

Alaska Bird Observatory Number: 2005-01-ABO
Alaska Department of Fish and Game Number: _____
Alaska Natural Heritage Program Number: 2005-01-UAA
Bureau of Land Management Number: 2005-06-NFO(024)
National Audubon Society Number: 2005-01-USFWS

National Park Service Number: G9910050013
USDA Forest Service Number: 05MU-111001-002
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Number: 70181-4-K408
USGS Number: 05-MOU-9050-001

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

for the

ALASKA LANDBIRD MONITORING SURVEY

among

Alaska Bird Observatory

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Alaska Natural Heritage Program

Bureau of Land Management, Alaska

National Audubon Society, Alaska State Office

National Park Service, Alaska Region

USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 7

U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered by and between the Alaska Bird Observatory, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Bureau of Land Management, National Audubon Society, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (each, a “Cooperator,” and collectively, the “Cooperators”).

The Cooperators hereby set out their agreements with respect to the subject matter of this MOU, within the limits described below, as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

Most of the 135 species of breeding terrestrial birds (hereinafter, landbirds) in Alaska are limited to arctic and northern forest biomes that are not adequately sampled by any continental avian monitoring program in North America. For example, the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), a system of roadside surveys for landbirds breeding in the United States and Canada, has been instrumental in both documenting long-term declines among temperate-breeding landbirds and fueling conservation measures to reverse these declines. However, the BBS has been inadequate to estimate population trends for most landbird species in Alaska because of the sparse road system in the state.

To compensate for this lack of information, Boreal Partners in Flight has developed the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey, an efficient and statistically rigorous program to: 1) monitor the population trends of a wide variety of landbird species across the vast roadless areas throughout the state, many of which are listed as species of special concern by many agencies and organizations; 2) estimate population sizes of a wide variety of landbirds breeding in Alaska; 3) model bird-habitat relationships at large spatial scales; and 4) complement information collected from the roadside BBS. The sampling design and field protocols of the program are based on extensive analyses by the USGS Alaska Science Center of a large number of landbird surveys conducted by agency and volunteer biologists throughout Alaska from 1992–2002. The program has been designed primarily to monitor passerines and other small landbirds; however, these surveys also gather valuable data for other groups of birds, particularly loons, grebes, shorebirds, jaegers, gulls, terns, diurnal raptors, ptarmigan, and grouse. Like the BBS, the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey is intended to be a cooperative project supported by various land management agencies, non-governmental organizations, and landowners within Alaska that participate by conducting surveys using a standardized methodology and contributing their data to the coordinating agency, the USGS. Information collected using consistent methods will both enhance the Cooperators’ understanding of the status and distribution of many landbirds throughout Alaska and help direct conservation towards species and habitats before they become imperiled and long-term and costly recovery efforts are needed.

The Cooperators recognize the importance of tracking the status of landbird populations breeding in Alaska and acknowledge that the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey provides the best contemporary means of accomplishing this task for a wide range of species in the state. The Cooperators also recognize that a partnership is required to implement the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey across the vast roadless areas of the state, which are under the administration of an array of agencies and private landowners.

II. AUTHORITY

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act [FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1712(c) (9)] is the authority under which the BLM-Alaska enters into this MOU.

III. PURPOSE

This MOU establishes a framework for collaboration among the Cooperators to implement the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey, including the use of standardized methodology, the sharing of information obtained through the program, and the periodic assessment of the program's efficacy in meeting its stated goals. This MOU does not imply a financial commitment on the part of any of the Cooperators, nor does it grant or imply the right to access property owned by or under the control of any Cooperator or any other agency or private party.

IV. POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

- A. The Cooperators will collaborate to implement the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey on roadless areas throughout Alaska. Specifically, the Cooperators agree to:
1. Adopt mutually agreed upon standardized protocols developed by the USGS Alaska Science Center and Boreal Partners in Flight for data acquisition;
 2. Share data. Data will be submitted to the USGS Alaska Science Center in a timely manner and stored in a single state-wide repository administered by the USGS Alaska Science Center. All data will be compiled electronically and made available to all Cooperators in electronic format by 31 December of each year. An oral progress report will be given each year at the annual meeting of Boreal Partners in Flight and an annual written report will be prepared and distributed to all Cooperators by 1 April of each year.
 3. Employ mutually agreed upon analytical procedures; and
 4. Facilitate efforts to obtain funding to support the collection, management, and analysis of data for the program, within the fiscal and administrative constraints of the Cooperators' respective organizations and agencies. If the level of participation and funding needed to meet monitoring objectives is not secured by collaborating agencies and organizations within five years of this agreement, Cooperators will be notified. If Cooperators agree that this MOU should be terminated, then electronic copies of data will be distributed to each Cooperator.
- B. The Cooperators agree that data collected for this project will be pooled and stored at the USGS Alaska Science Center. Reports, papers, articles, news stories, presentations, and/or other public communications may be prepared using the pooled data collected by the Cooperators; however, each Cooperator will retain the right to use data collected or paid for by its own organization in any way that it deems appropriate, subject to applicable law. Authorship order on publications will be assigned based on guidelines developed by the Ecological Society of America [Schmidt, R. H. 1987. A worksheet for authorship of scientific articles. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* 68(1):8-10]. Conflicts between Cooperators over procedures in this MOU that cannot be settled at the field level will be referred to successively higher administrative levels for resolution.

V. AGREEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

This MOU will expire at the close of business five years following the date of last signature unless extended prior to this date. The Cooperators will re-evaluate the desirability of renewing this MOU six months prior to expiration. Any extension or renewal of this MOU will be accomplished in writing and will be reviewed for legal sufficiency. Any Cooperator may terminate their participation in the MOU in whole or in part provided that they give 90 days' advance written notice of their intent to withdraw from the MOU.

VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. This MOU does not affect or imply any access to or transfer of funds, property, or services on behalf of any of the Cooperators. Any discussion of such transfers by any of the Cooperators is for planning purposes only, and the actual transfers will be accomplished under separate cover in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, procedures, and written agreements.

B. This MOU in no way restricts any Cooperator from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals. Each Cooperator also is responsible for the support, financial or otherwise, of its staff relative to participation in any activities referred to in this MOU.

C. The principal contacts for this MOU are:

1. ***Alaska Bird Observatory***

Nancy DeWitt, Executive Director, Alaska Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 80505, Fairbanks, 99708, 907-451-7159, ndewitt@alaskabird.org

2. ***Alaska Department of Fish and Game***

David Tessler, Nongame Wildlife Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99518, 907-267-2332, david_tessler@fishgame.state.ak.us

3. ***Alaska Natural Heritage Program***

Tracey Gotthardt, Research Associate, Zoology, Alaska Natural Heritage Program, 707 A Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, 907-257-2782, antg@uaa.alaska.edu

4. ***National Audubon Society***

Stanley E. Senner, Executive Director and Vice President, National Audubon Society, Alaska Office, 715 L Street, Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, 907-276-7034, ssenner@audubon.org

5. ***USDA Forest Service***

Ellen Campbell, Regional Biologist, USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628, 907-586-7919, ellencampbell@fs.fed.us

6. ***Bureau of Land Management***

Ruth Gronquist, Wildlife Biologist, Bureau of Land Management, Northern Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709, 907-474-2377, ruth_gronquist@blm.gov

7. ***National Park Service***

Carol McIntyre, Wildlife Biologist, National Park Service, Denali National Park and Preserve, 201 1st Avenue, Doyon Building Fairbanks, Alaska 99701, 907-455-0671, carol_mcintyre@nps.gov

8. ***U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service***

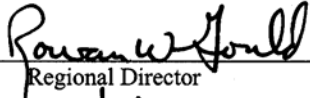
Steven Matsuoka, Alaska Landbird Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management, 1011 E. Tudor Road, ms 201, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, 907-786-3672, steve_matsuoka@fws.gov

9. ***U.S. Geological Survey***

Colleen Handel, Research Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, 907-786-3418, colleen_handel@usgs.gov

In Witness hereof, the parties have caused this Memorandum of Understanding for the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey to be executed as of the date of last signature below:

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
REGION 7**

BY: 
Regional Director

DATE: 8/1/05

ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATORY

BY: 
Executive Director

DATE: 20 July 2005

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

BY: 
Commissioner

DATE: 7/12/05

ALASKA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

BY: 
Program Manager

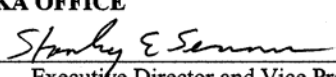
DATE: 6-22-05

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ALASKA REGION**

BY: 
State Director


DATE: 5/11/05

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
ALASKA OFFICE**

BY: 
Executive Director and Vice President

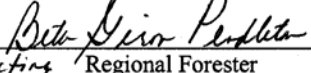
DATE: 16 May 2005

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ALASKA REGION**

BY: 
Acting Regional Director


DATE: 5/18/05

**USDA FOREST SERVICE
ALASKA REGION**

BY: 
Acting Regional Forester

DATE: 1 June 2005

**U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
ALASKA SCIENCE CENTER**

BY: 
Director

DATE: 6/8/05