

# MUTUAL AGREEMENT

Between the

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

and

**THE CROW TRIBAL COUNCIL**

and

**THE CROW CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

For their Cooperation in the  
Conservation of Natural Resources

THIS AGREEMENT is between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Crow Tribal Council.

The authority of USDA to enter into this agreement is the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, 16.590; the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, Public Law No. 103-354; and Secretary's Memorandum No. 1010-1, dated October 20, 1994. The Crow Tribal authority is defined in Crow Tribal Resolution 96-16B passed on January 13, 1996.

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The parties have the common objective of assisting people in their efforts to utilize and manage natural resources in accordance with their capabilities and needs for protection and improvement. Each party is independent, has its respective responsibilities, yet recognizes the need to coordinate as a federal, state and local partnership for the successful delivery of conservation programs related to our soil, water, air, plant, animal, and human resources. Therefore, the parties will cooperate to implement their respective long-range natural resources conservation programs considering available resources, statutory authorities, and regulations. The parties will develop appropriate agreements to further define this relationship.

## IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT:

Broad-based conservation programs delivered through the cooperation of the USDA, the Crow Tribe, and the Crow Conservation District are vital to the protection of the natural resources, economic stability and well-being of our Nation.

The parties reaffirm the relationship between the USDA, the Crow Tribe, and the Crow Conservation District. The Secretary will continue, within the terms of various statutes administered by USDA, to carry out broad conservation programs of assistance encompassing technical, research, educational, and financial assistance to land owners and users through the Crow Conservation District and the Crow Tribe.

The parties also recognize and encourage a continued commitment from the Crow Tribe in aiding administration, coordination, financing, and the delivery of conservation programs through the Crow Conservation District and the Crow Tribal Government.

This Agreement establishes an enduring basis for cooperation and assistance between the parties to achieve common natural resources conservation goals and objectives. Authority to carry out specific projects or activities, such as the transfer of funds, acquisition of services, and property will be carried out under separate agreements. The parties will encourage other natural resource related agencies to develop similar agreements.

The signatories will be in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions contained in Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other nondiscrimination statutes, namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7 CFR-15, Subparts A & B), which provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof, that the Crow Tribe may provide for Tribal hiring preference in accordance with Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (25 U.S.C. 479).

This agreement can be modified or terminated at any time by mutual consent of all parties or can be terminated by any party by giving 60 days written notice to the others.

This agreement supersedes all previous Memorandums of Understanding.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

CROW TRIBAL COUNCIL

By: *Jan Phillips*  
(Secretary of Agriculture)

By: *Clara Thomas*  
(Tribal Chairwoman)

Date: *March 25, 1996*

Date: *4-16-96*

CROW CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: *John R. [Signature]*  
(District Chair)

Date: *4-16-96*

RECEIVED

RESOLUTION NO. 96-16B

A RESOLUTION OF THE CROW TRIBE OF INDIANS PERTAINING TO CROW CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND USDA PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Crow Tribe and Indian farmers and ranchers have not in the past had full access to USDA Agricultural programs as delivered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Services Agency (FSA);

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
CROW TRIBE

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Crow Tribal Council wishes to form the Crow Conservation District based upon the Crow Reservation boundary and Tribal Law to provide guidance to the NRCS Crow Agency Office;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Crow Tribal Council directs the Chairperson to write a letter to the FSA statewide Steering Committee requesting that FSA designate the external boundary of the Crow Reservation as an Area Committee for FSA under the 1994 Reorganization Act;

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED, by the Crow Tribal Council this 13th day of January, 1996, with unanimous votes for adoption and -0- votes against adoption.

*Marvin L. Stewart*  
Marvin L. Stewart, Secretary  
CROW TRIBAL COUNCIL

ATTEST:  
*Clara Nomee*  
Clara Nomee, Madam Chairman  
CROW TRIBAL COUNCIL

NOTED:  
*Kenneth Davis*  
Kenneth Davis, Superintendent  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Author: Crow Tribal Administration