

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
AND THE
AMERICAN ENDURANCE RIDE CONFERENCE

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to develop and expand a framework for cooperation between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) at the national, state, and local levels on mutually beneficial programs, projects, training, and equestrian activities on BLM-managed lands. Such programs, projects, training, and activities will complement existing BLM recreation management and will further BLM's recreation and stewardship goals.

B. AUTHORITY

This MOU is entered into under the authority of Section 307(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), 43 U.S.C. 1737(b).

C. THE PARTIES

Bureau of Land Management

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), manages approximately 245 million surface acres in the United States. The FLPMA sets forth the agency's comprehensive mission to manage the public lands for a variety of uses to benefit present and future generations. The BLM manages public lands for such uses as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, and mineral development, and conserves natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands. Most BLM-managed public land is in 12 Western states, including Alaska.

American Endurance Ride Conference

The AERC is a federally registered 501(c)(3) tax deductible non-profit organization and is the national governing body for long distance horseback riding. The AERC was founded in 1972 to promote the sport of endurance horseback riding and to encourage and enforce the safe use of horses in demonstrating their endurance abilities in a natural setting through the development, use, and preservation of trails. The AERC also works to attract and reward members who provide for their horses' immediate and long-term physical and emotional health and well-being.

D. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND BENEFITS

The BLM and the AERC recognize the value of promoting public-private partnerships that encourage the responsible use of public lands by visitors participating in recreational activities. The BLM and the AERC share an interest in disseminating information to the public regarding the relationship between equestrian recreation and natural resource conservation. The BLM and the AERC recognize that the exchange of information and technical expertise leads to more effective recreation management.

E. THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AGREES TO:

1. Encourage BLM offices to work with AERC representatives and affiliated clubs and organizations to identify opportunities to collaborate for mutual benefit.
2. Encourage BLM offices to use the AERC communication network to interact with AERC representatives, affiliated clubs, and organizations.
3. Where appropriate, share wild horse and burro adoption program information and educational information regarding land-use ethics and conservation on BLM lands.
4. Encourage BLM offices to provide technical assistance and/or information to help the AERC produce and distribute educational materials to the public on subjects such as preventing the spread of invasive plants and equine disease, and trail etiquette. This assistance would be consistent with programs that support the BLM mission, such as "Leave No Trace" and "Tread Lightly!"
5. Where appropriate, assist the AERC and its affiliated clubs and organizations in identifying and providing information to support the AERC's efforts to attract state-sponsored or private grant programs.
6. As appropriate, share information and coordinate with the AERC prior to the publication of any cooperative BLM/AERC printed materials for public distribution regarding equestrian recreational activities on BLM lands.
7. Encourage AERC members and affiliated equestrian groups to attend events and projects on public lands, where communities and other agencies maintain and provide equestrian recreation opportunities.

F. THE AMERICAN ENDURANCE RIDE CONFERENCE AGREES TO:

1. Work with the BLM to identify appropriate partnership and project opportunities for equestrian recreation education programs in conjunction with the equestrian recreation community, contingent upon availability of funds and personnel.

2. Develop and maintain a national communications network for contacting local equestrian enthusiasts and organizations through a system of state representatives and share this network with the BLM.
3. As appropriate, provide technical assistance to BLM offices involved in equestrian recreation management and educational activities, and make the AERC program information available to the BLM.
4. Maintain a database and library of publications related to equestrian activities for the BLM's use in analyzing proposed equestrian projects and planning documents.
5. Provide the public and the BLM the opportunity to attend the AERC conferences and participate in AERC training on topics such as conflict resolution, community collaboration, equestrian strategic planning, and facilitation skills to improve understanding and communication among diverse groups.
6. Obtain the BLM's approval prior to the publication of any cooperative BLM/AERC materials intended for public distribution regarding equestrian recreational activities on BLM lands.
7. Encourage members and other recreationists to take part in the BLM's volunteer projects, such as building, maintaining, and inventorying trails on public lands, and be involved in the BLM planning processes to improve awareness and potential equestrian recreational opportunities.
8. Encourage members to attend local wild horse and burro events to learn about the potential of using an adopted wild horse in the discipline of endurance riding.

G. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED BY THE BLM AND THE AERC THAT:

1. The principal contacts for this agreement are:

John McCarty or his successor in the role of:
Division Chief, Recreation and Visitor Services
U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, NW, Room 2134LM
Washington, D.C. 20240
(202) 912-7094

Kathleen Henkel or her successor in the role of:
Executive Director
American Endurance Ride Conference
P.O. Box 6027
Auburn, CA 95604
(866) 271-2372


2. The local contact persons for the BLM are field managers, who may, with the prior coordination with and approval of the DOI Washington Office, enter into subsequent agreements and cooperative relationships as needed at the local level to accomplish portions of this MOU.
3. Nothing in this agreement may be construed to obligate the Department of the Interior or the United States to any current or future expenditure of resources in advance of the availability of appropriations from Congress. Any endeavor involving an agreement for reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures, including those for government procurement and printing. Such endeavors or agreements will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by the authorized representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority.
4. This MOU does not establish authority for a non-competitive award to the AERC of any contract or other agreement. Any contract or agreement for training or other services must comply fully with all applicable requirements for competition. Nothing in this MOU will be construed to affect the authorities of the participants, bind them beyond their respective authorities, or require any of the participants to obligate or expend funds.
5. Nothing in this agreement will be interpreted to imply that the United States, the Department of the Interior, or the BLM endorses any product, service, or policy of the AERC. The AERC will not take any action or make any statement that suggests or implies such endorsement.
6. Any information furnished to the BLM by the AERC under this instrument is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552).
7. The parties will comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act to the extent that it applies.
8. This MOU in no way restricts the BLM or the AERC from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.
9. During the performance of this agreement, all parties will abide by the terms of Executive Order 11246 on nondiscrimination and will not discriminate against any person because of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or disability.
10. Nothing herein is intended to conflict with current DOI or AERC Directives. If any term of this agreement is deemed inconsistent with those directives, then the portions of this agreement that are inconsistent shall be null and void; but the remaining terms and conditions will remain in full force and effect.

11. This MOU becomes effective upon the last signature of the BLM and the AERC and, unless terminated, shall be in force for five years therefrom, at which time this MOU shall automatically terminate unless renewed by both parties hereto. Any party to this MOU reserves the right to withdraw from this agreement, or any part thereof, at any time, upon 30-days prior written notice to the other party hereto (at the addresses set forth above or as otherwise indicated).
12. Modifications to this instrument shall be made by mutual consent of the parties hereto, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by the parties, prior to any changes being performed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this MOU.

William Perry Pendley
Deputy Director, Policy and Programs
Exercising the Authority of the Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Date: _____



Kathleen Henkel
Executive Director
American Endurance Ride Conference

Date: 5/5/20