

Part 610 – National Environmental Compliance Handbook

Subpart H – Exhibits

610.120 Sample MOU Between Agencies

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE’S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
SERVICE
AS THE LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY
AND
UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE,
AS COOPERATING AGENCY FOR PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT FOR THE XXXXXX CONSERVATION PROJECT**

I. INTRODUCTION

This agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of the above parties with respect to preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the XXXXXXXX Conservation Project in Granite Reeder, Idaho.

This agreement does not alter any other written agreements between the above parties and the project sponsors or other government agencies, or parties.

II. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), as Lead Federal Agency, has primary responsibility for compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and preparation of the Draft and Final EA.
2. The U.S. Forest Service, hereafter to be referred to as the "cooperating agency" in this MOU, and the NRCS will together coordinate under this agreement in order to maximize the use of resources and minimize duplication of effort.
3. Information and evaluation necessary to support permit reviews, authorizations, and/or the decisions of the agencies will be provided to the extent possible in the EA, under the participation of all the parties to this agreement.

III. NRCS (LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY) RESPONSIBILITIES

1. NRCS will provide the cooperating agency with those EA resource characterization studies and technical reports, as determined necessary by the respective cooperator, for review and comment.
2. NRCS will consult with the cooperating agency regarding the alternatives considered and associated mitigation measures to be evaluated in the EA.

3. NRCS will identify the cooperating agency on the draft EA and final EA cover pages and will describe in the introduction sections, as provided by the cooperating agency, the specific roles and authorities of the cooperating agency with respect to the **xxxxx** Conservation Project.

IV. FS RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COOPERATING AGENCY

1. The FS as a cooperating agency will provide early input to EPA regarding issues to address in the resource characterization studies, technical reports, and EA, and provide comments or analyses to EPA in those areas where the cooperating agency has regulatory authority, technical expertise, and a need for the EA to support decisions by the cooperating agency.

2. The FS may review, and provide to NRCS, comments on the issued draft EA and final EA.

3. Upon issuance of the final EA and any resulting Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) by NRCS, the cooperating agency may be able to then adopt the EA and issue a separate decision notice under the cooperating agency's NEPA implementing regulations.

V. MODIFICATIONS OR TERMINATIONS

1. This agreement may be modified by the parties hereto by mutual agreement only. Any modification will be in writing.

2. This agreement is terminated when either the NRCS FNSI is signed or when written notice is given by a respective agency.

Signatures-- (to complete):

By: NRCS, Chief

By: U.S. Forest Service, Forest Supervisor