

AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

continuation of the

COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNITS NETWORK

I. INTRODUCTION

It is mutually agreed on and understood by and between the parties to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that additional agencies may become members of the CESU Network Council upon formal participation in at least one CESU and after their agency head or designated representative has signed this Amendment to the MOU.

II. AUTHORITIES

This MOU is entered into by the USDA Farm Service Agency consistent with the mission and relevant authorities described below:

USDA Farm Service Agency

Farm Service Agency's (FSA) mission is to equitably serve all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA administers the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The CRP is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. The CRP provides annual rental payments, technical assistance, and cost-share assistance to landowners who establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. To accomplish its mission, FSA has established the Monitoring, Assessment, and Evaluation Project (MAE) to employ sound science to quantify CRP impacts on ecosystem services including: water quality, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, soil productivity, and hydrologic storage. FSA has authority to join the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network under 7 U.S.C. § 2204b(b)(4). The CCC has authority under 15 U.S.C. § 714b(g).

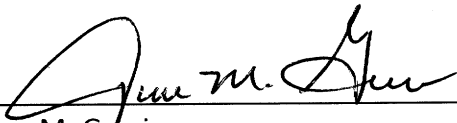
III. CESU NETWORK COUNCIL

The Farm Service Agency is now a full member of the CESU Network Council. FSA is now authorized to send a voting/formal representative to Council meetings, and to participate in all actions of the Council.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the party hereto has entered into the Memorandum of Understanding with this Amendment as evidenced by their signature below. The Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding is effective upon the date of the signature.

USDA Farm Service Agency



Juan M. Garcia
Administrator

2/26/13
Date