

**From:** [Mike Murray](#)  
**To:** [Russ Wilson](#); [mike\\_bryant@fws.gov](mailto:mike_bryant@fws.gov)  
**Cc:** [Sherri Fields](#); [pete\\_benjamin@fws.gov](mailto:pete_benjamin@fws.gov); [Darrell Echols](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: MOU discussion  
**Date:** 09/04/2009 02:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [08.082.GYCC MOU Signed.pdf](#)

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Russ and Mike,

Darrell and I had a conference call today with NC Wildlife Resource Commission Director Gordon Myers and his deputy chief to discuss improving interagency information sharing and coordination on our breeding colonial waterbird (CWB) monitoring efforts. In the short term, CAHA and WRC would like to coordinate our respective CWB nest counts in and around Cape Hatteras during the peak nesting period (late May - early June). Presently, WRC monitors CWB nesting on the spoil islands adjacent to the Seashore once every 3 years, while we monitor annually. Under that approach, (which includes using somewhat different survey methods and uncoordinated timing), it is difficult to assess the overall status of the area CWB population since CWB move between our respective jurisdictions, which makes it difficult to get an accurate overall nest count or analyze the population trends in the larger area. For example, if the CWB nest counts in the Seashore decrease and those on the spoil island increase (or vice versa), is it because "our" birds moved to and nested on the spoil islands (or vice versa)? If the overall area population is stable or increasing, is it a concern that there is a decline at some sites if it is offset by gains at nearby sites? Or, if the overall area population is declining, what are the cause(s) and if there are some sites that are more successful at fledging chicks than others, what are the reasons? We talked briefly about a more complex issue than coordinating nest counts, which is determining CWB breeding productivity (i.e., nesting success, chick fledge rate, etc.) This is an issue that we all seem to struggle with and there could be some benefits from interagency collaboration in the future. During the call we agreed that understanding the status of CWB nesting for the larger area is important and we want to work toward using similar survey methodology and coordinated timing before next breeding season begins. Obviously, this effort will present an incomplete picture of the overall area CWB breeding population if Pea Island NWR and Cape Lookout NS are not considered too.

In the long-term, we talked about the potential to enter into an interagency agreement (MOU) to improve interagency coordination within the "Greater Outer Banks" area, similar to what has been done in other parts of the country (such as the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, which is mentioned below). We think such an agreement would provide a framework for working together on other wildlife management issues of mutual interest.

Before ending the call, we agreed to the following as next steps:

- Have our respective biological staffs work together this winter to discuss CWB peak nesting survey methods and attempt to work out procedures and timing of an annual peak nesting survey for our respective jurisdictions.
- Explore the possibility of developing an MOU to provide a framework for future collaboration on other issues.
- I would let both of you know of the discussion and invite you to participate in both the short-term and long-term efforts, since your involvement would present a truer picture of the area-wide CWB population.

This message is to make you aware of the discussion and to invite you (or your staffs) to participate in future discussions and to share the information contained in the message below. Gordon seemed very committed to moving forward on coordinating CWB peak nest counts during the next breeding season and I would anticipate some sort of follow-up conference call or meeting focused on that issue in the next few months. I expect that development of an overarching agreement will be a slow moving process.

Please feel free to pass this information along to your staffs or to call if you have any questions. I would appreciate a response as to whether you (or your designee) are interested in participating in future discussions about coordinating the nest counts or about the possibility of developing the MOU.

Mike Murray  
Superintendent  
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS  
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This message is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is proprietary, privileged or confidential or otherwise legally exempt from disclosure.

----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 09/04/2009 10:10 AM -----

**Mike  
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

To gordon.myers@ncwildlife.org  
cc mallory.martin@ncwildlife.org

09/04/2009 10:07 AM

Subject Fw: GYCC MOU

Gordon,

It was good to talk to you and Mallory. See below for information (attached MOU and website link) about the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, which may be a worthwhile model to consider. GYCC has evolved over 20 years and is a mature interagency collaboration, with established working groups that have developed joint guidelines for various issues. If you have time to check their website and look at "Subcommittees," it's clear that the agencies have utilized the MOU framework to work together on a variety of issues of mutual concern. Obviously, we need to start small and focus first on practical issues, such as coordinating our colonial waterbird surveys, but I think we have the potential for the partnership to grow over time into something like the GYCC.

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----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 09/04/2009 09:50 AM -----

**Virginia Kelly**  
<vkelly@fs.fed.us>

To Mike\_Murray@nps.gov  
cc

09/01/2009 01:54 PM

Subject Re: GYCC MOU

Hi, Mike. It is great to hear you are looking into an interagency group for your area. Of course, I think interagency coordination is very valuable.

Here is the latest GYCC MOU, from 2008.

The GYCC website may be helpful.

<http://www.fedgycc.org/>

I am also in the process of getting a "briefing guide" printed, and I could send that when it is done. I expect it may be October before it is ready. It will have a lot of the same information as the website, just in a booklet form.

Let me know if there is anything else you need.

Virginia Kelly  
Executive Coordinator  
Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee  
vkelly@fs.fed.us  
(406) 587- 6704 ph, (406) 587-6758 fax  
PO Box 130, Bozeman MT 59771

Mike\_Murray@nps.gov

09/01/2009 11:40 AM

To vkelly@fs.fed.us  
cc

Subject GYCC MOU

Hi Virginia,

I worked at Yellowstone NP (Deputy Chief Ranger) from 1992 to 1997, still work for the Park Service, and am now exploring the idea of establishing an interagency coordinating group for wildlife management on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Similar to GYA, we have multiple federal and state managed areas in close proximity and migratory wildlife species of mutual concern. I would greatly appreciate it if you could send me a copy of the most current GYCC MOU (or other relevant document that serves as a framework for how the GYCC functions) to consider as a model for our group.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide!

Mike Murray  
Superintendent  
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08.082.GYCC MOU Signed.pdf

Northern Region Agreement # 08-MU-11015600-082  
Rocky Mountain Region Agreement # N/A  
Intermountain Region Agreement # N/A  
USDI, NPS- Intermountain Region # G1212080032 \_\_\_\_\_  
USDI, FWS Mountain Prairie Region # \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

The Intermountain Region  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,

The Northern, Rocky Mountain and Intermountain Regions  
FOREST SERVICE,

and

The Mountain Prairie Region  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (agreement) is made and entered into by and between the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service, the Northern, Rocky Mountain and Intermountain Regions of the US Forest Service, and the Mountain Prairie Region of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

**I. BACKGROUND**

All three agencies have previously affirmed their relationship in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA), and as members of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC), through the 1964, 1986 and 2003 MOUs, previous Interagency Agreements, and through a history of coordinated working relationships.

**II. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this MOU is to document the intentions and provide a framework for providing public services and responsible land management in a cooperative and coordinated manner, as the GYCC, to the extent permissible by law and agency missions, throughout the GYA.

**III. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFITS AND INTERESTS**

It is the desire of all parties to cooperate fully in matters relating to responsible land management throughout the GYA. These cooperative efforts include, but are not limited to:

1. Provide leadership in making coordinated decisions that serve the public and help sustain resources in the GYA.
2. Ensure coordination of planning, strategies, and practices across national park, national forest and national wildlife refuge units in the GYA.
3. Set GYCC level priorities and assign resources to achieve goals.
4. Foster a climate that encourages interaction, coordination and cooperation with federal, state, local agencies, private organizations, and the public.
5. Identify and facilitate resolution of emerging issues within the GYA.

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- 6. Minimize duplication of effort; seek opportunities to share information, resources, and data.
- 7. To the extent permissible by law and agency missions, make rules and regulations consistent across the GYA.

**IV. THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SHALL:**

Supervise and support the GYCC Executive Coordinator's position. Contribute resources, subject to funding and resource availability, and support for achieving GYCC priorities. Implement the purpose and objectives of the MOU and GYCC priority work

**V. THE US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SHALL:**

Contribute resources, subject to funding and resource availability, and support for achieving GYCC priorities. Implement the purpose and objectives of the MOU and GYCC priority work

**VI. THE US FOREST SERVICE SHALL:**

Contribute resources, subject to funding and resource availability, and support for achieving GYCC priorities. Implement the purpose and objectives of the MOU and GYCC priority work

**VII. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:**

- A. MEETINGS. The parties shall meet two times each year, generally in the spring and fall. Special meetings and field trips to address important regional issues may be necessary and may be called by the chairperson.
- B. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). Any information furnished to the Forest Service under this agreement is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).
- C. MODIFICATION. Modifications within the scope of the agreement shall be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by all parties, prior to any changes being performed.
- D. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This MOU in no way restricts the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or U.S. Forest Service from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
- E. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE. This agreement is executed as of the date of last signature and shall remain in effect for 5 Years from the date of execution at which time it will expire.
- F. TERMINATION. Any of the parties, in writing, may terminate the agreement in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration.

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 USDI, FWS Mountain Prairie Region # \_\_\_\_\_

G. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. The principal contacts for this agreement and operating body of the GYCC are:

**Mary Gibson Scott**

Superintendent  
 Grand Teton National Park  
 P.O. Drawer 170  
 Moose, WY 83012  
 Ph: 307-739-3411  
 Fax: 307—739-3440  
 Email: Mary\_Gibson\_Scott@nps.gov

**Steve Kallin**

Refuge Manager  
 National Elk Refuge  
 P.O. Box 510  
 Jackson, WY 83002  
 Ph: 307-733-9212  
 Fax: 307-733-9729  
 Email: Steve\_Kallin@fws.gov

**Bruce Ramsey**

Forest Supervisor  
 Beaverhead-Deerlodge N.F  
 420 Barrett Street  
 Dillon, MT 59725  
 Ph: 406-683-3973  
 Fax: 406-683-3843  
 Email: bramsey@fs.fed.us

**Larry Timchak**

Forest Supervisor  
 Caribou-Targhee National Forest  
 1405 Hollipark Drive  
 Idaho Falls, ID 83401  
 Ph: 208-557-5761  
 Fax: 208-557-5827  
 Email: ltimchak@fs.fed.us

**Mary Erickson**

Forest Supervisor  
 Gallatin National Forest  
 Box 130  
 Bozeman, MT 59771  
 Ph: 406-587-6701

**Suzanne Lewis**

Superintendent  
 Yellowstone National Park  
 P.O. Box 168  
 Yellowstone Park, WY 82190  
 Ph: 307-344-2002  
 Fax: 307-344-2005  
 Email: Suzanne\_Lewis@nps.gov

**Mike Parker**

Refuge Manager  
 Red Rock Lakes Refuge  
 27820 Southside Centennial Road  
 Lima, MT 59739  
 Ph: 406-276-3536  
 Fax: 406-276-3538  
 Email: Mike\_Parker@fws.gov

**Kniffy Hamilton**

Forest Supervisor  
 Bridger-Teton National Forest  
 340 N. Cache, Box 1888  
 Jackson, WY 83001  
 Ph: 307-739-5510  
 Fax: 307-739-5442  
 Email: khamilton@fs.fed.us

**Steve Williams**

Forest Supervisor  
 Custer National Forest  
 1310 Main St.  
 Billings, MT 59105  
 Ph: 406-657-6205  
 Fax: 406-657-6222  
 Email: swilliams@fs.fed.us

**Rebecca Aus (Chair)**

Forest Supervisor  
 Shoshone National Forest  
 808 Meadow Lane  
 Cody, WY 82414  
 Ph: 307-578-5187

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Fax: 406-587-6758  
Email: mcerickson@fs.fed.us

Fax: 307-578-5112  
Email: raus@fs.fed.us

**Virginia Kelly**  
GYCC Executive Coordinator  
Box 130  
Bozeman, MT 59771  
Ph: 406-587-6704  
Fax: 406-587-6758  
Email: vkelly@fs.fed.us

- H. NON-FUND OBLIGATING DOCUMENT. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate either the Forest Service, National Park Service, or the Fish Wildlife Service to obligate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the various agencies and offices of the Forest Service, National Park Service, and the Fish Wildlife Service will require execution of separate agreements and be contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of each such agreement must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations.
- I. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES. The Forest Service and FFEC Founding Partners and their respective agencies and office 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.
- J. ESTABLISHMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY. This MOU 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.
- K. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. By signature below, the cooperator certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the cooperator are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement.



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USDI, FWS Mountain Prairie Region # \_\_\_\_\_

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

/s/ Elaine Hilliard  
Elaine D. Hilliard  
Grants & Agreements Specialist  
USDA Forest Service Region 1

5/19/2008  
Date  
THE AUTHORITY AND FORMAT OF THIS INSTRUMENT  
HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SIGNATURE  
Doris Mackey 6/6/08  
AGREEMENTS COORDINATOR DATE

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last date written below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Snyder  
Regional Director  
Intermountain Region  
USDI, National Park Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick D. Cables  
Regional Forester  
Rocky Mountain Region  
USDA, Forest Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Guertin  
Regional Director  
Mountain Prairie Region  
USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service

William P. L. Van  
for Harv Forsgren  
Regional Forester  
Intermountain Region  
USDA, Forest Service

Thomas L. Tidwell  
Thomas L. Tidwell  
Regional Forester  
Northern Region  
USDA, Forest Service

6-10-08  
Date of last signature

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/s/ Elaine Hilliard  
Elaine D. Hilliard  
Grants & Agreements Specialist  
USDA Forest Service Region 1

5/19/2008  
Date

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last date written below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Snyder  
Regional Director  
Intermountain Region  
USDI, National Park Service

*for* Greg Muffata  
Rick D. Cables  
Regional Forester  
Rocky Mountain Region  
USDA, Forest Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Guertin  
Regional Director  
Mountain Prairie Region  
USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harv Forsgren  
Regional Forester  
Intermountain Region  
USDA, Forest Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas L. Tidwell  
Regional Forester  
Northern Region  
USDA, Forest Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
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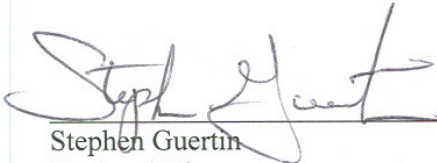
/s/ Elaine Hilliard  
Elaine D. Hilliard  
Grants & Agreements Specialist  
USDA Forest Service Region 1

5/19/2008  
Date

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Regional Director  
Intermountain Region  
USDI, National Park Service

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Rick D. Cables  
Regional Forester  
Rocky Mountain Region  
USDA, Forest Service

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Guertin  
Regional Director  
Mountain Prairie Region  
USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harv Forsgren  
Regional Forester  
Intermountain Region  
USDA, Forest Service

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Thomas L. Tidwell  
Regional Forester  
Northern Region  
USDA, Forest Service

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

/s/ Elaine Hilliard  
Elaine D. Hilliard  
Grants & Agreements Specialist  
USDA Forest Service Region 1

5/19/2008  
Date

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Michael Snyder 6/2/08  
Mike Snyder  
Regional Director  
Intermountain Region  
USDI, National Park Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick D. Cables  
Regional Forester  
Rocky Mountain Region  
USDA, Forest Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Guertin  
Regional Director  
Mountain Prairie Region  
USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harv Forsgren  
Regional Forester  
Intermountain Region  
USDA, Forest Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas L. Tidwell  
Regional Forester  
Northern Region  
USDA, Forest Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of last signature