

SERVICE WIDE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
USDA FOREST SERVICE
and
THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

This Service-Wide Memorandum of Understanding (SW-MOU) is hereby entered into by and between the USDA Forest Service, hereinafter referred to as the Forest Service, and the National Wild Turkey Federation, hereinafter referred to as the NWTF, collectively referred to as the Parties.

A. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this SW-MOU is to establish a framework for cooperation between the Forest Service and NWTF. This framework provides for joint planning and accomplishment of mutually beneficial projects and activities that maintain and enhance the productivity of wild turkey habitats on National Forest System lands and private lands participating in Forest Service programs where linkages of mutual benefit are clearly demonstrated. Such cooperation will benefit national forest and privately-held forest resources, the Parties, and the people of the United States.

B. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND BENEFITS:

The Forest Service is responsible for managing National Forest System lands in 44 states comprising 192 million acres of land. Through State and Private Forestry, the Forest Service provides informational, educational, technical, and related assistance to an estimated 10 million private landowners, who manage more than 42 percent of the Nation's forested lands. In addition, the Forest Service Research and Development branch operates 6 research stations, the Forest Products Laboratory, and the Institute of Tropical forestry that strives to collect information and solutions to sustain forests and rangelands and the values they provide to people. The Forest Service is dedicated to ensuring the sustainability of the Nation's resources and has major responsibilities for the protection, conservation and management of wildlife, fish, and plant habitats.

The NWTF, established in 1973 and headquartered in Edgefield, SC, is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit conservation and education organization dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and preservation of the hunting tradition. The NWTF was formed to perpetuate populations of wild turkeys on suitable ranges, both public and private, for the use and enjoyment of the American people. The NWTF promotes sportsmanship ethics, hunting safety, wildlife conservation, and conservation education on public and private lands for over 521,000 dues paying members and the entire hunting community. The NWTF is actively involved in research pertaining to wild turkeys, conservation of wildlife habitats and hunting

heritage and coordinates the National Wild Turkey Symposium held every 5 years. Outdoor learning events, which feature hands on activities, are conducted by local chapters throughout the United States and Canada. The Winchester Museum and outdoor education trails at the Wild Turkey Center, Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship (JAKES), Women in the Outdoors programs, and other education and outreach programs are directed at exposing the whole family to the importance of conservation of all wildlife. The NWTF's Wheelin' Sportsmen outreach program introduces people with disabilities to the outdoors and provides opportunity through local chapters nation-wide. The NWTF produces three television shows that promote ethical and exciting hunting adventures throughout the country and educate the American public about wild turkeys and wildlife habitat management. The NWTF's Hunting Heritage program has a long history of supporting and developing hunter education and safety programs. Their Hunting Heritage Fund supports shooting and hunting organizations directly involved in preserving traditional wildlife management of public lands and protecting our hunting heritage.

Wild turkey partnership agreements provide a framework for cooperative wildlife management, research and educational activities between the NWTF and over 100 government and corporate partners. These partnerships improve millions of acres on private, corporate, and public lands. Making Tracks is the cooperative program between the NWTF and state, federal and provincial agencies to restore wild turkeys to all suitable habitat in North America, improve wildlife habitat, promote conservation education and achieve other objectives that are mutually beneficial. Wild Turkey Woodlands, the NWTF's private landowner educational and outreach program, encourages wildlife habitat management on private land and recognizes landowners for their accomplishments. In addition, Project HELP (Habitat Enhancement Land Program) helps landowners manage and enhance their land by providing guidance and offering seeds and seedlings at competitive prices. Energy for Wildlife is a utility based conservation program that currently has 21 corporate members and over two million acres enrolled. The program focus is to utilize integrated vegetation management on utility corridors and other lands to improve wildlife habitat. The Southern Great Plains Riparian Initiative is a ten year commitment that focuses on improving riparian corridors on thousands of miles of lakes and streams in portions of six states where salt cedar, Russian olive and certain land practices threaten the ecosystems. Wild Turkey Country is the NWTF's land conservation and right-of-way program designed to protect key wildlife habitat through land acquisition and conservation easements and acquire rights-of-way to public lands to increase hunter and other recreational access.

The NWTF and the Forest Service have responsibilities and interests in management and conservation of America's natural resources. The parties agree that wildlife species in the United States need to be conserved and managed to meet growing public demand for environmental conservation, and wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities. The parties agree that management and restoration efforts often require ongoing coordination at a landscape and

watershed level, including coordination with private landowners, other organizations and agencies.

In consideration of the above premises, the parties agree as follows:

C. THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL:

1. Provide leadership, as agreed to on a project-by-project basis, for planning, implementation, and monitoring of projects or research developed subsequent to this agreement.
2. Participate in projects or research efforts with NWTF subject to all applicable laws and procedures and in accordance with the provisions at Section E. Examples of these efforts may include: On-the-ground habitat restoration and enhancement projects (e.g., wildlife food plots, prescribed burning, winter range evaluation, etc.), wild turkey habitat research projects, Energy for Wildlife, Wild Turkey Country, and conservation education and outreach programs (JAKES, Women in the Outdoors, Wheelin' Sportsmen).
3. Make National Forest System lands available for furtherance of these joint efforts, such as habitat enhancements, volunteer projects and fundraisers, filming and conservation education projects, etc., subject to applicable Federal laws, regulations, forest plans, and state comprehensive plans for the affected area, and subject to approval by the organization head or its designated representative.
4. Provide NWTF with relevant State and Private Forestry landowner assistance program information, including state and regional contacts, program guidelines, newsletters, and publications.
5. Assist NWTF, when requested, in expanding their coordination with State and Private Forestry partners including State Forestry agencies, forestry non-governmental organizations, conservation districts, and other USDA landowner assistance programs.
6. Participate in an annual FS/NWTF meeting, usually at the NWTF's annual convention, to discuss significant success efforts, problems or opportunities related to the partnership. Meet periodically, or as needed, to share information of mutual interest concerning communication, data, planning, management, and program accomplishments related to the partnership.
7. Advise NWTF on the administration of natural resources management programs affecting public and private lands.

D. NWTF SHALL:

1. Participate in the development and execution of agreed upon projects or research efforts approved by all parties to this SW-MOU in accordance with the provision at Section E.
2. Disseminate information concerning planning, management, and conservation of natural resources, which may include the Forest Service's multiple use mission and wise public use of National Forest System lands and facilities.
3. Provide information to the Forest Service related to the needs and concerns of NWTF members regarding the management of National Forest System lands and inform the Forest Service of potential funding opportunities, new programs, and resources developed related to the wild turkey and wildlife habitat improvement.
4. Coordinate, implement, and conduct informational and educational programs oriented toward natural resources conservation and hunter safety and ethics including JAKES, Women in the Outdoors, and Wheelin' Sportsmen events.
5. Establish, implement, and conduct informational and educational programs oriented toward natural resources conservation and hunter safety and ethics.
6. Meet annually with FS leadership and others at the NWTF's annual convention. Meet periodically or as needed to share information of mutual interest concerning communication, data, planning, management, and program accomplishments related to the wild turkey.
7. Provide information to the Forest Service related to private land programs and activities that enhance wild turkey habitat in a sustainable manner.
8. Provide information to the Forest Service related to private land programs and special use permit activities that enhance wildlife habitat in a sustainable manner, including Energy for Wildlife.
9. Provide information to the NWTF membership and the public regarding the Chief's four threats (fire and fuels, invasive species, loss of open space, unmanaged recreation) through press releases, TV shows, magazines and other publications.

E. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY ALL PARTIES THAT:

1. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). Any information furnished to the Forest Service under this SW-MOU is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

2. MODIFICATIONS. Modifications within the scope of the SW-MOU shall be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by all parties, prior to any changes being performed.

3. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This SW-MOU in no way restricts the Forest Service or NWTF from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

4. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE. This SW-MOU is executed as of the last date shown below and expires no later than September, 2010, at which time it is subject to review and renewal, or expiration.

5. TERMINATION. Either party, in writing, may terminate the SW-MOU in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration.

6. PRINCIPAL CONTACT. The principal contacts for this SW-MOU are:

Forest Service Project Contact	Cooperator Project Contact
Anne Zimmermann, Director	James Earl Kennamer, Ph.D.
USDA Forest Service	National Wild Turkey Federation
Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants	P.O. Box 530
1400 Independence Ave., SW Stop Code-1121	770 Augusta Road
Washington, DC 20250-1121	Edgefield, SC 29824
Phone: (202) 205-1207	Phone: (803) 637-3106
FAX: (202) 205-1599	FAX: (803) 637-9180
E-Mail: azimmermann@fs.fed.us	E-Mail: jkenamer@nwtf.net

Forest Service Administrative Contact	Cooperator Administrative Contact
Felicia Lockhart, Budget Coordinator	Dennis Daniel, FS Liaison
USDA Forest Service	National Wild Turkey Federation
Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants	P.O. Box 530
1400 Independence Ave., SW Stop Code-1121	770 Augusta Road
Washington, DC 20250-1121	Edgefield, SC 29824
Phone: (202) 205-1197	Phone: (803) 637-3106
FAX: (202) 205-1599	FAX: (803) 637-9180
E-Mail: flockhart@fs.fed.us	E-Mail: ddaniel@fs.fed.us

7. NON-FUND OBLIGATING DOCUMENT. This SW-MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor or transfer of anything of value involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this SW-MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for Government procurement and printing. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This SW-MOU does not provide such authority. Specifically, this SW-MOU does not establish authority for noncompetitive award to NWTF of any contract or other agreement. Any contract or agreement for training or other services must fully comply with all applicable requirements for competition.

8. Any press releases that reference this SW-MOU, or the relationship established between the parties of this SW-MOU, shall have prior approval of both parties to this agreement.

9. Meetings will take place periodically to discuss and identify opportunities for mutually beneficial projects and activities.

10. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES: By signing below, the cooperator certifies that the individuals listed in this document are representatives of the cooperator and are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement.

THE PARTIES HERETO have executed this SW-MOU.

Joel D. Holtrop (for)
DALE N. BOSWORTH
Chief
USDA Forest Service

Rob Keck
ROB KECK
Chief Executive Officer
National Wild Turkey Federation

September 13, 2005
Date

September 13, 2005
Date