

**PUGET SOUND FEDERAL CAUCUS**  
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

among the

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

**NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**NAVY REGION NORTHWEST**

**U.S. FOREST SERVICE**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**U.S. COAST GUARD**

**U.S. ARMY, JOINT BASE LEWIS MCCHORD**

**FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**

**FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION**

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

**BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by and between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Navy Region Northwest, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army, Joint Base Lewis McChord, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Bureau of Indian Affairs; which group is hereinafter referred to as the Puget Sound Federal Caucus or Federal Caucus.

## **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this MOU is to establish and describe a collaborative effort between federal agencies that will better integrate, organize and focus federal efforts in the Puget Sound ecosystem. The Federal Caucus will coordinate federal science and resource management programs, policies, information and outreach to help support, monitor and sustain the recovery of the Puget Sound ecosystem.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

Puget Sound's ecosystem faces many challenges with a human population over 4 million and rising, widespread habitat loss and impairment, and species declines. For example, more than 40 species in the region are on the federal and state lists of threatened and endangered due in large part to habitat loss and chemical pollution.

Washington State's former Governor Chris Gregoire launched a major initiative, the Puget Sound Partnership, to revitalize efforts to protect and restore Puget Sound to a healthy state by 2020. In December 2006 the Partnership issued recommendations that included the identification of high priority actions. Federal representatives on the Partnership included the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and former Congressmen Norm Dicks and Jay Inslee.

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

Federal agencies have a wealth of expertise and experience and are currently involved with numerous actions within Puget Sound ranging from scientific investigations, species recovery, habitat restoration and protection, and land and resource management. Protection and recovery of the Puget Sound ecosystem will be improved if there is strong coordination and cooperative actions between Federal agencies.

## **IV. FEDERAL CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP**

The Federal Caucus members mutually agree that membership on the Federal Caucus is open at any time to any Federal agency interested in taking a more active and cooperative role in Puget Sound protection and recovery.

## **V. ORGANIZATION**

A charter may be established that outlines the structure and governance of the Puget Sound Federal Caucus, if the group desires. If established, the charter would outline the proposed leadership and organizational structure and provide a suggested means for a regular method of convening the Caucus. In the interim the group will make decisions by consensus.

## **VI. FEDERAL CAUCUS OBJECTIVES**

The Federal Caucus members mutually agree to:

1. Develop and serve as a forum to strengthen and enhance federal coordination on Puget Sound protection, science, recovery, and resource management.
2. Engage senior managers and regional/national directors to align resources and programs effectively to address Puget Sound priority problems.
3. Develop Puget Sound work plans and strategies and use the Federal Caucus to coordinate efforts that can contribute significantly to the restoration and protection of Puget Sound
4. Develop a Puget Sound ecosystem information framework in cooperation with other partners.
5. Encourage Federal Caucus members to coordinate program implementation with State, Tribal, local government, watershed groups, and private partners in Puget Sound.
6. Review and understand existing federal agency Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, and etc. for Puget Sound programs as a part of this overall coordination effort by the Federal Caucus.
7. Convene on a regular basis to coordinate on-going federal Puget Sound activities, evaluate accomplishments, complete the objectives and determine the effectiveness of our activities.

## **VII. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND BETWEEN THE SIGNATORIES TO THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING THAT:**

1. This MOU in no way restricts participants from involvement in similar activities with other public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

2. Nothing in the MOU shall be construed as obligating Federal Caucus members to expend funds or to provide resources or be involved in any obligation for future payment of money or provision of resources.
3. Modification of the scope of the MOU shall be made by formal consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by the signatories, prior to any changes becoming effective.
4. Any Federal Caucus member may terminate or withdraw membership in whole or in part at any time by providing written notice to the Federal Caucus.
5. Signing this MOU shall not be construed as diminishing or affecting in any way the Parties' authorities under any federal statutes or regulations, nor does such signing alter or affect any tribal treaty rights, jurisdictional rights, or property boundaries.


## **VIII. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

The program or activities conducted under this MOU will be in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions contained in Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (P.L. 100-259); and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.

## **IX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

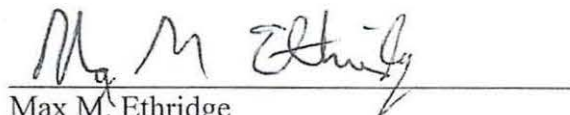
This agreement will be effective from March 27, 2012 until March 27, 2017.

## X. SIGNATORY AGENCIES



Dennis J. McLerran  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

1/21/14  
Date



Max M. Ethridge  
Regional Director  
U.S. Geological Survey, Northwest Region

1/29/14  
Date



Palmer L. Jenkins  
Deputy Regional Director  
National Park Service, Pacific West Region

2/1/14  
Date



Rear Admiral Richard T. Gromlich  
Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District<sup>1</sup>

4/21/14  
Date



R.F. Krochalis  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration, Region 10

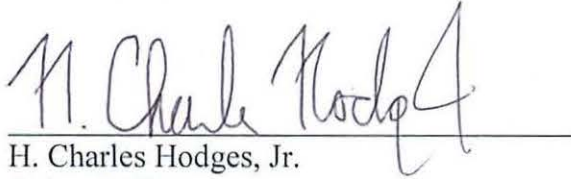
4/21/14  
Date

<sup>1</sup> Coast Guard has authority to engage in activities related to this MOU under 14 U.S.C. § 141.

**X. SIGNATORY AGENCIES, continued**



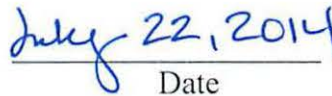
William W. Stelle, Jr.  
Regional Administrator, West Coast Region  
NOAA Fisheries Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration<sup>2</sup>

  
Date

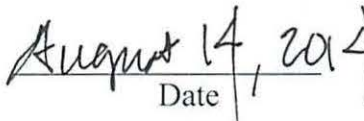
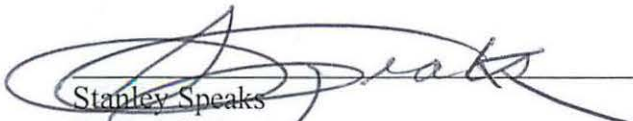
H. Charles Hodges, Jr.  
Colonel, US Army  
Commanding  
Joint Base Lewis-McChord

  
Date

Rebecca Lockett Heath  
Deputy Regional Forester  
U.S. Forest Service

  
Date

Robyn Thorson  
Regional Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1

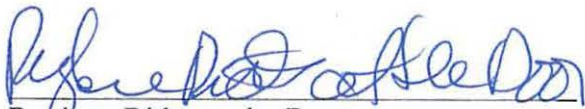
  
Date

Stanley Speaks  
Regional Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Northwest Regional Office

  
Date

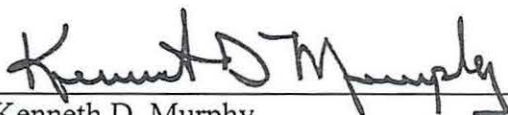
<sup>2</sup> NMFS has authority to engage in activities related to this MOU under various statutes, which may include, but are not limited to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 661-667e; Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. sec. 180 et sec. 1801 et seq.; Marine Mammal Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. sec. 1431 et seq., Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. sec. 1531 et seq.

## X. SIGNATORY AGENCIES, continued



Rylene Rides at the Door  
State Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

2/28/2014  
Date



Kenneth D. Murphy  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 10

3-18-14  
Date



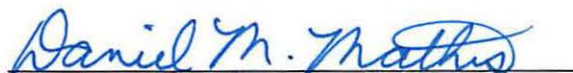
Bruce A. Estok  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander<sup>3</sup>

23 Mar 2014  
Date



Albert P. Verhofstadt, P.E.  
Executive Director  
Navy Region Northwest

4 April 2014  
Date



Daniel M. Mathis, P.E.  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

04/15/2014  
Date

<sup>3</sup> Signing this MOU shall not be construed as diminishing or affecting in any way the Corps' authority under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. 401, et seq.), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), or other relevant federal statutes and regulations, nor does such signing alter or affect any tribal treaty rights, jurisdictional rights, or property boundaries.