

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
Student Conservation Association
AND
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is hereby made and entered into by and between the Student Conservation Association, hereinafter referred to as the SCA, and United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, herein after referred to as the Carhart Center.

A. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework of cooperation to convene and institutionalize a Traditional Skills Development Team Partnership, among organizations and agency staff. The partnership will address the issue of attrition of skilled workers, lack of specialized equipment, and misinformation about the economic, effective, and safe use of traditional skills. The partnership will develop training and standards for certification in traditional skills, and increase awareness and support for these skills in stewardship of the National Wilderness Preservation System for present and future generations.

This cooperation serves the mutual interest of the parties and the public.

B. INTENT:

The intent of this partnership is to build agency capacity among agency employees and citizen stewards in the safe and effective use of traditional skills and tools including, but not limited to, crosscut saws, axes, rigging, the use of native materials, and horse packing through:

1. Development of a national internal and external skills and project needs database;
2. Development of standards and course curriculum including values and benefits of wilderness;
3. Development and distribution of instructional materials in print, internet and multi-media formats;
4. Identification and coordination of training needs and projects;
5. Recruiting, training, outfitting, and supervising agency employees and volunteers including youth; and,
6. Hands on training using existing wilderness projects as training opportunities.

The Carhart Center – SCA Traditional Skills Development Team Partnership will:

1. Develop an internal and volunteer workforce skilled in traditional tool use and wilderness awareness;
2. Improve safety and increase efficiency and effectiveness in traditional tool use;
3. Provide wilderness resource stewardship by completing work on the ground;
4. Reconnect the public including youth with their wilderness heritage by providing safe, fun, and rewarding stewardship projects using traditional tools and skills;
5. Strengthen and expand existing partnerships and develop new partnerships by enlisting existing expertise in traditional skills within and outside the agencies;
6. Enhance the ability to leverage resources; and,
7. Contribute directly to the FS National Strategic Plan:
 - a. Objective 4.1 “Maintain a diverse workforce with the technical understanding and leadership skills needed to meet major agency challenges.”
 - b. Objective 4.2 “Improve the use of partnerships and interagency cooperation to leverage resources and skills.”
 - c. Objective 5.1 “Promote conservation education to increase environmental literacy.”
 - d. Objective 5.3 “Increase collaboration with groups that benefit and educate urban populations.”

C. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERESTS:

The Carhart Center was established in 1993 to preserve the values and benefits of wilderness for present and future generations by connecting agency employees and the public with their wilderness heritage through training, information and education. Among Carhart Center benefits and interests are:

1. Improve consistency and collaboration in on-the-ground wilderness decisions among managers, stewardship skills among wilderness staff, and wilderness awareness among agency employees through training and collaboration with SCA and its partners.
2. Foster development of a personal stewardship ethic and support for the National Wilderness Preservation System among the American public by increasing awareness, knowledge and understanding of their wilderness heritage.
3. Broaden the services and offerings of the Carhart Center through cooperation with SCA to develop new trainings, services, partnerships and funding streams.

The Student Conservation Association is the nation's largest, non-profit conservation organization dedicated to young people and their career development in land conservation and resource management. Building conservation leaders and inspiring a lifelong commitment to an ethic of land stewardship, whether wilderness or urban, is the heart and soul of SCA's mission. Founded in 1957, SCA has nearly 50,000 alumni around the world. Among SCA's benefits and interests are:

1. Develop wilderness traditional skills training curriculum in collaboration with the Carhart Center and its partner agencies and organizations to build upon SCA's knowledge and expertise.
2. Identify and cultivate a cadre of training partners from within and outside the Carhart Center and federal wilderness agencies.
3. To recruit, train and deploy wilderness volunteer coordinators who can lead wilderness restoration projects at sites across the country.
4. Broaden the services and offerings of SCA through cooperation with the Carhart Center to develop new trainings, services, partnerships and funding streams.

D. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE PREMISES, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

The Carhart Center shall, through the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service and National Park Service:

- 1) Identify existing agency expertise in various aspects of the use and application of traditional skills.
- 2) Identify existing wilderness projects requiring the use of traditional skills.
- 3) Identify existing training needs among agencies.
- 4) Collaborate with SCA to develop a set of criteria for prioritizing training and project work.
- 5) Gain endorsement and support of training criteria at appropriate levels of each agency listed above.
- 6) Collaborate with SCA to prioritize an annual training work plan.
- 7) Collaborate with SCA to develop standards and course curriculum.
- 8) Collaborate with SCA to develop and distribute instructional materials in print, internet and multi-media formats.
- 9) Collaborate with SCA to pursue agency funding and grants, as legally allowed and appropriate, in support of this training program.
- 10) Be allowed to use SCA's logo only in support of this MOU and its activities.
- 11) Consider entering into separate arrangement(s) to implement management activities and costs associated with the Plan and AOPs. Such arrangement(s) shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority, and may include, but are not limited to: Collection Agreements, Challenge Cost Share Agreements, Participating Agreements, Volunteer Agreements, Grants, Cooperative Agreements and Procurement. An example would be to create a supplemental project agreement under the current national Participating Agreement with SCA 04-PA-1113221-322.

The SCA shall:

1. Identify existing training opportunities for agency and non-governmental partners.
2. Identify existing wilderness projects requiring the use of traditional skills.
3. Identify existing training needs among non-governmental organizations.
4. Collaborate with the Carhart Center to develop a set of criteria for prioritizing training and project work.
5. Collaborate with the Carhart Center to gain support for training criteria among wilderness management agencies and non-governmental organizations.
6. Contribute its instructor expertise and knowledge contained within SCA's Lightly on the Land trail and restoration skills manual as a resource supporting this partnership.
7. Collaborate with the Carhart Center to prioritize an annual training work plan.
8. Collaborate with the Carhart Center to develop standards and course curriculum.
9. Collaborate with the Carhart Center to develop and distribute instructional materials in print, internet and multi-media formats.
10. Collaborate with the Carhart Center to pursue agency funding, grants and philanthropic contributions in support of this training program.
11. Be allowed to use the Carhart logo only in support of this MOU and its activities.
12. Be allowed to use a branded identity for this partnership such as "*The National Wilderness Workskills Training Partner of the Carhart Center*," along with other partners acknowledged by the Carhart Center.

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

1. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). Any information furnished to the Forest Service under this instrument is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).
2. MODIFICATION. Modifications within the scope of the instrument shall be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by all parties, prior to any changes being performed.
3. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This instrument in no way restricts the Forest Service or the Cooperator(s) from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
4. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE. The instrument is executed as of the date of the last signature and shall remain in effect for 5 years, at which time it will expire unless extended.
5. TERMINATION. Any of the parties, in writing, may terminate the instrument in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration.

6. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. The principal contacts for this instrument are:

Carhart Project Contact	SCA Project Contact
Connie G. Myers, Director Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center 32 Campus Drive #3168 Missoula, MT 59812 Phone: 406-243-4654 FAX: 406-243-4717 E-Mail: cgmymers@fs.fed.us	Don Hunger, Sr. Director for National Partnership Development Student Conservation Association 1201 Cornwall Ave. #104 Bellingham, WA 98225 Phone: 360-752-2479 FAX: 360-752-2479 E-Mail: dhunger@thesca.org

Carhart Administrative Contact	SCA Administrative Contact
Elaine Poser Administrative Specialist Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center 32 Campus Drive #3168 Missoula, MT 59812 Phone: 406-243-4644 FAX: 406-243-4717 E-Mail: eposer@fs.fed.us	Robert Coates Vice President of Programs Student Conservation Association 689 River Road Charlestown, NH 03581 Phone: 603-543-1700 FAX: E-Mail: bcoates@thesca.org

7. NON-FUND OBLIGATING DOCUMENT. This instrument is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor or transfer of anything of value involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this instrument will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for Government procurement and printing. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This instrument does not provide such authority. Specifically, this instrument does not establish authority for noncompetitive award to the cooperator of any contract or other agreement. Any contract or agreement for training or other services must fully comply with all applicable requirements for competition.

8. 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.

9. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES. The Department of Agriculture and (insert name of other party or parties) and their respective agencies and office will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner.

