



Forest
Service

Washington
Office

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Washington, DC 20250

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Subject: A Service-wide Memorandum of Understanding with Florida Biodiversity Foundation, Inc. for the Butterfly Conservation Initiative and a Service-wide Memorandum of Understanding with North American Butterfly Association

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Directors

I recently finalized a service-wide memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Ms. Stephanie Sanchez, Program Coordinator for the Butterfly Conservation Initiative (BFCI), and with Mr. Jeffrey Glassberg, President for the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). These MOUs recognize our mutual interest in the conservation and management of pollinators, especially butterflies.

The mission of both BFCI and NABA is to act as a catalyst for habitat stewardship. One strategy in use is improving the health and survival of all pollinator species, especially butterflies, by promoting the importance of insects and related animals and by protecting and restoring their habitats. Florida Biodiversity Foundation, Inc. (FBFI) and NABA are members of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPCC), a unique partnership designed to produce measurable reductions in pollinator extinctions and habitat loss.

The Forest Service has a proven record of working in collaboration with FBFI, NABA, and other NAPCC partners. One of our mutual goals is teaching our employees to understand the value of pollinators and the ecosystem service they provide in maintaining plant diversity. We know that by managing for pollinators and their habitats on our national forests and grasslands we help ensure conservation of our Nation's biodiversity and create a healthier environment for both wildlife and people.

I know partnerships require valuable time, effort, and energy, but at the same time, partnerships such as these provide a means for the Forest Service to accomplish conservation work beneficial to society as a whole.

I encourage you to review the enclosed MOUs and become more involved with the BFCI, NABA, and the NAPCC partnership. Also enclosed are Forest Service BFCI and NABA partnership opportunities documents to help facilitate such collaboration. You can visit BFCI's website at <http://www.butterflyrecovery.org> and NABA's website at <http://www.naba.org>.

/s/ Abigail R. Kimbell
ABIGAIL R. KIMBELL
Chief

Enclosures (4)



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