

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 update and strengthen a framework for cooperation between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC), jointly referred to as the “Parties,” to advance safe, sustainable, and high-quality equestrian recreation on BLM-managed public lands. Through shared information, coordinated education and outreach, collaborative projects, and the exchange of relevant data and technical expertise, the Parties will work together to support responsible recreation management and enhance access, stewardship, and educational opportunities for equestrian users at the national, state, and local levels.

This MOU supports the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) priorities to build healthy communities and economies by expanding safe access to exceptional outdoor recreation experiences for all Americans.

This MOU renews and replaces the expired Memorandum of Understanding previously established under BLM-MOU-HQ430-2020-02, ensuring continued collaboration between the Parties.

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 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 acts as a steward of natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands for future generations. 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 Parties recognize the value of promoting public-private partnerships that encourage the responsible recreational use by public land visitors.

The Parties share a common interest in disseminating information to the public regarding stewardship, recreation, and natural resource activities as they relate to equestrian use on BLM-managed public lands.

The Parties 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 collaboratively with AERC representatives and affiliated clubs and organizations to identify and implement mutually beneficial projects and activities.
2. Encourage BLM offices to use the AERC communication network to interact with AERC representatives, affiliated clubs, and organizations.
3. Where appropriate, as determined by the BLM, share wild horse and burro adoption program information, along with educational materials that promote land-use ethics and stewardship 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, reducing the transmission of equine diseases, and promoting responsible trail etiquette. This assistance would align with programs that support the BLM mission, such as "Leave No Trace," "Tread Lightly!," and "Light on the Land."
5. Where appropriate, as determined by the BLM, assist the AERC and its affiliated clubs and organizations in identifying and providing information to support 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-managed public 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 that support equestrian recreation education programs, developed in coordination with the equestrian recreation community and contingent upon the availability of funds and personnel.
2. Develop and maintain a national communications network – supported by a system of state representatives – to engage local equestrian enthusiasts and organizations, and make this network available to the BLM for coordination and outreach purposes.
3. As appropriate, provide technical assistance to the 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 opportunities for the public and the BLM to attend AERC conferences and participate in AERC training on topics such as conflict resolution, community collaboration, equestrian trail design and construction, 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-managed public lands.
7. Encourage members and other recreationists to take part in BLM volunteer projects, such as building, maintaining, and inventorying trails on public lands, and be involved in the BLM planning processes to improve awareness and expand 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:

Kevin E. Oliver
Bureau of Land Management
Division Chief

Recreation and Visitor Services
(801) 450-3134
koliver@blm.gov

Giulia L. Orth
American Endurance Ride Conference
Executive Director

(866) 271-2372
executivedirector@aerc.org

2. The local contact persons for the BLM are field and state level managers who may enter into subsequent agreements and cooperative relationships as needed at the local level to accomplish portions of this MOU.
3. Nothing in this MOU may be construed to obligate the United States, the DOI, or the BLM 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 must be made in writing by representatives of the Parties and must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority.
4. This MOU does not establish authority for a noncompetitive 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 MOU will be interpreted to imply that the United States, the DOI, 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. The BLM owns all rights, title, and interest in and to the BLM Marks (including, without limitation, all registrations and applications). "Marks" means all trademarks, service marks, logos, brand identification, and indicia (including domain names and websites), to

be used to identify or describe the BLM, the DOI, or both, and features located therein, whether registered or not.

10. The AERC has not acquired and may not acquire (whether by operation of law, by this MOU, or otherwise), any right, title, interest, or ownership (collectively, "Ownership Rights") in or to the BLM Marks or any part thereof.
11. The AERC will not do anything which, in the BLM's sole judgement, could in any way damage, injure, or impair the validity and subsistence of the BLM Marks during the MOU or at any time thereafter. The AERC will not attack, dispute, or challenge the BLM's Ownership Rights or the rights the BLM assigns, licenses, or sublicenses to a third party in or to the BLM Marks or the validity of the BLM's Ownership Rights as described in this MOU, nor may the AERC assist others in so doing.
12. During the performance of this MOU, all Parties will abide by the terms of Executive Order 11246 on non-discrimination and will not discriminate against any person because of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or disability.
13. Nothing herein is intended to conflict with current DOI, BLM, or AERC Directives. If any term of this MOU 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.
14. This MOU becomes effective upon the last signature of the BLM and the AERC and, unless terminated, shall be in force for 5 years, at which time this MOU will automatically terminate unless renewed by the BLM and the AERC. The BLM and the AERC reserve the right to withdraw from this agreement, or any part thereof, at any time upon 30 days' prior written notice to the other Party (at the addresses set forth above or as otherwise indicated).
15. Modifications to this instrument shall be made by mutual consent of the Parties, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by the Parties, prior to any changes being performed.
16. This MOU creates no right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity.

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

**CARLA
BOCK**

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Date: 2026.07.15
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Carla Bock
Acting Assistant Director
National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships
Bureau of Land Management

Date



Giulia L. Orth
Executive Director
American Endurance Ride Conference

7/15/2026
Date