



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between the
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
And the
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
And the
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



I. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the Department of the Interior (Interior), acting through its Secretary; the Department of Agriculture (Agriculture), acting through its Secretary; and the Department of the Army (Army), acting through the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework for collaborative efforts to identify and create opportunities to work together as partners to accomplish shared, compatible, and priority conservation, restoration, outdoor recreation, environmental education, and sustainable economic objectives in support of the National Blueways System as a whole, and specific designated National Blueways.

II. Background

Thanks to growing awareness of the link between healthy communities and healthy watersheds, one of the objectives of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative (AGO), launched by President Barack Obama in 2010, calls on Federal agencies to use a comprehensive and collaborative approach to conserving rivers and other waters by employing a combination of land and water management strategies at the watershed level and using tools such as Integrated Water Resources Management to pursue this approach in cooperation with stakeholder-driven watershed-based partnerships.

On May 24, 2012, Secretary Ken Salazar issued Secretary's Order 3321 establishing the National Blueways System, which designates the Connecticut River and Watershed as the Nation's first National Blueway, and directs Interior to align the implementation of all plans and programs in Interior with the National Blueways System; coordinate among bureaus to support designated National Blueways; and pursue partnerships outside Interior in support of the National Blueways System and designated National Blueways.

A National Blueway is a designation for nationally significant rivers and their watersheds that recognizes the economic, recreational, ecological, and cultural value of healthy river systems. A Watershed designated as a National Blueway employs integrated land and water management techniques to conserve and restore a river from its headwaters to its mouth, and across its entire watershed. A large scale is needed, such as the Connecticut River and Watershed National Blueway, to successfully address 21st century challenges posed by changing patterns of resource

