

**SPORTSMEN'S ACCESS TO FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

***TO PROMOTE IMPROVED ACCESS TO FEDERAL PUBLIC  
LANDS FOR HUNTERS AND ANGLERS***

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Forest Service**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management  
Fish and Wildlife Service**

**AND**

**American Sportfishing Association  
Boone and Crockett Club  
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep  
International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
National Rifle Association  
National Shooting Sports Foundation  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
Pheasants Forever  
Pope and Young Club  
Public Lands Foundation  
Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
SCI - First for Hunters  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Wildlife Management Institute**

## **Sportsmen's Access to Federal Public Lands Memorandum of Understanding**

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This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by and among the Department of Agriculture: Forest Service (FS); the Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); hereinafter referred to by their initials or collectively as "the Agencies;" and the American Sportfishing Association (ASA); Boone and Crockett Club (B&C Club); Bowhunting Preservation Alliance (BPA); Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF); Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS); International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA); National Rifle Association (NRA); National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF); National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf); Pheasants Forever (PF); Pope and Young Club (P&Y Club); Public Lands Foundation (PLF); Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF); Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF); Safari Club International (SCI); Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP); Wildlife Management Institute (WMI); hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Private Organizations."

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a general framework for cooperation between the Agencies and the Private Organizations, their local offices, chapters, and affiliated organizations to cooperatively work towards achieving improved access to federally managed public land units for hunters or anglers. These activities and projects shall complement the respective missions of the participating Agencies and Organizations.

### **II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND MUTUAL BENEFITS**

The Agencies are responsible for the management of Federal lands, waters, and resources and have a desire to increase the public's knowledge, awareness, use, enjoyment, and appreciation of these Federal lands and resources and their management. The Agencies also provide technical assistance to help insure the sustainability of natural resources on non-Federal lands.

The primary mission of the FS and the BLM is multiple use management of public lands and resources. Under the multiple use mandate, public land areas for hunting and waterways for fishing are some of the intended multiple uses of lands. The agencies have jurisdiction over many roads and trails within their system that provide access for hunting and fishing on their lands.

The mission of the FWS includes working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The FWS supports, encourages, and promotes hunting and angling opportunities on over 300 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Improved hunting or fishing opportunities and/or sportsmen's access is evaluated through the comprehensive planning and compatibility processes as provided by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. In addition, the FWS actively supports the recruitment and retention of hunters and anglers through the Federal Aid Program by providing financial grants and technical assistance to states, and through the

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states to local governments and private organizations for programs that promote hunter and angler access.

The ASA is a nonprofit trade association whose members include fishing tackle manufacturers, boat builders, state fish and wildlife agencies, angler organizations, sportfishing retailers, and the outdoor media. For over 50 years, ASA and its predecessor organizations have promoted the conservation of fishery resources and environmental measures that improve the aquatic environment, in order to ensure the enjoyment of healthy fisheries by America's nearly 50 million anglers.

It is the policy of the B&C Club to promote the guardianship and provident management of big game and associated wildlife in North America and maintain the highest standards of fair chase and sportsmanship in all aspects of big game hunting, in order that this resource of all the people may survive and prosper in its natural habitats. Consistent with this objective, the Club supports the use and enjoyment of our wildlife heritage to the fullest extent by this and future generations.

The Bowhunting Preservation Alliance (BPA) is a foundation dedicated to the preservation of bowhunting and the protection of bowhunters rights. The BPA works to maintain and enhance networking, communication, and cooperation among and between bowhunting organizations, wildlife agencies and the archery and bowhunting industry. BPA provides the forum for the promotion of bowhunting as an outdoor recreational opportunity, a wildlife management tool and a sustainable use conservation program.

The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) works on behalf of current and future generations of Americans to protect the right and increase the opportunity to hunt, fish and trap by serving as the sportsmen's link to Congress. CSF provides this link by acting as the conduit between sportsmen, wildlife conservation organizations and the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), a bi-partisan caucus that supports wildlife conservation, professional wildlife management, hunting and fishing.

FNAWS is an international wildlife conservation organization whose goals are: to enhance populations of indigenous wild sheep; to educate the public about wild sheep and wildlife conservation; to promote professional wildlife management; and to protect the lawful right and privilege of recreational hunting.

The IAFWA is an association of State/provincial/commonwealth-level agencies of the Western Hemisphere that have management and protection responsibility for fish and wildlife resources in their respective jurisdictions. The federal land managing agencies are also members. The mission of the Association is to strengthen the ability of its member agencies to maintain healthy populations of the fish and wildlife.

The NRA is a national organization dedicated to protecting and defending the Constitutional right to own and use firearms for legitimate purposes and promoting hunting as a method of enhancing the propagation and wise use of renewable wildlife resources.

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The mission of the NSSF is to provide trusted leadership in addressing industry challenges and delivering programs and services to measurably advance participation in, and understanding of, hunting and the shooting sports.

The NWTF is a grassroots, nonprofit organization that supports scientific wildlife management on public, private and corporate lands as well as wild turkey hunting as a traditional North American sport.

Pheasants Forever is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to protect and enhance pheasants and other wildlife populations throughout North America through habitat improvements, public awareness and education, and sound land, water, and wildlife management policies and programs.

The P&Y Club advocates and encourages responsible bowhunting by promoting quality, fair chase hunting, and sound conservation practices. It fosters and nourishes bowhunting excellence and acts in the best interest of our bowhunting heritage everywhere. The Club promotes and participates in improving sound wildlife conservation and wise use of our natural resources.

The Public Land Foundation (PLF) is dedicated to the ecological stability of the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The objectives of PLF are to keep the public lands open and accessible to the public; foster effective multiple use management of the public lands and natural resources under BLM management; encourage optimum implementation of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976; foster professionalism among employees; and encourage networking and communications between Foundation members.

The RBFF is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase participation in recreational angling and boating and thereby increase public awareness and appreciation of the need for protecting, conserving and restoring this nation's aquatic natural resources.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) is an international, nonprofit, wildlife conservation organization whose mission is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat. In support of this mission RMEF works to foster cooperation among federal, state and private organizations and individuals to conserve natural habitats to promote the sound management of wild, free-ranging elk as well as to educate the public about the value of hunting, hunting ethics and wildlife management.

SCI-First for Hunters is an international organization promoting conservation education and research and the wise use and management of renewable natural resources of the world.

The TRCP is guaranteeing places to hunt and fish by actively engaging America's 40 million hunters and anglers to make sure America's public and private lands always remain open and accessible, continue to be scientifically managed for abundant fish and wildlife populations, and provide a lifetime of hunting and fishing opportunities for generations to come.

The WMI is an international scientific and educational organization promoting professional management of natural resources for the benefit of the resources and the people of North America.

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The Agencies and the Private Organizations understand that federal public lands are an important destination for America's hunters and anglers - millions of sportsmen utilize federal public lands every year to fish or hunt. The Agencies and Private Organizations also understand that hunters and anglers help fish and wildlife management agencies to accomplish specific wildlife management goals. In localities where Federal public land is a large percentage of the land base, public access to the federal public land is critical to allow hunters and anglers to carry out responsible fish and wildlife management.

Increasingly, some hunters and anglers are reporting that problems with access have taken away from their enjoyment of hunting and fishing and have caused them to hunt and fish less. These sportsmen perceive access as becoming an even greater issue in the future.

The Agencies and the Private Organizations share common interests in seeking to improve and maintain public access to public lands and lawful hunting and angling where those activities are compatible with the conservation and management of natural resources and fish and wildlife species and other multiple uses.

### **III. THE AGENCIES AGREE TO:**

- A. Consistent with public notice requirements under land use planning, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations and other applicable law, specifically notify the Private Organizations when land use plans and/or access and travel management plans are to be developed, revised, or amended, and cooperate with local chapters and affiliates of the Private Organizations to assess recreational needs and access opportunities for hunters and anglers.
- B. Assist in the identification of areas where access is perceived to be inadequate for hunting and angling opportunities and consider potential solutions to improve access to such areas, or alternative areas. Work with the Private Organizations to coordinate efforts to improve access to these areas where appropriate and when determined to be mutually beneficial and within the confines of their legal mandates.
- C. When maintenance needs of access points and federally managed roads and trails are identified, explore the potential for cooperative projects to address those needs with local chapters and affiliates of the Private Organizations. Work with the Private Organizations on a sportsmen's volunteer day to gain visibility for the efforts of the Agencies and Private Organizations on the maintenance of recreation opportunities on public lands.
- D. Consistent with applicable law, specifically notify the Private Organizations of significant management changes for land units that would impact access for sportsmen. Work with interested parties at the field, regional and national levels to seek alternative access opportunities and/or work together to notify users of the changes and why the changes were necessary.

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- E. Explore the use of web-based technology to ensure that maps and other outreach information on the status of access points for use by hunters and anglers are updated in a timely manner.

#### **IV. THE PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AGREE TO:**

- A. Encourage local chapters and affiliated organizations to contact and meet with the appropriate Agencies' field offices and to participate in agency land use planning efforts to identify suitable access points or locations where access is inadequate.
- B. Encourage local chapters and affiliated organizations to provide leadership, services, and/or materials, as available and appropriate, for the maintenance of roads, trails and access points on public lands.
- C. Inform the Agencies of any potential grant opportunities in their respective organizations that may provide a source of funding for hunter and/or angling access related projects and programs.
- D. Provide technology and skill to support and improve the delivery of outreach information regarding hunter and angler access opportunities.
- E. Provide communication with local sportsmen about opportunities to participate in the land management planning process.
- F. Offer their support to facilitate the acquisition of easements for roads and trails across private lands that are necessary to provide public access to public lands for hunting and fishing.

#### **V. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND AMONG THE COOPERATING AGENCIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS THAT:**

Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the parties to this MOU will require the execution of separate agreements or contacts, contingent upon the availability of funds from the Agencies or as appropriated by Congress.

Each subsequent agreement or arrangement involving the transfer of funds, services, or property between the parties to this MOU must comply with all applicable statutes, regulations and policies, including those statutes and regulations applicable to procurement activities and must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority.

This MOU in no way restricts the Agencies and the Private Organizations from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public agencies, private organizations, and the public.

Any information furnished to the Agencies under this MOU is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

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Nothing in this MOU shall obligate the Agencies and Private Organizations to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract with other obligations.

Additional Federal agencies and private organizations may be added to this MOU by administrative modification with the written concurrence of the cooperating agencies and private organizations at the time of the proposed action. A written record of the consent of the cooperators will be maintained by the Agencies and Private Organizations.

This MOU shall not be construed to provide a private right or cause of action by any person or entity.

### **VI. COMMUNICATIONS AMONG THE MOU PARTICIPANTS**

To provide for consistent and effective communication among the MOU participants, each of the entities shall appoint a representative to complete assigned tasks, discuss, and consider new activities as appropriate that may be pursued under this MOU. The annual work plan includes:

- Participate in scheduled meetings and conference calls (approximately 4 times per year);
- Participate in the annual strategic meeting and identify goals, objectives, and demonstration projects;
- Develop a communication strategy for disseminating accomplishments and information internally and externally.

### **VII. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION/TERMINATION**

This MOU takes effect upon signature by each Agency and each private organization that is a party to the MOU and shall remain in effect for five years from the date of execution. This MOU may be amended upon written request of any party to this MOU and the subsequent written concurrence of the other(s). Any party may terminate its participation in this MOU with a 60-day written notice to the other parties.

### **VIII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

Each of the Agencies and Private Organizations will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives.

### **IX. ESTABLISHMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY**

This MOU is not intended to, and does not create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

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### **X. PRINCIPAL CONTACT:**

Principal contact for the Private Organizations concerning this MOU is:

Jodi Stemler, Director of Communications  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
110 North Carolina Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
202-543-6850  
www.sportsmenslink.org

The respective contacts for each Agency and private organization are identified in the attached Appendix to this Memorandum of Understanding.

### **XI. LEGAL AUTHORITY**

This agreement is entered into under the following authorities:

USDA Forest Service:

Organic Administration Act of 1897 (16 U.S.C. 473-475, 477-482, 551)  
National Trails Systems Act October 2, 1968 (PL 90-543, 82 STAT. 919)  
Volunteers in the National Forest of 1972 (PL92-300, 88 STAT 147)

DOI Bureau of Land Management

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)

DOI Fish and Wildlife Service

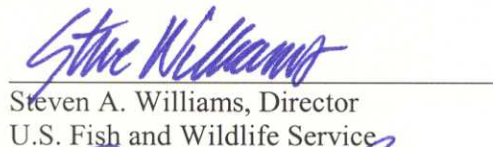
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.)  
Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742(f) et seq.)

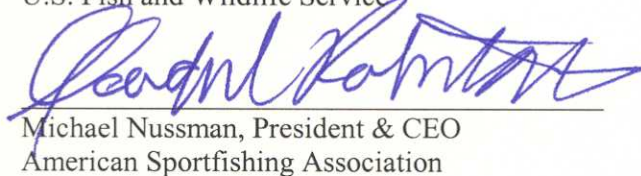


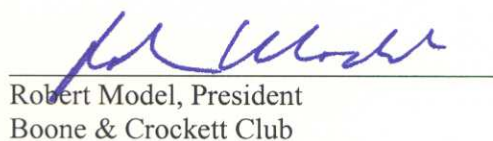
## XII. SPORTSMEN'S ACCESS MOU SIGNATORIES

  
Dale Bosworth, Chief  
U.S. Forest Service

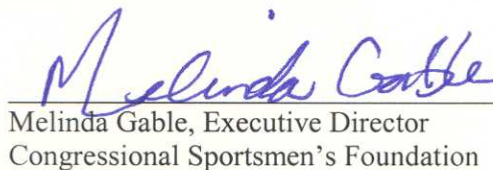
  
Kathleen Clarke, Director  
Bureau of Land Management

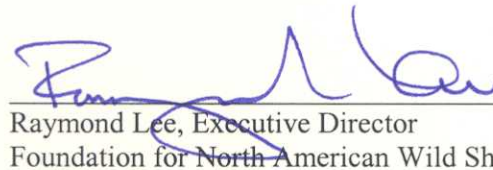
  
Steven A. Williams, Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

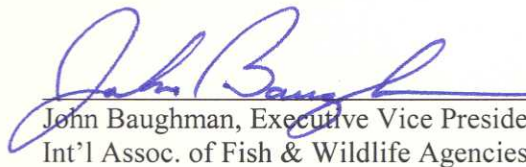
  
Michael Nussman, President & CEO  
American Sportfishing Association

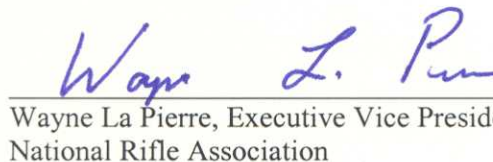
  
Robert Model, President  
Boone & Crockett Club

  
Jay McAninch, President & CEO  
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance

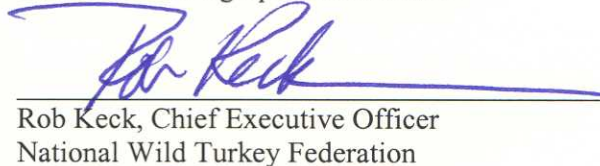
  
Melinda Gable, Executive Director  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

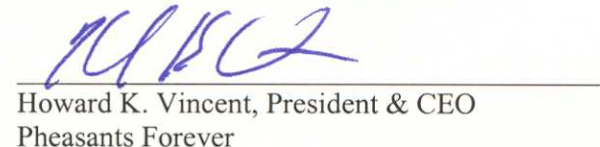
  
Raymond Lee, Executive Director  
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep

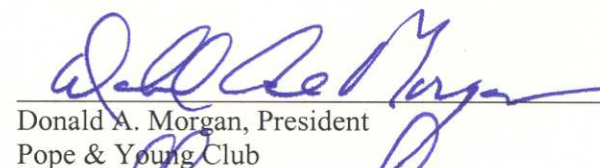
  
John Baughman, Executive Vice President  
Int'l Assoc. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

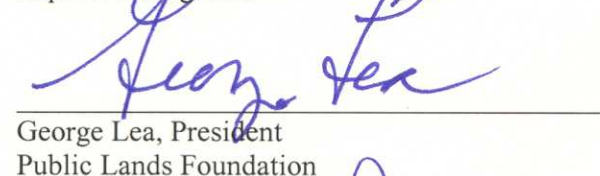
  
Wayne La Pierre, Executive Vice President  
National Rifle Association

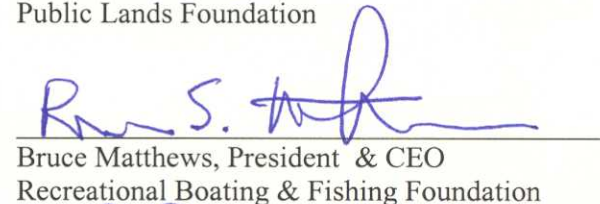
  
Doug Painter, President  
National Shooting Sports Foundation

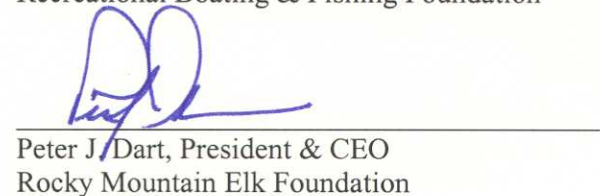
  
Rob Keck, Chief Executive Officer  
National Wild Turkey Federation

  
Howard K. Vincent, President & CEO  
Pheasants Forever

  
Donald A. Morgan, President  
Pope & Young Club


  
George Lea, President  
Public Lands Foundation

  
Bruce Matthews, President & CEO  
Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation

  
Peter J. Dart, President & CEO  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

  
John Monson, President  
SCI - First for Hunters

  
James D. Range, Chairman  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

  
Rollin D. Sparrowe, President  
Wildlife Management Institute

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**APPENDIX I - CONTACTS FOR MOU SIGNATORIES**

<b>Forest Service Project Contact</b>	<b>Primary Cooperator Project Contact</b>
Dave Holland, Director	Jodi Stemler, Director
Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness Resources USDA Forest Service	Communications Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
201 14 <sup>th</sup> Street, SW	110 North Carolina Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20250	Washington, DC 20003
Phone: 202-205-1764	Phone: 202-543-6850
FAX: 202-205-1145	FAX: 202-543-6853
E-Mail: dholland@fs.fed.us	E-Mail: jodi@sportsmenslink.org

<b>BLM Project Contact</b>	<b>FWS Project Contact</b>
Ed Shepard, Assistant Director for Renewable Resources and Planning	Casey Stemler, Special Assistant to the Director
Department of the Interior -BLM	Department of the Interior – FWS
1849 C Street, NW	1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240	Washington, DC 20240
Phone: 202-208-4896	Phone: 202-273-3288
FAX: 202-208-5010	FAX: 202-208-6965
E-Mail: Ed_Shepard@blm.gov	E-Mail: casey_stemler@fws.gov

<b>ASA Project Contact</b>	<b>B&amp;C Project Contact</b>
Gordon Robertson	George Bettas
American Sportfishing Association	Boone and Crockett Club
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420	250 Station Drive
Alexandria, VA 22314	Missoula, MT 59801
Phone: 703-519-9691	Phone: 406-542-1888
FAX: 703-519-1872	FAX: 406-542-0784
E-Mail: grobertson@asafishing.org	E-Mail: bettas@boone-crockett.org

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<b>BPA Project Contact</b>	<b>FNAWS Project Contact</b>
Jay McAninch	Ray Lee
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance	Found. for North American Wild Sheep
9646 Masterworks Drive	720 Allen Avenue
Vienna, VA 22181	Cody, WY 82414
Phone: 703-242-8310	Phone: 307-527-6261
FAX: 703-255-2172	FAX: 307-527-7117
E-Mail: jaymcaninch@bowhuntingpreservation.org	E-Mail: rlee@fnaws.org

<b>IAFWA Project Contact</b>	<b>NRA Project Contact</b>
Don Maclauchlan	Susan Lamson
Int'l Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	National Rifle Association
444 North Capitol Street, NW - Suite 544	11250 Waples Mill Road
Washington, DC 20001	Fairfax, VA 22030
Phone: 202-624-3600	Phone: 703-267-1541
FAX: 202-624-7891	FAX: 703-267-1543
E-Mail: donmac@sso.org	E-Mail: slamson@nrahq.org

<b>NSSF Project Contact</b>	<b>NWTF Project Contact</b>
Jodi Valenta	James Earl Kennamer
National Shooting Sports Foundation	National Wild Turkey Federation
11 Mile Hill Road	770 Augusta Road
Newtown, CT 06470	Edgefield, SC 29824-1510
Phone: 203-426-1320	Phone: 803-637-3106
FAX: 203-426-1087	FAX: 803-637-0034
E-Mail: jvalenta@nssf.org	E-Mail: jkennamer@nwtf.net

<b>PF Project Contact</b>	<b>P&amp;Y Project Contact</b>
Dave Nomsen	Stan Rauch
Pheasants Forever	Pope and Young Club
2101 Ridgewood Dr. NW	662 Bear Creek Road
Alexandria, MN 56308	Victor, MT 59875
Phone: 320-763-6103	Phone: 406-642-6639
FAX: 320-763-6103	FAX:
E-Mail: pfnomsen@rea-alp.com	E-Mail: rauch@bigsky.net

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<b>PLF Project Contact</b>	<b>RBFF Project Contact</b>
George Lea	Bruce Matthews
Public Lands Foundation	Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation
PO Box 7226	601 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 140
Arlington, VA 22207	Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-790-1988	Phone: 703-519-0036
FAX: 703-821-3490	FAX: 703-519-9565
E-Mail: leaplf@erols.com	E-Mail: bmatthews@rbff.org

<b>RMEF Project Contact</b>	<b>SCI Project Contact</b>
Keith Lenard	Rick Parsons
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	SCI – First for Hunters
2291 West Broadway	501 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street, NE
Missoula, MT 59808	Washington, DC 20002
Phone: 406-544-5310	Phone: 202-543-8733
FAX: 406-523-4500	FAX: 202-543-1205
E-Mail: klenard@rmef.org	E-Mail: rparsons@sci-dc.org

<b>TRCP Project Contact</b>	<b>WMI Project Contact</b>
Eric Washburn	Bob Byrne
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	Wildlife Management Institute
555 Eleventh Street NW, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor	1146 19 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW – Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004	Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-508-3432	Phone: 202-371-1808
FAX: 202-508-3402	FAX: 202-408-5059
E-Mail: ewashburn@bdbc.com	E-Mail: bbyrne@wildlifemgt.org