

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**Southern Utah University Mountain Ranch Forest Stewardship and**  
**Demonstration Forest**

Southern Utah University (SUU or University)  
and  
Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR or Department)  
Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands (DFFSL or Division)

**Purpose**

Utilizing the forest and range resources of the SUU Mountain Ranch, promote sound forest management and provide a demonstration forest to educate SUU students, faculty and staff, Division staff, natural resource professionals, the public, and others about the techniques and outcomes of forest and range management. With the assistance of DFFSL and other partners, the SUU Mountain Ranch will be an outdoor classroom for practicing, showcasing, monitoring and studying progressive and experimental forest and range management practices.

**Southern Utah University and the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands shall jointly:**

- Create and maintain an SUU Mountain Ranch Forest Stewardship Plan.
- Create and maintain an SUU Mountain Ranch Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which engages and accounts for adjacent property owners.
- Manage forest and range resources according to the direction of the SUU Mountain Ranch Resource Management Plan (RMP), particularly the Forest Stewardship Plan section of the overarching RMP, and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the SUU Mountain Ranch area.
- Pursue outreach about and promotion of the SUU Mountain Ranch Demonstration Forest and resulting activities covered by this MOU.
- Develop and disseminate educational and other interpretive materials (e.g., brochure(s), website, signage, etc.) to support this agreement.
- Provide resources and expertise to accomplish the management operations and practices that support this MOU.
- Develop scopes of work, contracts and announcements to meet the intent of the SUU Mountain Ranch RMP, particularly the Forest Stewardship Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- Monitor the administrative and resource impacts (both implementation and results/affects monitoring) of implementation of activities in support of this MOU.

**Southern Utah University shall:**

- Include DFFSL as a member of the University's Mountain Ranch Resource Advisory Council (RAC).
- Provide access for DFFSL staff to the SUU Mountain Ranch.
- Provide demonstration sites for active management to meet the intent of the SUU Mountain Ranch RMP, particularly the Forest Stewardship and Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and this MOU.

- Advertise, issue and administer contracts to meet the intent of the SUU Mountain Ranch RMP, particularly the Forest Stewardship and Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
- Be the lead entity for educational and research purposes to support the intent of this MOU.

**Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands shall:**

- Facilitate and complete the SUU Mountain Ranch Forest Stewardship Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan planning processes.
- Perform and maintain forest inventory and stand delineation across the SUU Mountain Ranch.
- Serve as a member of the SUU Mountain Ranch RAC.
- Administer the fieldwork for contracts to meet the intent of the Mountain Ranch RMP's Forest Stewardship Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- Develop and Implement management practices to be demonstrated on the SUU Mountain Ranch

**Duration**

This memorandum will become effective on the date of the final signature of the participants and remain in effect until December 31, 2030 or completion of the projects outlined in this agreement, at the end of which period it will expire unless cancelled or extended. This memorandum may be revised as necessary by mutual consent of the Participants or by the issuance of written amendment, signed and dated by Participants. This memorandum may be terminated by either Participant providing it gives 30 days written advance notice. If an uncompleted request for records exists on the date this memorandum is set to terminate, the memorandum will be extended until required work is completed.

**Principal Contacts**

Brian Cottam  
Associate Director of Regional Services  
Southern Utah University  
351 West University Blvd  
Cedar City, UT 84720  
435-586-7700 phone  
435-865-8236 fax  
[cottamb@suu.edu](mailto:cottamb@suu.edu)

Patrick Moore  
Southwest Area Forester  
Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands  
585 North Main  
Cedar City, UT 84720  
435-586-4408 phone  
435-586-2789 fax  
[patrickmoore@utah.gov](mailto:patrickmoore@utah.gov)

**Signatures:**

---

Michael T. Benson  
President  
Southern Utah University

---

Richard J. Buehler  
State Forester and Director  
Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands