



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE NATURAL RESOURCES CABINET

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

among the

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by and between the Commissioner of Public Lands, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Washington State Conservation Commission, for the purpose of committing to participating in the Natural Resources Cabinet formed pursuant to Executive Order. 09-07. The four agencies will hereinafter be referred to as “the independent natural resources agencies.”

I. PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalizes a collaborative effort between the Office of the Governor, the Governor’s executive natural resource agencies, and the independent natural resources agencies to effectively participate in the Governor’s newly created Natural Resources Cabinet. This MOU also represents a commitment by the independent natural resource agencies to implement the elements of Executive Order. 09-07 in cooperation with the cabinet agencies.

II. BACKGROUND

In the 2009-11 operating budget, the Legislature directed natural resource agencies to identify consolidation opportunities to improve service delivery and reduce costs, and to submit a written report to the Governor and the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

On September 14, 2009, Washington state natural resource agency directors, along with policy and budget staff for Governor Chris Gregoire and the Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark, offered state elected officials, tribes, the public, businesses, agency employees, and local governments a set of proposed ideas for reforming the state's natural resource management. The agency directors considered the comments on the proposed ideas and presented the Governor and Commissioner with a set of recommended actions. Among these recommendations was the creation of a Natural Resources Cabinet composed of the natural resources agencies.

On December 2, 2009 Governor Gregoire signed Executive Order 09-07 titled "Washington's Natural Resources Reform Initiatives." This Executive Order asked the natural resources agencies to undertake a series of actions based on the recommendations in the agency director's report. The Governor established the Natural Resources Cabinet in the Executive Order and invited the participation of the independent natural resources agencies. This MOU reflects the intent of the independent natural resources agencies to accept the Governor's invitation to participate on the Natural Resources Cabinet.

III. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFITS AND INTERESTS

The independent natural resources agencies have a variety of roles and responsibilities in implementing natural resources related programs and activities established in statute. There are numerous opportunities to improve how these programs and activities are implemented through closer coordination and cooperation with the other natural resources agencies of the state. For this reason, the independent natural resources agencies mutually agree that they are benefited by participating in the Natural Resources Cabinet.

IV. AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES

The parties to this MOU mutually agree to the following:

1. A commitment to the success of the Natural Resources Cabinet and the implementation of activities identified in the Governor's Executive Order No. 09-07.

2. Participation in the meetings and activities of the Natural Resources Cabinet and any subcommittees or work groups that may be established by the Natural Resources Cabinet.
3. Designation of the appropriate staff to work on the issues identified by the Natural Resources Cabinet.
4. Participation in the preparation of required reports.
5. Providing the timely response to activities requiring coordinated state agency action.
6. Providing the Natural Resources Cabinet with issues and opportunities for multi-agency coordination and collaboration.

The independent natural resources agencies will retain the overall management of their existing programs as currently found in statute, budget authority, or other agreements entered in to by the agencies. The independent natural resources agencies agree to, in good faith, coordinate the implementation of their individual programs with the Natural Resources Cabinet as appropriate where such coordination will maximize efficiencies and improve customer service, and ensure improved environmental performance.

It is also mutually agreed and understood by and between the signatories to this MOU that:

- a. This MOU in no way restricts participants from involvement in similar activities with other public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
- b. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as obligating members to expend funds or to provide resources or be involved in any obligation for future payment of money or provision of resources without agreement of the parties or through appropriate budget processes.
- c. Modifications to this MOU shall be made by formal agreement of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by the signatories, prior to any changes becoming effective.
- d. Any signatory to this MOU may terminate or withdraw participation in the MOU and the Natural Resources Cabinet in whole or in part at any time providing written notice to the signers of this MOU.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE

This agreement is effective individually for each of the parties once each has signed the agreement.

VI. SIGNATORY AGENCIES

Honorable Peter Goldmark
Commissioner of Public Lands

Date

Philip Anderson
Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date

Rex Derr
Director, State Parks and Recreation Commission

Date

Mark Clark
Director, State Conservation Commission

Date