

# The Ethics of Partnerships: toward clearer guidance

U.S. Forest Service  
National Partnership Office

February 6, 2014

2:30pm Eastern

Virtual Partnership Conference



# Introduction



- What we will cover today:
  - Structure of Ethics at USDA & USFS
  - Current Guidance
  - Facilitated Discussion on:
    - Building a better system
    - Key ethics issues
    - Partnership ethics questions
  - Follow-up (April 10<sup>th</sup>)

# The Structure of Ethics at USDA & USFS

- USDA → OGC → Office of Ethics → **Forestry Ethics Branch**
- The USDA Forestry Ethics Branch manages ethics issues for USFS.
  - USDA Science Ethics Branch handles inquiries from the Research Stations.

# The Structure of Ethics at USDA & USFS

- **Forestry Ethics Advisor:** Jack Fisher, acting branch chief
- All ethics inquiries should be submitted in writing to [FSEthics@oe.usda.gov](mailto:FSEthics@oe.usda.gov).

# Current Guidance

- Federal Employee Ethics

- 5 C.F.R. Part 2635: Standards of ethical conduct for employees of the executive branch

- Gifts
- Conflicting Financial Interests
- Impartiality
- Misuse of Position
- Outside Activities

<http://www.oge.gov/Laws-and-Regulations/OGE-Regulations/5-C-F-R--Part-2635---Standards-of-ethical-conduct-for-employees-of-the-executive-branch/>

## Current Guidance

- Resources maintained by USDA Office of Ethics.
  - Website: <http://www.usda-ethics.net/>
  - Ethics FAQs: <http://www.usda-ethics.net/faq/index.htm>
  - Ethics training modules: <http://www.usda-ethics.net/training/index.htm>

# Current Guidance

- **USDA Guidance**

- Gift Acceptance Policy (DR 5200-003)
- Recognition (DR 5160-002)
- Endorsement (DR 1410/DR 1440)

- **USFS Guidance**

- Recognition: Insignia, signs, and logos (EM 7100/BEIG/Controlled Correspondence Letter – August 8, 2013/ FSM & FSH)
- Grants & Agreements (FSM 1580/FSH1509.11)
- Gifts & Donations (FSH 6509.11)

# Discussion

- Please share your thoughts on:
  - Building a better system
  - Key ethics issues
  - Partnership ethics questions



# Building a Better System

- How do you receive ethics guidance now?
- How would you like to receive ethics guidance?
- Would you like to be involved in shaping a more comprehensive system for ethics guidance?

# Guidance Needs

- Key Issues:
  - Gifts and Donations
  - Partner Fundraising
  - Avoiding Endorsement
  - Working with For-Profit Entities
  - Working with Non-Profit Entities
  - Partner Recognition
  - Using Insignia, Signs, and Logos
  - Others, in your experience?

# Partnership Ethics Questions

- Share your specific questions:
  - We will follow up on these questions, and answer all that we can by the April 10<sup>th</sup> session.

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

# Ethics Peer Learning Session

2-3:30pm Eastern



Introduction

Structure

Guidance

Discussion

Follow-Up

Close



Thank you



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