

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN THE**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
MID-ATLANTIC AND NATIONAL CAPITAL REGIONS**

**AND THE  
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III**

**I. Purpose**

This Memorandum of Understanding provides for enhanced cooperation between the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service's (NPS) Mid-Atlantic and National Capital Regional Offices and the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region III (EPA) Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP). This agreement is established for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information between agencies and to heighten the awareness and cooperation of the individual activities of the federal and state agencies responsible for the implementation of the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

**II. Existing Authorities and Responsibilities**

The NPS Mid-Atlantic Region and National Capital Region provide leadership and support to preserve park resources and provide for their public use and enjoyment. Through the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, the NPS carries out broad responsibilities to plan, manage and conserve important resources in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These existing responsibilities represent a long standing commitment by the NPS to the residents, visitors and resources of the Chesapeake Bay.

The CBP operates under the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement among the Governors of the States of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia and Pennsylvania; the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the Administrator of the EPA, signing on behalf of the federal government agencies.

In accordance with agency authorities, policies and available resources, the NPS will work together with the EPA to assure that the activities of NPS are applied most effectively to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay. The NPS mission and the goals of the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement provide for cooperation, coordination and mutual interest in conserving the Chesapeake Bay's natural and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

### III. Provisions

The NPS will actively support and participate in the CBP. NPS contributions to the ongoing state/federal Bay effort will include NPS assistance to other CBP participating groups in conserving and interpreting important natural and cultural resources of the Bay. This assistance will use existing NPS programs for national parks, resource planning and grants management, rivers and trails conservation assistance, public education, interpretation, and cooperative heritage planning projects.

The EPA will support NPS participation in the CBP and the Implementation Committee, its advisory committees and functional subcommittees, as appropriate and contingent on available resources. The EPA and NPS will exchange information and coordinate on programs and policies with mutually beneficial goals in order to achieve restoration and protection objectives under the 1987 Agreement, including amendments and avoid duplication.

The NPS and the EPA agree to exchange work plans, activity reports, and input to program documents on an annual basis. The EPA and NPS will meet together at least annually to review the status, progress and future activities associated with implementing this Memorandum of Understanding. The NPS will develop an action agenda within six months of the signing of this agreement for review by the CBP.

The NPS and the EPA, recognizing specific expertise in each agency, mutually agree to cooperatively undertake activities and programs, as feasible and contingent on available funds. The EPA will review the Chesapeake Bay Study prepared by NPS and, in cooperation with the Implementation Committee, assess and further define appropriate NPS roles for involvement and opportunities for the NPS to contribute to the current state/federal effort to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Recognizing its responsibilities concerning property holdings throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the NPS will, as feasible and contingent on available human and financial resources, continue to pursue programs on these holdings, which complement the goals and objectives of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, including work plans and strategies to protect water quality, prevent pollution, and investigate needs and opportunities for access and interpretation.

The EPA will, as feasible and contingent on available funds, make available data of cooperative CBP activities to NPS. EPA will support NPS participation in the CBP and its committees and subcommittees and assist NPS in the assessment of mechanisms to ensure long term contribution by NPS to the CBP.

## V. Required Clauses

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding diminishes the independent authority of coordination responsibility of each agency in administration of its statutory obligations. It is intended to facilitate those authorities through the cooperative mechanisms of the CBP. Authorized representatives of EPA or NPS may enter into supplemental agreements within the scope of this document.

Nothing herein contained shall be construed as binding the NPS to expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of appropriations made by Congress or administratively allocated for the purpose of this agreement for the fiscal year, or to involve the NPS in any contract or other obligation for the further expenditure of money in excess of such appropriations or allocations.

## VI. Duration

This Memorandum of Understanding becomes effective on the date of signature by both parties and continues until modified by mutual consent or unless terminated with 60-days written notice by either party.

Agreed by:

  
John J. Reynolds, Jr.  
Deputy Director, National Park Service


  
B.J. Griffin (MA)  
Regional Director, National Park Service Mid-Atlantic Region

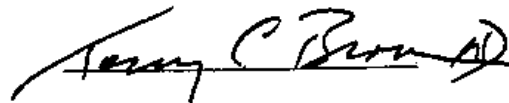
  
Robert Stanton  
Regional Director, National Park Service National Capital Region

  
Robert Perciasepe  
Assistant Administrator for Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Witnessed by:

  
Bruce Babbitt  
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

  
Paul S. Sarbanes, United States Senator



10/29/93

