



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southern Region

1720 Peachtree Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30309

Fax: 404-347-4448

File Code: 2350

Date: APR 18 2018

Tom Sauret
SORBA Executive Director
2125 Elachee Drive
Gainesville, Georgia 30304

Dear Mr. Sauret:

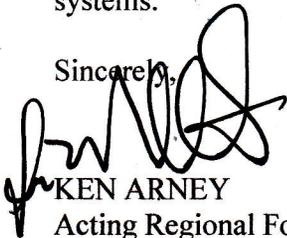
Thank you for all of the work you put into the new Memorandum of Understanding between the Southern Region of the Forest Service and International Mountain Bicycling Association and Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (IMBA/SORBA). This instrument helps to formalize our relationship, partnership, and continue the great coordination and work around providing excellent mountain biking on our National Forests here in the southeast.

Our relationship with IMBA/SORBA has significantly changed our engagement with the mountain biking community and resulted in more sustainable and excellent mountain biking opportunities on National Forest lands. It has helped our two organizations to better understand each other and work together to improve our overall communication, our enhanced relationships at the chapter and forest levels reflects the positive work we have accomplished together. We still have a lot yet to accomplish, but we are excited to continue this relationship and work together on our shared vision and goals.

These days the term *partnerships* is used a lot. Traditionally they are regarded as arrangements where parties agree to cooperate to advance their mutual interests, allowing the organizations to increase the likelihood of each achieving their mission, and to amplify their reach. In the case of the Southern Region's partnership with IMBA/SORBA, we really do feel that our relationship allows us to amplify our "reach", and really make a tangible difference for the public who value our national forest lands, and want to experience it with their bicycles. This is a true "shared stewardship" approach for sustainable trail systems.

Thanks again for all you, your organization, and your members bring to the Agency and to our trail systems.

Sincerely,



KEN ARNEY
Acting Regional Forester

Enclosures (8)

cc: Forest Supervisors

