

LIAISON AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

AND THE

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Relative To: Mutual Development of Plant Materials for Revegetation

This agreement is entered into between the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

I. BACKGROUND

On March 14, 1989, the National Park Service (NPS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) signed a Memorandum of Understanding entitled "Mutual Development of Plant Materials for Revegetation." This document states:

"There are opportunities for the NPS and the NRCS to cooperate in the development of procedures for using plant materials that will assist in the revegetation of disturbed sites in NPS developed areas with indigenous species."

Many of these sites are the result of park road projects funded by the Federal Lands Highway Program of the Federal Highway Administration. To realize the opportunities, the agencies mutually agreed to identify a National Technical Advisor (NTA) to assist a Point of Contact (POC) in developing and expediting specific interagency agreements between individual NPS units and NRCS Plant Materials Centers (PMC) that address specific revegetation needs.

The original Interagency Agreement was dated January 19, 1990 (SCS A-3A75-0-30), amended March 11, 1994 (SCS A-3A75-4-108), and amended August 26, 1999 (NRCS A-3A75-9-134).

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to provide continued implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the NPS and the NRCS relative to "Mutual Development of Plant Materials for Revegetation."

III. AUTHORITY

This agreement is entered into under the authority of the Economy Act of 1932 (31 U.S.C. 1535).

IV. SCOPE

The provisions of this agreement extend to those activities of NPS and NRCS that affect implementation of the program entitled "Mutual Development of Plant Materials for Revegetation" on a project-by-project basis.

V. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED TO:

- A. Continue implementation of the cooperative program identified in the Memorandum of Understanding entitled "Mutual Development of Plant Materials for Revegetation," which became effective on January 19, 1990 and subsequently renewed in 1994 and 1998.
- B. Develop an annual plant materials program identifying approved projects and associated project scopes, cost, and timetables. The program also will identify each specific park unit and the corresponding Plant Materials Centers (PMC) involved in the project.
- C. Prepare an annual budget for the program, outlining specific projected costs and schedules for each project as well as costs related to overall management.
- D. Prepare an annual evaluation of the program goals and actual achievements.
- E. Prepare annual technical bulletins and reports of revegetation and reclamation work that has regional or national significance or application.
- F. Compile an annual executive report detailing progress of each plant material project, moneys spent, and major milestones achieved.
- G. Classify all information gained under the provisions of this agreement as public property.

VI. NRCS AGREES TO:

- A. Establish and assign to the National Park Service, as a liaison, Russell Haas, Soil Conservationist, GS- 0457-13, for a period of 2 years, beginning April 3, 2005, and ending April 2, 2007. This position will be on the staff of the NRCS- North Dakota. Robert Escheman, National Plant Materials Specialist, will be the official NRCS Supervisor for the position, but day-to-day activities may be supervised by

an NPS employee. The soil conservationist's major duties will be to:

1. Coordinate development and implementation of multi-year plans for plant materials development for large scale revegetation programs between NPS, NRCS and PMCs for multi-year park road revegetation efforts.
2. Coordinate overall scheduling of PMC multi-year agreements to meet NPS park road program needs.
3. Work with NPS - NTA, the Denver Service Center (DSC), Federal Highway project managers, and appropriate park staffs to identify requests for plant materials assistance each fiscal year for inclusion in a prioritized annual plant materials request for review by the POCs of both agencies.
4. Develop in consultation with the NPS - NTA, based on recommendations of the POCs, an annual work plan of proposed plant materials projects to be funded by the NPS, based on the availability of funds.
5. Assist PMCs and individual park staffs in the development of scopes of work and agreements, which serve as the contractual arrangement to implement specific projects.
6. Coordinate contractual agreements and information between NRCS State offices where more than one State may be involved.
7. Work with NRCS State, regional, and national offices to coordinate activities to ensure each IA is conducted efficiently, is well coordinated with other agreements and to ensure mutual sharing of results, and to eliminate the potential duplication of work.
8. Assist PMCs and specific park staffs in the scheduling of plant materials work, such as seed collection, seed and plant increase, harvesting, cleaning, seed analysis, and plant testing.
9. Develop service wide or regional handbooks covering the techniques/methodologies of developing and carrying out agreements between PMCs and units of the National Park System.
10. Provide the following liaison information:

Name: Russell Haas
SSN: 501-54-6359

VII. NPS AGREES TO:

- A. Establish an NTA position whose principal duties will be to:
1. Coordinate at the national level, planning and implementation of large-scale revegetation projects between the NPS, NRCS, Federal Highway project managers, and park staffs for multi-year park road vegetation efforts.
 2. Coordinate overall scheduling of NPS multi-year agreements for park road program needs to meet PMC workload capability.
 3. Work with the NRCS-NTA, the DSC, Federal Highway project managers, and appropriate park staffs to identify requests for plant materials assistance each fiscal year for inclusion in a prioritized annual plant materials request review by POCs of both agencies.
 4. Develop in consultation with NRCS - NTA, based on recommendations of the POCs, an annual work plan of proposed plant materials projects to be funded by NPS, based on the availability of funds.
 5. Assist Regions, upon request, and individual park staffs in the development of scopes of work and agreements, which serve as the contractual arrangement to implement specific projects.
 6. Coordinate contractual agreements and information between NPS Regions where more than one Region may be involved.
 7. Work with national, DSC, and Regional offices, upon request, to coordinate activities to ensure each agreement is conducted efficiently and is well coordinated with other agreements and to ensure mutual sharing of results, and to eliminate the potential duplication of work.
 8. Assist NRCS- NTA, PMCs, and specific park staffs in the scheduling of plant materials work, such as seed collection, seed and plant increase, harvesting, cleaning, seed analysis, and plant testing.
 9. Develop service wide or regional handbooks covering the methodology of developing and carrying out agreements between PMCs and units of the National Park System.
 10. Prepare trip reports for each park field trip, outlining status and progress of the plant materials projects.

11. Location:

USDA-NRCS
220 E. Rosser Avenue, Room 278
Post Office Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

- B. Based on an annual work plan, reimburse NRCS, which will establish the NRCS - NTA position in support of the program, or the salary of a GS-13, employee benefits, travel and support-costs incurred by the NRCS- NTA that are attributable to the program.

VIII. PAYMENT

- A. NRCS will submit billings on a semiannual basis to NPS for reimbursement of costs associated with the NRCS - NTA salary (of a GS-13), employee benefits, travel, and support, and NPS will reimburse NRCS on a semiannual basis for the costs incurred during the half-year for which billings are submitted.
- B. Billings by NRCS will be by Intra-Governmental Payment and Collection System (IPAC). A request for bill will be sent to NPS Technical Advisor, National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, Colorado 80225-0287, using the account number provided in the authorization letters.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL CONTACTS

A. NRCS:

1. **Diane E. Gelburd**, Director (Administrative)
Ecological Sciences Division
Post Office Box 2890, Room 6014-S
Washington, D.C. 20013-2890
Phone: (202) 720-2587
2. **Robert Escherman**, Program Manager for Plant Materials (Technical-POC)
Ecological Sciences Division
Post Office Box 2890, Room 6158-S
Washington, D.C. 20013-2890
Phone: (202) 720-0536
3. **Russell Haas**, Plant Materials Technical Advisor (Technical-NTA)
USDA-NRCS
220 E. Rosser Avenue, Room 278
P.O. Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458
Phone: (701) 530-2026

B. NPS:

1. **Sue Masica**, Associate Director (Administrative)
Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands
National Park Service
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240
Phone: (202) 208-3264
2. **Lou DeLorme**, Team Leader (Administrative)
Transportation Planning/Alternative, Transportation Program
National Park Service
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240
Phone: (202) 513-1028
3. **Sarah Wynn**, Revegetation Technical Specialist (Technical-NTA)
National Park Service, DSCR
12795 W. Alameda Parkway, P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225
Phone: (303) 969-2568

X. AGREEMENT TERMS AND REVIEW

- A. The parties of this agreement shall be in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions contained in the Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259); and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. They will be in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7 CFR 15, Subparts A & B) and the Secretary of the Interior (43 CFR 17), which will provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Agriculture, or any agency thereof, or from the Department of the Interior, or any agency thereof.
- B. The provisions of 16 U.S.C. 590a-f regarding the Natural Resources Conservation Service, 16 U.S.C. et seq. regarding the National Park Service, the Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act will become part of this agreement and will be binding on all parties.
- C. This agreement between NPS and NRCS shall remain in force for the period of

April 3, 2005 through April 2, 2007 and is renewable after appropriate review and determination of effectiveness. This agreement can be terminated by either agency upon 90 days written notice. Should this agreement be terminated prior to the agreement date, NRCS-NHQ will assume responsibility for the salary of Mr. Haas. The NPS Director and the NRCS Chief will periodically review the agreement and recommend any modifications or adjustments that would be desirable.

- D. Nothing in this agreement will be construed as limiting or affecting the legal authorities of the NPS Director or the NRCS Chief, or as binding upon NPS or NRCS to perform beyond their respective authorities, or to require any of the parties to assume or expend funds in excess of available appropriations.

XI. SIGNATURES/DATES:

ACCEPTANCE FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Ann G. Master 5/15/05
Director, National Park Service Date

ACCEPTANCE FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ben [Signature] 6/8/05
Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service Date

ACCEPTANCE FOR THE PARTICIPATING EMPLOYEE

Russell J Haas 4/14/05
Russell Haas, Soil Conservationist, NRCS Date