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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the
Colorado River Outfitters Association
And
USDI Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office
And
Colorado State Parks

This **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** (MOU) is hereby entered into by and between the Colorado River Outfitters Association, hereinafter referred to as CROA, the USDI Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office hereinafter referred to as BLM and Colorado State Parks hereinafter referred to as State Parks. Collectively all signatories of this MOU will be known as the cooperators.

A. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this MOU is to formalize a cooperative relationship between the aforementioned agencies and organizations for the purpose of improving communications particularly in the area of river management and cooperating in offering outstanding recreation opportunities to the public, reducing or eliminating the impacts of recreation on other resources, managing for visitor safety and promoting partnerships with the public to ensure good stewardship of our public lands.

B. OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this MOU is to develop educational materials, training programs and project work to benefit resource values and river recreation management in Colorado. Educational materials could include such topics as land ethics, river etiquette and safety, in various media including brochures, handouts and electronic format. Training programs for BLM & State Parks staff, CROA members, volunteers and the general public could be cooperatively conducted through schools, workshops, courses, presentations, instruction and other written, oral or electronic media. On-the-ground projects could include assisting with cleanup projects, weed control projects, participating in planning efforts which set the course for how we manage rivers and associated uses, helping with implementation of those plans once they are in place and efforts to improve river safety and river rescue.

C. BENEFITS:

The partnership will help enhance a conservation ethic in river recreationists and develop a sense of stewardship in those users while cooperating on the management of Colorado's scenic rivers. The cooperators are dedicated to responsible management of the Nation's natural resources through the involvement of concerned citizen groups.

The activities to be undertaken thru this agreement are in furtherance of the missions of BLM, State Parks, and the CROA by providing the following benefits:

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1. Educating users about care of our rivers and proper river etiquette;
2. Reducing conflicts between boaters and other recreationists;
3. Reducing conflicts between boaters and adjacent landowners;
4. Maintaining a healthy river environment suitable for a variety of recreational uses;
5. Participating in planning efforts, which set the course for resource management;
6. Implementation of those plans once written; and
7. Improving river safety and river rescue capabilities.

D. CROA agrees to work cooperatively with BLM and State Parks to:

1. Improve communication between cooperators by periodic meetings, joint trainings and improving daily working relationships.
2. Identify the need and key messages for educational materials, assist in developing and distributing them to river users.
3. Identify and facilitate opportunities to improve river management on public lands.
4. Educate CROA members and clubs about the BLM/State Parks partnerships and encourage them to collaborate with agency staff to identify opportunities for cooperation on mutually beneficial projects or activities.
5. Encourage their members to actively participate in BLM/State Parks planning efforts that affect river resources to ensure their perspective is heard and understood.
6. Assist in planning, coordination and execution of resource management projects.

E. The BLM and State Parks agree to work cooperatively with CROA to:

1. Improve communication between cooperators by periodic meetings, joint trainings and improving daily working relationships.
2. Identify the need for educational materials and programs, review key messages and support the development and distribution of this information.
3. Identify, facilitate and support opportunities to improve river management on public lands as plans, budget, staffing and laws allow, using challenge cost share and other authorities.
4. Educate agency staff about CROA partnerships and encourage staff to collaborate with CROA state and local representatives and affiliate organizations to identify opportunities for cooperation on mutually beneficial projects or activities.
5. Encourage river outfitters to work closely with agency staff during planning efforts and make reasonable attempts to publicize active planning projects related to river management through CROA for public scoping.
6. Plan and logistically coordinate projects work for the benefit of rivers and associated resources.

F. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY ALL PARTIES THAT:

1. The cooperators will develop an operating plan as part of this MOU that will be reviewed and updated annually. It is the intent of the cooperators to meet twice annually.

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2. The cooperators will coordinate and involve volunteers in the management, planning, and implementation of work associated with river recreation management, including signing, condition surveys, Adopt-A-River programs, construction, and maintenance activities.

3. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. The principal contacts for this Agreement are:

<u>BLM</u> <u>Principal Contact</u>	<u>BLM</u> <u>State Office Contact</u>	<u>Colorado State Parks</u> <u>Project Contact</u>	<u>CROA</u> <u>Project Contact</u>
Arden Anderson 216 N. Colorado Gunnison, CO 81230 Phone: 970 - 642-4454 FAX: 970 - 642-4425 E-Mail: arden_anderson@blm.gov	Jack Placchi 2850 Youngfield Lakewood, CO 80215 303-239-3832 303-238-3808 jack_placchi@co.blm.gov	Keith Kahler 13787 S. Hwy 85 Littleton, CO 80125 (303) 791-1957 keith.kahler@state.co.us	Julie Schneider P.O. Box 1662 Buena Vista, CO 81211 719 - 486-3687 croajks@yahoo.com

<u>BLM Management</u> <u>Team Contact</u>	<u>CROA</u> <u>President Contact</u>
Roy Masinton 3170 East Main Canon City, CO 81212 Phone: 719-269-8500 FAX: 719-269-8599 E-Mail: roy_masinton@blm.gov	Ches Russell 703 West Tomichi (HWY.50) Gunnison, CO 81230 970-641-4205 info@scenicrivertours.com

4. This MOU shall be subject to the laws of the United States and the State of Colorado, and to the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, whether now in force or hereafter enacted or promulgated; and nothing herein shall be construed as in any way affecting or waiving the jurisdiction, responsibility, or existing rights of any signatory party to this MOU.
5. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). Any information furnished to the BLM under this instrument is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).
6. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This instrument in no way restricts all the Cooperator(s) from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
7. NON-FUND OBLIGATING DOCUMENT. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate the Cooperators to obligate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the various agencies and offices of the Cooperators will require execution of separate agreements and be contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of each such agreement must comply with all applicable