



FS Agreement No. 22-PA-11040800-004
Cooperator Agreement No. _____

**OPERATING PLAN
Between The
FRIENDS OF PANDO, INC.
And the
USDA, FOREST SERVICE
FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST**

2022 OPERATING PLAN

This Annual Operating Plan is hereby made and entered into by and between the Friends of Pando, Inc. hereinafter referred to as “Cooperator,” and the USDA, Forest Service, Fishlake National Forest, hereinafter referred to as the “U.S. Forest Service,” under the provisions of Master Challenge Cost Share Agreement #22-CS-11040800-004. This Operating Plan is made and agreed to as of the last date signed below and is for the estimated period beginning 06/1/2022 and ending 04/30/2027, or unless otherwise revised.

I. GENERAL:

- A. The following individuals shall be the designated and alternate representative(s) of each party, so designated to make or receive requests for special enforcement activities.

Principal Cooperator Contacts:

Cooperator Program Contact	Cooperator Administrative Contact
Lance Oditt 75 East Center Street Richfield, UT 84701 Telephone: (435) 633-1893 Email: lance@friendsofpando.org	Lance Oditt Agent 8589977, 881 Baxter Dr, Ste 100 South Jordan, UT, 54095 Telephone: (435) 633-1893 Email: lance@friendsofpando.org

Principal U.S. Forest Service Contacts:

U.S. Forest Service Program Manager Contact	U.S. Forest Service Administrative Contact
Dan Child 115 E. 900 N. Richfield, UT 84701 Telephone: (435) 979-1762 Email: daniel.child@usda.gov	Tammy McLaughlin 1249 S. Vinnell Way, Ste 200 Boise, ID 83709 Telephone: (208) 373-4266 Email: tammy.mclaughlin@usda.gov



II. AGREEMENT PARTNERSHIP:

- A. The Cooperator will make staff and board leadership available to serve as proactive partners with the U.S. Forest Service.
- B. The Cooperators welcome the opportunity to collaborate on the develop and fund social, cultural, educational, and economic partnerships that are beneficial to the Pando. All funded activities will be documented through a SPA.

III. PANDO CORPS:

- A. Pando Corps will be continuing work on the Pando Photographic Survey to create a baseline photographic inventory of the tree to be replicated. The Cooperator, Snow College, and volunteers will start work on July 5, 2022, and continue until finished.
- B. The effort to document Pando includes film work, photogrammetry, lidar, ambient sound recording, GIS systems, and drones to ensure the created record also provides a detailed account of the tree. This information will help the public make full use of the archived details of the tree. We will finish the report and begin making it freely available in 2022.
- C. The U.S. Forest Service has agreed to allow the Cooperator to use the “Big Cabin” in the Fish Lake Basin for the following dates, July 6, 2022, through July 21, 2022, and again, July 24, 2022, through July 31, 2022.

IV. PANDO AMBASSADOR PROGRAM:

- A. The Cooperator plans to employ a Pando Ambassador agent to work in the tree from the third week of May 22, 2022, through the week of October 9, 2022 (22 weeks in all). Project plans and dates are subject to availability and weather conditions.
- B. The agent will have a background check and is a paid employee of the Cooperator and its partners. They will be trained in safety, communications, and ethics by Friends of Pando.
- C. Per the agreement, the agent and volunteers will wear a shirt or name tag identifying them as a member of Friends of Pando.
- D. The agent may work with additional volunteers from time-to-time.
- E. The agent will work each or either Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. The schedule may be adjusted as needed due to weather or availability.
- F. The cooperator plans for the agent to be available for 4 to 6 hours each visit and may flex hours and schedule for big jobs.
- G. The agent may be available to help or perform work to support U.S. Forest Service operations in the Fish Lake Basin, including at the Visitor Center.
- H. The agent plans to install several sets of passive infrared type trail monitors. The agent plans to install one set of monitors in the lower fenced area on each of the gates. Monitors are also planned to be installed on each of the upper access gates, and one on the FS Road to record



traffic for the area. This area will be fenced off when the interpretive plan is realized in 2023 or 2024.

- I. Working with our partner, Acoustic Atlas, the agent will install a single, passive ambient wildlife audio recording device in the Coots Slough area for a period to record bird calls and help document bird migrations. The same device will be used in a remote part of the upper cliffs above the tree for a period to capture animal movement and behavior. In no case will human activity (ex: conversations etc.) be actively recorded, stored, cataloged, or made public.
- J. Depending on funding and logistics, the agent may install a passive weather monitor to capture weather data in the tree and record the tree's atmospheric phenol production as it may help us understand the disease.
- K. Depending on availability and funding, Friends of Pando will work to hire a local contractor to assist with the repair of protective fencing around Pando. For 2022, we anticipate two working dates for needed repairs, one day early in summer and another towards autumn per feedback from Fishlake National Forest staff.
- L. Cooperator requests insights and feedback from the Fishlake National Forest staff for any contractor requirements as it relates to the use of heavy equipment, safety, etc. The Friends of Pando plan to record at least one such event to document the effort, which they will share with the Fishlake National Forest.
- M. The Cooperator will provide regular updates to the U.S. Forest Service on the ambassador program.
- N. Data gathered from the ambassador's fieldwork records of fence, and passive monitoring systems will be shared with the U.S. Forest Service *before publication*.
- O. All data gathered will be made freely available to the public, along with supporting documentation on equipment, methods, data gathering, errors, and how to replicate results.

V. ARTIST IN RESIDENCY PROGRAM:

- A. The Cooperator plans to sponsor three or four artists in residency this year as part of its proposed and funded artist-in-residency "pilot" program.
- B. The Artist in Residency selections reflects the need to develop a local, regional, and international view of the tree.
- C. One resident, an oral historian, will work on capturing the human experience of the tree.. The goal is to capture firsthand experiential accounts that serve as testaments to the wonders and curiosity that the Fishlake Basin inspires.
- D. Another resident painter, Holly Thompson is a Utah resident with family history in the Fish Lake Basin and will work to capture the visual experience of the tree through paintings.
- E. The third planned resident, Jeff Rice, co-founder of Acoustic Atlas, will work to record the soundscape of Pando. This effort will help make the Pando accessible to people who could not otherwise see or enjoy the tree. Namely, those who lack vision of the tree and with whom the Cooperator has been cooperatively building project inroads in effort to make the tree accessible to all.



- F. The Cooperator is seeking an artist-in-residency from the Paiute Community. Given the opportunity, the Cooperator would like to support an artist from the community to create work in and around their treaty rights of land.
- G. If possible, the Cooperator requests that the U.S. Forest Service provide a list of questions or concerns with the artist in residency pilots and as it relates to how it might work in subsequent years. This information will be used to integrate insights into the program and assign appropriate performance measures for the end of year report and future planning.

VI. CONNECTED COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

- A. The “Connected” community event is the Cooperator’s regional summer outreach program for the year. This event will present goals of the program to introduce the organization to the community and talk about the work they are doing and provide opportunities for people to take part in said work.
- B. The theme for this year is “Connected,” how the three counties share a connection with the Pando and the surrounding lands.
- C. The Cooperator will have Pando and Fishlake-inspired artwork hung around the community throughout July 2022.
- D. The Cooperator plans to pilot a speaker series during 2022, featuring artists, historians, and community leaders.
- E. The Cooperator would like U.S. Forest Service staff to be involved to discuss the new partnership, the history of Pando management, and the ways this partnership could benefit the community in the long term.
- F. The Cooperator would like to have a U.S. Forest Service staff member speak on Saturday, July 9, 2022, for a community forum at Richfield City Hall. We have requested our Program Manager, Dan Child.
- G. The Cooperator would like to have a U.S. Forest Service speaker attend a second speaker series on Saturday, July 23, 2022, at William J Peters Gallery in Monroe, Utah. In this case, we have requested District Ranger Kurt Robins, former forester Nick Mustoe, and Terry Holsclaw.

VII. PANDO WORKING GROUP

- A. The Cooperator, its staff, volunteers, and board members will make themselves available to develop a collaboration and consensus model with the Fishlake National Forest. The goal is, to create a working group focused on creating opportunities to educate the public, supporting research, and inspiring stewardship so Pando may be enjoyed for generations to come.

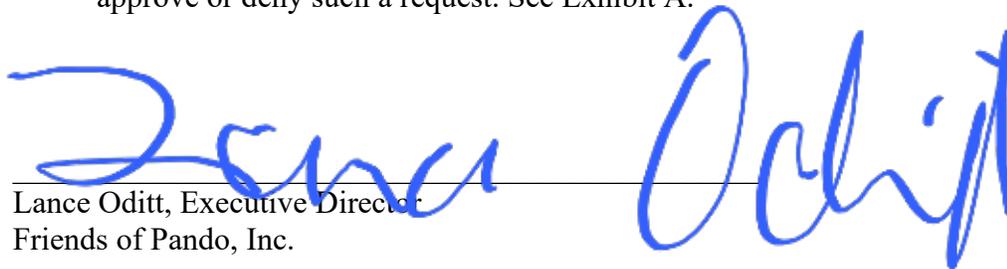
VIII. COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

- A. Consistent with the agreement, the Cooperator will create and maintain its website, website content, printed materials, social media content, and other materials that



communicate our work and, will help educate the public about the tree to solicit donations, support research, and inspire others. All existing materials created from the previous two years will be provided as-is.

- B. For public information needs, the Cooperator welcomes the U.S. Forest Service to refer people to the Cooperator’s website or contact the Cooperator directly.
- C. The Cooperator is open to exploring strategies to work jointly with the U.S. Forest Service on media inquiries, press releases and broader community engagement in a manner that strikes the right balance between the Cooperator’s independence and the U.S. Forest Service’s role as Pando's public steward.
- D. Per the Agreement, Line-item T, the Cooperator will provide notice as soon as reasonably possible to the Program Manager and Communications Staff for public notices we create about our work and the work we do with our partners.
- E. Cooperator understands media engagement on U.S. Forest lands fall under the jurisdiction of, and is subject to, the United States Department of Agriculture and U.S. Forest Service requirements and standards for media inquiries and engagement. The Cooperator will refer such request to the communications coordinator, whose team will have sole discretion to approve or deny such a request. See Exhibit A.



Lance Oditt, Executive Director
Friends of Pando, Inc.

MICHAEL ELSON

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Mike Elson, Forest Supervisor
Fishlake National Forest

The authority and format for this agreement have been reviewed and approved for signature.

**DEBORAH
CHORLTON**

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CHORLTON
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Deborah Chorlton, Supervisory Grants Management Specialist
U.S. Forest Service



Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0596-0217. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 3 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

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**EXHIBIT A
TO THE
2022 ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN FOR
AGREEMENT 22-CS-11040800-004**

Media Communications Requirements

The USDA Forest Service Intermountain Regional Office of Strategic Communication in Ogden, Utah, has policy guidance and requirements for all media presence on Forest Service property. Below is a modified version to fit the needs of both the Fishlake National Forest and the Friends of Pando.

Purpose

We want to provide the best information, photo/filming locations, and the best subject matter experts based on the needs or issues a media person is inquiring about.

Who is considered a media contact in the forest?

Any person who takes photographs, writes articles, takes notes for stories, interviews subject-matter experts, films, or records in any manner, or in any format, within Forest Service boundaries for redistribution is considered media.

How do the media outlets request interviews, photoshoots, and such?

All media inquiries must be sent to the current Public Affairs Officer (Naomi.LeGere-Gordon@usda.gov). Media personnel will be asked, and answer questions based on their needs to initiate the authorization process. A few basic questions will include:

- The name of the reporter, phone number, email
- News outlet name, address, phone number
- Story deadline
- Subject matter
- What type of expert will suit their needs?
- A list of at least five specific questions the reporter intends to ask the interviewee (the more precise the question, the easier it is to find a subject matter expert.)

The internal process will then begin.

How long will this take?

Every media person will need to go through the vetting process outlined above. It will take an average of three weeks to complete. If a person's answers are too vague or of national importance, the anticipated time frame could take longer for clarification purposes.

Why does this process take so long?

Every photographer/reporter's needs are different, and many factors can stretch the process for an approval out. For instance, inquiries for stories or outlets of regional or national significance will be routed through a higher level of agency press offices. Here is an example of a few factors that may slow the process:

- Is there any national policy significance to consider?
- Is the inquiry political, procedural, or involves personnel sensitivities?
- Would the issues be better addressed at a higher level of the agency?

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- Has a subject matter expert been identified?
- Is the subject matter expert willing to be interviewed?
- Subject Matter Experts will pre-answer listed questions and have leadership vet them. This process could take a few days depending on the person's workload.
- Are the draft answers/talking points compliant with forest service regulations? (Leadership review process.)
- Are there internal roadblocks to obtaining the proper subject matter expert? (i.e., people may be out of the office (for weeks at a time) on fire calls in other states.)

We understand and are aware that deadlines may be tight. We will do what we can to speed up the process in those cases, however, please know this is not usually possible.

Who Authorizes the Media Request?

The final media request decision will be made by a press officer of an appropriate level. This person will in consult with leadership, the Washington Office, and USDA. **Once an interview request decision is made, a press officer will follow up with the person who submitted the request, including instructions for the next steps.**