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Route To: 1620; 1920; 2200; 2300; 2400; 2600; 3000; 3100; 3200; 3400; 4000; 4200;
4300; 4700; 5100; 5500
Subject: Forest Service Memorandum of Understanding with American Public Gardens
Association
To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy
Chiefs and WO Directors

The Executive Director of the American Public Gardens Association and I signed a new Service-wide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU recognizes our longstanding partnership and mutual interest in conserving and managing biological diversity, and our common desire to expand our work together throughout the country.

The Forest Service and American Public Gardens Association have a history of partnership and collaboration on a wide range of projects devoted to conservation of rare plants and their habitats and healthy forests and grasslands. American Public Gardens Association has worked with the Forest Service nationally to provide guidance and support for forest planning; protect, conserve, and manage important rare plant habitat; assess habitat use; conserve threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; and research botanical issues relevant to National Forest System management.

I know partnerships take valuable time, effort, and energy, but they are worth it and are in the Forest Service's and the public's interest. As public servants, we are constantly asked to do more. Partners, such as the American Public Gardens Association, make this possible. I encourage you to review the enclosed MOU, visit the American Public Gardens Association's website at <http://www.publicgardens.org>, and become more involved with American Public Gardens Association and their member botanical gardens and arboretums in your State or region.

Mary Wagner
For THOMAS L. TIDWELL
Chief

Enclosures

cc: Larry Stritch