liability for payment of claims for injury or loss of property of personal injury or death caused by the Government, or any officer, agent or employee thereof, while acting within the scope of his/her office of employment under circumstances when the United States, if a private person, would be liable to the claimant in accordance with the law of the place where the act or omission occurred (28 U.S.C. §§1346 (b), 2672 et seq.).
- b) Non-governmental Parties: Work provided by non-governmental entities or persons, will require that entity or person to:
  - (1) Have public and employee liability insurance from a responsible company or companies with a minimum limitation of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per person for any one claim, and an aggregate limitation of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for any number of claims arising from any one incident. In subsequent modifications, the parties may negotiate different levels of liability coverage, as appropriate. The policies shall name the United States as an additional insured, shall specify that the insured shall have no right of subrogation against the United States for payments of any premiums or deductibles due thereunder, and shall specify that the insurance shall be assumed by, be for the account of, and be at the insured's sole risk; and
  - (2) Pay the United States the full value for all damages to the lands or other property of the United States caused by such person or organization, its representatives, or employees; and
  - (3) Indemnify, save and hold harmless, and defend the United States against all fines, claims, damages, losses, judgments, and expenses arising out of, or from, any omission or activity of such person or organization, its representatives, or employees.
  - (4) Non-governmental Partner Institutions shall provide the Federal Agencies confirmation of such insurance coverage, prior to beginning specific work authorized herein and specified in subsequent modifications.
7. TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: This Agreement and its subsequent modifications and task agreements are subject to requirements of section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. § 7104); now located at 2 CFR Part 175: Trafficking in Persons.
  - a) Provisions applicable to a recipient that is a private entity.
    - (1) You as the recipient, your employees, subrecipients under this award, and subrecipients' employees may not—

- i Engage in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect;
  - ii Procure a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect; or
  - iii Use forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.
- (2) We as the Federal awarding agency may unilaterally terminate this award, without penalty, if you or a subrecipient that is a private entity—
  - i Is determined to have violated a prohibition in paragraph (a) (1) of this award term; or
  - ii Has an employee who is determined by the agency official authorized to terminate the award to have violated a prohibition in paragraph (a) (1) of this award term through conduct that is either—
    - (a) Associated with performance under this award; or
    - (b) Imputed to you or the subrecipient using the standards and due process for imputing the conduct of an individual to an organization that are provided in 2 CFR part 180, “OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Government wide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement),” as implemented by each respective federal agency partner at: 2 CFR Part 1125 (Department of Defense), 2 CFR Part 1326 (Department of Commerce), 2 CFR 1400 (Department of the Interior), and 7 CFR Part 3017 (Department of Agriculture).
- b) Provision applicable to a recipient other than a private entity. We as the Federal awarding agency may unilaterally terminate this award, without penalty, if a subrecipient that is a private entity—
  - (1) Is determined to have violated an applicable prohibition in paragraph (a) (1) of this award term; or
  - (2) Has an employee who is determined by the agency official authorized to terminate the award to have violated an applicable prohibition in paragraph (a) (1) of this award term through conduct that is either—
    - i Associated with performance under this award; or

- ii Imputed to the subrecipient using the standards and due process for imputing the conduct of an individual to an organization that are provided in 2 CFR part 180, “OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Government wide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement),” as implemented by our agency at 2 CFR Part 1125 (Department of Defense), 2 CFR Part 1326 (Department of Commerce), 2 CFR 1400 (Department of the Interior), and 7 CFR Part 3017 (Department of Agriculture).
- c) Provisions applicable to any recipient.
  - (1) You must inform us immediately of any information you receive from any source alleging a violation of a prohibition in paragraph (a) (1) of this award term.
  - (2) Our right to terminate unilaterally that is described in paragraph (a) (2) or (b) of this section:
    - i Implements section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), as amended (22 U.S.C. § 7104(g)), and
    - ii Is in addition to all other remedies for noncompliance that are available to us under this award.
  - (3) You must include the requirements of paragraph (a) (1) of this award term in any subaward you make to a private entity.
- d) *Definitions*. For purposes of this award term:
  - (1) “*Employee*” means either:
    - i An individual employed by you or a subrecipient who is engaged in the performance of the project or program under this award; or
    - ii Another person engaged in the performance of the project or program under this award and not compensated by you including, but not limited to, a volunteer or individual whose services are contributed by a third party as an in-kind contribution toward cost sharing or matching requirements.
  - (2) “*Forced labor*” means labor obtained by any of the following methods: the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

(3) “*Private entity*” means any entity other than a State, local government, Indian tribe, or foreign public entity, as those terms are defined in 2 CFR 175.25. Includes:

- i A nonprofit organization, including any nonprofit institution of higher education, hospital, or tribal organization other than one included in the definition of Indian tribe at 2 CFR 175.25(b).
- ii A for-profit organization.

(4) “*Severe forms of trafficking in persons*,” “*commercial sex act*,” and “*coercion*” have the meanings given at section 103 of the TVPA, as amended (22 U.S.C. § 7102).

8. TEXT MESSAGING WHILE DRIVING. In accordance with Executive Order (EO) 13513, “Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving,” the following actions by Federal employees are banned: a) any and all text messaging by while driving a Government owned vehicle (GOV) or driving a privately owned vehicle (POV) while on official Government business; or b) using any electronic equipment supplied by the Government when driving any vehicle at any time. All cooperators, their employees, volunteers, and contractors are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging when driving company owned, leased or rented vehicles, POVs or GOVs when driving while on official Government business or when performing any work for or on behalf of the Government.

9. MINIMUM WAGES UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 13658

a) *Definitions*. As used in this clause—

“*United States*” means the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

“*Worker*”—

(1) Means any person engaged in performing work on, or in connection with, an agreement covered by Executive Order 13658, and

- i Whose wages under such agreements are governed by the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. chapter 8), the Service Contract Labor Standards statute (41 U.S.C. chapter 67), or the Wage Rate Requirements (Construction) statute (40 U.S.C. chapter 31, subchapter IV),
- ii Other than individuals employed in a bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity, as those terms are defined in 29 C.F.R. § 541,

iii Regardless of the contractual relationship alleged to exist between the individual and the employer.

(2) Includes workers performing on, or in connection with, the agreement whose wages are calculated pursuant to special certificates issued under 29 U.S.C. § 214(c).

(3) Also includes any person working on, or in connection with, the agreement and individually registered in a bona fide apprenticeship or training program registered with the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship, or with a State Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the Office of Apprenticeship.

b) *Executive Order Minimum Wage Rate.*

(1) The Recipient shall pay to workers, while performing in the United States, and performing on, or in connection with, this agreement, a minimum hourly wage rate of \$10.10 per hour beginning January 1, 2015.

(2) The Recipient shall adjust the minimum wage paid, if necessary, beginning January 1, 2016 and annually thereafter, to meet the Secretary of Labor's annual E.O. minimum wage. The Administrator of the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (the Administrator) will publish annual determinations in the Federal Register no later than 90 days before the effective date of the new E.O. minimum wage rate. The Administrator will also publish the applicable E.O. minimum wage on [www.wdol.gov](http://www.wdol.gov) (or any successor Web site) and on all wage determinations issued under the Service Contract Labor Standards statute or the Wage Rate Requirements (Construction) statute. The applicable published E.O. minimum wage is incorporated by reference into this agreement.

(3) (i) The Recipient may request a price adjustment only after the effective date of the new annual E.O. minimum wage determination. Prices will be adjusted only if labor costs increase as a result of an increase in the annual E.O. minimum wage, and for associated labor costs and relevant subaward costs. Associated labor costs shall include increases or decreases that result from changes in social security and unemployment taxes and workers' compensation insurance, but will not otherwise include any amount for general and administrative costs, overhead, or profit.

(ii) Subrecipients may be entitled to adjustments due to the new minimum wage, pursuant to paragraph (b)(2). Recipients shall consider any Subrecipient requests for such price adjustment.



- (iii) The Awarding Officer will not adjust the agreement price under this clause for any costs other than those identified in paragraph (b)(3)(i) of this clause, and will not provide duplicate price adjustments with any price adjustment under clauses implementing the Service Contract Labor Standards statute or the Wage Rate Requirements (Construction) statute.
- (4) The Recipient warrants that the prices in this agreement do not include allowance for any contingency to cover increased costs for which adjustment is provided under this clause.
- (5) The Recipient shall pay, unconditionally to each worker, all wages due free and clear without subsequent rebate or kickback. The Recipient may make deductions that reduce a worker's wages below the E.O. minimum wage rate only if done in accordance with 29 C.F.R. § 10.23, Deductions.
- (6) The Recipient shall not discharge any part of its minimum wage obligation under this clause by furnishing fringe benefits or, with respect to workers whose wages are governed by the Service Contract Labor Standards statute, the cash equivalent thereof.
- (7) Nothing in this clause shall excuse the Recipient from compliance with any applicable Federal or State prevailing wage law or any applicable law or municipal ordinance establishing a minimum wage higher than the E.O. minimum wage. However, wage increases under such other laws or municipal ordinances are not subject to price adjustment under this subpart.
- (8) The Recipient shall pay the E.O. minimum wage rate whenever it is higher than any applicable collective bargaining agreement(s) wage rate.
- (9) The Recipient shall follow the policies and procedures in 29 C.F.R. § 10.24(b) and 10.28 for treatment of workers engaged in an occupation in which they customarily and regularly receive more than \$30 a month in tips.
- c) (1) This clause applies to workers as defined in paragraph (a). As provided in that definition—
- i Workers are covered regardless of the contractual relationship alleged to exist between the Recipient or Subrecipient and the worker;
  - ii Workers with disabilities whose wages are calculated pursuant to special certificates issued under 29 U.S.C. § 214(c) are covered; and

- iii Workers who are registered in a bona fide apprenticeship program or training program registered with the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship, or with a State Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the Office of Apprenticeship, are covered.

(2) This clause does not apply to—

- i Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) – covered individuals performing in connection with contracts covered by the E.O., i.e. those individuals who perform duties necessary to the performance of the agreement, but who are not directly engaged in performing the specific work called for by the agreement, and who spend less than 20 percent of their hours worked in a particular workweek performing in connection with such agreements;
- ii Individuals exempted from the minimum wage requirements of the FLSA under 29 U.S.C. § 213(a) and 214(a) and (b), unless otherwise covered by the Service Contract Labor Standards statute, or the Wage Rate Requirements (Construction) statute. These individuals include but are not limited to—
  - (a) Learners, apprentices, or messengers whose wages are calculated pursuant to special certificates issued under 29 U.S.C. § 214(a).
  - (b) Students whose wages are calculated pursuant to special certificates issued under 29 U.S.C. § 214(b).
  - (c) Those employed in a bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity (29 U.S.C. § 213(a)(1) and 29 C.F.R. § part 541).
- d) *Notice.* The Recipient shall notify all workers performing work on, or in connection with, this agreement of the applicable E.O. minimum wage rate under this clause. With respect to workers covered by the Service Contract Labor Standards statute or the Wage Rate Requirements (Construction) statute, the Contractor may meet this requirement by posting, in a prominent and accessible place at the worksite, the applicable wage determination under those statutes. With respect to workers whose wages are governed by the FLSA, the Recipient shall post notice, utilizing the poster provided by the Administrator, which can be obtained at [www.dol.gov/whd/govcontracts](http://www.dol.gov/whd/govcontracts), in a prominent and accessible place at the worksite. Recipients that customarily post notices to workers electronically may post the notice electronically provided the electronic posting is displayed prominently on any Web site that is maintained by the Recipient, whether external or internal, and customarily used for notices to workers about terms and conditions of employment.

e) *Payroll Records.*

- (1) The Recipient shall make and maintain records, for three years after completion of the work, containing the following information for each worker:
    - i Name, address, and social security number;
    - ii The worker's occupation(s) or classification(s);
    - iii The rate or rates of wages paid;
    - iv The number of daily and weekly hours worked by each worker;
    - v Any deductions made; and
    - vi Total wages paid.
  - (2) The Recipient shall make records pursuant to paragraph (e) (1) of this clause available for inspection and transcription by authorized representatives of the Administrator. The Recipient shall also make such records available upon request of the Contracting Officer.
  - (3) The Recipient shall make a copy of the agreement available, as applicable, for inspection or transcription by authorized representatives of the Administrator.
  - (4) Failure to comply with this paragraph (e) shall be a violation of 29 C.F.R. § 10.26 and this agreement. Upon direction of the Administrator or upon the Awarding Officer's own action, payment shall be withheld until such time as the noncompliance is corrected.
  - (5) Nothing in this clause limits or otherwise modifies the Recipient's payroll and recordkeeping obligations, if any, under the Service Contract Labor Standards statute, the Wage Rate Requirements (Construction) statute, the Fair Labor Standards Act, or any other applicable law.
- f) *Access.* The Recipient shall permit authorized representatives of the Administrator to conduct investigations, including interviewing workers at the worksite during normal working hours.
- g) *Withholding.* The Awarding Officer, upon his or her own action or upon written request of the Administrator, will withhold funds or cause funds to be withheld, from the Recipient under this or any other Federal agreement with the same Recipient, sufficient to pay workers the full amount of wages required by this clause.
- h) *Disputes.* Department of Labor has set forth in 29 C.F.R. § 10.51, Disputes concerning Recipient compliance, the procedures for resolving disputes concerning a Recipient's compliance with Department of Labor regulations at 29 C.F.R. § 10. Such disputes shall be resolved in accordance with those.

This includes disputes between the Recipient (or any of its Subrecipients) and the contracting agency, the Department of Labor, or the workers or their representatives.

- i) *Antiretaliation*. The Recipient shall not discharge or in any other manner discriminate against any worker because such worker has filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding under or related to compliance with the E.O. or this clause, or has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding.
- j) *Subcontractor compliance*. The Recipient is responsible for Subrecipient compliance with the requirements of this clause and may be held liable for unpaid wages due Subrecipient workers.
- k) *Subawards*. The Recipient shall include the substance of this clause, including this paragraph (k) in all subawards, regardless of dollar value, that are subject to the Service Contract Labor Standards statute or the Wage Rate Requirements (Construction) statute, and are to be performed in whole or in part in the United States.

#### 10. U.S. Forest Service, National Forest System Provisions

- a) **NOTICES**. Any communications affecting the operations covered by this agreement given by the U.S. Forest Service or Cooperators is sufficient only if in writing and delivered in person, mailed, or transmitted electronically by e-mail or fax, as follows:

To the U.S. Forest Service Program Manager, at the address specified in the MOU.

To Cooperator(s), at Cooperator's address shown in the MOU or such other address designated within the MOU.

Notices are effective when delivered in accordance with this provision, or on the effective date of the notice, whichever is later.

- b) **PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES**. This MOU in no way restricts the U.S. Forest Service or Cooperator(s) from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
- c) **ENDORSEMENT**. Any of Cooperator's contributions made under this MOU do not by direct reference or implication convey U.S. Forest Service endorsement of cooperator's products or activities.
- d) **NONBINDING AGREEMENT**. This MOU creates no right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity. The

parties shall manage their respective resources and activities in a separate, coordinated and mutually beneficial manner to meet the purpose(s) of this MOU. Nothing in this MOU authorizes any of the parties to obligate or transfer anything of value.

Specific, prospective projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, property, and/or anything of value to a party requires the execution of separate agreements and are contingent upon numerous factors, including, as applicable, but not limited to: agency availability of appropriated funds and other resources; cooperator availability of funds and other resources; agency and cooperator administrative and legal requirements (including agency authorization by statute); etc. This MOU neither provides, nor meets these criteria. If the parties elect to enter into an obligation agreement that involves the transfer of funds, services, property, and/or anything of value to a party, then the applicable criteria must be met. Additionally, under a prospective agreement, each party operates under its own laws, regulations, and/or policies, and any Forest Service obligation is subject to the availability of appropriated funds and other resources. The negotiation, execution, and administration of these prospective agreements must comply with all applicable law.

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

- e) **USE OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE INSIGNIA.** In order for cooperator(s) to use the U.S. Forest Service insignia on any published media, such as a Web page, printed publication, or audiovisual production, permission must be granted from the U.S. Forest Service's Office of Communications. A written request must be submitted and approval granted in writing by the Office of Communications (Washington Office) prior to use of the insignia.
- f) **MEMBERS OF U.S. CONGRESS.** Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. § 22, no U.S. member of, or U.S. delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or benefits that may arise therefrom, either directly or indirectly.
- g) **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA).** Public access to this MOU or agreement records must not be limited, except when such records must be kept confidential and would have been exempted from disclosure pursuant to Freedom of Information regulations (5 U.S.C. § 552).
- h) **U.S. FOREST SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGED IN PUBLICATIONS, AUDIOVISUALS AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA.** Cooperator(s) shall acknowledge U.S. Forest Service support in any publications, audiovisuals, and electronic media developed as a result of this MOU.

- i) **DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION.** Cooperator(s) shall immediately inform the U.S. Forest Service if they or any of their principals are presently excluded, debarred, or suspended from entering into covered transactions with the federal government according to the terms of 2 CFR Part 180. Additionally, should cooperator(s) or any of their principals receive a transmittal letter or other official Federal notice of debarment or suspension, then they shall notify the U.S. Forest Service without undue delay. This applies whether the exclusion, debarment, or suspension is voluntary or involuntary.

**B. SPECIAL PROVISIONS:**

1. Joint publication of results is encouraged; however, no party will publish any results of joint effort without consulting the other. This is not to be construed as applying to popular publication of previously published technical matter. Publication may be joint or independent as may be agreed upon, always giving due credit to the cooperation of participating Federal Agencies, the Host University, and Partner Institutions, and recognizing within proper limits the rights of individuals doing the work. In the case of failure to agree as to the manner of publication or interpretation of results, either party may publish data after due notice (not to exceed 60 days) and submission of the proposed manuscripts to the other. In such instances, the party publishing the data will give due credit to the cooperation but assume full responsibility of any statements on which there is a difference of opinion. Federal agencies reserve the right to issue a disclaimer if such a disclaimer is determined to be appropriate.
2. The results of any cooperative studies may be used in developing theses in partial fulfillment of requirements for advanced degrees and nothing herein shall delay publication of theses.
3. Individual modifications shall include specific plans for data management, sharing, and archiving, as appropriate.

**ARTICLE XI: DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

The following are to be incorporated into this Agreement:

- A. [SF-LLL – Disclosure of Lobbying Activities](#) or Grants.gov Lobbying Form certification, identified in the agencies Funding Opportunity Announcement.
- B. Specific project award documents will incorporate the required Standard Forms for Application for Financial Assistance, as appropriate:
  - [SF-424 – Application for Financial Assistance](#)
  - [SF-424A – Budget for Non-Construction](#)

- [SF-424B – Assurances for Non-Construction](#)

## **ARTICLE XII. ATTACHMENTS/LINKS**

The following documents are attached for use per agency requirements, as appropriate:

- [Request for Advance or Reimbursement, SF-270](#)
- [Federal Financial Report, SF-425](#)

## **ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES**

The following authorizing signatures are attached:

### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

- A. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- B. Bureau of Land Management
- C. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- D. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- E. U.S. Geological Survey
- F. National Park Service

### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

- G. Farm Service Agency
- H. U.S. Forest Service
- I. Natural Resources Conservation Service

### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

- J. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

- K. Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment
- L. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers–Civil Works

### **U.S. Department OF Energy**

- M. Western Area Power Administration

- N. University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Host)

- O. Black Hills State University
- P. Colorado State University
- Q. Colorado State University–Pueblo
- R. Emporia State University
- S. Kansas State University
- T. Langston University
- U. New Mexico Highlands University
- V. North Dakota State University
- W. Oklahoma State University
- X. South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
- Y. South Dakota State University
- Z. Southwestern Oklahoma State University
- AA. Texas A&M AgriLife Research
- BB. Texas Tech University
- CC. University of Minnesota
- ~~DD. University of Nebraska Medical Center~~
- EE. University of North Dakota



FF. University of Oklahoma  
GG. University of South Dakota  
HH. University of Wisconsin–Madison  
II. University of Wyoming  
JJ. Winona State University  
KK. Biodiversity Research Institute  
LL. Smithsonian Institute  
MM. Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
NN. World Wildlife Fund, Inc

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

B. Bureau of Land Management

**KRISTINA KIRBY**

Digitally signed by KRISTINA  
KIRBY

Date: 2025.07.29 16:08:21 -06'00'

July 29, 2025

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Kris Kirby  
Acting State Director, Wyoming  
Bureau of Land Management

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Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

E. U.S. Geological Survey

**PAUL WAGNER** Digitally signed by PAUL WAGNER  
Date: 2025.07.28 10:13:09 -04'00'

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Paul Wagner  
Acting Associate Director, Ecosystems Mission Area  
U.S. Geological Survey


**7/28/2025**

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Date

### ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)

#### F. National Park Service

 Digitally signed by HERBERT  
FROST  
Date: 2025.07.23 09:23:55  
-05'00'

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Herbert C. Frost, Ph.D.  
Regional Director  
National Park Service  
Interior Region 3, Great Lakes; Region 4, Mississippi Basin;  
and Region 5, Missouri Basin

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Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

L. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Civil Works

BEAL.ZAVIEN.TYRE.1559476532

Digitally signed by  
BEAL.ZAVIEN.TYRE.1559476532  
Date: 2025.07.24 12:36:05 -05'00'

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Zavien Beal

Grants Officer

US Army Corps of Engineers

24 July 2025

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Date

24 July 2025

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Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

N. University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Host)

*Suzan G Lund*

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Suzan Lund  
Interim Director, Office of Sponsored Programs  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln


06/18/2025 | 16:38 CDT

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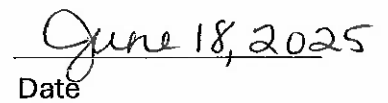
Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

O. Black Hills State University

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheri Gunderson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sheri Gunderson  
Director of Grants  
Grants and Sponsored Programs  
Black Hills State University

A handwritten date in cursive script that reads "June 18, 2025". The date is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

P. Colorado State University

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lori Ann M. Schultz', written over a horizontal line.

Lori Ann M Schultz  
Assitant Vice President, Research Administration  
Colorado State University

08/08/2025

Date



**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

Q. Colorado State University–Pueblo



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Gail Mackin  
Provost & Executive VP of Academic Affairs  
Colorado State University – Pueblo

07/28/2025

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Date

NOTE: If DocuSign is used, it has to go through a review/edit process first, then to her.

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

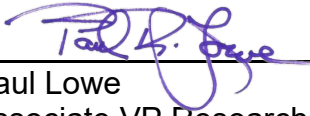
R. Emporia State University

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Wolgram  
Executive VP of Finance  
Emporia State University

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

S. Kansas State University

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Lowe  
Associate VP Research  
Kansas State University

6/18/2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

T. Langston University



Ruth Ray Jackson  
President  
Langston University

  
Date

Wesley L. Whittaker  
Dean & Director, Land Grants Program  
Langston University

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

U. New Mexico Highlands University

**Ian Williamson** Digitally signed by Ian Williamson  
Date: 2025.07.29 08:08:23 -06'00'

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Dr. Ian Williamson  
AVPAA, and Authorized Representative ORSP  
New Mexico Highlands University

**7/29/25**

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Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

V. North Dakota State University

**Amy B. Scott**



Digitally signed by Amy B. Scott  
Date: 2025.06.27 11:19:47 -05'00'

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Amy Scott

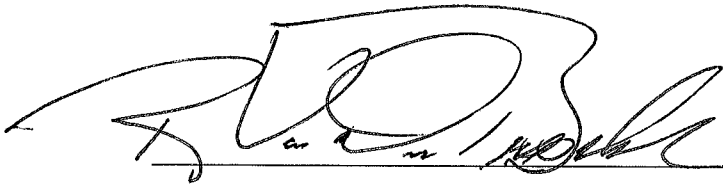
Assistant Director, Sponsored Programs Administration  
North Dakota State University

---

Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

**W. Oklahoma State University**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald Van Den Bussche', written over a horizontal line.

Ronald Van Den Bussche  
Senior Associate Vice President for Research  
Oklahoma State University

18 June 2025

Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

X. South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

**Laurie C.  
Anderson**

Digitally signed by Laurie C.  
Anderson  
Date: 2025.07.15 10:21:23  
-06'00'

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Laurie C. Anderson  
Vice President of Research  
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology


---

Date



**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

Y. South Dakota State University

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lianne May,  
Associate VP for Research Development & Administration  
South Dakota State University

6/20/2025 | 15:41 CDT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

Z. Southwestern Oklahoma State University

*Lori Boyd*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Boyd  
Vice President of Finance  
Southwestern Oklahoma State University

07/26/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)

AA. Texas A&M AgriLife Research

DocuSigned by:  
*Debra A. Cummings*  
59F97752C6C948E...

June 24, 2025 | 11:53 AM PDT

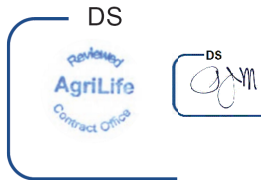
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Debra A. Cummings  
Assistant Director, Agency & CFO  
Texas A & M AgriLife Research

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Date

(AgriLife reference: M2504009)



**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

BB. Texas Tech University

**kellesmi**  
Digitally signed by  
kellesmi  
Date: 2025.06.24  
16:54:41 -05'00'

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Kellee Smith  
Director Sponsored Program Agreement Negotiation  
Texas Tech University

6/24/25

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Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

CC. University of Minnesota

*Riana Fletcher*

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Riana Fletcher  
Principal Grant & Contract Officer  
University of Minnesota

7/8/2025

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Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

EE. University of North Dakota

**Michael P Sadler** Digitally signed by Michael P Sadler  
Date: 2025.07.01 10:47:05 -05'00'

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Michael P. Sadler  
Director, Research & Sponsored Program Development  
University of North Dakota

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Date

### ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)

FF.University of Oklahoma



Digitally signed by Michael  
Purcell  
Date: 2025.07.11 09:31:47 -05'00'

07/11/2025

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Michael Purcell  
Executive Director, Office of Research Services  
AVP for Research & Partnerships  
University of Oklahoma

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Date

### ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)

GG. University of South Dakota

DocuSigned by:  
  
C297C681745F4F3...

6/26/2025

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Daniel Engebretson  
Vice President of Research & Sponsored Programs  
University of South Dakota

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Date



**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

HH. University of Wisconsin–Madison



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Robert Gratzl  
Assistant Director of Contracts  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

6/16/2025

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Date

## ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)

### II. University of Wyoming

DocuSigned by:  
  
E3100A23A80C419...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Parag Chitnis  
Vice President for Research & Economic Development  
University of Wyoming

7/21/2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

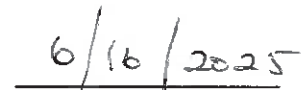
**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

JJ. Winona State University



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Nicole Williams  
Dean, College of Science & Engineering  
Winona State University

  
Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

KK. Biodiversity Research Institute



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Lucas Savoy  
Deputy Director  
Biodiversity Research Institute

6/18/2025

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Date

### ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)

LL. Smithsonian ~~Institute~~ Institution



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Karen Elliott Otiji  
Director, Office of Sponsored Projects  
Smithsonian Institution

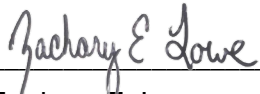
16 June 2025

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Date

**ARTICLE XIII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES (cont.)**

MM. Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Zachary E. Lowe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Zachary E. Lowe

Executive Director

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

06/23/2025

Date