MEMORANDOM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
and the
UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

This agreement is made and entered into between the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, hereinafter referred to as the MDFWP, and the USDA Forest Service, hereinafter referred to as the USFS.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Whereas, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex (BMWC), a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS), is managed subject to direction of the 1964 Wilderness Act, and

Whereas, wilderness is an area where natural ecological processes operate freely, and

Whereas, the wildlife, which is part of the BMWC, have been managed and protected by the State of Montana at least since 1901, and

Whereas, public lands within the BMWC have been protected and managed by the USFS since its inception in 1905, and

Whereas, the BMWC is an integral part of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) and has substantially contributed to wildlife restoration and conservation, and

Whereas, the needs of wildlife within the BMWC extend beyond wilderness boundaries, and

Now therefore, this Memorandum of Understanding is entered into for the purpose of addressing the mutual interest of the MDFWP and the USFS in managing the fish and wildlife resource and their habitat within the BMWC.

AGREEMENTS AND LIAISONS

The USFS has created a Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Managers Group (hereinafter known as the Managers Group). This group and their duties are described in the USFS' Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Charter, contained in the BMWC Management Implementation Program as Appendix A. Chair and Vice-Chair positions for the BMWC Managers Group will be assigned to District Rangers on an annual revolving basis.

The USFS agrees that participation of the MDFWP with the Mangers Group will enhance the management of the fish and wildlife resources and their habitat. Representation by MDFWP at Managers Group Meetings, where matters related to fish, wildlife and their habitat are discussed, will be encouraged and facilitated by open and special invitation.

The MDFWP agrees that participation and representation at MDFWP meetings, where matters concerning BMWC lands related to fish, wildlife and their habitat, will be encouraged and facilitated by open and special invitation.

The MDFWP designates its' three Regional Supervisors with management responsibilities in this ecosystem as its' representatives to the Managers Group.

The MDFWP designates one Regional Supervisor as a current leader of its representation to the Managers Group. This designation of leadership may change from time to time and remains the discretion of the MDFWP.

The USFS and MDFWP will mutually develop a cooperative process to resolve management issues related to fish and wildlife resources for the BMWC.

The USFS and MDFWP will mutually develop a Fish & Wildlife Plan for the BMWC.

The USFS and MDFWP agree to coordinate enforcement, monitoring, research and other efforts to avoid duplication and effectively use available resources.

This agreement shall continue indefinitely until terminated by either party after giving thirty days written notice.

EXECUTION

To express the parties' intent to be bound by the terms of this agreement, they have affixed their signatures and executed this document on the date(s) set out below:

The United States Forest Service

ORVILLE L. DANIELS DATE 2/16/94
Lolo Forest Supervisor

JOEL D. HOLTROP DATE 2/16/94
Flathead Forest Supervisor

JOHN "DALE" GORMAN DATE 2/16/94
Lewis & Clark Forest Supervisor

TOM CLIFFORD DATE 2/16/94
Helena Forest Supervisor

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

RICH CLOUGH DATE 4/12/94
Region #2 Supervisor

DAN VINCENT DATE 4/14/94
Region #1 Supervisor

MIKE ADERHOLD DATE 4/23/94
Region #4 Supervisor